

















until to-day the price has decreased to such an extent as to bring the package within the reach of every grocer. The advantages of the fancy package are many. It is made of vari-colored papers, parchment lined, and is all air-tight.

Mr. Kraut found it necessary for some time to carry on an educational propaganda among the coffee roasters here, before he could get them interested. Gradually he won them over by proving to them the practicability of the bag and by appealing to their sense of the artistic. When once they found that their customers appreciated the new package its use was permanently adopted. Mr. Kraut then established a New York office and ever since the business has grown by big strides. To-day he is making packages to order for the largest coffee concerns in the United States, carrying out individual ideas and catering to different tastes.—*Spice Mill* (U. S.).

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Among other exceptional transactions, says the *London Commercial Record* of 12th ultimo, we have heard this week of a sale of a good Coorg Coffee crop (or a part of it) at 52s. 6d. c.i.f. Considering that only a few days ago coffee from this estate fetched 58s. c.i.f., the drop is an extreme one and can only be attributed to exceptional circumstances. . . . The realisation of such a low figure, we fear, will be a revelation and an unpleasant one too to most East Indian coffee-planters who, so far, appear to have lived in the firm belief that fancy prices would readily be paid for their yields. They are hardly to be blamed for their error, for there are plenty of people in the London coffee trade whose business it seems to be to mislead the coffee growers and paint the present and future positions of our market in glowing colour, for the sole purpose of attracting these fine coffee sorts to our markets and put commissions into the consignees' pockets. Needless to say, planters, like all human beings, love to listen to assertions and statements corresponding to their own wishes and ideas and are always prepared to condemn a warning as an exaggeration emanating from a pessimist. For the sake of the planters we wish they were right, but we are afraid, that the pessimist who has from the beginning pointed to lower prices will prove correct. London has not been particularly successful in its operation in East Indian crops, purchased on arrival terms, <sup>hereby</sup> held on the spot for higher values, and is therefore just, <sup>directly</sup> adverse to touching East Indian coffee this season, absolutely safe prices. There is an abundance of <sup>you will</sup> everywhere. The present supplies of Brazilians point <sup>ful for</sup> crop of about 12 million bags, against an estimate <sup>air</sup> about 7½ millions, and some people put the coming crop down to no less than 15 millions. What is to become of all the coffee? Holders are getting discouraged and over-anxious to avail themselves of the slightest improvement of the market to dispose of their stock. Prices are gradually declining, and nothing points at the moment to a reaction.

\* \* \*

**American Stocks.**—Total stock in United States November 1, 2,594,941 bags, against 1,833,652 bags November 1, 1901. Brazil stock in the United States November 22, in store and afloat, 2,660,621 bags, against 2,320,817 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 221,360 bags against 286,688 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York November 22, 2,240,711. Stock in New York in other coffees November 17, 199,146, in San Francisco, 19,348 bags and in New Orleans, 2,866 bags.

\* \* \*

The Nicaraguan Government, from the proceeds of the tax of one cent a pound levied in gold on the exports from the coffee crop, has paid the interest due in January, 1903, on the bonds of 1884.

## Visible Supply of Coffee

on December 1st,		1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		405,400	275,800	235,550	235,200	222,450
to Europe	{ afloat — Brazil ...	53,340	67,700	22,830	42,930	36,330
	{ loading — do. ...	8,880	5,240	2,350	...	...
	{ afloat — the East ..	4,220	3,250	4,600	3,360	3,170
	{ do. — U. S. A. ...	1,880	470	350	590	820
		473,720	352,460	265,680	282,080	262,770
Stocks U. S. of North-America		154,290	110,760	58,590	61,120	64,230
to U. S. A.	{ afloat — Brazil ...	15,290	44,710	39,000	28,180	17,120
	{ loading — do. ..	2,350	4,060	1,410	...	...
	{ afloat — the East ..	1,120	1,530	1,760	1,880	1,290
		646,770	513,520	366,440	373,260	345,410
Stocks in Rio ...		40,290	32,180	16,410	17,410	18,520
Do. Santos ...		93,710	88,710	79,060	37,760	46,350
Do. Bahia ...		2,590	2,120	2,940	1,410	1,000
Total ..		783,360	636,530	464,850	429,840	411,290
On November 1st...		777,290	616,140	467,810	446,200	420,500

\* \* \*

Last year the quantity of coffee landed at Hamburg by sea amounted to about two million qs., of the value of upwards of 150 million marks. The quantity of coffee imported last year was the largest on record, owing mainly to the extraordinarily abundant crops in Brazil. Prices, however, in most cases have dropped so heavily that, in spite of a plus-importation of 120,000 qs. last year, the value, as against 1900, upwards of twenty-two million marks less. Two years ago the average price of the total importation of coffee into Hamburg was 91½m. per q.; last year it was only 75¼m. The highest price for coffee was paid in the years 1877 and 1890, being then 172½m per q. Since 1890 it has fallen continuously, and last year it reached the very lowest figure yet recorded. Singapore supplied last year the dearest sort of coffee; only 680 qs. arrived, but they realised 144m per q. Africa furnished a very small quantity of Egyptian coffee, which was sold at 140m. per q. German East Africa sent 2,149 qs. at an average price of 108m., which in quantity and value exceeded the importation of the preceding year. The remainder of Africa shipped 8,517 qs. into Hamburg, the West African being disposed of at 61m. per q.

## TEA NOTES.

**Helopeltis.**—After visiting the Kelani District last March, Mr. E. Ernest Green, Ceylon Government Entomologist, wrote in June giving Further Observations on Helopeltis. Mr. Green's investigations have shown him that much more work is necessary before an adequate knowledge of the pest can be acquired. He finds that the breeding habits of the insect vary at different times of the year, and will necessitate different modes of treatment. More accurate observations of the insect throughout the year, and from different elevations and localities, are requisite. Mr. Green is inclined to think that Helopeltis never entirely disappears, though there are two periods of comparative inactivity: the first, from the middle of March to the middle of June; the second, during September, October, and November. The conditions (climatic or other) that govern the periodicity of attack have not yet been properly determined. On the other hand, the practical immunity of the indigenous varieties of tea remains established; and here the term "indigenous tea" refers both to the Indian varieties and to the direct progeny of Indian plants grown in Ceylon.



Mr. Green writes that his recent investigations show that, at the Spring period of inactivity, the formerly advocated system of plucking to the initial leaf will have little or no effect in checking the pest. A similar condition may possibly obtain during the Autumn period. It is, he says, most important that the egg-laying habit of the insect (*i.e.* the quantity of eggs being laid, and the position in which they are deposited) should be accurately determined for every month in the year. It may then be possible to formulate some logical scheme of plucking to suit the varying habits of the insect. For the present Mr. Green recommends the abandonment of close plucking, remarking:—"There is no doubt that that system tends to produce a brush-like formation of small shoots particularly suited to the tastes of the *Helopeltis*. A free succulent growth should be encouraged." At the same time nothing should be allowed to interfere with the campaign against the insects themselves.

The average loss through *Helopeltis* has been estimated at 200 lbs. per acre. Putting the profits on that tea at 12 cents per lb., this means a loss of Rs.24 per acre, a figure that would cover, several times over, the cost of catching the insects. It should be specially noted that the collection of insects is particularly important during the period of partial inactivity, for at such times the females contain the maximum number of eggs. Mr. Green suggests breaking up the area into blocks of from 10 to 20 acres, divided from each other by narrow but compact belts of trees. The insect does not fly high; its flight is weak, and, when on the wing, it is carried from place to place more by the wind than by its own wing-power. It would be possible to fight the pest in such isolated blocks one by one. In districts suitable for this, economic roses and plants might be employed for the belts. For the larger trees Para rubber, Cocconut, Nutmeg, and Kola Nut suggest themselves. For the undergrowth Croton Oil, Annato, Castor Oil or Tapioca might be used. Or, Mr. Green observes, the screens might consist of trees and plants, the clippings of which would be suitable for green manure, or *Erythrina*, with *Crotalaria* as an undergrowth. The tea-plant itself, allowed to run up, would form a good undergrowth, and might be used for seed production.

Mr. Green concludes with a suggestion that four estates be selected from different localities, and that the prunings of two bushes from each district should be sent to him every month, say, on the 15th. Bushes that show the most recent signs of injury should be chosen, or, if the pest appears to have gone into retirement, bushes from the most lately attacked fields. The whole top of the bush should be cut off, as in pruning to a level, the prunings from each bush collected and tied up separately in sacking or jute hessian (slightly damped). Living specimens of the insects (about fifty from each estate) packed in the tea sample boxes, should be sent by post.

We mention this last suggestion with no idea that South Indian tea-planters should trouble the Government Entomologist in Ceylon, but merely in order to show them what course they should be prepared to adopt when some entomologist in India is in a position to undertake similar investigations to those that are being conducted by Mr. Green.

\* \* \*

**Mosquito-Blight.**—Mr. H. H. Mann has given the following list of the jungle plants on which the blight insect has been reported to feed, though in most cases, he remarks, the

information has never been confirmed. These are follows:—

1. **BAMBOO.**—The insect has often been said to live in bamboo but I have never been able to confirm this.

2. **TUN TREE (*Gedrela toona*).**—This has often been accused of harbouring the tea-mosquito, and the blight is often found especially seriously under the shade of tun trees. It has never been seen, however, to puncture the leaves of this tree.

3. **RUBBER (*Ficus Elastica*).** has been reported to be attacked by the blight insect in Java. The insect is commonly more serious under the rubber tree than on the rest of an estate, but I have never seen the tree actually attacked in India.

4. In 1895 Dr. Watt noticed a species of *Polygonum* attacked very similarly to tea in the Assam jungles, but as the insect was not discovered the question remains doubtful.

5. **WILD PAN (*Piper*).** has often been said to be attacked by mosquito-blight, and one writer goes so far as to say, "It is very fond of the pan plant." There is, however, no really authentic evidence of its being found actually feeding on this plant.

6. **MAESA INDICA** (called *Malmuriya* in Sylhet, *Bilauni* in Nepalese) is punctured very similarly to tea, but Dudgeon has shown that the blight insect is quite different from that of tea.

7. **COCOA and CINCHONA** are both attacked in Ceylon, and the latter also in India.

8. **TITA-FHUL (*Phlogocanthus thysiflorus*).** has been found by me with the young insects upon it in the Darjeeling jungles, in which it is very common.

9. Among other casual attacks, the following may be mentioned:—*Eugenia* has been injured in Ceylon: Mr. Ilbert, of Morarji Sibsagar Assam, reports having *Hibiscus* plants injured by it. Mr. Harcourt found it on the Chilauni tree of the Darjeeling Hill and on *Fuchsias*; and Mr. Nosworthy pointed it out to me at Gillingham, on *Geraniums*.

Mr. Mann adds:—"I do not believe that any other records of attack are in existence."

**American Stocks.**—The stock of tea in warehouse at New York was 39,958,636 lbs. on October 31, 1902, compared with 21,258,645 lbs. on October 31, 1901. Before the end of January the stock will probably be largely reduced, as retail and wholesale reserves are said to be very small.

The Collector of Customs in Boston reports the following tea statistics for that port for the month of October:

Remaining and entered in October.		Pounds.	Value.
Balance October 1, 1902	...	924,483	\$161,75
Amount entered	...	610,851	99,85
Quantity and value	...	1,535,334	\$261,60
Withdrawals in October	...	128,744	\$ 23,09
Balances October 31, 1902	...	1,405,590	238,51
* * *			

**No Refunding of Tea Money.**—The Treasury Department at Washington, after consultation with Deputy Collector Couch, of New York, has reversed its former ruling refunding duty paid on tea remaining in bonded warehouses, and has left the matter open for a future decision, which it is thought will be adverse to the refunding of any money except on the direct authority of Congress. The reversion of the Government serves as a stoppage of refunding and hence vetoes any taking out of tea in large quantities before January 1, as this means to expedite the delivery of tea after the going off of the duty with the beginning of the New Year.

\* \* \*

**Tea Culture in the Caucasus.**—ODESSA, November 25th.—The experiments in tea culture made in the Caucasus during recent years have proved eminently successful, and the Minister of Agriculture and Imperial Domains is now taking steps to establish the Industry on a sound working basis, which will assist its rapid development. The climate and other conditions are all in favour of the new enterprise. The experiments so far made have been thoroughly practical and exhaustive. They were carried out by



a few of the largest Russian tea merchants, and by experts acting for the Ministry of Imperial Appanages. The latter Department will next year import expert tea cultivators from China, India, and Ceylon to act as instructors on the Caucasian plantations.

The yield of Caucasian tea this year was thirteen-and-a-half tons. It was of three qualities, and sold as follows to the wholesale dealers:—Appanage tea: First quality, 4s. 4d. per pound; second quality, 3s. 4d. per pound; and third quality, 2s. 7d. per pound. The privately-grown tea brought, for first quality, 3s. 5d. per pound; second quality, 2s. 7d. per pound; and the third quality, 2s. 2d. per pound.

The realisation of such prices would appear to prove that the Caucasian tea is really of good marketable value, and there is nothing to prevent its culture assuming vast proportions in that highly-favoured Province. Hitherto the experiments have been confined almost entirely to the Government of Kutais, but many other districts are equally favourable to high-class tea culture.—*London Standard*, December 2nd.

\* \* \*

M. Prudhomme, Director of Agriculture in Madagascar, believes that tea can be cultivated in almost the whole of the island, but especially on the East Coast, which is moist and rainy. There may be some slips between the cup and the attempt to fill it with tea from Texas and Madagascar, but it shows the keen desire exhibited on all sides to cultivate tea where climatic conditions render it possible.

\* \* \*

In his new book, "Across Coveted Land," just published by Macmillan, Mr. A. H. Savage Landor, referring to Sistan, the half-way house between Quetta, in British India, and Meshed, in Persia, says that a greatly developed Indian tea trade will, in all probability, pass through it some day. Mr. Landor, in his interesting chapter on this subject, believes that only an understanding with Russia is needed to procure for Indian teas a most profitable market, not merely in Central and Western Asia, but all over Europe.

\* \* \*

The customers of the retailers in a city near New York, containing 35,000 inhabitants, are in receipt of a letter which reads as follows:

DEAR MADAM: We are sending you to-day a sample of our famous Ceylon tea. Try this tea, and we are sure you will pronounce it the most delicious that you have ever tasted.

It is only put up in sealed foil packages, which are packed where grown, on the Island of Ceylon, thereby preserving its fine flavour, and aroma, and avoiding the dust, dirt, and impurities incident to tea sold in bulk.

The sample we are sending you will make ten cups of tea; as you should use only one teaspoonful for two cups, instead of one teaspoonful for each cup, as required of other teas. You will readily appreciate the economy in using a tea which goes doubly as far as other teas, a half-pound package of ——— Ceylon tea, at 30 cents, going as far as a full pound of others.

You will find ——— Ceylon tea for sale at your grocer's. If you always want to be sure of obtaining the best tea, ask for, and insist upon having, this delicious, pure, and most economical of teas, ——— Ceylon.

Respectfully yours,

The samples were in a very neat foil package, and, when tested, proved to be a meritorious grade of Ceylon tea. The explicit caution as to the use of the article caused the recipients to brew the tea carefully, and the result was a beverage far different from what it would have been had the same quantity been steeped as is customary where China or Japan tea are used.

The *American Grocer* inquired of the local grocer whether this form of advertising paid. His reply was: "Sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't." We imagine much depends upon the article sent as a sample. The principal fact is that it indicates a co-operative spirit on the part of jobbers that shows a deep interest in promoting, for mutual advantage, the trade of its customers. Such a practice became general it would be a nuisance to retailers and consumers.

## GUATEMALAN COFFEE.

Shall we ever receive a really reliable report as to the damage inflicted on the Guatemalan Coffee crop during the recent earthquake? In two papers of nearly the same date we find

### *This Picture :*

The latest news from Guatemala confirms the earlier report, which it will be remembered was quite sensational in character. It now appears that the volcanic eruption has done very great damage to the coffee plantations. However, nothing seems able to prevent the further slumping of the market for Rio and Santos coffee, which has lost ground since the news of the Guatemala disaster was first received.

### *And This :*

A. Lazo Arriaga, the Minister from Guatemala to the United States, has received from his Government letters and telegrams stating that the reports published in this country about the loss of life and property caused by the eruption of the Santa Maria volcano are exaggerated. While it is true that a part of the present coffee crop is lost the despatches say it is generally expected that most of the plantations of the affected district will recuperate.

Those who have read our previous notes on the same subject will realise that all the accounts yet given differ so materially that it is impossible to gauge the accuracy of any.

## BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

*November 1902.*

The following tables show the Imports, Consumption, and Exports of the undermentioned articles for the 11 months November 30 in the present and 2 previous years, compiled from the Board of Trade Returns, with stock in U. K. on November 30 :—

Coffee.			1900.	1901.	1902.
Import	...	... cwts.	734,857	921,702	900,392
Home Consumption	...	..	261,016	305,400	274,390
Export	...	..	440,912	653,183	335,301
Stock	...	..	328,000	276,000	562,000
Cocoa—Raw.			1900.	1901.	1902.
Imported	...	... lbs.	49,178,619	49,406,166	53,009,256
Home Consumption	...	..	34,825,293	39,833,326	42,610,394
Export	...	..	8,647,997	10,710,297	12,253,700
Stock	...	..	16,183,000	15,097,000	10,030,000
Cocoa—Prepared.			1900.	1901.	1902.
Imported	...	... lbs.	7,086,335	7,711,225	7,964,910
Home Consumption	...	..	6,250,212	7,058,581	7,386,700
Export	...	..	838,209	763,259	645,964
Stock	...	..	261,000	213,000	208,000
Tea.			1900.	1901.	1902.
Import	...	... lbs.	268,106,675	260,969,662	262,778,588
Home Consumption	...	..	231,312,570	234,899,037	234,905,770
Export	...	..	40,034,710	40,098,598	42,083,360
Stock	...	..	110,189,000	104,944,000	99,011,000

## THE NORTH-EAST MONSOON ON THE NILGIRIS.

[From a Correspondent.]

The monsoon of 1895 was a regular bye-word as regards its severity, as it produced a larger rainfall than had ever been known on these Hills, averaging on the Estates round Coonoor and Kotagiri about 117 inches, and this year bids fair to rival it with over 100 inches up to date (17th), of which nearly three-quarters has fallen within the last three months.

In 1895 it was the Kotagiri road that was badly breached by the heavy rain, 17 inches of which fell in a single night, if I remember right. This year the heaviest fall has been 8 inches within the twenty-four hours, and it is the Coonoor



ghaut which is completely blocked for traffic both by cart and rail. Consequently all cart traffic has had to get to Coonoor and Ootacamund by the Kotagiri ghaut, a calamity which has never happened before.

It is not only the amount of rain that is out of the ordinary, but the way we have been getting it has not been as it usually is. As a general rule, in the N.-E. monsoon nearly all the rain falls at night, and the days are most often bright and fine, but this time the days have been abnormally cloudy, and we have been continually enveloped in thick mists, in fact, far more like what we experience during the S.-W. monsoons. This has been very trying, not to say disastrous, to us in two ways. Firstly, it has made it very difficult to pick the crops, numbers of the resident coolies being repeatedly ill with fever, owing to their getting chills from being soaked to the skin nearly every day, the local coolies have shown a great reluctance to coming to work in the rain, and consequently rates for picking have been necessarily very high, and competition for labour exceedingly keen. Secondly, as there has been so little sunshine to boast of, it has been almost an impossibility to dry the coffee sufficiently for despatch. Every year we get a few complaints from the Curers that some consignments of crop have reached them wetter than it should be, but this we expect during occasional bursts of bad weather. They evidently do not think it worth while making that complaint this year, but they do complain, and very naturally too, of parchment being sent to them half germinated, as it has been in a few cases!

There has been another and most serious loss brought on by the unceasing rain, and that is the large amount of crop that it has caused to drop. Not only ripe cherry but also a great deal of half ripe too has split with the excessive moisture and fallen. One planter estimated that one-fifth of his whole crop was on the ground! On some places coolies have been able to glean a whole bushel in one day off the ground, without taking a single bean from the trees themselves! Owing to all these losses, estimates have been reduced all round, and with prices steadily declining week by week, our outlook is indeed a gloomy one. All that remains for us to do is to try and hold on, and trust in Providence.

### NOTES.

#### The Clearing House Struggle.

The latest news about this matter is that the Clearing House has rescinded Rule 3, pending re-organisation, which it is hoped will take effect in July.

#### Indian Cinchona.

The exports from British India during the *six* months ended September amounted to

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Lbs. ...	1,058,458	884,225	1,525,617

#### German Quinine.

The exports of quinine, quinine preparations, etc., from Germany during the eight months ending August amounted to—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Kilos ...	134,400	136,900	120,800

#### Java Quinine.

The exports of quinine from Java during September amounted to 287

cases, 206 of which were shipped to New York, 37 to Japan and 44 cases to Singapore. From January 1 to September 30 the shipments have been—

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Cases ...	1,121	1,307	1,487	1,467	854

#### Coffee Seed.

*Apropos* of the letter that appears in our correspondence column we may remark that we know of one planter who is picking a bush of the *ordinary* seed coffee over *four* times, and is putting down P, B & T separately, to see how they turn out, and the flat beans in another lot. Nothing like practical experiment!

#### Heavy Rain in Mysore.

On the 16th ultimo, just too late for our final number in 1902, a Mudigere correspondent wrote us:—"It may interest you to know that we have been having awful weather. One estate got 6 inches of rain in one day, and another had 12 inches in the week. Some estates are in full picking while others have hardly got any crop in, and have very little ripe, which is fortunate in this weather, with clouds and rain about and no sun.

#### Tea and Empire.

A writer in *Chambers's Journal* remarks:—"Tea has been the means of rescuing parts of India from a state of nature that was neither attractive nor profitable; it has saved Ceylon, one of the most interesting and valuable of British possessions, from a worse fate even than that which foreign bounties have inflicted on the West Indies; it has provided the Imperial Exchequer with enough funds, if need be, to pay for the construction yearly of three or four ironclads.

#### Tea Prospects.

The *Englishman* recently remarked:—"During the last few weeks prices have advanced steadily, and for the first time for many years the tea-planter sees before him the possibility of a profit instead of a loss. We are, however, never likely to see common teas over 6 pence per lb. for any length of time and perhaps a rise in the price of cheap teas is hardly desirable as the effect would be falling off in consumption which would put a stop to the projects for expanding the Indian tea market and would prove disastrous. One has heard of a storm in a tea cup and laughed at it, but the storm that has raged now for the past years in that useful article of domestic use has already engulfed some planters, and many more have been and are still in troubled waters. Let us hope that the hard-worked, plucky planter may ere long see the end of his troubles, and that brighter times are in store for him.

#### Cinchona.

The first-hand stock in Amsterdam on November 30 consisted of 3,734 packages Government culture and 14,641 packages private culture. The shipments from Java during November amounted to 965,000 Amsterdam lbs. (1,060,000 Eng. lbs.) against 1,185,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year and 1,490,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1900. The total for the eleven months 11,843,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 11,333,000 and 9,650,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901 and 1900 respectively. According to the Board of Trade Returns for the first eleven months



1902 and two previous years the movements of bark in the United Kingdom were as follows :—

		1900.	1901.	1902.
Imported...	...	cwts. 38,720	40,051	36,454
Value ...	...	£86,272	£113,336	£88,195
Exported ...	...	cwts. 42,973	24,222	21,744
Value ...	...	£112,682	£65,178	£52,358
1902.				
Imports of Quinine and Quinine Salts	...	...	ozs. 1,199,854	
Value ...	...	...	£61,560	
Exports of Quinine and Quinine Salts	...	...	ozs. 345,161	
Value ...	...	...	£15,625	

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Bark in London :—

	(11 months).	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imported	...	pkgs. 20,382	22,864	18,908
Delivered	...	„ 27,415	21,863	20,282
Stock	...	„ 9,066	10,622	8,924

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

COFFEE SEED.

DEAR SIR,—Can you or any of your readers give me the following information about Seed coffee ?

Is it necessary to have only the flat bean, or do the peaberries give equally good plants ?

Seed coffee, as usually sold, contains peaberry, triage (*i.e.* broken or cut) and malformed and elephant beans, and the seed is *all* put down in nurseries without being “garbled” and above kinds of beans taken out. *Probably* the sickly plants in the nursery are from the beans, but I have not yet met anyone who has ever experimented in this way. I presume a given quantity of Seed coffee, carefully picked over, is worth double the quantity of “ungarbled” and would be glad to hear from someone who can give information on this point.

Your, etc.,  
“NURSERY.”

TEA AVERAGES.

Price Currents—Tea.

DEAR SIR,—In the number of *Planting Opinion* to hand this week (issue of 13th instant) I see you give the average of the Wynaad Tea Company’s Perengodda Factory as 6¼d. Of course where a part of Invoice is withdrawn it is impossible to give correct average, but at prices given, the average works out to 7.11d., the actual results, according to advice from England, being nearly 7½d. And in the same list Walker’s Achoor, which tea is manufactured here, is given as averaging 7d., whereas at figures given the average works out 7.27d. It is unlikely that in this matter I am more unfortunate than others but I find that the averages given for our tea are nearly always at least ¼d. below what they should be.

VAYITRI,  
17th December, 1902.  
Yours faithfully,  
H. WADDINGTON,  
*The Wynaad Tea Company, Ltd.*

[The averages are those given by Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, of London.—Ed., P. O.]

GENERAL ARTICLES.

BOMBAY TEA COMPANY (LIMITED).

A Meeting of the Shareholders was held at Birmingham on Saturday the 15th ultimo. Mr. Corrie Grant, M.P., presided, and stated that Mr. William Evans, the late managing director, had resigned his position, and had surrendered 19,707 preferential shares and 13,867 ordinary shares, both fully paid. This was the result of the work of a Committee of independent shareholders formed in the beginning of 1901, of which he (Mr. Corrie Grant) was chairman. At the Annual Meeting of the Company in June last, he proposed the appointment of a Committee of Investigation to inquire fully into all matters connected with the working of the business, and the promotion and formation of the Company. That motion was defeated by a narrow majority, but the Committee continued their labours, and the result he now presented to the Meeting. On November 7 he handed in Mr. Evans’ resignation, and the shares given up, to the Board of Directors. The Board approved of what had been done, and cordially thanked the Committee and himself as their chairman for the great services they had rendered to the Company. He was then invited to become a director, and accepted the offer until, at any rate, the Company was again in clear water. He was also requested to become chairman of the company, and to this he also agreed. The Committee throughout had made no charge for their services, and simply received their out-of-pocket expenses. These they proposed to ask their shareholders to repay. Resolutions were passed receiving and approving the statement of the chairman, and confirming the election of Mr. Grant as director and chairman without remuneration.

SOUTH CAROLINA TEA.

Mr. Charles R. Shepard says, in a letter, dated “Pinehurst,” Summerville, S.C., November 22, to the *Ceylon Observer* :—

Some kind soul has caused to be sent to me copies of your issues of October 20th and 22nd wherein your “funny-man” has disported himself at my expense and to my very considerable amusement. It was about my turn and I should not complain; for I have throughout the past Summer intensely enjoyed the Indo-Ceylon green tea controversy as conducted in those valuable journals, the *Tropical Agriculturist* and the *Indian Gardening and Planting*. Incidentally I would state my surprise that the old Indian process of lightening the colour of green tea by panning or attrition (described by Dr. A. Tschirch in 1892) should have been overlooked by so many of your able scholars and planters for so long a time, and adulteration at least contemplated!!

The Pinehurst Experimentation has received so much notice from the Press of this and other countries that it has become almost impossible for me to correct the frequently erroneous statements as to its object and results, and has compelled me to ignore personal attacks.

But as I am indebted to the Ceylon Tea Industry and especially its mouth-piece, the *Tropical Agriculturist*, for so much valuable information, I deem it proper to call your attention to some errors into which you have inadvertently fallen, and which in your desire to continue as a faithful historian you may choose to publish. The Pinehurst undertaking has been experimental from the start until now; at first and until within a few years at my own expense, but latterly it has received generous and welcome aid from the U. S. Department of Agriculture after official investigation had shown that its object was not commercial, but an attempt to prove the feasibility of establishing a new and profitable industry in the Southern States, with all of the attendant benefits. It should be superfluous to inform you that the experiments although on a small scale (none of my gardens are larger than a few acres in extent), have been directed so as to cover as many sorts of tea-seed and as different types of soil and exposure as possible. It was expected that success—measured pecuniarily—might attend very few of the experiments, but it was hoped that some of them might result favourably. I will leave to your own judgment whether the following returns for this season may be regarded as promising, especi-



ally as the limit of production does not yet appear to have been reached:—

Old Rose Garden, Assam hybrid seed, 392 lbs. dry tea from 83/100 acre, or at the rate of 472½ lbs. to the acre, or over 7 oz. to the bush.

Lincoln Garden, Darjeeling seed, 554 lbs. dry tea from 190/100 acre, or at the rate of 290 lbs. to the acre, or over 2 oz. to the bush.

South Fraser Garden, Chinese seed, 503½ lbs. dry tea from 2 acres, or at the rate of 250 lbs. to the acre, or 1½ oz. to the bush.

I will not exhaust your patience with comparisons with Asiatic production.

Yield of Pinehurst tea for 1902 (don't laugh, please) about 8,500 lbs. It is neither expected nor desired to exceed double that amount (don't be alarmed, please).

As to that little, cheap rotary sterilizer for the Green tea manufacture, it does its work so well that the product sells very readily in the American market at a price which my respect for your feelings forbids me to quote.

In concluding this too lengthy note, I would ask you to favour me with any further notice that you may deign to bestow on this modest undertaking, even though it may be some fireworks from your aforesaid "funny-man."

## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* publishes the following:—

TORONTO, November 20, 1902.

A fairly active business has been doing in Indian and Ceylon black and green teas during the week and the prices of these are gaining strength here on the reports of hardening markets in London, England. Higher prices are now asked, as cables from London on November 15 and 17 show an advance of ¾d., or 1½c. on black teas at and below 6d. Finer teas are, in some cases, stronger, and those of good flavored that were quoted at 10d. are now worth 11½d. to 1s. 1d. Similar teas that were worth, 7d. are now held at 8½d.

MONTREAL, November 20, 1902.

Low-grade Ceylon and Indian black teas have advanced about 1½c. during the past few days, and the tone of the market is firmer. There is a good demand for Ceylons, and shipments this week to country points have been quite heavy. Several arrivals of Japan teas at this market are reported and a fairly good business is doing at continued firm prices. Green teas are still firm.

TORONTO, November 27, 1902.

The primary market this week has been strong for all grades of Indian and Ceylon greens and black teas, and prices have advanced for these and also for China and Japanese greens. Cheap Indian blacks are up 2c. from the low point and cheap Ceylons are up about 1½c. and the prices may shortly reach the parity of 7d for leaf teas. Indian and Ceylon Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs are from 6¼ to 7½d., and are strong, the finer grades of Orange Pekoes are scarce, and desirable catchy teas are in small supply. China teas have not been as high for years. The Japan market has closed, and anything offering of the third and fourth crop is poor stock. Prices for these are higher than for the earlier teas. There is also an active demand for greens from 6¼ to 7½d., in Indians and Ceylons.

## TEA CULTURE IN TEXAS.

### FURTHER DETAILS OF SCHEME.

The *Beaumont Journal* remarks:—

Some time ago Beaumont was visited by two representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of making a superficial investigation of this section with a view of finding a suitable location for making an experiment with growing tea in Texas. It is believed that the gentlemen were very favourably impressed with the country about Beaumont and a study of the soil and climate requirements leads further to the opinion that Jefferson county will prove suitable for making the tea experiments and further, that it will result successfully. When Congressman Cooper visited Washington recently he improved the opportunity to call upon the chief of the bureau to plant industries and inquire the progress of this matter. He did not receive a definite reply at the time but was informed that the department would furnish

him all information as soon as possible. In this connection Congressman Cooper has received the following very full report of the matter. Contained in the letter is a very explicit proposal of the Government will make and the matter is in some respect to the people of this section to take hold of and further the plan:

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 28, 1902.

HON. S. B. COOPER,  
Beaumont, Texas.

SIR,—Referring to your personal inquiry, made a short time ago, in regard to plans for work on tea in Texas, I have to say that we have been carefully considering various plans in connection with this work, and have been waiting to be in a position to give you some definite facts before writing you.

I may say that it is the desire of the honorable secretary of agriculture to make a commercial test of the possibilities of growing tea in Texas. It is recognized that there are large tracts of land in many parts of the southern states adapted to this kind of work, but the important question of labour has always been a question. The work at Summerville, South Carolina, has demonstrated, we think, the possibility of growing tea commercially, but there is still much to be done before capital can be interested in the project on any extensive scale. Our idea is, that to achieve the best results the department should secure the co-operation of the people of Texas, an effort being made to establish a model tea farm and factory; and, after the work is on its feet, to allow private parties to continue it, providing it is found profitable. The Government is precluded from making any improvements on land that it does not own, or lease for a period of years. The Secretary does not think it advisable for the Government to purchase land for this sort of work; he thinks that land sufficient for the purpose ought to be donated by interested parties. This will keep up an interest in the work which could not be maintained in any other way. The plan is to start with a fifty acres with opportunities for increasing this to one hundred acres if it is thought desirable to do so. A one hundred acre plantation, properly managed and in the right locality, should yield in from six to eight years, ten to fifteen thousand pounds of tea annually. Of course the first two or three years there will be little in the way of yield, as it takes about three years for the plants to reach sufficient size for first plucking.

Briefly, the following outline of a plan has been prepared for this work:

1. Land to be furnished to the department free of charge, under a guaranteed tenure of not less than ten years.
2. Such labour as may be necessary in clearing the land and putting it into condition for planting to be furnished to the department free of charge.
3. Teams and ordinary farm implements such as plows, harrows, etc., to be furnished to the department free of charge.
4. One-half the cost of all ordinary labour necessary in establishing and maintaining fifty acres of tea-plants to be furnished to the department free of charge.
5. All buildings necessary for the work to be furnished to the department free of charge.
6. The department will furnish an expert superintendent who had experience in growing and manufacturing tea.
7. The department will furnish all necessary machinery used in the manufacture of tea.
8. The department will furnish all seeds and plants.
9. The department will pay one-half the cost of ordinary labour necessary for the growing of plants and the handling of the product.
10. The product from the gardens will become the property of the donors of the land, but will be handled and sold subject to conditions which may be mutually agreed upon.

### EXPLANATIONS.

The tea gardens should be located with due respect to soil, climate, rainfall, and labour, particularly colored labour. The plants should be so made as to begin with not less than fifty acres with possibility of extending to 100 acres within a few years, if it is thought desirable. The buildings required for the first two or three years will be small. After that, when the tea begins to come in in quantity, a suitable factory building will have to be erected. Such a building for a 100 acre plantation probably will not cost more than \$10,000. The full equipment of such a building with machinery, etc., for the handling of the yield of 100 acres will probably cost



\$4,500 to \$5,000. This portion of the expense will be borne by the Government.

In a few days we shall have two of the department's agents visit Texas, with a view to looking over the territory and deciding on the best point to locate. We want, of course, to make this work a success, and to do so the best location should be secured. As already indicated, labour plays an important part in the work. Proper soil and sufficient rainfall are also important considerations. Rainfall, however, we consider less important than the other features mentioned, if it is practicable to secure irrigation. The ideal location would be where there is plenty of cheap labour, where the soil is sufficiently rich to grow good crops of cotton or corn and where the rainfall exceeds fifty or sixty inches annually, or in lieu of this where irrigation water can be obtained in plentiful supply.

Thanking you for the great interest you have shown in this work,

I remain, very respectfully,  
B. T. GALLOWAY,  
Chief of Bureau.

TEXAS, U.S.A., October 25.

### BRAZILIAN CACAO.

A Consular report says:—The cacao market has been steady at average prices, and the demand fully equal to the supply. No crop in this country is subject to such fluctuations as cacao, and for this reason comparisons with previous crops are valueless.

The total shipments from the Amazon for the first six months of 1902 were:

					Tons.
January	...	...	...	...	314
February	...	...	...	...	310
March	...	...	...	...	409
April	...	...	...	...	408
May	...	...	...	...	562
June	...	...	...	...	587
July	...	...	...	...	300
Total	...	...	...	...	2,800

Something more than one-third was taken by the United States, and the balance by Europe. France, as usual, is the largest consumer, with Holland second. The trade with the United States is, however, increasing, and before long that country will doubtless consume the bulk of the cacao product of South America.

### PACKET QUININE.

#### SALES AT INDIAN POST OFFICES.

In his report for 1901-02 the Postmaster-General remarks:—

*Sale of Quinine at Post Offices*—It will be seen that there was a net increase of over 375 lbs. in the supplies obtained during the year, and that no less than six circles, out of the twelve, contributed to this result. The improvement was due mainly to the increased supplies procured in Bombay, Madras, and the Central Provinces. The increase in the first named circle is attributed to measures recently taken to popularise the drug, and in the Central Provinces, to the reduction in the price of a packet from three pies to two pies; while in Madras the increase is due to the extension of the system during the year to our post offices in the Mysore State. Of the three other circles which show better results, Burma is best, and here, too, the larger supplies obtained are ascribed to a reduction in the retail price of the drug from four pies to three pies per packet. The circles which show a falling-off are principally those forming the Province of Bengal, namely, Bengal, Bihar, and Eastern Bengal; and in all these the smaller supplies procured are attributed to the prevalence of more healthy conditions. It may be noted that notwithstanding the decrease in the present instance, Bengal still holds its position as the circle where the total quantity of quinine obtained for sale at post offices is largest.

### THE CULTIVATION OF CHICORY.

A memorial on the cultivation of chicory has been forwarded to Mr. Hanbury and is being laid before the agricultural societies of Yorkshire. The memorial sets forth that between the year of its introduction in 1840 and the year 1860 the growth and cultivation of chicory root in Yorkshire and neighbouring counties was not only an important item of agriculture, but was a source of considerable profit to the farmer. The quantity grown in England was then about equal to the quantity imported from abroad. In the year 1860, however, a Customs duty of 6s. per cwt. was placed on imported chicory, and an excise duty of 3s. per cwt. on home-grown chicory; and in the year 1863 these duties were increased to 26s. 6d. and 21s. 9d. per cwt. respectively; and in the year 1864 the Excise duty on English chicory was further increased to 24s. 3d., but no increase was made on foreign-grown chicory. The memorial states that as a result of such duties during the period from 1860 to 1872 the importation of foreign chicory largely increased and the growth of English chicory diminished, and stood in the relation of four tons of the former to one ton of the latter. After the year 1872 the importation of foreign chicory further increased, and the growth of English chicory further diminished, until last year for every one ton grown in England fifty-eight tons were imported from abroad. The memorial further points out that chicory is the only dutiable article grown in this country (the registration on wheat being confined to imports only), and that in the year 1901 the whole of the quantity of English chicory on which duty was paid was eighty-nine tons, and that the revenue obtained therefrom is small and costly to collect. It is further urged that the reduction of the home Excise duty of a halfpenny per pound on present returns shows a loss of 412*l.* only. This, it is argued, would do much to revive the industry and help to restore the prosperity formerly enjoyed. If the trade revived to reach the total of 1872, the loss would only be 6032*l.* The memorialists, therefore, invite the favourable consideration by the Board of Agriculture of their memorial with a view to a remedy for a system which they think has proved to be at once disastrous to the English farmer and favourable to our Continental competitors.

### THE CUP THAT CHEERS.

Daniel K. Young writes in *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*:—

The good monk was sad.

And forsooth he had full reason to be sad.

For as he lay under the grateful shade of the broad spreading oak, his mind, in spite of himself, would revert to yesternoon service in the chapel. And not only yesternoon, but, alas! every noon service for, oh, he could not remember how long. The good Abbot and all the other brothers were beginning to think that he was being mastered by the Devil, if indeed he did not already have some wily imp secreted somewhere about his anatomy. Scourgings and penances had failed of effect and at last he was compelled to admit that the flesh was weaker than the spirit. Was he really doomed to everlasting punishment because he could not conquer his weakness?

That very day had he clothed himself in a haircloth shirt, which being next to his hide would have brought such irritation to a rhinoceros as to have made him roar with anguish. Up to the time of going into chapel for noonday service he had not had a moment's peace from it. Yet no sooner had the good and holy Abbot begun to drone out the service than that cursed drowsiness had once more come over him. When the chant was reached his eyes closed despite his efforts to keep them open. When the reading began his head had dropped lower and lower on his chest until, just as the Abbot had finished, he was letting forth such snores as were heard in the farthest end of the chapel. When the nearest brother, in charity awakened him, he had given such a snort that the walls appeared to shake.

And so it had been for many days.

The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak.

As he lazily watched the goats browsing on some bushes he noticed that they appeared to be particularly fond of some ripe red berries that looked like cherries, which they were greedily devouring. Just now he remembered that this was not the first time he



had noticed this fondness of the goats for these same, and it had seemed to him that they always appeared to be more frolicsome after eating of them. So would he watch to-day and see if it were so. And of a certainty, after the goats had eaten of their full of the berries they did gambol and skip about the hill as they had not done before. His curiosity was aroused and gathering a handful he essayed to eat, but they were hard and unpalatable. But perchance they might make a good soup, so he carried a quantity of them back to his cell, and with the help of the skillet and fire, boiled them long to make them tender. But this brought no better luck than the first trial.

#### THE BREW IS MADE.

Several, however, had fallen in the fire and soon a peculiar aromatic perfume filled the apartment. Examination showed that it came from the berries that had been burning. Perchance they would be edible roasted and so he roasted a handful on the stones before the fire. Soon they gave off such an aroma that, fearing the other monks might perceive it, he opened his window and cleared the air of his cell. The berries now had a pleasant taste but were somewhat bitter. Determined to pursue his investigation farther he pounded some of them to powder and made a soup of them. And, Behold! the water turned a rich golden brown and the soup was delicious, for this was the first brew of coffee which was known to the world.

Delighted with the discovery, he next morning imbibed a large skillet full of the liquid and went in to the noon service with fear and trembling, knowing full well what it was to sleep and to snore, and that he must again expect a bad half hour with the Abbot after service.

But what was his surprise and the astonishment of all the other brothers to find that he not only did not fall asleep but attended every word of the service with the most reverent attention. He rubbed his eyes to find out whether he were really awake or dreaming. But no, there was no desire for sleep. He was wide awake.

After service all the brothers gathered together around him and praised God that his scourgings and penances, the peas in his shoes and the haircloth shirt on his skin had brought about a miracle. So they must all chant a Te Deum that God had wrought such a wonder in their midst. Even the Abbot did reverence to him as the most favoured of them all.

And so each morning thereafter for a week did he drink of the brew and no longer found it troublesome to keep awake at service. About that time, one unfortunate morning, the Abbot, making an unexpected round of the cells, came upon our poor monk in the full operation of brewing his draught. Here was a Devil's draught indeed! It was even the colour and consistency of wine! Was this giving his whole life to the service of God? Was this drinking of spiced water in accordance with their solemn vows? Truly, only hard and merciless scourgings and long fasts and penances could wipe out this most abominable sin. And this, too, by one who had received the especial and undoubted benefit of the only miracle which had been vouchsafed to the monastery in four years. Back to the haircloth shirt and the peas in your shoes and nothing to eat until this sin be washed away at the noonday service. And so the cursed liquor was thrown out of the window.

#### NO COFFEE, NO PEACE.

That very day, as a punishment from God, the good monk once more aroused the whole assemblage with his stertorous snoring and when awakened gave such a peculiarly horrid and awful snort as made the holy Abbot fairly jump while in the very pulpit.

Here was it all explained. The monk had been able to keep awake and take to himself the credit of a miracle through a compact with the Evil One, who had given him this Hellish brew to drink before the service. More scourgings and penances and fastings.

But his palate had tasted real coffee, and not postum cereal or any of the vile decoctions which have since been sold under that sacred name. The habit was not so easily to be overcome and so about the third day the Devil's dram was brewing again. Suddenly there was a noise in the court, and the culprit, leaving the brew on the fire, ran out to see what caused the disturbance. At about this time, as Fate would have it, the Abbot, in walking through the hall, had his olfactory nerve greeted with that same aroma which he had noted before and boldly pushed open the door of the recreant's cell. Lo! there was the Hellish brew in the skillet on the fire and

the room was filled with the delicious odour of genuine Mocha coffee.

Now the Abbot was a just man and a pious, and not wishing to do an injustice to anyone, he determined to test for himself the fascination of the awful temptation. For how otherwise could he put himself in the other's place? For himself, he knew that he was proof against the strongest and wildest tricks of the Devil. So with a smile of mingled contempt for the poor weak brother and conscious superiority for himself, he sipped from the skillet, with the usual result that one sip did not convey to his mind the enjoyment which the full draught which followed was sure to do. When the last drop was drained he lowered the skillet from his lips for the purpose of replacing it on the fire and stealing quietly out knowing full well that the friar would ask no questions of anyone and might think that the evil spirits had stolen his precious liquor to tantalize him, but as his eyes looked over the edge of the dish, there was the sleeper standing before him and thirstily watching the whole performance.

#### DRINK OF ANGELS.

For a moment each gazed at the other in silence, and there are some profane historians who positively assert that the monk winked his left eye at the Abbot and that the latter returned the salutation with a wink of the right eye, but of course any such assertion is false and an invention of the evil minded. We are, however, assured that the good and holy superior, putting his fatherly hand on the shoulder of the weaker brother, thus addressed him:

"Dear brother, I was desirous of doing full justice to you, and not wishing to put your eternal soul in jeopardy, was determined to discover for myself whether you stood on the brink of perdition. This could only be done by imbibing a portion of the liquor which you were brewing. I have gladly taken the risk for your dear sake, and am now minded that peradventure it may not be a concoction of the Devil but may truly be a gift from the angels. Now we will put it to the test and sprinkle some holy water in the fire. If it be from the Devil he will surely take some definite shape, and you with yonder poker and I with this stool will be prepared to give him a great and noble battle."

So with fear and trembling the reverend father sprinkled some holy water on the fire, and both stood ready to smite the demon should he appear. But nothing happened except a little sputtering in the embers, and so was it proven that the drink came from the angels and not from the Devil.

The two good brethren fell into each other's arms and the Abbot whispered in the ear of the monk:—

"Dear brother, to-morrow thou shalt brew enough for us twain."

### CULTIVATION OF "CASTILLOA ELASTICA" IN JAVA.

Dr. Spire contributes to a French journal devoted to tropical planting\* a comprehensive report on the planting of Mexican rubber (*Castilloa elastica*) in the Dutch East Indies, based on personal observations made in the Summer of 1901, from which it appears that considerable interest in this species exists in that region. He mentions, by way of introduction, former reports on the same subject by Dr. P. Van Romburgh, of the botanical garden at Buitenzorg, Java, who has been much interested in watching the development of the *Castilloa* in that colony, and to which credit is given for some of the details presented here. Dr. Spire is unable however, after a study of Th. F. Koschany's monograph on the *Castilloas*, to determine which species has been planted in Java.

An interesting fact is that all the *Castilloa* plantations in Java have resulted from two trees planted as seedlings in 1883 by Mr. Holland, a coffee-planter near Buitenzorg. These began to fruit in 1886, and in December of that year 136 plants from seeds yielded by them were placed in the botanic garden at Tjikeumeuh, in an open field, about 10½ feet apart, in two lines forming the letter V. In the third year twelve of these seedlings bore fruit, and in the fourth year the more thrifty of them were 55½ feet high, and had a girth of 41 inches. In 1901 there were 131 of these trees standing.

\* *L'Agriculture pratique des pays chauds*, Paris. 1-6 (May-June, 1902) pp. 689-698.



ing, measuring from 50 to 65 feet high, and 31 to 53 inches in circumference, breast high. Their crowns form sufficient shade to prevent the growth of weeds, though the ground is spaded up every year. A second planting was made in the garden in March, 1888, when 56 seedlings were set out  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart. A marked difference in the size of these trees is now apparent, those standing near a lane being much larger and more thrifty than those further from the open space, though Dr. Spire fails to mention the character of the growth, if any, in contact with the smaller trees. These trees range from  $32\frac{1}{2}$  to 40 feet in height. The same conditions apply to a third planting, made in 1899.

In May, 1901, Dr. Van Romburgh caused some of the above *Castilloa* trees to be tapped, for the benefit of Dr. Spire. The Malays use for this purpose an implement similar to a butcher's cleaver, with which gashes, 5 to 8 centimetres [= 2 to  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches] long, and about 5 millimetres [=  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch] deep, are cut in the bark, obliquely, on opposite sides, and converging to a common line, from which the latex may be gathered. The cutting extends up the trunk as high as 3 to 4 metres. Two of the trees had been bled before, and the resulting scars were so thick that they interfered with the fresh tapping, but at least, 150 gashes were cut in those two trees that day. The sap flowed freely into a tin pail supported by a hook beneath the lowest cut, and to provide against any loss, large banana leaves were placed at the base of the trunk to catch any sap that might go astray. The latex was at times very white, and again of a brownish cast, while some incisions brought out only a blackish humour which exuded very slowly. The flow did not appear to depend upon which side the tree was cut.

The pails of latex, together with what was collected on the banana leaves, were taken to the laboratory and kneaded in water, next passed over a fine copper sieve, and then put away to settle. In time the rubber floated, the remaining watery material being drawn off from the bottom from day to day. At the end of the eighth day the cake of rubber was removed and placed under a press to remove any remaining water. Returning to the field on the day following the tapping, the man in charge collected from the wounds on the trunks any shreds of rubber that had resulted from the spontaneous coagulation of latex, which, when cleaned, were as valuable as that prepared mechanically.

In general practice the collection of the latex is performed wholly by Malays, an overseer assigning to each worker a certain number of trees which he must visit each day. At least  $\frac{3}{4}$  catty [= about 1 pound] of Caoutchouc must be delivered daily, for which the worker is paid 10 cents, gold, without regard to the hours of labour. The men are watched closely to prevent the reckless tapping of the trees and their ultimate destruction. When brought to the factory the latex is cleansed by women in running water, then exposed to the air, but in the shade, for three or four days to dry, and finally sacked for shipment. The cost of collecting, cleansing, drying, and sacking, amounts to about 3 florins a picul [= \$1.21 for 132 pounds]. A *Castilloa* tree eight years old should yield an average of 175 grammes [=  $\frac{3.9}{100}$  pound] of rubber. In 1900, 2,849 *Castilloas* yielded 7 piculs [= 924 pounds] which sold for 2,100 florins [\$844.20]. A neat little income is derived from the sale of seeds, the usual price being 6 francs per kilogramme (3,000 or 4,000 seeds). They are packed in layers of charcoal dust and will keep for twenty days. Many seeds are shipped from Loebang, particularly to Sumatra, where the culture of *Castilloa elastica* has been begun on a large scale, as at Tebbing Teuggi Deli, near the north-western extremity of the island.

To return to the details of the tapping done under Dr. Van Romburgh's supervision, the weight of latex obtained from six of the trees tapped on two days was as follows:—

		1st Day.	2nd Day.	Total.
First two trees	..	grams. 28	130	158
Second two trees	...	.. 220	290	510
Third two trees	...	.. 125	205	330
Total...	...	373	625	998

The result in dry Caoutchouc was 340 grammes for the first day's tapping and 600 grammes for the second, or a total of 940, equal to slightly over 2 pounds, of a quality then valued at 5 florins per kilogramme [= 91 cents a pound]. The two trees indicated in the table as giving the largest yield were planted in 1884, and are not elsewhere mentioned in Dr. Spire's article

Dr. Spire learned from Dr. Van Romburgh that in 1886 there were planted at the botanic station at Tjidjerock 60 *Castilloa* seedlings, supplied by Mr. Hoffland, already mentioned. Half were planted in moist and swampy land, and the remainder in a high and dry location. The former did not thrive, and were transplanted. In 1891 they all fruited and 20,000 seeds were gathered. The details of planting are not given, but in 1893 there were 10,000 trees standing as the result. Later plantings were made from seeds from the same source, so that by 1900 there were about 26,000 trees standing, but none had been tapped at last accounts.

In August, 1901, Dr. Spire visited the *Castilloa* plantations at Pamanoeakan. On the premises of Mr. Van Gent, and situated near his coffee factory, was a tract planted to rubber in argillaceous, ferruginous soil, which had been burnt over at one time with a view to erecting buildings there. The plants were about 10 feet apart, but had attained an average height of 2 metres and the crowns were touching each other. In the same vicinity another and larger tract of 50 bouws [=  $87\frac{1}{2}$  acres] had been planted for 19 months. At the same date the proprietor had planted *Castilloa* seedlings along paths in his coffee estate, and these had attained an average height of 4 metres. At one time a thousand *Castilloa* trees on his plantation had been attacked, apparently by some fungus growth, and were removed and burned.

Dr. Spire also visited the plantations of Mr. Dinet, at Loebang, where *Ficus elastica* and *Castilloa* were growing mixed, about 18 months from planting. The young rubber, set in ground covered with cocoanut palms, had not thriven well, especially the *Castilloa*, which only in a few cases had grown up to 2 metres. This slow growth was attributed to the hardness of the ground caused by the interlacing roots of the palms, and the owner was attempting the difficult task of eradicating the latter. Mr. Dinet was convinced in favour of growing the two kinds of rubber together. The *Castilloa* grows much more rapidly than the *Ficus*, but does not interfere with it. The altitude here is only a few metres above sea-level. Experiments in planting *Castilloa* in the neighbourhood of Korwang, at an altitude of 3,500 feet, were unsuccessful.

And the state plantation of Guttapercha, at Tjipetir, 2,000 feet above the sea, Dr. Spire noticed some *Castilloas*. One tract, planted 18 months before, showed satisfactory growth, and on another, trees 28 months old measured from 55 to 60 inches high. About 100 eight-year old trees were as well developed as those at Tjikeumeuh. In some of the coffee and cinchona plantations in the eastern part of the island a few specimens of *Castilloa* may be found, which, though receiving no attention, have developed well. One, six years old, was  $42\frac{1}{2}$  feet high and  $32\frac{1}{2}$  inches in girth.

Herr Rudolf Schlechter, of Germany, who visited Sumatra last year, in an account of his trip in *Der Tropenpflanzer* (Berlin), mentions two plantations of *Castilloa*—that of Mr. Runge, Deli, Moeda, and one at Haut Tador. In the first named the two-year old trees were 12 feet high and at 3 feet from the ground measured 11.8 inches in circumference. At Haut Tador he saw 50,000 *Castilloa* plants in a nursery, awaiting the rainy season, to be planted with *Ficus*. At Boeloe there were 76 *Castilloas*, one planted in 1898 measuring 17.7 inches in circumference. The latex was abundant, but charged with resin.

## PROFITS FROM A RUBBER PLANTATION.

The *India Rubber World* is often in receipt of inquiries regarding actual results attained in rubber culture, as a basis for estimating possible profits. The answer that must be made in all cases is that none of the extensive plantations thus far formed on a commercial scale are yet old enough to have become productive, but that the planters have been induced to embark in the business by what has been observed of the rate of growth and production of a few trees at a place, in many localities, and under varying conditions. Mention has been made more than once in the *India Rubber World* of a rubber plantation in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, from which shipments of rubber have actually been made. About thirteen years ago a Mexican planter set out a number of rubber trees (*Castilloa elastica*) as a shade for cacao, which grew so rapidly that in time the cacao was practically starved out, and of those trees some 5,000 are now standing, in a vigorous condition. A few years ago Mr. O. H. Harrison, engaged in coffee-planting



in Chiapas, bought this property, including adjacent lands containing wild rubber trees, for \$12,000, Mexican. Within eight months he had sold in London enough rubber from the wild and cultivated trees to pay the purchase price for the property. This formed the basis for La Zacualpa rubber plantation. A like amount of rubber has been sold from the property each year since, and more land has been purchased, the cost of the whole having been met by the proceeds of the rubber sold. During this time there has been no outlay for labour in caring for the cultivated trees, beyond the collection of rubber. The land having been paid for, the proceeds of rubber sales will be devoted to dividends on La Zacualpa shares. Mr. Harrison reports that these trees yield an average of at least 2 pounds of rubber a year—tapped once—and is convinced that a good profit could be made with a yield of half as much, which would give from 200 to 300 pounds of rubber per acre, according to the number of trees. The new planting on La Zacualpa plantation has been done with seeds from the productive trees referred to, so that no doubt can exist as to the variety this is being planted.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### SHEVAROYS.

Extract from Proceedings of the adjourned Quarterly Meeting of the S. P. A., held in the Victoria Rooms, at 1 P.M., on Monday, the 15th December, 1902. PRESENT:—Messrs. W. I. Lechler, J. C. Large, W. Rahm, C. G. Lechler, and R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. Notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.
2. Read and passed accounts showing a balance in hand on the 30th ultimo of Rs.599-15-4.
3. *Resolved*, that as this Meeting is held so late, the next Committee Meeting should be held on the 12th proximo instead of on the 5th.
4. Read letter of 6th December from Mr. Travers Drapes regretting that he is unable to attend the Meeting, but hoping the Association will see its way to taking up his case.
- Resolved* that the matter be allowed to stand over until Mr. Drapes is able to attend a Meeting himself.
5. *Resolved*, that this Meeting approves of Honorary Secretary's visit to Madras in compliance with Planting Member's telegram asking a delegate from each Association to meet him and discuss the New Labour Bill.
6. Honorary Secretary stated that he had, on behalf of this Association agreed to the limit of Rs.30 for advances to coolies, and explained the arrangements made by the delegates with the Planting Member—principally that he should propose that Act XIII of 1859, and the new Act should run concurrently, if possible, and also that the new Act should apply only to such Districts as might ask for it through the U. P. A. S. I. Also (in Section 14) that instead of "food" subsistence allowance of half pay or two annas per day whichever is less, should be substituted.—*Approved*.
7. Read letter from Collector saying that printed forms of crop estimates etc., had been applied for, and would be distributed to planters as soon as they were received.—*Recorded with satisfaction*.
8. Read correspondence with D. F. O. *re* Bamboo Passes, the price of which the D. F. O. has raised to two annas per head doal.
- Resolved*, that Honorary Secretary's action in appealing to the Board of Revenue, and requesting that the whole of the correspondence might be submitted to it for final orders, is approved.
9. Read Mr. Nicholson's proposal to pay maistries 3 pies per cooly per day, instead of any monthly wages, that no maistry should receive a larger advance than Rs.200, and that instead of measuring cherry by the bushel, a box containing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels should be employed.
- Resolved*, that in the opinion of this Meeting the system of payment of maistries is worth a trial, and that Honorary Secretary be requested to issue a circular to all members asking if they will adopt it; but this Meeting does not approve of fixing a limit to maistries' advances, or employing a box, instead of a bushel, to measure cherry.

The following letters were read and recorded :

1. Letter from the Deputy Tahsildar, giving notice of sale of land near Vellalakadi,

2. Secretary's Circular No. 74/02, dated 13th November, 1902, asking certain questions about wood used for packing tea, and dimensions of boxes; and wanting to know if he shall offer coffee to the Chief Supply and Transport Officer.

3. Circular No. 75/02, dated 15th November, 1902, stating that Bengal Chamber of Commerce decline to take any action *re* adulteration of coffee.

4. Circular No. 76/02, dated 18th November, 1902, forwarding extracts from letters from Messrs. Acworth and Windle *re* proposed coffee cess.

5. Circular No. 77/02, dated 19th November, 1902, forwarding criticisms on the proposed Labour Bill from North Wynaad and the Nilgiris.

6. Circular No. 78/02, dated 20th November, 1902, stating that Chairman says majority vote for limitation of advances to Rs.20, but a minority wish it to be Rs.30, and thinks we should adopt their views.

7. Letter from the Secretary advising despatch of 20 reply post-cards soliciting orders for Book of Proceedings of 1902.

8. Circular No. 79/02, dated 20th November, 1902, giving Travancore Government's statistics of cultivation, exports, and imports of cardamoms.

9. Circular No. 80/02, dated 20th November, 1902, stating that Rangoon Chamber of Commerce will take no steps to prevent adulteration of coffee.

10. Circular No. 81/02, dated 21st November, 1902, forwarding letter from Mr. Acworth proposing Committee for sale of tea in India.

11. Circular No. 82/02, dated 22nd November, 1902, stating that Bengal Chamber of Commerce see no use in moving for metric system, pending its adoption in England.

12. Letter from the Secretary stating that our 164 was unnecessary.

13. Letter from the Secretary stating that subscriptions to coffee fund are to be sent to him.

14. Circular No. 83/02, dated 27th November, 1902, giving Chairman's opinion, and that of various Associations, *re* limitation of advances, and New Labour Bill.

15. Circular No. 84/02, dated 28th November, 1902, stating that Mr. Acworth proposes that U. P. A. S. I. should try and get certain articles, connected with Tea Manufacture, exempted from duty as in Ceylon.

16. Circular No. 85/02, dated 29th November, 1902, stating that the Secretary is informed that orders passed on his letter, *re* French import duties, will be sent to him in due course.

17. Circular No. 86/02, dated 29th November, 1902, stating that Secretary's letter, *re* import duty on seeds, has been referred to Government of India.

18. Circular No. 87/02, dated 3rd December, 1902, forwarding proposals from Mr. Acworth *re* Labour Bill, and suggesting that delegates should meet him in Madras.

19. Letter from Mr. Leeming asking for a copy of Mr. A. G. Nicholson's letter *re* the Labour Question.

20. Circular No. 88/02, dated 8th December, 1902, asking for final votes about limitation of advances to coolies.

21. Copies of letters and telegrams about Labour Bill handed to Honorary Secretary, S. P. A., by Mr. Acworth at Madras.

22. Letter from Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., stating that administrator of the late Mr. Ricketts cannot agree to the coffee cess, but perhaps the Trustees may, to whom Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. have sent our circular.

23. Circular No. 89/02, dated 12th December, 1902, stating that Secretary will send important circular *re* Labour Bill to Mr. Acworth in Madras to distribute to delegates who may meet him on the 13th.

24. Circular No. 90/02, dated 13th December, 1902, stating that application for a grant of Rs.15,000 for Brazil delegate will be forwarded to Government of India.

25. Circular No. 91/02, dated 13th December, 1902, stating that Government of Madras has forwarded Resolution *re* French import duties to Government of India.

26. Circular No. 92/02, dated 15th December, 1902, stating that Mr. Acworth regrets having posted a wrong letter by mistake.

27. Seven later replies to our circular about the coffee cess.

28. A number of books and papers received during the month were laid on the table.

ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*



## KANAN DEVAN.

Proceedings of Quarterly General Meeting held in the Munaar Reading room on Saturday, the 29th October, at 3-30 P.M., 1902. PRESENT:—Messrs. A. F. Martin (*Chairman*), E. E. Williams, R. W. Cole, T. C. Forbes, H. L. Pinches, C. B. Holeman, — Hunt, A. J. Wright, K. E. Nicoll, W. O. Milne, R. F. Thorp, Baron J. von Rosenberg, J. C. Swayne, C. E. Hancock, J. A. Richardson, E. R. Howlett, T. R. Mathewson, G. H. Danvers Davy, J. M. Bridgeman. Mr. H. S. Holder (*Honorary Secretary*). Visitors: Messrs. J. B. Corry and J. A. Turnbull.

## AGENDA.

1. Proceedings of last Meeting.
2. Proceedings of Committee Meeting.
3. Labour Law and Limitation of Advances.
4. Proposed Committee for Mr. Knight's Exploiting South India Scheme.

5. Export Duty on Coffee.
6. Revision of Rules.
7. Proposed Tea Cess Committee.
8. Local Labour Rules.

1. Proceedings of last Meeting were read and confirmed in Meeting.

2. Proceedings of Committee Meetings held on the 3rd September and 21st October were read in Meeting.

Mr. Forbes proposed that the proceedings of the Committee as read, be adopted, and confirmed by the Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Pinches and carried.

3. The Meeting then went into Committee.

\* \* \*

4. Committee for Mr. Knight's Exploiting South India Scheme.—Read U. P. A. Circulars in this connection. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary, the U. P. A., expressing the approval of this Association of the suggestion that Mr. H. M. Knight, Mr. George Romilly, of Wynaad, together with a member of the firm of Messrs. Parry & Co. should constitute the Committee for the carrying out of the scheme.

5. Export Duty on Coffee.—Read letter from the Dewan, dated the 27th August, refusing to abolish the Export Duty on Coffee; also letter from Mr. Buchanan advising that the Dewan be again approached.

Baron von Rosenberg spoke on the subject, pointing out the hardship of the tax as at present.

Baron von Rosenberg moved that the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the British Resident stating all facts in connection with the above subject and asking his advice in the matter.

Seconded by Mr. E. E. Williams and carried *nem. con.*

6. Revision of Rules.—Baron von Rosenberg moved an amendment to the effect that the para. in Rule II beginning with the words "provided such proposal ..... to," ..... acceptance of them" be expunged. Seconded by Mr. Richardson and carried.

Mr. Richardson then moved the adoption of the New Rules which was carried unanimously.

7. Proposed Tea Cess Committee.—Read circulars. The Committee's action in asking that the two members allotted to South India should be planters met with general approval.

8. Local Labour Rules.—The Honorary Secretary stated that the Labour Committee had not been able as yet to fix a Meeting but hoped to arrange one very shortly.

\* \* \*

The Chairman, Mr. A. F. Martin, said that owing to the long periods of absence from this District which his work now rendered unavoidable, he would take this opportunity of intimating to members that he intended to resign the Chairmanship at the next Meeting.

Papers laid on the table:—

- U. P. A. Circulars to date.
- I. T. A. do.
- Planting Opinion.
- Indian Gardening.
- Letter Book.

(Signed) H. S. HOLDER,  
Honorary Secretary, K.D.P.A.

## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

## THE BRITISH IMPORT DUTY.

Extracts from Abstract of Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on December 16.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Lockhart Smith (*Chairman*), Mr. W. Warrington (*Vice-Chairman*), Messrs. T. McMorran, G. Pickford, R. R. Toynbee, and Mr. T. Traill.

Letters of 21st and 28th November, from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration and disposal after previous circulation.

The most important question dealt with in these letters was that of the British Import Duty. The London Committee were considering the best means of approaching the Chancellor of the Exchequer with respect to it; and they suggested that the Calcutta Committee should see if action could also be taken in India.

In the proceedings of the Meeting held on the 2nd December, it was stated that the Committee felt it would be hardly advisable for them to take action in India in the first instance. They still adhered to this opinion thinking that any agitation which would be likely to succeed would have to be initiated in England. They would be glad to support the London Committee in any steps that might be decided upon; and would be prepared again to represent the question to the Government of India, if necessary. But any such representation would, they considered, be more effective if made early in the New Year, than it would be if it were submitted now. These views were to be conveyed to the London Committee.

Considered a letter No. 6652-S.R. of 13th December, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, with reference to the proposed tea cess. It was in reply to the Committee's letter, dated 28th November, which was mentioned in the proceedings of the Meeting held on the 2nd December. Mr. Baker stated that the objections received by Government were only three in number, and could not be considered to be either weighty or widely entertained. The Government of India had accordingly decided to proceed with the necessary legislation.

It was decided by the Committee to publish the letter for general information; and to send copies of it to the different local Associations.

The Committee discussed the question of the representation of Indian Tea at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, and decided to approach the London Committee as to the action to be taken.

Considered a letter, dated 5th December, from the Hon. Mr. G. L. Acworth, Peermad, Travancore, with reference to the importation of Ceylon tea waste into India. Mr. Acworth referred particularly to Bombay, and asked if it would be possible to have all tea consigned for Persia *via* Bombay, inspected at that port. If this were impossible he thought the Ceylon Association might be approached with a view to inspection in Colombo of all tea shipped for India or Persia. He added that the tea waste was not shipped by European planters in Ceylon.

Before the receipt of Mr. Acworth's letter the Committee had been considering the general question of the importation of Ceylon tea into India, and were endeavouring to obtain certain statistics respecting it. In view of this they decided to inform Mr. Acworth that, pending the result of their enquiries, they were not prepared to comment upon his proposal.

A letter, dated 12th December, from the Collector of Customs, Bombay, upon the same subject was to be recorded.

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of December 12th, 1902.]

## COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—There is little change to report in this market, small supplies and a dull demand being still the predominant features. Plantation Ceylon was chiefly withdrawn, and the business in East India was almost entirely confined to small transactions in Coorg of early import. New crop Costa Rica met some enquiry so far as the better qualities were concerned, but Central American descriptions are without material alteration. Santos freely offered, and to do business a decline of 1s to 2s per cwt. was submitted to. There have been slight fluctuations in



the market for Brazil "futures," but the closing rates show little variation from those ruling a week ago; yesterday Santos for December delivery sold at 27s 1½d to 27s, March at 28s 3d to 28s 1½d, and May at 28s 9d to 29s per cwt. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery ...	28s 3d.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio...	"	4.85 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	"	28¾ pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	"	34½ francs.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Tons ...	24,378	11,856	42,800	44,332
	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Tons ...	15,822	18,780	14,160	27,944

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports a decrease this year of	...	Tons.	1,532
Home Consumption a decrease of	...	...	2,958
Export a decrease of	...	...	13,784
Stock an increase of	...	...	12,722

Auctions this week have gone off as under:—

CEYLON.—*Plantation*—Of 43 casks 2 tierces 8 barrels 10 bags only 9 packages sold—small 37s to 40s, low middling greenish 73s 6d.

EAST INDIA.—Of 581 bags offered only 90 bags sold—*Neilgherry*, small 45s 6d, low middling 48s 6d to 50s 6d, peaberry 46s 6d; *Coorg*, peaberry 57s to 62s.

JAVA.—106 bags *Liberian* bought in.

COSTA RICA.—Of 444 bags offered 320 bags sold—new crop: small 32s 6d to 46s 6d, fine ordinary greenish 45s 6d, low middling to middling 53s to 58s 6d, bold 70s to 72s, peaberry 54s to 64s; old crop: middling grayish 60s, peaberry 44s to 46s 6d.

SALVADOR.—68 bags sold—low middling greenish foxy 48s 6d.

NICARAGUA.—274 bags half sold—small 31s to 36s, good ordinary to low middling 42s to 49s, peaberry 40s.

GUATEMALA.—680 bags mostly sold, middling pale grayish 50s, common bold 58s.

COLOMBIAN.—Of 214 bags catalogued about 50 bags sold—small 36s, low middling 45s 6d to 46s, peaberry 46s.

MEXICAN.—271 bags sold, small 39s, middling 51s 6d, fair bold 58s 6d, peaberry 47s 6d to 55s.

ECUADOR.—Of 171 bags damaged offered 70 bags sold, bold palish 28s 6d.

BRAZIL.—Of 2,238 bags washed Dumont Santos 1,125 bags sold, small 33s 6d to 37s, medium 36s 6d to 44s, bold 39s to 51s 6d, peaberry 37s 6d to 53s. Of 245 bags Washed Santos, landed terms, 107 bags sold, small 37s 6d, medium 40s to 41s, peaberry 41s. Of 1,223 bags Santos, quay terms, only 23 bags sold, good bright pale greenish 33s 6d. 74 bags Washed Rio bought in.

#### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio ...	2,381,000	3,378,000	1,541,000	2,011,000
Santos ...	5,191,000	6,590,000	5,054,000	4,382,000
Total ...	7,572,000	9,968,000	6,595,000	6,393,000
Crop ...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 12d, previous day 12d.

HAVRE, December 11.—Good average Santos December opened quiet at 33½f. and closed quiet at 33½f., March opened at 34½f. and closed at 34½f., May opened at 35f. and closed at 35f., July opened at 35½f. and closed at 35½f., September opened at 36f. and closed at 36f.

HAMBURG, December 11.—Good average Santos December opened quiet at 28¼pf. and closed quiet at 28pf., March opened at 29pf. and closed at 28¼pf., May opened at 29¼pf. and closed at 29¼pf., July opened at 29¼pf., and closed at 29¼pf., September opened at 30¼pf. and closed at 30¼pf.

NEW YORK, December 11.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.
Dec. 10 ...	4.55	4.65	4.75	4.85	4.90
Dec. 11 ...	4.60	4.65	4.75	4.85	4.95

## TEA.

INDIAN.—There was again a reduction in the amount printed, which was 23,300 packages, against 36,500 at the date of our last report, and 48,900 at this time in 1901.

Competition was more general and prices may be quoted somewhat higher for all descriptions, a marked rise being noticeable for the lower grades, compared with the offers made in the sale-room the previous Monday. Sweet common leaf now shows an improvement of about 1½d per lb. from the lowest point, but is yet barely up to the quotations current at this time last year, in spite of the stronger statistical position and the brighter outlook. Trade in the country is still disappointingly slow, the disposition being to await further developments rather than pay the advance until forced to do so. Home consumption for the past five months marks an expansion of 8 million lbs. over the similar period in 1901.

In view of the Christmas holidays, it is proposed to hold no auctions after Thursday, the 18th instant until Wednesday, 31st idem.

For 21,000 packages on garden account 7¾d per lb. was obtained contrasted with 7½d per lb. for 39,600, and 7½d per lb. for 47,300 in the two foregoing seasons.

CEYLON.—Catalogues included 16,500 packages, whereas, on the 2nd instant, 17,000 were submitted, and 20,800 a year ago.

There was a good general inquiry. Pekoe Souchongs and Pekoes of ordinary character here and there fractionally hardened, while medium to fine leaf kinds met a steady demand at former rates to an occasional advance. Broken Pekoes received attention, especially the lower sorts, which went firmly. Fine and finest sold a little irregularly, but, on the whole, without material change in value. The average is a little over 7¾d per lb. On the 4th instant it was 7½d and in 1901 slightly over 7½d.

JAVA.—Sales comprised 556 packages of direct import, which were taken up freely at full prices.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From December 1 to 9, 1902	...	6,617,666 lbs.
Do. do. 1901	...	6,105,676 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India ...	19,804	3,542	23,346
Ceylon ...	14,007	2,538	16,545
Java ...	531	25	556
Total ...	34,342	6,105	40,477

Also 334 packages from second hands.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated December 12th, 1902, says:—

#### QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	849,538	646,711	41,118
1901-1902 ...	825,282	641,977	37,235
23,407 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 41,016 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
17,053 " CEYLON			
556 " JAVA			

The lighter quantity brought forward this week has already exercised a beneficial effect upon the market, and the slack feeling which was so noticeable in the early part of last week has not only entirely disappeared, but has given place to a distinctly firmer tone with a slight improvement in prices generally.

Although the quantity advertised for next week is slightly heavier, auctions are likely to be upon a decidedly moderate scale, and as in all probability there will be a cessation of sales at any rate until the last day of the year, buyers should have about a fortnight's rest, and thus be enabled to dispose of a large proportion of their recent purchases before the resumption of auctions after the holidays.

INDIAN.—The quantity brought forward was unusually small, viz., 23,407 packages, against 37,810 last week, and 46,198 the week before. The light auction met with better attention, and the weakness noticed last week has disappeared, prices showing a distinct recovery with good general competition.



There is not much change to note in the quality of arrivals, the outturn so far, being hardly up to what it was last year, although musters indicate a better Autumn crop.

Revised Customs figures showing the Imports of Indian and Ceylon tea from 1st June to end of September:—

Bengal Presidency (including Calcutta and Chittagong) ...	41,992,147	1902. lbs.	41,444,259	1901. lbs.
Madras Presidency (including Travancore)	1,425,041	44,046,049	1,249,417	43,193,254
Bombay Presidency ...	628,861		499,578	
Ceylon Tea ...		39,219,292		34,651,521

TRAVANCORE has now become an important feature in the market, this district being always well represented in the auctions, while its teas have benefited very materially from the recent advance in quotations. Some of the teas grown at a high elevation are showing improved characteristics, and are commanding attention both from home and foreign buyers.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1902, 21,223 pkgs., av. 7.61d. 1901, 39,646 pkgs., av. 7.55d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902, 621,967 pkgs., av. 7.22d. 1901, 615,839 pkgs., av. 8.06d.

CEYLON.—The auction was again moderate, and influenced probably by the small Indian sale met with better attention from the Trade, teas up to about 9d being somewhat dearer. Finest kinds, however, sold with a slight irregularity.

Average for week 7.76d., against 7.49d in 1901.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 1,061,088 pkgs., av. 6.80d. 1901, 1,084,151 pkgs., av. 6.85d.

JAVA.—The small sale passed off at firm rates.

## COCOA.

The auctions on Tuesday passed with a generally dull tone, with prices in some instances quite 1s per cwt. lower; of 3,119 bags brought forward about 1,850 bags sold. Of 394 bags Trinidad catalogued, 140 bags found buyers at valuations—middling to good 61s to 63s. The large supply of 1,658 bags new crop Grenada went off slowly, but nearly all sold, prices being fully 1s per cwt. cheaper; good to fine quitted at 59s to 60s 6d and common to fair at 56s to 58s 6d. Of 902 bags Ceylon only 80 bags sold under the hammer—good fair to good Estate 65s to 70s, and smalls 45s to 50s 6d per cwt. 80 bags Samana and 85 bags Guayaquil retired unsold.

Private sale embrace—100 bags Guayaquil-Caraquez at 65s, fine Arriba at 78s, a small lot of Samana at 56s, and about 300 bags Ceylon at 54s for collected, and 64s to 70s per cwt. for medium to good Estate.

## PEPPER.

BLACK.—The market is firm. For arrival 50 tons Singapore January-March shipment (s.) have been sold at 6d, closing buyers at the price, with sellers at  $\frac{1}{16}$ d over. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at  $5\frac{1}{16}$ d to 6d.

At auction on the 10th instant 85 bags Singapore were bought in at 6d, also 150 bags Aleppy at  $5\frac{7}{8}$ d ( $5\frac{3}{4}$ d refused). 539 bags Penang sold, "without reserve," at lower prices—weight 3 lbs. 13 ozs., dust  $5\frac{5}{8}$  % per gallon, at  $4\frac{7}{8}$ d, and weight 3 lbs.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ozs., dust  $7\frac{3}{8}$  %, at  $4\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

WHITE—is firm but quiet. For arrival some business has been done in Singapore near at hand at  $9\frac{5}{8}$ d; January-March shipment is quoted at  $9\frac{1}{16}$ d. On the spot business has been done in fair Singapore at  $9\frac{1}{16}$ d to  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d, and fair Penang at  $9\frac{3}{16}$ d per lb.

# "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

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**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price  $1\frac{1}{2}$  &  $2\frac{1}{6}$ .



# CONQUERS PAIN



At public sale on Wednesday 52 bags Singapore bought in at 10d to 10½d, also 50 bags Penang at 9½d per lb.; 245 bags Siam taken out without mention of price.

### GINGER.

COCHIN—is rather easier. 119 cases 451 bags were offered, of which 10 cases 221 bags sold—dull small cut, lined, 48s, small to boldish Calicut rough 34s to 35s, and shrivelled pickings (D's) 33s 6d per cwt.

JAMAICA.—20 barrels good middling washed bought in at 44s per cwt.

### CINCHONA.

In auction 26 serons Crown bark were offered and sold. Good bright, partly mossy, but small and broken, Loxa quill sold at 9½d, and coarse broken 7½d. Four bales bright Huannco realised 9½d per lb.

At the auctions of Java Cinchona held at Amsterdam on December 11, 8,799 bales and 382 cases were offered. Of this quantity, 8,139 packages were sold at an average unit of 6.25c. per half-kilo., as compared with 6.05c. per half-kilo. paid at the auctions on November 6. The following were the approximate quantities of quinine sulphate purchased by the principal buyers: the English and American factories, 12,202 kilos.; the Brunswick factory, 5,678 kilos.; the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories, 5,178 kilos.; the Frankfort-on-Maine and Stuttgart factories, 5,656 kilos.; and various buyers, 5,890 kilos. The prices paid for manufacturing-bark ranged from 12c. to 63½c. per half-kilo., and druggists' bark from 4c. to 67c. per half-kilo.

### QUININE.

Quinine has been more active this week, and values are slightly higher. Spot stuff was sold early in the week from second hands

at from 11½d to 11¾d, and subsequently at 11¾d, but sellers now at 1s. March delivery has sold at 1s to 1s 0½d per oz.

The exports during the nine months ending September amount to—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Kilos. ...	155,700	155,900	137,700
Marks ..	6,539,000	6,548,000	6,197,000

In reference to our report of the Java quinine-tender of November 26, it should be stated that the average price obtained for the 300 kilos. sold was 16½fl., against 16½fl. at the October auctions, and not 17¼fl. as given in our last report, that figure being the price obtained at the September tender.

### CARDAMOMS.

Cardamoms proved a dragging market and prices declined 1d to occasionally 2d per lb. on the medium and higher grades. Split and seeds were about steady. The following prices were paid:—Ceylon Mysore, medium and bold pale, 2s 5d to 2s 11d; bold medium pale, 1s 9d to 2s; small and medium pale, 1s 5d to 1s 7d; medium and bold brownish, 1s 6d; small and medium brownish, 1s 2d to 1s 5d; small brown, 11d. Bold pale splits, 2s 3d to 2s 5d; medium splits, 1s 5d to 1s 7d; medium and bold yellowish, 1s 10d; very small palish, 11d; brown splits and pickings, 11d. Lean native wild Ceylon, 7d; decorticated seeds, 1s 4d to 1s 6d per lb.

### VANILLA.

A consignment of about 300 kilos. of vanilla, cultivated in German East Africa, arrived in Hamburg a short time ago. The beans are said to be of fine dark chocolate colour, and are commencing to crystallise. They are of various lengths, and are reported to compare favourably with the best Bourbon quality.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.61d., DECEMBER 12TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prospect	80½c	7	8½c	9¼	22½c	†6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore	1293	6.37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carady Goody	109 p	6¼	35	6¼	...	...	44	6¾	20	5½	...	...	10½c	4½
Cherian Mallay	34 p	5	...	...	13	5¼	7½c	5¾	10	4¾	...	...	4	4¼ 4¾
Ellangy	79 p	5	...	...	38	5	13	5¾	21	4¾	...	...	7½c	4½ 5
Isfield T Co Isfi	32	5	...	...	...	...	9	6	22	†4¾	...	...	1	4
Kanan Dev Hil P	260 p	6¾	66	†7¼ 7½	46	6¾	42½c	9	46	6	...	...	60½c	4¾ †6¾
„ Sevenmallay.	300 p	7½	125 p	7½ 9¼	68	7	38	8¼	60	6¼	...	...	9 p	†4¼ 5½
Malabar	12 p	6	...	...	...	...	12 p	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
RTM	17 p	5	...	...	16 p	5	1½c	5¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
TT E Co Pambar	125	6½	67	6½ 7½	38	5¾	...	...	8	5½	...	...	12	6½
Stagbrook	175 p	6	55 p	†6½ 6¾	77	5¾	...	...	15	5¼	12	6	16	4¾ 6½
Wallardie	150 p	5½	75 p	†5½ †6	25	†4¼ †5	...	...	18	†5	...	...	32	4¾ 5½
Wynaad	665	6.62	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrapetta T Co A	79 p	7¼	16½c	10¼	...	...	63	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherambadi	49	6¼	...	...	22	5¾	27	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erramaculla	75 p	6½	...	...	19	6½	32½c	7½	12	5¾	6½c	5¼	6½c	5½
Kanambyle & Co.	42	7¼	...	...	27	6½	15	8¼	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mootoomalla	18 p	6	...	...	4	6	6½c	7¼	4	5½	2½c	5½	2	5½
Pootoomulla	232 p	6¼	40½c	8¼	20	6¼	49	7	60	5½	48	6	15	5½
Walkers Achoor	88 p	7	...	...	30	6¾	35½c	7½ 9½	23	5¾	...	...	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per...	82 p	7	...	...	27	†6½	33½c	†7¼ †9½	22	5¾	...	...	...	...

### INDIAN GREEN TEA.

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Young Hyson.		Hyson No. 1.		Hyson No. 2.		Gunpowder.		Dust.	
	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.
Nth Cch Co Biera	...	137½c	5½	...	43½c	†6½	64½c	†5¼ 6	...	...	30½c	3½

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p. for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1903.

[No. 2.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 16th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 7th January.—

*Weather*—Intensely cold for two days, then a sudden change back to warmish weather with East wind. During the past two days rain threatened, but, beyond a few drops, it came to nothing. *Crop*—In some cases, estimates have been picked with more to come. In others, crop is  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$  through. Trees are coming very well out of the heavy crop on them and crops next season ought to be fairly good. *Labour*—Plentiful. *General health*—The changes in the weather have given rise to coughs, colds, and fevers.

### THE NEW YEAR.

#### TEA PROSPECTS.

THE chief markets for Indian tea are the United Kingdom and the United States. Our remarks will, therefore, be mainly directed to a review of prospects in these centres. Towards the close of the old year a trade paper in London remarked :—"Latest telegrams from Calcutta and Colombo point to very moderate supplies for the rest of the season; the present lull is healthy after the very sharp and sudden rise, and a slight reaction is only natural, but we are not going to see again for some time to come the ruinous rates that were ruling a month ago." We believe this to be a correct view, but was it a mere accident that the words appeared in the course of remarks on the sales of *China* tea? India was at the time placing large quantities on the London market, yet prices had advanced  $\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ceylon was offering supplies "unequal to the requirements of the trade." Not very long ago another London report stated in respect to China teas :—"The position now

is getting healthy. The stock of Congou is only three-quarters of a million over last year, and from the end of October last year until the end of the season we received about 7,000,000 lbs. of low-priced Congou under, say, 6d. per lb., while for the remainder of the present season we are not likely to 1,000,000 lbs. more from China. Probably we have just enough good tea to last out for present demands, unless America still draws heavily on our now depleted stocks; but we cannot but think that the present low rates for sweet old-season's Monings and Panyongs, say from 3d. to 4d., must improve in value." Of Indian teas it was said at the same time :—"The future outlook is highly favourable to importers, and prices are likely to harden if supplies are kept within reasonable bounds. Fine and Finest teas received most attention." Of Ceylons :—"As Colombo shipments for the past month were much below those at this time last year some further improvement in quality is anticipated, while the present increased stock is soon likely to be turned into a material deficiency." We need only add that since the above reports were published, up to the present time, the course of prices has justified the prognostications made.

There is one little cloud on the horizon outlined in the reports, and this is, the fact that everything points to a continued demand for China teas. If prices improve, there is obviously a risk of larger shipments; and these must tend to bring rates down again. China's competition is at present more important in the United States than in British markets. This brings us to a point that is somewhat remarkable. The one great defect in the organisation of the British-grown tea-trade in London is a lack of active progressive co-operation. Precisely the same defect has been observed in the States. What planters should aim at is an organisation of producers and importers, bent upon seeing that tea receives fair play, is pushed for all it is worth, and is not subjected to extravagant charges. What appears to be aimed at in New York, is an organisation of tea-dealers. This, also, is desirable, but only if faced by another organisation, representative of the interests of producers and wholesale sellers. A New York paper has observed that "it is remarkable, and the more's the pity, that tea men prefer to live on detached, so to speak, from one another." That in union is strength is conceded everywhere but the axiom is not practiced in the American tea world, and, quite naturally, not standing in an united manner the interests of the trade fall in



the division existing, as witness the humiliation of tea at the hands of Congress, which despite the earnest wishes of tea men retained the duty on tea months longer than on other commodities. Experience in London has amply demonstrated the fact that there are occasions on which the interests of importers and retailers are the same, as well as other occasions on which they are in conflict. What our American contemporary refers to is a special matter in respect to which the interests of all concerned in the tea trade should be identical. What it urges is that a national Association is a conceded desideratum of the trade and that the movement to form one has met with general approval. Still, it seems to be as far from realization as when it was first broached, nearly a year ago. The preliminaries have been attended to but the power to breathe life into the embryo organism seems to be lacking. The formation of such an Association would certainly have a great influence on tea prospects in the United States—for good or for evil, according as the interests of producers were well or ill represented.

In the United Kingdom also producers of British-grown teas should see that their interests are safeguarded. It would appear that in the natural order of things demand for tea will improve, prices will harden; but this progress is always liable to receive a check, and it can never attain its maximum speed so long as special efforts are not made on behalf of the industry. This is the time to give the industry a little impetus; conditions are favourable, and a timely bit of help might assure a rapid development. The levy of a Tea Cess should afford tea-planters in India an excellent opportunity of increasing their influence and strengthening their position in the markets of the world. If in the attempt to open up new markets things are left to drift in the old, progress will not be so rapid as could be wished. To a very large extent, in short, prospects are dependent upon the actions of planters themselves, and we trust that, at the opening of a new year, all will exhibit a keen interest in schemes for the advancement of an industry which is now in a fairly healthy condition and only needs a little assistance to enable it to become much more prosperous. The things needed are co-operation and organisation. A good plan selected, all should combine to push it along.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Brazil Coffee Crop and Flowering.**—At the average percentage observed during the last two weeks, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of the 3rd ultimo, 66 per cent. entries up to the end of the crop ought to yield 5,000,000 bags, giving a total of about 11,000,000, or allowing for 1,000,000 bags corresponding to last crop, but entered since 30th June say, 12,000,000 bags. This, we believe, may be regarded as the maximum, the probabilities being that this figure will not be reached. For the last six years the date of receipt of half crop fell in October and November alternately. The October flowering is reported to have been in most districts very fine and to have taken well.

Total stock in United States December 1, 2,622,849 bags against 1,833,652 bags December 1, 1901. Brazil stock in the United States December 5, in store and afloat, 2,670,212 bags against 2,385,034 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 230,777 bags, against 279,448 bags

last year. Brazil coffee in New York December 6, 2,198,933. Stock in New York in other coffees December 1, 211,632, in San Francisco, 16,571 bags and in New Orleans, 2,574 bags.

**The New York Market.**—Market dull and working lower. It is the old story of excessive supply and speculators' attempts to resist natural conditions. Enormous blocks of coffee are held by disappointed manipulators, with the result that their movements are at the bottom of any wide fluctuation. The Brazil crop is large, with promise of a still greater production following. On the spot, demand is slow, with prices about as last quoted.

**Coffee Shade.**—Secretary Wilson, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in his annual report (1902) says:

"The coffee industry of Porto Rico has been injured by the presence of too many shade trees in the plantations, owing to the belief of the planters that heavy shading is necessary. A study of the flourishing coffee industry of Guatemala establishes the facts that coffee of the highest grades can be grown entirely without shade, and that the diminution of shade lessens the ravages of the Central American leaf-disease.

"The general opinion that the foliage and fruit of the coffee shrub are benefited by shade is erroneous, but the shading of the ground is often a cultural advantage. The nitrogen-collecting powers of leguminous shade trees have also contributed largely to the good effects commonly ascribed to shade, so that the selection of the best leguminous shade trees and soiling crops is of much importance to the coffee-planter."

The Pacific Coast (American) consumption of coffee is about 15,000 bags per month, and the mild Guatemala coffee is used principally.

In the last five years consumption in the United States has increased from 500,000,000 lbs. to 1,000,000,000 lbs., an increase that is, in fact, phenomenal. Doubtless, the increasing cheapness of coffee has much to do with this happy result and also the practical elimination of adulterants, to say nothing of the general spread of knowledge how best to brew the "cup that cheers but not intoxicates."

Cable advices from A. Tromell & Co. say that there were 3,000,000 bags of Santos coffee yet to be marketed this season making the Santos crop for the season 1902-03 about 8,000,000 bags.

**Retail Prices in America.**—The New York correspondent of the *Australian Grocer* recently said:—"There is a feeling that grocers generally have for the past two or three years charged much more than a legitimate profit on coffee." We watch closely such retail price lists as come under our notice, and from these we long ago drew the conclusion that low prices had had much to do with the expansion of demand for Coffee in the United States. There are high prices as well as low, but this is easily explained by the difference between the wholesale rates for, say, Java and Rio.

**Milling coffee in a Roaster.**—A coffee man in New York was telling the other day of a novel factory operation he had just seen.



It was the milling of green coffee in a roasting establishment which contained no milling machinery. The work was done in the roaster, a one-bag Burns-Gas machine, and the proprietor was getting results which pleased him greatly.

The machine was needed for roasting only a part of the time, and it was found that instead of letting the cold machine stand idle it could be made good use of for cleaning green coffee. Each bag to be treated could be tumbled as long as desired. The cleaning by sifting was perfect; the friction of the coffee on itself and on the numerous lifting blades was considerable; and an excellent chimney draft gave a good air current for carrying off light dust.

The coffee was fed to the machine by a bucket elevator, the same as for roasting, and when sufficiently "milled" was discharged directly into a bag by the convenient spout at the front. There was no lifting, shoveling or waste; and the whole operation struck the coffee man as a very clever use of a spare cylinder.—*Spice Mill.*

\* \* \*

**November Coffee Movement in the U. S.**—Sales on Coffee Exchange, 1,348,250 bags. In October, 567,500 bags.

Arrivals in United States, 528,240 bags (467,629 bags Brazil); Europe, 1,165,590 bags. Total in the United States for five months, 1902-3, 2,980,648 bags, (2,642,462 Brazil) and for Europe, 4,336,758 bags against 4,603,168 bags for same period 1901-02.

Deliveries of coffee during November in the United States 500,332 bags (438,190 Brazil) against 706,981 in November, 1901; Europe, 739,881 bags, against 828,759; United States and Europe, 1,240,213 bags, against 1,535,740 bags in November, 1901. Total 5 months, 1902-03, 2,796,313 bags (2,377,191 Brazil); Europe, 3,900,523 bags and 6,696,836 United States and Europe.

Receipts at Rio and Santos November, 1,206,000 bags against 1,620,000 bags in November, 1901. Total shipments from Rio 345,000 bags, against 462,000 bags in October; from Santos 794,000 bags against 1,127,000 in October, 1902.

### TEA NOTES.

**Tea in Tunis.**—The British Consul reports that the consumption of tea in Tunis is small, and the duty is high. The natives consume a certain amount of green tea, but the use of tea among the Europeans is growing rapidly. "Five o'clock tea" is becoming common. At present the French know little of other than China teas at a very high price, 5fr. per half-kilo. (3s. 7½d. per lb. English) being the usual retail quotation. Mr. Consul-General Berkeley adds:—"A development in this trade seems well within the reach of ordinary effort and attention on the part of sellers."

\* \* \*

The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs' daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the second half of December, 1902: Calcutta, 4,385,918 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,365,700 lbs. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta, 5,236,245 lbs.; Chittagong, 2,559,900 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1902, to 31st December, 1902: Calcutta, 111,629,068 lbs.; Chittagong, 19,050,000 lbs. Total 130,679,668 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1901; to 31st December, 1901, 135,577,430 lbs.

\* \* \*

Some members of the tea trade in the United States expect to see an advance in prices of tea after the duty comes off on January 1, but the greater number believe that the heavy withdrawals will affect the market injuriously. It should be remembered that the quantity in store is much the largest in the history of the trade. It is more than 50,000,000 lbs., or enough for about seven or eight months' consumption. And

there are still three weeks' arrivals to be added, whatever they may be.

\* \* \*

An American paper remarks:—Wherever there are bonded warehouses there also is tea, piles of tea, cartloads of tea, waiting until the tax rolls off the staple with the rising of the sun of the new year. It is surprising how much tea is stored in places where ordinarily it is in very small supply.

\* \* \*

Tea-drinking is said to be increasing in men's clubs of New York. Afternoon tea has become a feature of several of the clubs.

\* \* \*

**New York Imports.**—The imports of tea at the port of New York during November were 13,000,000 pounds, a large total, which brings the amount of tea in warehouse in New York to 50,000,000 pounds. This is an extraordinary quantity and the wonder of it is that storage could have been procured for it all. And there is more to come. Certainly no tea famine threatens the United States. Interesting to note also are the rejections of tea by the tea examiners. So careful have the selections been recently that there has been little occasion to refuse entre to tea so that even some suspicion received foundation that a relaxation had set in the examiners' vigilance. A special surprise was the rejection of 2,500 pounds of Ceylon Green which has been heralded as particularly prepared for the American market. This, we understand, is the first time the tea has met with the tea examiner's veto.

\* \* \*

**Withdrawing Tea in the U. S.**—Following is the circular relating to the delivery of tea from warehouse on and after January 1, 1903, issued to all customs officers by Acting Secretary of the Treasury H. A. Taylor:

"The attention of officers of the customs is invited to Section 10 of the Act approved April 12, 1902, entitled, 'An Act to Repeal War Revenue taxation and for other purposes,' repealing, to take effect on January 1, 1903, Section 50 of the War Revenue act of June 13, 1898, which imposed a duty of ten cents per pound upon tea imported from foreign countries. As under said Act of April 12, 1902, tea in warehouse not more than three years on January 1, 1903, can be withdrawn free of duty, and as the demand for immediate delivery to the trade will no doubt be very great it is hereby decided that the examination and delivery from warehouse of such tea be expedited as much as possible."

\* \* \*

Samples of Ceylon tea are being distributed free to consumers in some inland towns and cities in the States. The samples are accompanied by explicit directions as to the brewing, a most important point, for Ceylon, like India tea, is much stronger than ordinary China and Japan leaf and makes many more cups to the pound. It is pointed out by the distributors of these samples that, as the samples are packed where the teas grow, they escape contamination by dirt, dust, and other impurities, unlike teas sold in bulk. This is a rap at the grocers which is undeserved. Caddy-stored tea, such as is found in the average grocery store, has no more chance to be contaminated than packet teas. That is why the caddies are used.

\* \* \*

**The Largest Plantation.**—The largest tea plantation in the world is on the Sinagar Estate in Java, which covers about 15,000 acres of land, of which 8,500 acres are devoted to the cultivation of tea and coffee. The estate produces more than 1,000,000 lbs. of the finest tea a year, and altogether it has yielded more than



80,000,000 lbs. The estate, run by Europeans, has a capital of \$300,000, and it pays dividends of 9 and 10 per cent. annually. It has paid as high as 24 per cent., and has never failed to pay well. Its annual wage account amounts to \$100,000, and in addition it furnishes its own employes with medicine and rice. The men who are employed regularly are paid 7 cents a day and rice. The women get a Dutch cent a pound for picking. This is equal to four-tenths of one cent and some make as much as 25 cents a day, while others make 10 cents or less.—*Tea.*

### COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

**Porto Rico.**—In a very interesting account of what American rule has done for Porto Rico, given to Collier's Weekly by Gov.-Gen. Hunt, he states that coffee has flourished there for 150 years, and says :

"Good coffee lands, well cultivated, will produce at least 4 quintals of coffee annually per acre. This is a very conservative estimate. With this production and a price of \$10 per quintal for coffee we have \$40 per acre. A quintal of coffee can be laid down at the seaport for exportation at a total cost of \$7 for production and transportation. At a total expense of \$28 per acre there should be left a minimum net gain of \$12 per acre for coffee, even at the very low price commanded by the Porto Rican berry at present. Brazilian coffee is cheaper than that grown in Porto Rico, but it is inferior in quality. It is said that the best coffee served in Vienna and Madrid comes from Porto Rico. Europe bought over \$3,000,000 worth last year.

The United States does not yet know of the excellence of its own insular drink, but there are hopeful indications. In 1901 the value of coffee sent from Porto Rico to America was \$4,305, but last year \$28,188 worth came to New York. As an after-dinner coffee the Porto Rican is unsurpassed, and it cannot fail to be very popular before long."

**Queensland.**—A correspondent writes to the *Grocer*:—The area under productive coffee-trees in 1901 was 370 acres, and that under non-productive trees, 177 acres; the increase in the productive area was 87 acres. The yield for the year was 130,293 lbs. It was in the north that coffee cultivation was most closely followed. There were in that division 472 acres under coffee out of a total for the whole of 547 acres. It is estimated that the present production is equal to 45 per cent. of the requirements.

In all instances where coffee is being grown and properly cultivated, paying returns are being obtained. The conditions of soil, climate, temperature, and rainfall are eminently suitable for coffee culture in Queensland. The conditions obtaining admit of its successful cultivation on the comparatively level lands, and at all elevations down to sea-level, and give the planters an advantage over those in countries where the higher levels, steep hills, and more inaccessible places have to be sought to obtain the necessary conditions—advantages especially noticeable in the direction of cultivation and transport, and the by no means to be despised advantage of a healthy and congenial climate.

Cairns, the principal of the coffee-growing centres of North Queensland, comprises both high and low land. The climate is perfect for coffee, the average temperature for the year being from 62 to 65 degrees Fahr., the minimum being about 36 degrees Fahr., and the maximum about 95 degrees Fahr. The rainfall average is 98.34 inches. Several estates on the lower lands, varying in elevation from 50 feet to sea-level, are doing well. The majority of clearings are,

however, on the tablelands of the ranges some few miles inland. Kuranda, the central township, is reached by rail from Cairns, after a journey of an hour-and-a-half through most picturesque scenery. The railway line winds up the range among hills, crossing gorges, and passing waterfalls, reaching an altitude of some 1,100 feet at Kuranda itself. The climate of this tableland is clear, cool, and invigorating. Slight frosts are experienced in winter occasionally in exposed situations, but no trouble is met with in this way upon coffee clearings judiciously selected and carefully opened. The water-supply is plentiful, and machinery for coffee curing in several instances is worked by water-power. The quality of the coffee produced here is high. At Kuranda a coffee grower has opened a factory, and manufactures tins, and disposes of a large proportion of the products of the locality.

A market for the staple exists in the State, where there are several manufacturers who buy up the coffee in the raw or parchment state. With the federation of the colonies that has been recently effected, a larger market still has been opened to this product of North Queensland, with a protection against the imported article. The consumption of the Australian continent is at present very much in excess of the production and, will continue to consume all the local produce for many years. In the open markets of the world the coffee of North Queensland, though only small quantities have as yet been offered, owing to the local demand, is rapidly gaining in favour, and the generally high quality readily acknowledged. For buyers who, having no hulling machinery, desire only the clean bean, there are mills in the town of Cairns where the hulling and cleaning is done at a cost of ½d. per lb., after which the coffee is worth from 9d. to 1s. per lb., according to grade and quality.

### NOTES.

**Coffee in France.** During 1901 France imported Coffee to the declared value of £3,640,000, as against £3,672,000 in 1900.

**Ceylon Tea Shipments.** The tea shipments for December were 9,000,000. The estimate for January is 9½ to 10 millions.

**Tea in Switzerland.** During 1901 Switzerland imported Tea to the value of £45,000. Of this, China teas represented £36,000; Indian, £6,900; and tea from other countries, £18,000.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.** At the auctions held on Monday 31,387 packages passed under the hammer. The tone of the market was lively, and, generally speaking, there was strong bidding for the commoner grades. Broken Pekoes in the lower range were certainly in greater request.

**Cacao and its Enemies.** A planter writes to the *Ceylon Observer*:—Cacao disease is rampant on some of the cacao trees in native gardens on an old foot path to Matale at the end of Trincomalee Street. Perhaps His Excellency will appoint a Commission to take steps to prevent native gardens being a source of peril to cacao estate owners. His Excellency loves Commissions.



**Vanilla from German East Africa.**

The *Chemist and Druggist* of 13th ultimo says :—A consignment of about 300 kilos. of vanilla cultivated in German East Africa, arrived in Hamburg a short time ago. The beans are said to be of the fine dark chocolate colour, and are commencing to crystallise. They are of various lengths, and are reported to compare favourably with the best Bourbon quality.

**Japan Tea.**

Kobe and Osaka:—

The following are statistics of Exports of Tea from the ports of

	1900.	1901.
	lbs.	lbs.
Green, pan-fired ...	7,546,161	7,495,826
basket-fired ...	4,096,737	4,348,016
Sundry ...	4,282,899	5,850,128
	15,925,797	17,693,970

The value of the whole in 1900 was £363,905; in 1901, despite the increase in quantity, only £359,819.

**"Pure Ceylon."**

A Travancore tea-planter, on his way home, wrote from on board a mail steamer in Colombo harbour to say :—"From what I have seen since coming on board it appears to me to be a great pity that native traders should be allowed to sell such rubbishy teas to passengers as they do. I have seen tea purchased by passengers in Colombo at 1s. 3d. a lb. as 'pure Ceylon tea,' which would not fetch more than about 18 to 20 cents in the Colombo market." It is an old story. Some of the "pure Ceylon tea" offered in Colombo is as spurious as are some of the pseudo-sapphires that are to be had there.

**Tea in Persia.**

Chief among British and Indian imports to Khorassan and Seistan is tea. According to the Ag. British Consul, this is and should continue to be a safe monopoly. There is said to have been a large accumulation of Indian tea in Meshed at the end of 1900-01, and the tea trade during 1901-02 is described as not having been as brisk in consequence as in recent years. The taste for tea is strongly developed, even among the poorer classes of Persians, and there is always likely to be a strong demand. The value of the tea imported by Bunder Abbas, Bushire, and Seistan routes in 1901-02 was £50,267, but a considerable proportion of the tea by the two first routes is said to have been Chinese tea for exportation to Trans-Caspia and Turkistan.

**Importation of Cacao into Samoa Prohibited.**

In view of the danger resulting from the importation of diseased cacao plants, beans, and pods into Samoa, the German Government passed on September 6 the following ordinance : "The import of cacao seed and cacao plants from Ceylon and the Dutch Indies is prohibited. The import of cacao seed and cacao plants from other countries is admissible only after previous sanction of the Government. Cacao seed and cacao plants imported from the countries named, and from others without previous sanction of the Government, will be destroyed. Reimbursements of damages caused through this destruction will not be granted. Any person who, contrary to the direction of this ordinance, introduces cacao plants or cacao seeds into Samoa will be fined up to 2,000 marks (\$476), or punished with imprisonment up to three months."

**Tea Prospects.**

We note that the *Ceylon Observer* holds that there can be no question of the strong statistical position occupied by black tea as the year closes. Stocks in London are low, and a good demand may well be anticipated with the opening of the new year. Shipments from India—according to the latest figures—are 4 million lbs. behind those for last year, and no less than 14 million lbs. less than in 1900; while the exports from Ceylon are expected to close for 1902 at about 3 million lbs. behind the shipments for 1901. As regards Green teas, there is considerable activity in manufacture, especially in the low-country; but it is a question if this will increase in view of the better demand for our Black tea. Here, at any rate, is the opinion of a well-informed mercantile authority :—"With better prices ruling for Blacks there will be less inducement to make Greens, and I will be rather surprised if the total quantity of Green tea, made in Ceylon in 1903, exceeds 7½ to 8 million lbs."

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****LONDON TEA CLEARING HOUSE.****THE RULES OF THE INNER COUNCIL OF WAREHOUSEMEN.**

The *Times of Ceylon* gives the following interesting information :—

1. Dock Companies at present carrying on the business of warehousing Tea in Bond and tea warehouse keepers (including any Company or partnership) at present carrying on the said business and including Monastery Bonded Warehouse Company, Limited, and who undertake in writing to abide by and observe the rules and bye-laws of the Clearing House for the time being in force, shall be entitled to become members of the Tea Clearing House. Every member or Company, or partnership represented, shall pay in advance on the 1st July in each year, an annual subscription of £20. After the Committee of Management (as hereinafter defined) shall have been elected, any person, Company or partnership entitled and desiring to become a member, shall apply to such Committee, who shall take such steps as may be necessary for his or their admission. Each of the said Dock Companies shall be represented by two persons, each of whom for all purposes hereinafter mentioned shall be deemed a member. Two of the Committee (other than the representatives of the Dock Companies) shall retire at the end of each year and be eligible for re-election.

2. The affairs of the Clearing House shall be conducted by a Committee of Management, consisting of not more than eight persons, four of whom shall be members appointed by the said Dock Companies and four shall be elected in general Meeting from the other members, by whom in general Meeting vacancies caused by retirement of any of their representatives shall be filled. Every member of the Committee shall hold office so long as he remains a member of the Clearing House or until resignation, retirement, or removal. Any member of the Committee may be removed therefrom by the members of the Clearing House in general Meeting, and any vacancies in the Committee may be filled up in the manner above provided, but the Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy or vacancies.

3. A Company or partnership being a member may vote at general Meetings, and act generally in any way in which a member can act, by any Director, Manager, Agent or member of the partnership appointed for the purpose. Any person so appointed shall also be eligible for election on the Committee of Management.

4. The Committee of Management may meet for the despatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their proceedings as they think fit, but not less than four members shall form a quorum. The Committee shall have power to elect one of their number to be their Chairman, either generally or at any particular Meeting. Questions arising at any Committee Meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes, or referred as provided in Clause 16 hereof.

5. The Committee may acquire and take suitable offices and



premises for the transaction of the affairs of the Clearing House, and may appoint and dismiss officers and servants, and fix the amount of their remuneration. The Committee may also from time to time make such bye-laws not inconsistent with the rules for the time being of the Clearing House as they may think fit for the regulation of the Clearing House, and may from time to time rescind or vary the same.

6. The first general Meeting of the members shall be held forthwith. Subsequent general Meetings shall be held at least once in each year, at such time and place as may be prescribed by the Committee. The Committee may call a general Meeting at any time, and they shall call a general Meeting whenever a requisition in writing, signed by four or more members of the Clearing House requiring a general Meeting to be summoned, and stating the business for which the meeting is to be summoned, shall be delivered to them or left at or sent by post to the chief office of the Clearing House.

7. If the Committee within seven days after the date when such notice ought to have been received by them do not issue notices calling a general Meeting in accordance therewith, for a day not more than twelve days after the same date, the requisitionists, or any other members amounting to the required number, may themselves at any time within a further period of twelve days convene a general Meeting for the business described in the requisition.

8. Five days' notice at the least (exclusive of the day on which the notice is served or deemed to be served, but inclusive of the day for which the notice is given) specifying the place, the day, and the hour of meeting, and the business to be transacted, shall be given to every member either personally or through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to such member at his registered address. Every member shall have a registered address within the United Kingdom, and in default thereof shall not be entitled to receive any notices from the Clearing House. Accidental omission to give any such notice or the non-receipt of such notice by any member shall not invalidate any Resolution passed or proceeding had at any Meeting.

9. No business shall be transacted at any general Meeting unless ten members be personally present when the Meeting proceeds to business. At an adjourned Meeting the members present shall form a quorum. The members present shall choose some one of their number as Chairman of the Meeting. All questions at a general Meeting shall be decided on a show of hands by a majority of the members present in person, each member having one vote only. In case a poll be demanded, the members shall be entitled respectively to such number of votes as shall have been allotted to them or the Companies or partnerships represented. The allotment of votes shall be made by the Committee annually during the first week in July, and shall be based upon the proportionate amounts of tea warehoused by the several members respectively during the preceding season, and on a poll no question shall be decided on a less majority than two-thirds.

10. All expenses not covered by annual subscriptions shall be borne and paid by the members rateably according to the number of votes to which they are respectively entitled on a poll in the year during which such expenses become payable. Any surplus shall be, in the discretion of the Committee, either divided among all the members in like proportion, or may be retained and invested in such manner as they may think fit.

11. Every member shall charge on tea by ships reporting on or after the 1st day of July, 1888, and on new season's China tea arriving before that date, the respective rates, charges, and rents, and adhere to the terms and conditions specified in the schedule to these rules, and shall not be at liberty to depart therefrom in any way, subject to the following allowance, *viz.*: a discount not exceed 10 per cent may be allowed on the said rates, charges, and rents, or any of them, being importers' charges. No other discount, no money gratuities, and no advantages, direct or indirect, shall be offered or allowed by any member, or his agents or employes, to any merchant, broker, employe, agent, or other person in connection with any matter or thing in anywise relating to the Tea Clearing House, agreement; but any member shall be at liberty to allow any difference in premium on insurance of teas warehoused or deposited with him beyond 3s. 6d. per cent. per annum, paid for the same goods if on an annual policy, or a proportionate difference according to tariff rates if on a short time policy. All payments under this latter head to be notified to the Committee and entered

in a book kept for the purpose, which shall be opened at all times to the members.

11a. Subject and without prejudice to the provisions contained in Rule 11, no member shall be at liberty, either directly or indirectly, to offer, pay, or allow, or to permit to be offered, paid, or allowed any commission or other similar payment or allowance to any person not in his permanent and exclusive employ, or in the case of a Company or partnership not in the permanent and exclusive employment of such Company or partnership, or to any importer or shipper, or person acting for any importer or shipper for or in respect of or in connection with the soliciting, introducing or obtaining the delivery, consignment, warehousing, deposit or handling of any teas to, with or by him or them, the said member or Company or partnership as the case may be.

12. Any person, Company, or partnership in the tea trade, other than the first subscribers, desiring to become a subscriber to the Clearing House, shall apply to the Committee, who may either accept or reject him or them. The annual subscription shall be deemed to be payable in advance on the 1st July in each year, and shall be one guinea, until otherwise declared by the Committee.

13. A discount not exceeding five per cent. on buyers' rent chargeable under the schedule to these Rules shall be allowed to any subscriber in lieu or on account of Fire Insurance. The rates for sampling and carding as specified in the schedule, and also the five per cent. discount on buyers' rents shall not be increased or varied for five years provided the Clearing House continues in operation for that period. No discount or any allowance whatever on buyers' rent shall be given or made directly or indirectly to any non-subscriber.

14. No subscriber shall be entitled to warehouse or deposit tea with, or employ in connection with tea, any Dock Company or Tea Warehouse keeper, who is not a member of the Clearing House, or to purchase or sample any tea from the warehouse of any non-member.

15. Any member or subscriber breaking or failing to observe any of the rules or bye-laws of the Clearing House for the time being in force, shall be liable to expulsion from the Clearing House by Resolution of the Committee. An expelled member or subscriber may be re-admitted on such terms as may be determined by the Committee.

16. Any of the rules for the time being in force, or the table of rates, charges, and rents, and terms and conditions specified in the schedule, and subscriptions, may be rescinded or varied by a general Meeting of members of the Clearing House. The Committee of Management shall decide all questions that may arise under or in connection with these rules, and as to the meaning or effect thereof, and all questions in relation to the working or management thereunder, and their decision shall be absolute and final, without appeal of any kind; and in the event of any question coming before the Committee on which the Committee may be equally divided, the question shall be referred to Mr. Henry Attlee, of No. 10, Billiter Square, London: or in case of his inability to act, the Governor for the time being of the Bank of England, or his Nominee, whose decision shall be final.

THE SCHEDULE TO THE RULES.—CHARGES ON TEA.

To apply to all parcels by ships reporting on and after 1st July, 1888, and to new season's China tea arriving prior to that date:—

	PACKAGE WEIGHING GROSS.													
	160 lbs. to 199 lbs.	130 to 159.	90 to 129.	80 to 89.	60 to 79.	45 to 59.	35 to 44.	17 to 34.	16 lbs. and under.					
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Landing and Housing Rate	2	3	1	10	1	6	1	4	1	3	1	0	0	10
Management Rate	2	9	2	3	1	10	1	8	1	5	1	2	1	0
Bulking and Taring	2	0	1	8	1	5	1	3	1	2	0	11	0	8
Bulking Taring or Weighing net separately	1	6	1	3	1	0	0	11	0	10	0	8	0	6
Rent, per week	0	10	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	0



*Note.*—The Management Rate shall apply to all teas put up for Public Sale.

The above rates are chargeable on the average gross weight of each break. When the fraction of the average weight is half a pound or more, the higher rate will apply. Thus: The average of a break being  $79\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. gross, the whole break will be rated at  $80\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., but the average being less than  $79\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. the whole break will be rated at  $60\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Prime Warrants 2s. each, exclusive of Stamp.

Weight Notes 2d. each.

Commutation of Rent to be allowed as under:—

A first prompt under the Management Rate at 8 for 13 weeks.

At second, or subsequent prompt, under the Management Rate, or any prompt under the Landing and Housing Rate, at 10 for 13 weeks.

The Order, however, to entitle a person to any such commutation must be lodged prior to the expiration of the first week of the 13 in every case.

All taring, except average taring of China, Japan, and Java teas to be charged for in addition to the Landing and Housing or the Management Rate.

Customs attendance at re-weighing to be charged net. Stamps also net. Carding  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per package. Minimum charge 1d. Trade Sampling per ch. 3d., half-ch. 2d., box 2d.

17. In the month of July, 1898, the Committee shall cause to be prepared a statement showing the total gross weight of tea of all sorts warehoused by each member during the preceding twelve months or season, and showing also the quantity warehoused by the respective members in excess of or short of the allotted proportion as shown in the schedule to these Rules (which is prepared on the average receipts of four seasons or years as shown therein), the same being reduced to a common denominator of half-chests or units of 72 lbs. each, and further showing the amount of such excess or deficiency calculated at the rate of 7d. per half-chest or unit.

18. Every member shall furnish the Committee with such information, in such form and at such times as the Committee may require, for the purpose of enabling the above-mentioned statement to be prepared.

19. A copy of the aforesaid statement shall be given or sent as as soon as practicable to each member at his registered address. Any member shall be entitled at any time within seven days after the date when a copy of such statement has been given to him or left at his registered address, or if sent by post ought to have been delivered in due course of post, to make any objection or objections to such statement or any item or items therein. Every such objection shall be considered and dealt with by the Committee, whose decision shall be final except in the case of the Committee being equally divided, when the question shall be referred and decided in the manner provided by Clause 16 of the original Rules.

20. If no objection be made within the prescribed time, or if an objection or objections shall have been made, then when the same shall have been withdrawn or adjudicated upon as provided in Rule 19, the statement, with any modifications which may be necessary by reason of any objection or objections having been sustained, shall be signed by the Chairman for the time being, and when so signed shall be binding on all the members.

21. When the aforesaid statement has become binding, every member whose quantity of tea warehoused as appearing in the statement, shall exceed or fall short of the percentage appropriated to such member by such apportionment, shall in the one case be bound to pay to the Committee on demand the amount of the excess, and shall in the other case be entitled to receive the amount of the deficiency, such amounts being calculated as provided by Clause 17 of these additional Rules. Provided nevertheless that no member shall have any claim against the Committee, or any member thereof personally for any sum payable or alleged to be payable to him under this rule.

22. All sums payable under Clause 21 of these rules shall, upon non-payment thereof upon demand by the Committee, be recoverable by the Committee or their assigns from the party or parties in default in an action against them as for moneys had and received by such party or parties to the use of the said Committee, and in any such action proof of such demand made by the Committee shall be sufficient to and shall entitle the said Committee to judgment against the party or parties in default. The Committee shall, upon receipt or recovery of such sums, pay the same to the

members entitled thereto, or, in the event of the whole of the money not having been received at any time when the Committee may deem desirable so to do, a *pro rata* payment may be made in proportion to the amount in hand.

23. In the event of any Dock Company, wharfinger, or warehouse-keeper, applying for admission to the Tea Clearing House, such application shall be referred to the members at a special or general meeting for their decision thereon, and on the terms on which such admission if assented to should be allowed.

24. The Committee shall have power in their discretion to vary or suspend the operation of any of the last seven rules, in whole or in part, as may seem to the Committee equitable or expedient to meet the special circumstances of any member, and may from time to time in like manner vary or suspend in part the operation of the rules for such period on such terms as they may think expedient to meet cases of individual hardship or inconvenience.

[Rules 17 to 24 were approved 2nd November, 1896, under the following Resolution:—

Subject and without prejudice to the existing rules of the Tea Clearing House, the following additional rules are agreed to, which shall, in the first instance, apply to season July, 1897, to June, 1898, inclusive.]

## TEA IN PARIS.

Under the heading "Paris at Five O'clock," Mrs. Alec Tweedie described last week in the *Pall Mall Gazette* the craze for tea-drinking in the gay city. In the course of her article Mrs. Tweedie said: "There has been several revolutions in Paris; but none more complete than the revolution of the tea cup. Tea cost forty francs a pound at the time of the *coup d'état*, and was only indulged in on rare occasions by the wealthy. Afternoon tea was almost unheard of ten years ago in Paris, and yet to-day it is the fashion everywhere.

"There is no doubt about it: afternoon tea is a particularly British institution. Rich and poor alike enjoy that stimulating beverage between four and five o'clock, and look upon it as a necessity of existence. This has been the custom for years, ever since the duty went down and the imports from China went up; but until lately Britain has stood alone as a drinker of afternoon tea.

"Is the present craze in Paris the outcome of the International Exhibition of 1900? Is it the result of the British invasion at that time, which clamoured for afternoon tea, a habit followed by other weary sightseeing folk, who in their turn found it so refreshing that they have kept to the habit? Or is it that fashionable Parisians dine so much later now-a-days, they find refreshment of some sort is necessary between a twelve o'clock déjeuner and an eight o'clock dinner? Whatever the cause, the revolution is complete, and Paris has succumbed.

"In many of the fashionable hotels a notice is posted in the hall intimating that the band will play from four to six o'clock, when tea will be served. The idea of smart hotels is being quickly followed by smaller shops, and bills announcing in English, 'Five O'clock Tea' may be seen on every side. So completely have Parisians adopted our custom, they speak of the meal as 'le five o'clock,' the word 'tea' being often omitted altogether.

"The revolution in tea has gone even further. We have lately stayed in three delightful old French châteaux, where nothing is more noticeable within the last few years than the decline of coffee and the ascendancy of tea. Formerly everyone took 'café au lait' at their early breakfast in their own rooms; now tea is almost as universally drunk as coffee. Formerly everyone drank café-noir after déjeuner and dinner; now, apparently, only half of the people do so. Formerly coffee was excellent, it was a treat to go to France for the sake of the coffee alone; but this is changed. So many people have given up drinking coffee, and those who take it black so often drown its flavour with liqueurs, that a cup of really good coffee is now the exception and not the rule. The tea has improved as much as the coffee appears to have deteriorated.

"The afternoon tea custom which has started in Paris has spread to the country house. Every afternoon we found the valet de chambre brought in his silver tray with tea-things arranged upon it as in England. The daughter of the house deftly dispensed her wares, and the other noticeable differences between England and France were—the tea was weaker, the lumps of sugar larger, the teapot always had a silver strainer hanging from its spout to hold back the leaves, and instead of eating the cakes dry



premises for the transaction of the affairs of the Clearing House, and may appoint and dismiss officers and servants, and fix the amount of their remuneration. The Committee may also from time to time make such bye-laws not inconsistent with the rules for the time being of the Clearing House as they may think fit for the regulation of the Clearing House, and may from time to time rescind or vary the same.

6. The first general Meeting of the members shall be held forthwith. Subsequent general Meetings shall be held at least once in each year, at such time and place as may be prescribed by the Committee. The Committee may call a general Meeting at any time, and they shall call a general Meeting whenever a requisition in writing, signed by four or more members of the Clearing House requiring a general Meeting to be summoned, and stating the business for which the meeting is to be summoned, shall be delivered to them or left at or sent by post to the chief office of the Clearing House.

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8. Five days' notice at the least (exclusive of the day on which the notice is served or deemed to be served, but inclusive of the day for which the notice is given) specifying the place, the day, and the hour of meeting, and the business to be transacted, shall be given to every member either personally or through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to such member at his registered address. Every member shall have a registered address within the United Kingdom, and in default thereof shall not be entitled to receive any notices from the Clearing House. Accidental omission to give any such notice or the non-receipt of such notice by any member shall not invalidate any Resolution passed or proceeding had at any Meeting.

9. No business shall be transacted at any general Meeting unless ten members be personally present when the Meeting proceeds to business. At an adjourned Meeting the members present shall form a quorum. The members present shall choose some one of their number as Chairman of the Meeting. All questions at a general Meeting shall be decided on a show of hands by a majority of the members present in person, each member having one vote only. In case a poll be demanded, the members shall be entitled respectively to such number of votes as shall have been allotted to them or the Companies or partnerships represented. The allotment of votes shall be made by the Committee annually during the first week in July, and shall be based upon the proportionate amounts of tea warehoused by the several members respectively during the preceding season, and on a poll no question shall be decided on a less majority than two-thirds

10. All expenses not covered by annual subscriptions shall be borne and paid by the members rateably according to the number of votes to which they are respectively entitled on a poll in the year during which such expenses become payable. Any surplus shall be, in the discretion of the Committee, either divided among all the members in like proportion, or may be retained and invested in such manner as they may think fit.

11. Every member shall charge on tea by ships reporting on or after the 1st day of July, 1888, and on new season's China tea arriving before that date, the respective rates, charges, and rents, and adhere to the terms and conditions specified in the schedule to these rules, and shall not be at liberty to depart therefrom in any way, subject to the following allowance, viz.: a discount not exceeding 10 per cent may be allowed on the said rates, charges, and rents, or any of them, being importers' charges. No other discount, no money, gratuities, and no advantages, direct or indirect, shall be offered or allowed by any member, or his agents or employés, to any merchant, broker, employé, agent, or other person in connection with any matter or thing in anywise relating to the Tea Clearing House, agreement; but any member shall be at liberty to allow any difference in premium on insurance of teas warehoused or deposited with him beyond 3s. 6d. per cent. per annum, paid for the same goods if on an annual policy, or a proportionate difference according to tariff rates if on a short time policy. All payments under this latter head to be notified to the Committee and entered

in a book kept for the purpose, which shall be opened at all times to the members.

11a. Subject and without prejudice to the provisions contained in Rule 11, no member shall be at liberty, either directly or indirectly, to offer, pay, or allow, or to permit to be offered, paid, or allowed any commission or other similar payment or allowance to any person not in his permanent and exclusive employ, or in the case of a Company or partnership not in the permanent and exclusive employment of such Company or partnership, or to any importer or shipper, or person acting for any importer or shipper, for or in respect of or in connection with the soliciting, introducing or obtaining the delivery, consignment, warehousing, deposit or handling of any teas to, with or by him or them, the said member or Company or partnership as the case may be.

12. Any person, Company, or partnership in the tea trade, other than the first subscribers, desiring to become a subscriber to the Clearing House, shall apply to the Committee, who may either accept or reject him or them. The annual subscription shall be deemed to be payable in advance on the 1st July in each year, and shall be one guinea, until otherwise declared by the Committee.

13. A discount not exceeding five per cent. on buyers' rent chargeable under the schedule to these Rules shall be allowed to any subscriber in lieu or on account of Fire Insurance. The rates for sampling and carding as specified in the schedule, and also the five per cent. discount on buyers' rents shall not be increased or varied for five years provided the Clearing House continues in operation for that period. No discount or any allowance whatever on buyers' rent shall be given or made directly or indirectly to any non-subscriber.

14. No subscriber shall be entitled to warehouse or deposit tea with, or employ in connection with tea, any Dock Company or Tea Warehouse keeper, who is not a member of the Clearing House, or to purchase or sample any tea from the warehouse of any non-member.

15. Any member or subscriber breaking or failing to observe any of the rules or bye-laws of the Clearing House for the time being in force, shall be liable to expulsion from the Clearing House by Resolution of the Committee. An expelled member or subscriber may be re-admitted on such terms as may be determined by the Committee.

16. Any of the rules for the time being in force, or the table of rates, charges, and rents, and terms and conditions specified in the schedule, and subscriptions, may be rescinded or varied by a general Meeting of members of the Clearing House. The Committee of Management shall decide all questions that may arise under or in connection with these rules, and as to the meaning or effect thereof, and all questions in relation to the working or management thereunder, and their decision shall be absolute and final, without appeal of any kind; and in the event of any question coming before the Committee on which the Committee may be equally divided, the question shall be referred to Mr. Henry Attlee, of No. 10, Billiter Square, London: or in case of his inability to act, the Governor for the time being of the Bank of England, or his Nominee, whose decision shall be final.

THE SCHEDULE TO THE RULES.—CHARGES ON TEA.

To apply to all parcels by ships reporting on and after 1st July, 1888, and to new season's China tea arriving prior to that date:—

		PACKAGE WEIGHING GROSS.																
		160 lbs. to 199 lbs.		130 to 159.		90 to 129.		80 to 89.		60 to 79.		45 to 59.		35 to 44.		17 to 34.		16 lbs. and under.
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	d.	d.	
Landing and Housing	...	2	3	1	10	1	6	1	4	1	3	1	0	0	10	6	3	
Rate	...	2	9	2	3	1	10	1	8	1	5	1	2	1	0	7	4	
Management Rate	...	2	0	1	8	1	5	1	3	1	2	0	11	0	8	6	4	
Bulking and Taring	...	2	0	1	8	1	5	1	3	1	2	0	11	0	8	6	4	
Bulking Taring or	...																	
Weighing net sepa-	...																	
rately	...	1	6	1	3	1	0	0	11	0	10	0	8	0	6	5	3	
Rent, per week	...	0	1	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	



*Note.*—The Management Rate shall apply to all teas put up for Public Sale.

The above rates are chargeable on the average gross weight of each break. When the fraction of the average weight is half a pound or more, the higher rate will apply. Thus: The average of a break being 79½ lbs. gross, the whole break will be rated at 80/9 lbs., but the average being less than 79½ lbs. the whole break will be rated at 60/79 lbs.

Prime Warrants 2s. each, exclusive of Stamp.

Weight Notes 2d. each.

Commutation of Rent to be allowed as under:—

A first prompt under the Management Rate at 8 for 13 weeks.

At second, or subsequest prompt, under the Management Rate, or any prompt under the Landing and Housing Rate, at 10 for 13 weeks.

The Order, however, to entitle a person to any such commutation must be lodged prior to the expiration of the first week of the 13 in every case.

All taring, except average taring of China, Japan, and Java teas to be charged for in addition to the Landing and Housing or the Management Rate.

Customs attendance at re-weighing to be charged net. Stamps also net. Carding ¼d. per package. Minimum charge 1d. Trade Sampling per ch. 3d., half-ch. 2d., box 2d.

17. In the month of July, 1898, the Committee shall cause to be prepared a statement showing the total gross weight of tea of all sorts warehoused by each member during the preceding twelve months or season, and showing also the quantity warehoused by the respective members in excess of or short of the allotted proportion as shown in the schedule to these Rules (which is prepared on the average receipts of four seasons or years as shown therein), the same being reduced to a common denominator of half-chests or units of 72 lbs. each, and further showing the amount of such excess or deficiency calculated at the rate of 7d. per half-chest or unit.

18. Every member shall furnish the Committee with such information, in such form and at such times as the Committee may require, for the purpose of enabling the above-mentioned statement to be prepared.

19. A copy of the aforesaid statement shall be given or sent as as soon as practicable to each member at his registered address. Any member shall be entitled at any time within seven days after the date when a copy of such statement has been given to him or left at his registered address, or if sent by post ought to have been delivered in due course of post, to make any objection or objections to such statement or any item or items therein. Every such objection shall be considered and dealt with by the Committee, whose decision shall be final except in the case of the Committee being equally divided, when the question shall be referred and decided in the manner provided by Clause 16 of the original Rules.

20. If no objection be made within the prescribed time, or if an objection or objections shall have been made, then when the same shall have been withdrawn or adjudicated upon as provided in Rule 19, the statement, with any modifications which may be necessary by reason of any objection or objections having been sustained, shall be signed by the Chairman for the time being, and when so signed shall be binding on all the members.

21. When the aforesaid statement has become binding, every member whose quantity of tea warehoused as appearing in the statement, shall exceed or fall short of the percentage appropriated to such member by such apportionment, shall in the one case be bound to pay to the Committee on demand the amount of the excess, and shall in the other case be entitled to receive the amount of the deficiency, such amounts being calculated as provided by Clause 17 of these additional Rules. Provided nevertheless that no member shall have any claim against the Committee, or any member thereof personally for any sum payable or alleged to be payable to him under this rule.

22. All sums payable under Clause 21 of these rules shall, upon non-payment thereof upon demand by the Committee, be recoverable by the Committee or their assigns from the party or parties in default in an action against them as for moneys had and received by such party or parties to the use of the said Committee, and in any such action proof of such demand made by the Committee shall be sufficient to and shall entitle the said Committee to judgment against the party or parties in default. The Committee shall, upon receipt or recovery of such sums, pay the same to the

members entitled thereto, or, in the event of the whole of the money not having been received at any time when the Committee may deem desirable so to do, a *pro rata* payment may be made in proportion to the amount in hand.

23. In the event of any Dock Company, wharfinger, or warehouse-keeper, applying for admission to the Tea Clearing House, such application shall be referred to the members at a special or general meeting for their decision thereon, and on the terms on which such admission if assented to should be allowed.

24. The Committee shall have power in their discretion to vary or suspend the operation of any of the last seven rules, in whole or in part, as may seem to the Committee equitable or expedient to Meet the special circumstances of any member, and may from time to time in like manner vary or suspend in part the operation of the rules for such period on such terms as they may think expedient to meet cases of individual hardship or inconvenience.

[Rules 17 to 24 were approved 2nd November, 1896, under the following Resolution:—

Subject and without prejudice to the existing rules of the Tea Clearing House, the following additional rules are agreed to, which shall, in the first instance, apply to season July, 1897, to June, 1898, inclusive.]

## TEA IN PARIS.

Under the heading "Paris at Five O'clock," Mrs. Alec Tweedie described last week in the *Pall Mall Gazette* the craze for tea-drinking in the gay city. In the course of her article Mrs. Tweedie said: "There has been several revolutions in Paris; but none more complete than the revolution of the tea cup. Tea cost forty francs a pound at the time of the *coup d'état*, and was only indulged in on rare occasions by the wealthy. Afternoon tea was almost unheard of ten years ago in Paris, and yet to-day it is the fashion everywhere.

"There is no doubt about it: afternoon tea is a particularly British institution. Rich and poor alike enjoy that stimulating beverage between four and five o'clock, and look upon it as a necessity of existence. This has been the custom for years, ever since the duty went down and the imports from China went up; but until lately Britain has stood alone as a drinker of afternoon tea.

"Is the present craze in Paris the outcome of the International Exhibition of 1900? Is it the result of the British invasion at that time, which clamoured for afternoon tea, a habit followed by other weary sightseeing folk, who in their turn found it so refreshing that they have kept to the habit? Or is it that fashionable Parisians dine so much later now-a-days, they find refreshment of some sort is necessary between a twelve o'clock déjeuner and an eight o'clock dinner? Whatever the cause, the revolution is complete, and Paris has succumbed.

"In many of the fashionable hotels a notice is posted in the hall intimating that the band will play from four to six o'clock, when tea will be served. The idea of smart hotels is being quickly followed by smaller shops, and bills announcing in English, 'Five O'clock Tea' may be seen on every side. So completely have Parisians adopted our custom, they speak of the meal as 'le five o'clock,' the word 'tea' being often omitted altogether.

"The revolution in tea has gone even further. We have lately stayed in three delightful old French châteaux, where nothing is more noticeable within the last few years than the decline of coffee and the ascendancy of tea. Formerly everyone took 'café au lait' at their early breakfast in their own rooms; now tea is almost as universally drunk as coffee. Formerly everyone drank café-noir after déjeuner and dinner; now, apparently, only half of the people do so. Formerly coffee was excellent, it was a treat to go to France for the sake of the coffee alone; but this is changed. So many people have given up drinking coffee, and those who take it black so often drown its flavour with liqueurs, that a cup of really good coffee is now the exception and not the rule. The tea has improved as much as the coffee appears to have deteriorated.

"The afternoon tea custom which has started in Paris has spread to the country house. Every afternoon we found the valet de chambre brought in his silver tray with tea-things arranged upon it as in England. The daughter of the house deftly dispensed her wares, and the other noticeable differences between England and France were—the tea was weaker, the lumps of sugar larger, the teapot always had a silver strainer hanging from its spout to hold back the leaves, and instead of eating the cakes dry



many of the people preferred to tremper them—that is to say, dip them in their tea and eat them soaked with that beverage.

“When visitors came to call, tea was immediately offered, as it is in Russia. Until lately Russia was the only country which ran us anywhere close in the matter of afternoon tea; but then in Russia tea is going on all day long, and the samovar is in constant requisition. In Russia, however, the tea is served in tumblers, without milk, a piece of lemon being added to bring out the flavour. Russian tea is excellent; but then the very finest China tea goes to Russia, where the colour and the aroma are as much considered as these qualities are by a connoisseur of good wine.

“Paris has not copied the Russian way of drinking tea, but has adopted our thoroughly British institution and mode of enjoying that beverage at five o'clock; and at five o'clock every afternoon the smart folk of the city may be seen enjoying their tea as to the manner born.

“Paris has been besieged, and has capitulated in favour of afternoon tea.”

Mrs. Tweedie's inquiry whether the tea-drinking habit of the Parisian is the outcome of the exhibition of 1900 has brought a reply from Mr. Edward F. Langdale, one of the tea representatives at the exhibition. He says: “Most assuredly, yes. And I hope that by virtue of the office I held at the exhibition I may claim to give my opinion so decidedly. Acting under the influential auspices of their respective tea Associations, and by the authority of the Indian and Ceylon Committee of the Royal Commission, Paris Exhibition, 1900, the representatives of the tea interests of India and Ceylon were able to do good work at the exhibition itself, and, what is more important, to lay the foundation in Paris of a trade or business which is, I believe, becoming the permanent one of which Mrs. Alec Tweedie has now so agreeably treated.

“Tea interests, generally, are now in such a precarious state that all who are closely concerned with them are naturally grateful when the Press gives its powerful aid to find fresh outlets for the present over-production of tea. The following Press notice was written in 1900, and the opinions therein expressed are, I think, now being verified:—

“‘Nothing of this kind has ever been done before in Paris, or has succeeded so well. The attempt to sell tea to the public at previous exhibitions has usually ended in disappointment. The object of the Association, to popularise tea, is evidently being attained; the tea has become popular, and a nucleus has now been formed for a business which should be continued after the exhibition is at an end.’

“Mrs. Tweedie also asks if the ‘craze’ is the result of any British invasion of the exhibition?

“I do not think so, for my own experience, so far as regards the Indian tea courts, was that our fellow-countrymen were more conspicuous by their absence than by their presence. The tea courts were the resort daily of some of the best French society, members of which were known to say that the Indian tea courts were the most chic of any in the exhibition, and that the Grand Prix should have been awarded for the manner in which the tea was served, as well as for the goodness of the tea itself.

“As a further proof that the taste for tea in France became more general at the time of the exhibition, many people, particularly those from the provinces, bought small packets of tea to take home with them. These sales direct to the public were most encouraging for the prospects of tea, for they showed the desire of the purchasers to try and cultivate a taste for it. Also, they showed visitors to the exhibition that good tea is obtainable at as low a price as from 3 to 4 francs a pound instead of at such a prohibitive one as from 8 to 12 francs, which I often saw marked up in the shops in Paris.

“By the enterprise of India and Ceylon, particularly of Ceylon, tea is now often obtainable in the cup at many of the cafés, but the knowledge how to make it properly has yet to be gained. There are also dépôts and tea-rooms, run mostly by English people. One, very tastefully decorated, is an offshoot of the exhibition, and is situated nearly opposite the British Embassy. The proprietor is a French gentleman who evidently believes in the ultimate success of tea-drinking in France. If only tea-rooms after the kind of those of our Aerated Bread Company's shops could be dotted about Paris, the middle classes would probably be secured, and then, in course of time, the masses, who are as yet much averse from tea, and treat it as medicine. There is however, one danger ahead which cannot be ignored—that is

that the French Government might increase the Customs duty still as high, I believe, as 1 franc 25 cents per pound, and thus blight the hopes of importers of tea into France. Their hopes must rest on the Chambers of Commerce of France and England, between which two bodies there is evidently an excellent good feeling and understanding. At the time of the exhibition there was some talk of the duty on tea being increased. ‘Hinc illæ lachrymæ!’”

Another correspondent writes: “It is not in Paris that a taste for tea is spreading. A week or two ago I happened to be in Rheims, and noticed that there was quite as much tea as coffee exposed to view in the grocers' windows. But, in provincial France at least, there is still evidently a prejudice against tea grown in the British dominions. I am not enough of an expert in tea to tell from its appearance where it is grown. But perhaps you will allow me to quote some of the labels under which tea is sold in Rheims—a town, it should be remembered, which has a large English population.

“One sample was thus described: ‘Thé de l'île Bourbon. Ce thé par son arôme et sa finesse est sans rival, ayant le goût du thé anglais de Ceylan, il lui est supérieur. (The italics are in the original.)

“Another sort is ‘Thé d'Annam grosses feuilles fort en théine. Se recommande pour boissons hygiéniques.’

“A third variety is described as ‘Royal Souchong.—Thé noir, très digestif.’

“It is quite possible that all three are Indian or Cingalese blends masquerading under popular titles. May I, as an Anglo-Indian not in any way interested in the tea trade, suggest to Mr. Langdale that Rheims, an important town in which Englishmen are already strongly represented in the cloth and champagne trade, might be a good scene for a crusade in support of Indian tea? The ‘tea-habit’ is already formed, but the Reimois is educated to believe that tea grown in the French colonies is superior to the product of our gardens, which is very much as if an English grocer were to advertise ‘gooseberry’ as superior to the wine of Sillery or Ay.”

## RUBBER IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The following extracts are taken from an article by Emile Bonnechaux, explorer, published in *Le Vieux Corsaire*:—

With the extending use of rubber and its thousand and one applications, a serious question presents itself. Will the forests producing rubber and bind weed become exhausted? Several trips to Madagascar and two voyages to Brazil for the purpose of exploring the forests may permit me to express an opinion on this subject. I believe that certain species will disappear in Africa, Madagascar, and Brazil—in fact, in all the regions producing rubber now exploited.

*Landolphias* will disappear both in Madagascar and on the continent of Africa, by reason of the barbarous methods of extraction employed by the natives, which consist in tapping the bind weed close to the place where it issues from the ground, dividing it afterwards into sections about 20 inches in length, from which the milk is drained by placing the sections upright in a gutter of split bamboo supported above the receiving pail by two wooden forks. The *Euphortiacée intisy* will also be exterminated in the Southern part of Madagascar. The *intisy* yields a milky juice, as rich as that furnished by the *Hévea brasiliensis*, but it is impossible to obtain it pure, as the natives allow the juice to flow to the ground, where it at once makes an amalgam elastic only in name. Besides, in their greed to obtain the maximum yield, the natives do not hesitate to tap even the tubercles of the roots, thus killing in one moment what nature has taken a century to produce.

Other varieties will also disappear. But there is one not indigenous to either Africa or Madagascar, which will not. It lives in the forests which are included between 8° north latitude and 8° south latitude. It is a native of Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. The species is called *Seringa* in the Brazilian tongue. The botanical name is *Hévea*, one of the large family of the *Euphortiacées* which comprises a dozen varieties. The product of these trees is known on the markets of Europe by the name of *Pará fin*, from the town of *Pará*, near the mouth of the Amazon through which all the gum passes. The denomination *Pará fin* is



however, incorrect. The State of Pará produces some rubber, but the greater part comes from the district of Amazonas, from Peru, etc.

In these countries, the *Hévea* has fortunately been protected. The extractors have every incentive to preserve the trees from injury, in order to insure an annual yield, which I estimate at from \$290 to \$347 for one hundred days of actual labour. Some affirm that the gatherers average from \$8 to \$10 per day. This estimate is exaggerated. The exploitation of the *Héveas* and other rubber trees of South America supports some 100,000 people. One can judge from this of the importance of this industry. The rubber tree is carefully treated here. Already the two States of Brazil, Pará and Amazonas, have regulations for the distribution of lands. Both have taken measures to protect their natural resources, in order to preserve the immense revenues obtained from them. Manaus, the capital of the State of Amazonas, a town of 60,000 inhabitants, alone receives 48,000,000 francs (\$9,264,000) revenue from the export duty.

I can affirm with certainty that the States of South America included within these latitudes have inexhaustible riches, if they continue to protect them. Brazil and Peru in particular would alone be able to satisfy the consumption of the entire world in rubber. The time is not come for the exhaustion of these immense treasures. Although we penetrate now to the very sources of the large rivers, only the great arteries easily accessible have been explored; the small affluents, which, in my opinion, are even richer in rubber, are yet unknown. Yet it must be acknowledged that Brazil is less known in France to-day than Central Africa. The whole world has had its eyes turned towards the Dark Continent. The boundless forests on the other side of the Atlantic contain forests accessible to anyone desiring to go there. Marseilles is the port plainly indicated to become the headquarters of this trade and an important market for rubber.

Why should we not go to Brazil, to Peru, and bring gums of the first quality, so necessary for our new industry—motorcycles and automobiles? The English and the Germans do this and are making fortunes. I know of one German house in Manaus which has realised from commissions alone more than \$20,000 profit. There is also an opening for a French line of navigation. One English house—Singlehurst Brocklehurst, of Liverpool—had, twenty-five years ago, a few sailing vessels coasting along the eastern shore of South America, which touched at Pará. To-day, under the name of the Red Cross Line, this house has made a fortune. Within the year, the Germans of Hamburg have successfully established a line touching at Havre; the Italians have inaugurated a line from Genoa, touching at Marseilles. The French should learn the lesson.—*India Rubber Trades' Journal*.

## WORKING RUBBER ESTATES ON THE AMAZON.

BY ASHMORE RUSSAN (LONDON).

According to the papers before me, the properties on the Javary and its affluents numbered twenty-seven, with 2,500 *estradas* opened out and 250,000 trees (more or less) ready for tapping, the approximate area of the whole being given as 768,116,600 square metres, or about 300 square miles. This is believed to be one of the finest estates in the Amazon region. According to the documents, it comprised everything necessary in the shape of houses, stores, sheds (*barracoes*), etc., for the collectors. There were three steam launches—two of 40 tons and one of 10 tons; two iron lighters, and nine boats and canoes. All these adjuncts were apparently taken over by the French company. The amount of rubber produced from these estates is known to have been very large. I have before me the production for each year from 1891-92 to 1897-98. During the worst year (1891-92) the estates produced 215,927 kilos., and during the best year (1892-93), 348,920 kilos., the total for the seven years being 2,053,492 kilos., or 2,053 metric tons, an average of about 293 metric ton per annum, of the annual value, taken at the low average figure of £300 per ton, of £87,900, or say, about \$439,000. I know of no reason why these figures should not be taken as correct.

The net profits are given in this statement as 19.73 per cent. on the turnover, in addition to which there is 10 per cent. commission on the gross value of the goods supplied for the keeping of the

working staff. The Comptoir Colonial Français was formed, I believe, in 1899, and got to work early in 1900. It is now, as Mr. Witt has pointed out, in bankruptcy and so with other younger Company.

The experienced Brazilian *seringueiro* knows how to work these estates to advantage. He knows how to checkmate the 'river' thief; how to prevent his rubber cutters from selling elsewhere. If necessary to his own existence and success, he can, and will, remove the offender from the face of the earth. The foreigner lacks the experience, and even if he has lost all respect for the sixth commandment, he dares not break it in Brazil.

There is little more to be said. Good foreign labourers, Chinamen or Japanese, who will work for a wage at anything they are set to do, seem to me essential to the success of the foreign company working rubber properties in Brazil. I may add here that Barbadian niggers and their like are useless. Needless to say, the foregoing observations do not apply to the exploitation of rubber estates, in Africa, Mexico, Peru, parts of Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, or any other rubber-producing country where fairly efficient labour can be obtained for a comparatively small wage.—*India Rubber World*.

## VILLAGE JUNGLE FIRES AND INSECT PESTS.

The question of the injury done by forest-fires to the community at large has proved for many years past a highly controversial one, not India alone, but the wide world over, and the subject is now attracting the attention of our American cousins who are taking up the matter in their customary go-ahead fashion and with characteristic thoroughness. It is not, however, this side of the question nor the destruction of valuable forests by the forest-fire proper that will be dealt with here. This note concerns the smaller and humbler areas of scrub forest which exist scattered practically throughout the country adjacent to the cultivated lands of the villages. These areas are annually, as is well-known, either intentionally or accidentally burnt over in the hot weather, the principal object being to get up a crop of sweet young grass as soon as possible after the burst of the monsoon to give the cattle a much-needed feed. There are some, I believe, who consider this practice a most reprehensible one and strongly advocate its being stopped. With their arguments we need not concern ourselves here. I would strengthen the defence side of the question with a theory which requires quite as much consideration as, and may in the future require even more, as does the production of new grass for the famishing and sadly-reduced cattle. From observations made during the last few years the writer is of opinion that this annual firing of the jungles immediately adjacent to the cultivated lands has a direct bearing upon the safety, and therefore upon the percentage of outturn of the crops themselves, since it is more than probable, that many of the more dangerous of the crop insect pests are thereby kept in check to some extent. Records and observations on such matters are still very few and far between in India, but instances are already fairly numerous where an insect spends one or more of its annual life cycles, or generations, feeding upon the crops in the fields, retiring to some true shrub or herb in the neighbouring patch of jungle and living upon that after the fields have been cut over and whilst they are lying fallow. Over large areas in the country the cultivated lands are in this latter condition during the hot weather months. The ground is baked and parched and but little insect life, and certainly not that portion, which lives and feeds upon succulent green crop plants, is to be found on it. The parched up land scorched under a fiery sun, affords no shelter to the plant-loving insect and the condition of affairs is inimical, in many cases, to the eggs of such insects. What then has become of the myriad forms of insect life which the first burst of the monsoon will see swarming over these now dried up arid lands? If we move into the scrub forest alongside, and provided we know what stage of its life cycle the insect is in or the form it will have in this particular generation (for the form in the jungle may differ totally in appearance from the shape of the same insect in its crop feeding cycle of life) we shall find many of the pests collected on the trees or herbaceous plants, perhaps in the egg stage or as grubs, pupæ, or perfect insects. They may be quiescent, awaiting the succulent vegetable diet the ensuing rains will surely



bring them, or they may be absorbing food and slowly maturing with a view to laying their eggs in the fields as soon as the young plants make their appearance above the soil. Whatever may be the stage of life they are in, it is in every case a preparatory one and in which the insect is slowly preparing itself and gathering its strength to be ready for the onslaught in the fields as soon as the favourable conditions ensue.

Numerous instances might be quoted of insects with this double form of residence. One will suffice as an illustration.

The pest known as the Rice Sapper (*Leptocorisa acuta*) is to be found all over the East attacking rice. It is one of the true bugs and lives by sucking the juices out of the rice plant by means of the beak or proboscis of which its mouth consists. It is a common pest in the rice fields in the rainy months, feeding at first upon the stems, and later on, going up to the young forming grains in the ears and sucking out the milky juices therefrom before the grains harden. In ears so treated only the husk remains. The insects are sometimes so numerous that the ears bend down beneath the weight of the bugs feeding upon them. Cases are on record where large areas of grain have had to be left uncut since they consisted of husks only, the insects having sucked out all the juices from the young forming grains. The rice sapper passes through several life cycles in the fields, but at least one brood hatches in the adjacent jungle to which the insect betakes itself when the crops are reaped and the fields are lying fallow. Many similar cases exist. This then would seem to form a strong argument for the annual firing of all scrub jungle in the vicinity of cultivated land, as by so doing it is certain that a portion of the individuals of the life cycle or cycles passed in such places would be got rid off. Similarly I would treat in the same manner all neighbouring high grass areas. If the grass is cut and stacked for thatching purposes, fire should be run over the area when the grass has been removed as is done, to give an example, in the case of the thatching grass areas in Chittagong and the neighbouring hill tracts.

—E. T. STEBBING, in the *Pioneer*.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Most of us remember how in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* the chorus of policemen just before setting out on the task of capturing the pirates, and showing no undue haste over the performance, sing a chorus beginning "We go, we go." The Major-General to whom they address themselves thereupon remarks, "Yes, but confound you, you don't go." The situation suggests that of the tea community who are crying out "We combine," or "We wish to combine," but somehow nothing comes of it. Doubtless the difficulties are great, and it was too much to expect that all the conflicting interests concerned would sink their differences of opinion and evolve a workable scheme at once. But is any scheme of combination likely to come into effect, or rather is a genuine effort being made to protect the interests of tea-growers from the forces now at work against those interests? It would seem that the policy of doing nothing in particular is in favour. It is hoped that matters will mend of their own accord. A slight improvement in the position seems to strengthen this view, and so we imagine everything will be permitted to rub along much as before, and later on, should the storm threaten to overwhelm, there will be a further flutter of excitement and talk of combination ending in naught. When a crisis is at its height there is usually a strong feeling in favour of an attempt to change the conditions under which the crisis was possible. But let the excitement subside and the position again becomes normal, and the feeling passes away. There is always the comfortable doctrine to fall back upon that it is unwise to interfere with the ordinary laws of economics, and as no one seems quite sure whether this is a fallacy or not, the majority give the firm believers in the doctrine the benefit of the doubt, and join the noble army who are prepared to wait the course of events, at any rate, until the next spell of hard times, when probably they will grumble louder than before and do nothing. It is a secular illustration of the old saw about "when the devil was sick, etc."

From the opening of the tea season of 1902 until the middle of October 38,000,000 lbs. of China tea were shipped to the United States, while 28,000,000 lbs. went to Europe, 12,000,000 lbs. to England, and

2,000,000 lbs. to Australian ports. The exports to America were greater this year than in any of the three preceding years, so that those who are engaged in the work of popularising Indian and Ceylon tea have plenty to do. Fifteen years ago China and Japan had the entire United States tea market, but since then India and Ceylon have not only captured a portion of it, but tea-drinking has become more popular in America, and the scope for increasing the consumption of tea is consequently much wider. It is a market the winning of which is worth a strenuous and persistent effort. In Ceylon planters are fully alive to the opportunity offered by the St. Louis Fair of 1904. The Hon'ble John Barrett, Commissioner-General for the Fair, was in Colombo at the departure of the last mail. He had an interview with H. E. the Governor at Queen's House in regard to the Exhibition, and the full sympathy of His Excellency in the project was enlisted. A public Meeting was held in the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to meet Mr. Barrett, and then the possibilities and scope of the Exhibition were thoroughly expounded.

Tea-drinking is becoming the fashion at some of the New York clubs. The *Sun* of that city says: "Two city clubs have recently made a feature of afternoon tea by having it ready at a certain time every day and preparing to serve with it the kind of refreshment likely to be asked for. It is already a feature of life in a number of clubs in that the men who drink it are not even laughed at by their enemies. They arouse no more comment than if they had ordered a cocktail. One need only consider this situation to realise the extent to which the habit of tea-drinking has increased in this city in recent years."

"Coffee, like other things, is not always grown where the advertisements say," observes an American paper. "When the grocer is asked for a pound of Java or Mocha coffee he pours out several hundred dark brown beans, which probably were raised in Brazil, where at present the greater part of the world's supply is grown. The little island of Java, in the East Indies, and the little town of Mocha, with its 5,000 inhabitants, on the banks of the Red Sea, in Arabia, have now, in fact, if not in name, given way to the great South American Republic. Travellers in the State of São Paulo, in the southern part of Brazil, tell of enormous coffee plantations, some of which contain more than a million coffee trees. At Buenopolis, for instance, is a plantation which is said to be the largest in the world, and which has 5,000,000 trees. The coffee tree, when wild, grows as high as 20 feet, but, when cultivated, it is only half as large, with evergreen leaves and white flowers in the blossoming season. The fruit is a pod containing one or two beans. The pods are spread out on an open field to dry, and often these drying grounds cover nearly a square mile. When thoroughly dry the pods are run through machinery, which separates the beans into two kinds, those flattened on one side and those of complete spherical shape. The first is called Java coffee and the second Mocha. The coffee raised on these great plantations of Buenopolis is sent by rail to the port of Santos, on the Atlantic coast, where it is shipped to all parts of the world. Brazil produces each year about 660,000 tons, although the world's consumption is estimated at only 600,000 tons. There is thus at present an over-production of the coffee bean."—*H. & O. Mail*.

## TEA GROWING IN AMERICA.

In his Annual Report (1902) submitted to the President, Secretary Wilson, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, says:—

"The work on the growing of American tea was continued during the year at Pinehurst, Summerville, S.C., in co-operation with Dr. Charles U. Shepard. Dr. Shepard now has at his place about 100 acres in tea gardens, and his factory is well equipped for carrying on work on a commercial scale and for accurate scientific experiments. With a view to bringing about a clear understanding as to the relationship of the Department to this work, a proper form of agreement has been prepared and entered into by the Department on the one hand and Dr. Shepard on the other. By the terms of this agreement the Department is able to secure the use of the extensive plant of Dr. Shepard for experimental purposes, and will profit by the results from the extensive work



that he is carrying on. During the year careful attention has been given to methods of reducing the cost of the production of tea with very satisfactory results. Improved factory methods have also been put into operation, with the result that better grades of tea are now being turned out than ever before. To aid in this work, Dr. Shepard has secured during the year the assistance of an expert tea taster in New York, who has sampled his various grades and thus made it practicable to determine not only the kinds of teas which have proved of the highest quality, but the effects of different methods of picking and handling.

"As pointed out in my last report, the yield of tea in Dr. Shepard's gardens last year was about 4,500 pounds, and this year there will be about 9,000 pounds of marketable tea. Some of the gardens have proved very prolific and profitable, while others have given very light yield of tea, having poor quality. All these facts, of course, will enable the Department to profit in further exploiting the work. With a view to increasing the interest in this crop, a tea farm will be established in Texas if suitable land and co-operation can be secured. Agents of the Department are now on the ground looking into the question, and the outlook is very favourable. Whether or not tea growing in this country can be made a commercial success will depend, in large measure, upon most rigid attention to the details connected with the field and factory work. It is not expected that any large profits will be made, but it is believed that by proper and judicious management sufficient profit will result to encourage the planting of the crop in many parts of the South, especially where there is cheap labour available. Proper labour, of course, constitutes one of the most important factors in this matter; but, unfortunately, there are many places in the South where hands now idle might be turned to some use in this direction.

### COFFEE PRICES TOO HIGH?

WASHINGTON, November 29.—Over-production of coffee everywhere has resulted in breaking the price paid to the producer to the lowest figures heretofore known, particularly in Brazil. For some time past quotations for cargoes have been steadily ranging downward. Within a week cargoes of No. 7 Rio, the standard grade, have sold in New York at  $5\frac{1}{8}$  cents a pound, the lowest price ever quoted.

Nevertheless, these low wholesale rates have not brought about any appreciable reduction to consumers of coffee. The retail prices are practically the same that prevailed in 1896-97, when the wholesale price of No. 7 Rio standard coffee in New York was almost exactly double the quotations of to-day.

The Treasury officials deem it extraordinary that a fall of more than 50 per cent. in the primary cost of all coffees has not carried with it a similar or at least some reduction in their retail price. Consumers have apparently received no benefit from the break in the primary markets.

Dealers explain the matter by asserting that the higher priced grades of coffee in general use in the United States are very much superior to the common Santos, Rios, etc., quoted at the ports of entry at the present cheap rates. They talk about gilt-edged brands of Mocha, Java, etc., which are said to cost much more in the primary markets.

Treasury officials think that statistics contradict this explanation. As a matter of fact, not one grocer in fifty throughout the Union ever has a pound of genuine Mocha or Java in his store from one year's end to another.

As none of the so-called Mocha and Java high grade coffees is produced in the western hemisphere, here is a suggestive grouping of eight months of American coffee imports:

	Pounds.
From all America .....	627,359,088
From all the rest of the world .....	21,859,882

Total imports, eight months ... 649,218,970

Five-sixths of all the coffee imported comes from Brazil alone. Only one-thirtieth is imported from all Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceanica. Only the small quantity of 3,897,256 pounds came from all Oceanica, in which lies the native island home of Java coffee.

Conceding all the imports from the Old World to have been of the Mocha and Java varieties, the total would be no more than a few days' supply for the 80,000,000 American coffee-drinkers. But

much of the imported Old World coffee is not of those grades and is inferior to the average South or Central American coffee.

It is estimated that 200,000,000 pounds of the coffee consumed in the United States is labeled Mocha and Java by the coffee merchants, wholesale and retail. In view of the foregoing, the question where does all this vast tonnage of so-called Mocha and Java coffee come from?

So far as true Mocha is concerned Treasury officials say little or none of it enters American ports. The quantity of genuine Java imported is very small. Of course there is no smuggling because coffees come in free.

In short, the foregoing exhibits prove conclusively that ninety-nine one-hundredths of the alleged Java and Mocha coffee annually disposed of in the United States are just clean, well-cured and carefully graded South and Central American products, and nothing else, now quoted in New York at no more than  $5\frac{1}{4}$  to 7 cents.

Experts assert that the very best grades of coffee naturally should now be selling for 25 cents or less a pound.—*The Sun*.

The *Merchants' Review* comments on the above thus:—

Alas, as Falstaff remarked, how this world is given to lying. Here is a newspaper man, with the help of some Treasury officials and an alleged coffee expert, trying to make the grocers out to be a set of extortioners, and not a word said about all the sugar that is distributed below cost and all the flour that is sold at the narrowest of margins above cost. Lord, how this world is given to lying!

The Washington telegram in the *Sun* represents the imports of high grade coffee as very small, and the impression is sought to be conveyed that the bulk of the coffee-supply of this country is selling in this port in the green state at from  $5\frac{1}{4}$  c. to 7 c. Lord, how this world is given to lying!

Leaving the realm of romance, and resorting to the dry and matter-of-fact statistics prepared by Uncle Sam's own Treasury Department, we find that for the nine months of the calendar year ending September 30, 1902, about one-fifth of the total supply of coffee for this country came from places other than Brazil, all producers of high grade coffee. The East Indies sent us 16,000,000 lbs. of an average value of 11 c. per lb., Holland sent 1,462,182 lbs. at  $11\frac{1}{2}$  c. per lb., United Kingdom sent 1,183,645 lbs. at 13 c. per lb., Central America sent 42,109,871 lbs. at  $10\frac{1}{2}$  c. per lb., South America, barring Brazil, sent 47,581,858 lbs. at 7 c. per lb., Mexico sent 27,000,000 lbs. at about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  c.

These are respectable quantities and the prices, be it observed, are the prices quoted at places of exportation, and are less transportation, brokerage, bagging, and insurance charges. Even the average value of the large quantity of Brazil coffee imported during the nine months was slightly more than six cents per pound. Laid down in New York retail grocery stores in the roasted state, a mixture of all the Brazil grades of coffee would cost nearer twenty cents than six and leave little margin for profits, and yet this Washington authority insinuates that the best brands of West Indian coffee are purchasable in this city from  $5\frac{1}{4}$  c. to 7 c. per lb. Lord, how this world is given to lying!

It is perhaps not known to the compiler of the Washington telegram and his "expert" that coffee costs something to handle in its green state, that the cost of roasting is fully  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. per lb. and that the loss in weight during the roasting process is fully 15 per cent., which must be added to the price. Then there are storage charges, insurance and brokerage and bagging charges, which leave the importer and the wholesale dealer only a reasonable profit. If they sought more the active competition in the trade would prove an insurmountable obstacle. So far as the retailer's profit is concerned it could be argued with considerable force that the losses on sugar and flour must be balanced by liberal charge on something else, as coffee, tea, and spices. As a matter of fact coffee does not bear as large a profit as it ought to under the circumstances.

The No. 7 Rio, upon which the *Sun's* correspondent harps so much, has been low in price for several years, and on several occasions proprietary brands of roasted coffee made up principally of the low grade Brazils have been used as "leaders" in this city, selling from 10 c. to 14 c. per lb., but as the experiment was rarely repeated it is to be assumed that New Yorkers preferred a better-drinking coffee and were willing to pay the higher price asked for the superior kinds.



## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports :—

TORONTO, December 4, 1902.

The outside tea markets continue strong for both blacks and greens. Latest London samples show that that market is from 1 to 1½c. above Toronto in Indians and Ceylons. Indian greens are scarce and in demand at from 7¼ to 9½d.

MONTREAL, December 4, 1902.

Ceylon black teas are 1 to 1½d. higher for all grades, both on the London and Colombo markets. China greens continue very firm; the market for all green teas is now closed and advices state that it was stronger at the close than at any other time. Many orders were received after the close, but there was no possible chance of their being delivered. On the local market China greens are scarce. No. 2 hysons have become scarce on the primary market, owing to the fact that a number of contracts have been made in Canada and the United States for the produce of those States making green teas, and a number of States making blacks are now turning their attention to greens. Hence, in view of the larger production, lower prices are expected in green teas. One or two large invoices of China greens have changed hands during the past week or so, and the demand is still good. Indian teas are still low. There is not much demand, though it is expected that on account of the higher prices in Ceylon blacks a better movement will be given to Indian grades. Japans remain very firm under light supplies. A letter received here on Monday, dated November 7, says that arrivals from the interior were small. All teas of sound liquor and good appearance were hardly obtainable.

## TEA COMPANY'S MEETING.

THE WYNAAD TEA COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighth Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the Wynaad Tea Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company, 7, Mining Lane, E.C., on Monday, the 15th ultimo.

The chair was occupied by Mr. J. C. Sanderson, Chairman of the Company.

The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the auditor's report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—

I wish to express the regret of the Directors at the unsatisfactory result of the past season's trading, but as everyone connected with the produce markets is aware, the values of all articles during the past twelve months have ruled exceedingly low; in fact, there has been over-production in most articles of produce. But our Company has been unfortunate in the fact that our crops have all turned out far below Mr. Walker's estimates. The coffee crop was a complete failure, only five tons odd being gathered. Tea gave 60,000 lbs. less than the estimate, while pepper was about three tons below. Had the original estimate of fifteen tons coffee, 190,000 lbs. tea, and twenty tons pepper been reached, the Company would have earned about £2,000 more. Turning to the accounts you will see the amount put to block account is smaller than last year, viz., £582, but the cultivation and crop charges appear large compared to the crops gathered. I must, however, explain it is impossible for the Manager in India to cut down cultivation expenses in the middle of a season, because field work must be carried out when once it is arranged for, in fact the coolies must be employed when once labour contracts have been entered into. With regard to the London expenses; they are, as usual, very small, the largest item being for interest on debentures and the sum we owe Messrs. R. & J. Henderson. These cannot be reduced, and must be met. As to the future, the Directors have every reason to hope the current season will turn out more prosperous. It is, of course, useless to depend upon estimates, judging from past experiences, but we believe we shall secure larger crops. The coffee crop, which is an early one, and is being now gathered, Mr. Walker puts at 15 tons, the tea crop at about 190,000 lbs., more than 50,000 lbs. of which we have already sold at an average of 7d. per lb., and we have a further 20,000 lbs. arrived and ready for sale next month, while the quantity of tea manufactured at the factory to November 22nd is about 112,000 lbs., this being fully 20,000 lbs. in excess of last year to same date. The pepper crop is about 17 tons, and we hope in a short

time to dispose of this at the same figure we sold the last crop at. With regard to markets, the outlook for coffee is not encouraging, as the continued over-production of Brazil coffee has flooded the market with Santos, but the outlook for tea is more cheerful, partly because consumption has increased, and is increasing, and, further, because the season in Northern India has ended with a large deficiency, as compared with last year; a more satisfactory reason, however, is the quality of our tea shows a marked improvement since Mr. Walker placed Mr. Waddington in charge of the factory. He has proved that good tea can be produced on our estates. I now move the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. Labouchere.

In reply to a question from Mr. Miller, Mr. Labouchere stated that, as compared with other neighbouring estates, theirs was far ahead. Since Mr. Waddington had been in charge he had been making finer tea.

Mr. Rynhart expressed his disappointment at the result of the year's working.

In reply the Chairman stated that the Directors could neither control the markets nor the seasons, and as they (the Directors) held a large stake in the Company they felt the unsatisfactory results more than anyone. They had been manufacturing tea for other people in the neighbourhood, and were deriving a small income from this. The amount was shown in the report.

The report and accounts were then adopted.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Leslie, Mr. Labouchere was re-elected a Director.

The reappointment of the auditor was proposed by Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Miller, and unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then proposed a vote of thanks to the Manager and Staff in India, and remarked that the Managers had been able to produce a better class of tea, and he could not speak too highly of all that they had done.

The Resolution having been seconded by Mr. Miller was unanimously agreed to.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Leslie and seconded by Mr. Rynhart.

## THE TEA FACTORY OF THE FUTURE.

Mr. Claude A. Lowe writes in the *I. P. G.*—

The general idea of this article is to present, in an orderly and more or less comprehensive form, the probable future development of the modern tea estate and factory, showing, in some detail and parallel, the various difficulties and inconveniences of present day practice, and the methods likely to be evolved in the near future to override and abolish them.

It has already been pointed out in the editorial and correspondence columns of this journal, that such nostrums as a comprehensive reduction of output—even if all concerned were agreeable to join in the movement—would merely result finally in throwing wide the door to the gleeful competition of foreign teas from China, Java, and elsewhere; and even the more obviously practical endeavour to devote a large capital to opening out new markets, while meeting with opposition from some planters of exceptional experience and ability, gives no substantial guarantee to the planter that the price of his commodity will permanently rise to the old scale of high profits. Looking at the subject from the consumer's point of view, it will require no great imagination to suppose that the members of the great army of working classes in Great Britain, who have got accustomed to obtaining their weekly pound of tea for one price, will refuse to submit to a rise in the same; rather it will probably be found that the grocer who caters for them will be willing, as has happened before with other products, to sell the same quality of tea at the former price without profit for a time, in order to retain or increase their custom for general groceries.

Even from the planter's point of view, the position under existing circumstances would be no firmer in the long run, as, given an increased demand, who is to prevent companies or individuals who own undeveloped land, from extending their gardens? Certainly not the Tea Association, and it is not probable that Government will step in with a veto on the subject, and lay themselves open to the charge of fostering the China trade at our expense.



We thus come by a process of exhaustion to the old question of reduction of working costs, but even here, under existing conditions, a deadlock must soon be reached, as it cannot be doubted that many concerns which continue to pay good dividends, are accomplishing the same as the result of stringent economies, many of which they will be unable to maintain without ultimately bringing about either directly or indirectly a deterioration in the asset value of their estates.

That stress of circumstances has brought about a series of permanent and practical economies is undeniable, and that these same economies have been most immediately beneficial where practised on large concerns combining several estates under one supreme local authority, is equally evident to the seeing observer; it is therefore highly probable that the greater the concentration on a central local office under a really capable Superintendent, the higher will be the economic efficiency attained.

From this point to the Tea Trust or Combine is but a step, and now that we are hearing and reading so much about Trusts and Combines in every branch of commerce, it can hardly be doubted that, sooner or later, the eyes of the monied world, roaming around in search of new outlets for idle capital in bulk, will alight on the confusion of conflicting interests and antiquated farming procedure of the vast tea districts, struggling or sleeping under the protecting arm of the British Raj.

That really serious opposition could be maintained in the face of a movement to acquire whole provinces\* in the tea districts is questionable, when we look at the backing off and wrangling that takes place every time the Association calls for combined action on any subject; indeed the mere attempt to fight a really formidable corporation would in itself be suicidal, as one of the first logical effects of consolidation under enormous capital would be the local abolition of the Planters' Association as at present constituted, and therefore any isolated estate would be entirely at the mercy of a conscienceless and invisible power.

[\* It is probable that no attempt at consolidation which did not aim at acquiring at least the whole of such a province as Cachar, Sylhet, Darjeeling or the Dooars would be effective, as it would be a *sine qua non* that the means of communication should be under the Company's control. —C. A. L.]

Even without this huge and wholesale combination, the near future must show a modification of the principle in self-defence, and combine at least whole districts under their own respective centres, in order to produce a certain uniformity of method, and reduce the number of individual units to a comprehensive whole.

Let us enquire now why even on adjoining gardens under one ownership, one so frequently finds factories set up within a couple of miles of one another. It appears when all the *pros* and *cons* are sifted, that the real difficulty resolves itself into a question of locomotion. Because leaf packed into large baskets and carted in a slow bullock gharry or on coolies' backs, heats and turns red on arrival or soon after, therefore another factory must be built and a special staff and plant of machinery must be maintained. There are as secondary reasons, the difficulty of managing the withering, and the size of the plant required to deal with what is considered to be an unwieldy quantity of leaf, both of which may be summed up under the head of want of courage and enterprise on the part of those concerned.

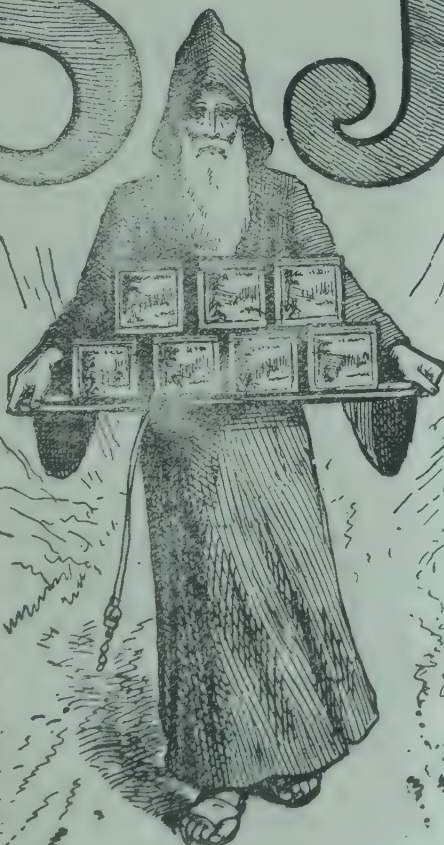
We will now, however, proceed to consider these objections in detail, and find how they can be overcome in a combination of estates under one ownership working towards a central factory from a radius of eight or ten miles in every direction.

The question of the actual working of the land is not likely to change very considerably. It is possible that machinery may to a modified extent be used for cultivation, but actual plucking must, for obvious reasons, be always carried out by hand, the only likely change is that the estates will be re-divided into lots of about five hundred acres, and each placed in charge of one European who will be responsible under the Chief Superintendent for cultivation and quality of leaf alone, having nothing whatever to do with the sale or manufacture. We will, therefore, take the factory of the future and consider, as first in order, the question of transport.

#### TRANSPORT.

The two methods of rapid transit available for use on tea lands at present, are the narrow gauge railway, and the wire rope tramway; but seeing that in the majority of cases the ground in the vicinity of tea estates is cut up by nullahs and jhoras, and in some districts is actually mountainous, the railway system would be not only cumbersome, but prohibitive in first cost. There remains,

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacobs Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



however, the wire rope tramway, which is able to make a bee-line for any desired point, irrespective of the contour of the land over which it has to pass. This latter is worked on various systems at the present day, chief among which are (1st) that in which the carrying rope is also itself a traveller; (2nd) the carrying rope is a fixture, and the trolleys hanging therefrom on running wheels are hauled by a lighter endless rope passing round a pulley at the end station and so back to the winding engine, and (3rd) that in which the trucks carry their own electric motor, or are hauled as trailers by a single motor, collecting its current from a fixed wire or pair of wires as it travels along. The second system, known as the "Bleichert" system has at present the greatest vogue, and there are hundreds of miles in working order in various parts of the world to-day, but I am inclined to think that where power is cheap, the third system of electric traction will be the system of the near future.

The motive power for this and all the other factory machinery will be generated on one or two of the rivers or large streams which, more often than not, are running to waste near every tea district, for want of sufficient profitable work to justify the expenditure of the necessary capital to exploit them.

Having got our wire rope tramway laid to the centre of each sub-garden, or a convenient point therein, the signal will be given from the factory as convenient, to call in the labour; the leaf being weighed will be emptied into a travelling belt, which will convey it into a small chamber, where it will be chilled to just a low enough temperature to prevent any possibility of heating within the next twenty minutes or so. In the same chamber, it will be fed into tipping cages, divided horizontally into compartments not deeper than six inches each, so that when the trolley is turned upright, the leaf at the bottom cannot be crushed by that above. All the trolleys being thus filled with cool leaf, the train will be pushed out into the open way, and set going at a high speed direct to the factory. Here it will be received, not as often now, on a muddy floor, but into the topmost loft direct, and the carriages detached from their motor, will be run off here and there by the attendant boys, and tipped down the various shutes in obedience to the requirements and orders of the European Superintendent in charge of the automatic leaf spreaders. Having thus got our leaf into the centre of the web, let us before going into further details of its treatment, consider the general construction of the factory itself.

#### THE FACTORY.

The factory of the future will, of necessity, be a very different concern to the present day two or three storey affair, with, as often as not, wide spreading closed verandahs, especially designed to catch the sunshine on their iron roofs, and heat up the very rooms which it is most desirable to keep cool; small withering lofts which render extra outside withering houses absolutely necessary, and from which latter, in wet and cold weather, the leaf has to be gathered up, doubly handled, and brought into the factory loft under the influence of the fans to get it withered at all.

The new factory will make allowance for the maximum of leaf within its own compass, or, at any rate, arrange for storing it harmlessly till there is room for it on the withering machines; it will scarcely be less than sixty to sixty-five feet high to the eaves, allowing in each bay for 15 feet for the ground floor, and two withering lofts or rooms of at least twenty feet high each, and a receiving loft, though this latter may easily be accommodated in the depth of the roof.

The factory *in toto* will consist of four, five or more bays, converging radially into a central house, in which will be situated the fans and air shaft in use for the whole of the withering apparatus, and for general punkah work and ventilation. The building itself, from floor to ridge, will be constructed of iron and steel throughout, the withering loft, floors, and walls being further lined with some non-conducting and combustible material, such as *papier maché*, manufactured by the Company in India from local timber, and intermixed with grain mica recovered from the local river beds, or with crude asbestos fibre: the whole being coated with some one of the so-called "Abestos" paints, even now coming to the front as fire-protectors.

The several bays will probably not exceed sixty to sixty-five feet in width, and will each contain, as aforesaid, two withering rooms twenty feet in height running their entire length, and fitted with the necessary withering apparatus, hereafter to be described, with its feeding, discharging, and ventilating gear complete.

The lower floors will, in all cases, be devoted to the manufacture of tea, and the various accessories of the trade, store rooms, and other heavy work. The rolling and drying departments would probably occupy a whole floor each, fermenting another, and box-making in all its branches a fourth. Space would also be found in the building for a repair shop fitted with all the necessary machine tools, and also wood working machinery, and paper-moulders and presses to reduce the cost of outside building operations in those parts where, at present, expensive Chinamen are employed.

Such being the general outlines of the building, we will turn our attention in another chapter to a tentative forecast of the machinery likely to be employed therein.

(To be continued.)

#### JUDGE SLOWLY.

It is not always an easy matter to judge correctly of the quality of things. Less than one in a thousand of us is capable of accurately estimating the worth of a picture; not more than one in a hundred the quality of a horse. In general, judgments rapidly made are of small value. "Did you ever notice," recently inquired a visitor to an English University town of his companion, as they sat together on a verandah, "that queer-looking old fellow with the idiotic face, turned-up coat collar, and boots seven sizes too large, who passes here every morning at eleven?" "Many a time," replied the other, "He is Professor of Comparative Grammar to the University of —, and speaks fourteen modern languages, to say nothing of his mastery of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew." The incident will serve to show the futility of superficial judgment. Many judgments which pass unchallenged are none the less deplorably wrong, more especially in matters which require a practical test. Who can say positively whether a certain medicine has the power to cure some particular malady or not without giving it a trial?

When the friend of Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick of 66, Forbes Street, Woolloomooloo, Sydney, N.S.W., advised him to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup for the cure of indigestion, he backed his advice with some excellent reasons—excellent because his judgment of that remedy was based upon actual experience of its merit. Says Mr. Fitzpatrick in a letter written on the 20th June, 1902: "For many years I suffered terribly from indigestion and biliousness, and spent pounds and pounds on doctors' medicines and so-called cures; but without avail. In those days I had no appetite, and the little food I ate turned sour on my stomach, causing severe attacks of heartburn. I was also troubled with pains in the chest, violent headaches, and habitual constipation. In fact, at one time or other I suffered from most of the symptoms which characterise a sluggish liver and impaired digestion. My worst affliction, however, was a total inability to obtain sufficient sleep. I would go to bed feeling worn-out and sleepy, but as soon as my head touched the pillow my brain would become unnaturally active, and I would think of every kind of subject, and roll and toss about between the sheets, listening to the Fish Market Clock as it chimed hour after hour, until all my nerves were in a quiver. Then I would rise and walk the floor, backwards and forwards, the greater portion of the night. For years I had been in this wretched state when one day a friend fortunately called to see me. I was trying the hot-water cure at the time, and was just in the act of drinking a cupful of steaming liquid. He asked me what I was taking it for. I described my troubles to him, and in reply to a further question informed him that I had not, so far, gained any relief from the hot-water treatment. He advised me to abandon it and try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup instead. He gave me such excellent reasons for doing so that I accepted his advice—advice which, I am thankful to say, has had the very best results. After taking only one small bottle I felt very much better. As I continued to take the Syrup, so did I continue to improve in health, and in less than two months my cure was accomplished. That was three years ago, and I have remained in good health ever since, which proves conclusively that it is not mere passing relief that Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup affords to sufferers from indigestion, but permanent cure. Now I am careful never to be without a bottle of the Syrup on hand, as I take a dose occasionally to counteract the ill effects of my sedentary occupation—for I am a bootmaker by trade—and for this purpose I find it acts like a charm."



MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of December 19th, 1902.]  
COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—There has been no improvement in the tone of this market during the week, and the moderate supplies at auction were only partly disposed of. There was very little demand for Coorg, which was chiefly withdrawn, but Naidoobatum was quitted at lower prices. Some new crop colory Costa Rica met with fair competition, and prices were steady. The prices accepted for Santos mark a further 1s per cwt. decline. The public market closes to-day for the X'mas holidays, and will re-open on Tuesday, 6th January, 1903.

Brazil "futures" have been dull, and closing rates show a decline for the week; owing principally to ample receipts and heavy American liquidations; yesterday 3d of the decline was recovered, business being done in Santos for March delivery at 27s 4½d to 27s 6d, May at 28s to 28s 3d, July at 28s 9d, September at 29s 1½d, and December at 29s 9d per cwt.

London	...	Santos	...	March delivery	...	27s 6d.
New York	...	No. 7 Rio	...	"	...	4.80 cents
Hamburg	...	Santos	...	"	...	28 pf.
Havre	...	Santos	...	"	...	33½ francs.

To-day's auctions comprised 30 cases East India, 18 barrels 7 bags Jamaica, 309 bags Nyassaland, 112 bags Costa Rica, 75 bags Coban, 757 bags Vera Paz, 364 bags New Granada, 307 bags Ecuador, 22 bags Nicaragua, 216 bags Guatemala, 500 bags Bahia, and 250 bags Santos. The auctions went off at steady prices for all good samples, but common qualities moved off slowly; Vera Paz 6d to 1s per cwt. lower.

Brazil futures opened steadily, and improved on Bear covering and buying orders.

Transactions include:—March at 27s 6d to 27s 7½d, May at 28s 1½d to 28s 3d, July at 28s 7½d to 28s 9d, September at 29s 1½d to 29s 3d.

Closing quotations:—	Sellers.	Buyers.
March	27/7½	27/4½
May	28/3	28/1½
July	28/10½	28/7½
September	29/4½	29/1½

Brazil receipts 42,000 bags, against 36,000 and 30,000 the two previous years, and Exchange ½ lower at 11½.

Hamburg unchanged. Havre ¼ up on the day. New York opens unchanged to 5 lower.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.
West India	398	354	1281	807
Ceylon	170	127	354	345
East India	1,886	1,979	4,480	10,379
Mocha	591	323	1,213	819
Brazil	15,517	4,969	15,166	6,906
Other Foreign	6,339	4,192	21,348	25,591
Tons	24,901	11,944	43,842	44,847

	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.
West India	340	204	882	686
Ceylon	139	173	159	218
East India	3,030	3,724	1,522	5,410
Mocha	882	806	53	82
Brazil	2,560	3,298	2,228	3,080
Other Foreign	9,122	11,025	9,584	18,733
Tons	16,073	19,230	14,428	28,209

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports a decrease this year of	...	1,005
Home Consumption a decrease of	...	3,157
Export a decrease of	...	13,781
Stock an increase of	...	12,957

Auctions this week have passed off as under:—

EAST INDIA.—Of 912 bags offered 300 bags sold—Coorg, low

middling greyish 47s, common bold 53s 6d to 55s, peaberry 50s 6d to 56s. Naidoobatum, low middling greyish 47s 6d to 52s.

MOCHA.—38 bal-s bought in.

JAMAICA.—Of 63 barrels 5 bags offered a small part sold—good ordinary palish 36s, middling greyish 51s.

NEW HEBRIDES.—97 bags partly sold at 35s for smalls and 58s for peaberry.

COSTA RICA.—Of 675 bags new crop catalogue 500 bags sold—smalls 38s to 48s 6d, low middling to middling 49s 6d to 59s, good middling blue 62s, bold 65s to 78s 6d, fine blue bold 84s, peaberry 57s to 68s.

GUATEMALA.—Of 324 bags offered 200 bags sold—smalls 38s 6d, low middling 48s 6d, bold 56s, peaberry 55s.

VERA PAZ.—13 bags sold—common bold 45s

SALVADOR.—228 bags new crop partly sold—low middling to middling 47s 6d to 53s.

COLOMBIAN.—289 bags sold, sea-damaged, smalls 33s 6d, medium 45s, bold 53s 6d, peaberry 46s; country-damaged:—smalls 31s to 35s, fine ordinary to low middling 41s 6d to 46s 6d, bold 47s 6d to 54s 6d, peaberry 41s to 46s

NICARAGUA.—81 bags country-damaged partly sold, peaberry at 34s.

MEXICAN.—209 bags withdrawn.

BRAZIL.—Of 1,560 bags washed Duymont Santos 800 bags sold, smalls 31s to 33s 6d, medium 33s to 35s, bold 37s to 51s 6d, peaberry 33s to 49s. 1,004 bags unwashed quay terms, 650 bags sold, medium to bold bright greenish 32s 6d to 39s 6d, peaberry 31s to 37s. 250 bags Santos were bought in

Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags	Bags.
Rio	2,435,000	3,446,000	1,580,000	2,046,000
Santos	5,371,000	6,738,000	5,195,000	4,444,000
Total	7,806,000	10,184,000	6,775,000	6,490,000
Crop	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11½d, previous day 11½d.

HAVRE, December 18.—Good average Santos December opened quiet at 33½f. and closed quiet at 33½f., March opened at 33½f. and closed at 33½f., May opened at 34½f. and closed at 34½f., July opened at 34½f. and closed at 34½f., September opened at 35½f. and closed at 35½f.

HAMBURG, December 18.—Good average Santos December opened quiet at 27½pf. and closed quiet at 27½pf., March opened at 28pf. and closed at 28pf., May opened at 28½pf. and closed at 28½pf., July opened at 28½pf., and closed at 28½pf., September opened at 29½pf. and closed at 29½pf.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.
Dec. 17	4.50	4.50	4.60	4.75	4.85
Dec. 18	4.50	4.55	4.65	4.80	4.90

TEA.

INDIAN.—Auctions were larger, viz., 33,400 packages, compared with 23,300 in the week before, while for the corresponding period of last year they totalled 42,500.

There was a good demand, and prices generally favoured sellers, especially for useful common and fine descriptions. Only a few lines of the more undesirable leaf grades are now to be had under 5½d per lb.

Notwithstanding the rise below, buyers are operating freely at an advance, in the better qualities of Assam and Dooars growth, no doubt influenced by the knowledge that by far the greater proportion of the shortage is in those districts. Autumn kinds are likely to meet with a good reception; that class was practically non-existent last year, and the quantity thus will be lessened by the large purchases, which we understand are being made in Calcutta for shipment to Russia.

Until the higher range of values has become more thoroughly established throughout the country than has yet been possible, owing to the somewhat sudden and smart advance from the former unduly low level, it is of high importance that sellers should feed the market judiciously, especially during January, when, as usual, the quantity available will be comparatively large.



For 27,800 packages on estate account 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d was realised, against 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for 36,000 and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for 38,800 in the two foregoing seasons.

CEYLON.—Public sales embraced 18,500 packages, whereas on the 9th instant they reached 16,500 packages. Twelve months since 19,800 were submitted.

Bidding was brisk, especially for common to medium sorts, both leafy and broken, which were taken up freely, if anything in favour of sellers. Fine and finest sold without much change, though the inquiry for them was not so strong as for the lower grades.

The average is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. On the 11th instant it was a little over 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d in 1901.

Offered in December, 1902, 52,000 packages (average 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.); 1901, 69,600 packages (average 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.); 1900, 73,500 packages (average 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.).

From January 1 to 31st instant the result for 1,144,900 packages is 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. opposed to 7d per lb. for 1,188,500 packages and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. for 1,263,200 packages in the two former years.

JAVA.—About 760 packages passed the hammer at fully previous rates.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From December 1 to 16, 1902	...	11,906,596 lbs.
Do. do. 1901	...	11,729,794 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India	25,199	8,165	33,364
Ceylon	15,763	2,710	18,473
Java	763	...	763

Total	41,725	10,875	52,600
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Also 1,621 packages from second hands.

#### COCOA.

The easy tone in prices continues, and at the auctions on Tuesday, when 3,773 bags were catalogued and about 1,100 bags sold, buyers again had the advantage to the extent of 6d to 1s per cwt. Trinidad was very quiet, and only 300 bags sold out of the 1,266 bags brought forward, at 61s to 62s for good quality—a decline of quite 1s. Of 65 bags Grenada only a lot or two sold at 56s to 57s. 160 bags Dominica rather more than half sold at easier prices—54s to 57s per cwt. Of 45 bags Costa Rica one lot realised 55s, the remainder being bought in. 68 bags Jamaica and 178 bags Jeremie were withdrawn. Of 748 bags Guayaquil 100 bags were placed at 63s to 63s 6d for greyish Caraquez, being about steady. 50 bags good bright Costa Rica realised 58s to 58s 6d. Of 1,193 bags Ceylon offered 520 bags found buyers at 76s 6d for fine bold and medium red, 56s 6d for ordinary to fair ditto, 47s 6d to 56s for fair to good small, and 52s to 54s per cwt. for collected, being about 1s down.

Privately sales include 600 bags Trinidad at 67s for fine, and 58s to 64s for middling to good; 100 bags Grenada at 57s to 60s

for fair to good; 40 bags African at 60s; 50 bags Jeremie at 50s; 100 bags Puerto Cabello at 72s 6d up to 110s; a little fine Caraquez Guayaquil at 70s, and some medium estate Ceylon at 56s up to 66s per cwt.

#### PEPPER.

BLACK—is dearer in all positions. On the spot fair Singapore has been sold at 6d, with further buyers at this but no sellers, and to arrive 75 tons have changed hands for arrival January-March (s.) at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, but closing sellers at this.

At auction on Wednesday 100 bags Aleppy retired at 6d per lb., with 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d refused.

The shipments of Black Pepper for the first half of December compare as follows:—

	1902.	1901.
U. K.—Singapore	nil } nil	nil } nil
" Penang	nil	nil
Continent	200	90
U. S.	120	130
Total tons	320	220

WHITE—Penang at auction was cheaper, but subsequently firmed up, and Singapore shows no change from last week; the former description sold privately at 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for fair, and Singapore at 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. For arrival prices are rather higher—Singapore near at hand 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, January-March (s.) at 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, and Penang January-March (s.) at 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.; 50 tons done.

At public sale on the 17th instant 205 bags Singapore passed the hammer unsold at 10d to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 62 bags Penang realised 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for fully fair limed, and 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ d for a single lot of brown; of 13 bags Ceylon 4 bags sold—shirvelled 6d, shrivelled siftings 3d, good heavy brown and white 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ d per lb.

The shipments of White Pepper for the first half of December compare as follows:—

	1902.	1901.
U. K.—Singapore	60 } 100	80 } 110
" Penang	40	30
Continent	30	30
U. S.	nil	30
Total tons	130	170

#### GINGER.

COCHIN.—A further decline in the value of rough has to be recorded, but at the drop there is more inclination to buy. 32 cases medium and small limed cut offered at auction were bought in at 65s, but 361 bags sold at 38s 6d to 39s for good small to bold bright brown washed Calicut, 32s for lean and wormy medium and small hard rough washed, and 31s to 31s 6d per cwt. for small lean and shrivelled dull rough (good D's).

JAMAICA.—75 barrels sold "without reserve" at about valuations—low middling to middling washed 37s 6d to 41s 6d, good common 37s per cwt.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

**GROSSE**

**&**

**BLACKWELL'S**

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The King.

**CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.**



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1903.

[No. 3.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 23rd instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Nilgiris.

KOTAGIRI, 14th January.—*Weather*—Very unsettled. Rain on 5th, 70 cents; and on 4th, 40 cents. Every day very cloudy and misty, though no rain has fallen during past week. Occasionally very cold at night. *Crops*—Rather below estimate on most places. From  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of crops have been picked, and picking has been light of late. Trees are disappointing in appearance, the excessive rain having done a lot of damage. *Labour*—Sufficient. *General health*—As bad as the weather! *Interesting item*—The total rainfall for the year ending 13th December, 1902, was 103 inches, the average being 65 only!

#### Munzerabad.

January 14th.—*Weather*—Everything to be desired, fine days and cold nights. *Crop*—Still gathering, many places are stripping. Estimates about correct. *Plant diseases*—A little leaf disease, a few trees dried after their heavy crop. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—The Kabuli traders are half at Kodlipett and half at Hassan, the theft case against them was dismissed, but the charge of assault on the local functionaries remains.

### THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR BILL.

WE propose to review at length the draft Labour Bill submitted for the consideration of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George. This task entails a certain amount of introductory remark. To planters who have followed the course of the discussion on the subject, the official and non-official discussion that has resulted in the evolution of the draft Bill referred to, much of what we propose to write will read like an oft-told tale; but our present

remarks are not intended for planters alone. We shall base them, primarily, on the Report of the South of India Planters' Enquiry Committee, issued in 1896; and then on certain objections to the present Bill that have been raised by representative planters and in the Press. The appointment of the above Committee originated in an address presented to H. E. the VICEROY by the U. P. A. S. I. in 1895, but that address was the result of a prolonged consideration of the disabilities under which planters in Southern India laboured because of the insufficiency or inefficiency of the law to protect them in their contracts for the employment of labour on their Estates. What they chiefly asked for in their address to the VICEROY was increased protection against "loss from wilful breach of contract and dishonesty with regard to advances made to coolies and maistries." It was admitted that the particular remedy they proposed was opposed to the whole spirit of modern legislation. The VICEROY retorted that the origin of most of the difficulties of the memorialists lay in a system of advances, as to the necessity for and desirability of which they themselves were by no means agreed. To prevent any possibility of misapprehension on this point we may state that the Committee subsequently appointed found that "the system of advances is at once the backbone of the planting industry and the cause of the principal difficulties attending it." They found that "the chronic impecuniosity of the cooly is a matter directly connected with the system of advances." After a most careful investigation they wrote:—"The necessity of advances for imported labour is practically affirmed by the whole mass of official and non-official evidence, *which treats of the subject apart from the planting industry.*" (The italics are ours.) The Committee found that "however much planters would be benefited by the abolition of the advance system, its abolition is impossible under existing circumstances." And, in direct contradiction of the viceregal utterance referred to above, the Committee said:—"we find that there is a practical consensus of opinion among the planters themselves and that their opinion is corroborated by the testimony of other employers of labour. . . . We find that they" (planters) "are now practically agreed as to its necessity" (the necessity of the system of advances) . . . . "We are unable, therefore, to ascertain that any planter has put forward, in any official or public document, the opinion that advances can be entirely dispensed with; and there is nothing on record before us to



controvert the evidence which has now been accumulated, that advances are absolutely necessary for imported labour." A brief summary of the above may be given in these words:

Advances on the part of the planter are a necessity where imported labour is concerned.

This means a finding absolutely in favour of planters' contentions as to the second of the issues (as regards the system of advances to garden coolies and "maistries" submitted to the Committee of Enquiry by the Government of India. These issues were as follows:—

- (a) the nature of the system as at present worked;
- (b) the necessity for its continuance;
- (c) the difficulties experienced in its operation; and
- (d) the best methods of removing them.

In regard to the second issue, at least, conditions have not changed since 1895-96. Advances are as necessary now as they were then in regard to the engagement of imported labour in the planting districts.

The Committee decided that "the demand for labour is in excess of the supply and that the disproportion is likely to grow greater, not to diminish. They considered "from every point of view" that "maistries are indispensable" and that the employment of the maistry "is also necessary in the interests of the cooly." Having stated these important conclusions, we turn to the Committee's remarks on

#### THE LAW IN 1896

relating to the migration of labour and the enforcement of Labour Contracts in Southern India. The summary runs thus:—

The examination we have now made of the law provided for the enforcement of labour contracts in the several planting districts included in the scope of our enquiry shows—

(1) that if Madras Act V of 1866 had ever been enforced, planters in Coorg and in Mysore, Travancore and Cochin could have proceeded in certain Courts of the Madras Presidency against labourers belonging to the Madras Presidency, although planters in the Madras Presidency could not have availed themselves of this remedy;

(2) that planters in the Madras Presidency and Coorg can prosecute defaulting labourers in British Courts under section 492, Indian Penal Code, that they have hitherto been at liberty to institute similar prosecutions under the same section in Mysore Courts, that they can enforce the provisions of Act XIII of 1859 in British Courts, and that they are able to demand the extradition from Mysore of persons accused under this Act, although they do not possess this privilege with regard to Travancore and Cochin;

(3) that Travancore planters and Cochin planters can prosecute defaulting labourers in the Travancore and Cochin Courts, respectively, under the provision of law corresponding in each State to section 492, Indian Penal Code, and under the enactment in each State corresponding to Act XIII of 1859;

(4) that Mysore planters have until now been unable to resort to section 492, Indian Penal Code, inasmuch as it is applicable only to contracts to work at places within British India and that, therefore, although an amendment of section 492, Indian Penal Code, in Mysore is now contemplated, the only law giving them a remedy against breaches of contract is Act XIII of 1859; and

(5) that processes issued by the Courts in Mysore, Travancore and Cochin under Act XIII of 1859 have no force in British Territory, the consequences being that except as provided in Madras Act V of 1866, which has never been put into force with regard to plantations in Southern India, planters in the Native States have no remedy against defaulting labourers who refuse to leave, or escape into, British Territory.

It is of some importance to note that as long ago as 1877 Mr. LOGAN, Collector of Malabar, and various planters advocated the enlargement and amendment of Act XIII of 1859 "to meet the official requirements of the planting districts of Southern India." The Committee of Enquiry proposed a different course. They did not approve of a legislative limi-

tation of advances, but advocated "such measures as will prevent labourers from committing fraudulent or wilful breaches of contract with comparative impunity." They agreed with the arguments of planters as to that most important matter "specific performance of contracts" even after a defaulter has been punished. Perhaps the finding that comes next in importance was that relating to the need of provision against the seduction of labour. Act XIII of 1859 did not adequately meet the planters' case. Act V of 1866 was a dead letter, and could not be utilised in regard to the labour employed on plantations within the Madras Presidency. The Committee recommended:—

(1) That Madras Act V of 1866 should be amended so as to provide a suitable labour law for all planting districts in Southern India.

(2) That the question of declaring Act XIII of 1859 to be inapplicable to contracts for labour governed by the amended Act should be reserved for consideration.

(3) That the Native States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin should be invited to adopt the amended law.

(4) That the execution of the amended law should be made reciprocal between the Madras Presidency and Coorg on the one hand, and the Native States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin on the other, by a convention or mutual agreement.

(5) In default of a convention—

(a) that British Magistrates should be empowered to give effect to orders of certain Magistrates in Native States in respect of fraudulent breaches of contract under the amended law, or if there is no amendment under Act XIII of 1859, or preferably.

(b) that Magistrates in British India and in the Native States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin should be empowered by their respective Governments to deal with persons found within their jurisdiction who commit fraudulent breach of contract (as above explained) across the border.

(6) That in the event of either of the above suggestions 4 or 5 (b) being accepted, the Mysore State should no longer be exceptionally treated in respect of British processes in breach of contract cases.

It may be well to state for the information of our readers that Act XIII of 1859 was reprinted as an appendix to the U. P. A. S. I., Book of Proceedings, 1894; there also appeared therein a draft Bill prepared by Mr. GEO. ROMILLY, which indicates very clearly what planters wanted. In the 1897 book (which is, unfortunately, out of print) Act XIII of 1859 and Act V of 1866 were given. In the 1901 book there is the Draft Planters' Labour Bill from which the Bill now under consideration has been evolved. We propose now to touch briefly upon important points in the earlier draft as revised by the Government of India and by the U. P. A. S. I. and as finally modified in the present Bill. Upon our planting readers we would especially impress the fact that the framing of the present Bill has been greatly influenced by objections or representations of the Government of India, and that the Madras Government have not been left free to legislate according to their own convictions.

#### THE PROPOSED LAW.

It has been wisely decided that the Act shall only be extended to a particular area by special notification. Hence, planters who regard it as likely to prove inimical to their interests may concentrate their efforts on an attempt to induce Government *not* to extend it to their district.

Every alteration made in the definitions is an improvement. On one point we may comment: it is evident that the Act is not intended to apply to *all* labour contracts, for the term "Labour contract" has been so modified as to mean "a contract entered into in accordance with the provisions of this Act," etc.



The first serious alteration in the Act is found in

Section 3. From and after the date upon which this Act comes into force in any local area the provisions of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, shall cease to apply to any contract for work to be done within such local area between a planter and a maistry, or a planter and a labourer or a maistry and a labourer, whether such contract has been entered into before or after the date upon which this Act comes into force.

The Committee of Enquiry left over for consideration the point touched upon here, but the wording of their conclusion on the matter (No. 2 *supra*) conveys a totally different idea from this section No. 3. In fact, the extra breadth given to the planter by the modified definition of "labour contract"—a modification that has obviously been made with intent—is largely withdrawn by this section. Planters have never asked that Act XIII of 1859 should be taken away from them. Their original request for a revision of the law was based on the assertion that the Act was vague, loosely worded, and not sufficiently comprehensive. It was the Planters' Enquiry Committee, not the planters, who suggested that Act XIII should be set aside, and a new law passed on the foundation of Act V of 1866. From what we have said above, and still more from a close study of the Committee's report it will be seen that the Committee specially dealt with *imported labour*. The new section (3) would cut the ground from under the planters' feet with reference to local (not imported) labour, in regard to which he has hitherto enjoyed at least the partial protection afforded him by Act XIII of 1859. We have reason to believe that the Madras Government have strongly urged the retention of Act XIII of 1859: but it might be well if the Special Committee would inquire whether, in representations on this point, the Government of India have had clearly indicated to them the difference between *imported* and *local* labour. From the attitude taken up by that Government we are led to think that they do not understand the conditions of labour in the Southern district. It should be observed also that in a note on clause 3 the Madras Government state:

The object of this clause is to prevent the concurrent application of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, and the proposed labour law to contracts for work of any kind between employers and labourers as defined in the Bill. It is, however, intended that the power which planters have of resorting to the provisions of the Act of 1859 in their dealings with persons, artisans or others, who fall entirely outside the scope of the proposed law, should be preserved.

Unless the clause itself is made clearer this note will do little more than place before the judicial authorities a new conundrum: "When is a labourer not a labourer, but an artisan?" We would point out also that if the Bill is passed without modification, the effect will be to deprive all planters in districts to which it is made applicable of the protection of Act XIII of 1859 in respect to all contracts outstanding when the new Act comes into force. This, we venture to say, would involve glaring injustice.

Sections 20 and 21 have given rise to an idea that while, with certain restrictions, specific performance of contracts can be enforced against the labourer (*v. sec. 32*) it is not so with respect to the maistry. Section 29, however, appears to make the requisite provision as regards maistries' contracts.

What is most needed is a revision of the draft Bill with a view to providing for cases of short contracts for the performance of specific work (such as weeding, pruning, etc.), and for agreements with Local (as distinguished from Imported) Labour. The necessary additions made to meet these cases, we cannot but think that the Bill would supply practically all

that planters have been asking for. It has been asserted that conditions of labour have changed since the Enquiry Committee investigated the question. In some districts no doubt they have, but not in all. Are planters prepared to say that they have changed so much that a fresh investigation is necessary? If not, they should press only for such modifications in the present Bill as are essential for their protection: lest, by asking for too much, they should entirely lose the sympathy of the Government and either get no special protection at all or get protection hampered with far more stringent regulations regarding inspection and those are included in the Bill under reference. It is believed that Act XIII of 1859 will not under any circumstances be allowed to apply in districts to which the proposed Act is eventually applied. In reality, planters do not require that Act, though they certainly do need protective clauses in the present Bill to meet certain cases that, as we have pointed out, are not met by it in its present form, and that ought to be met, whether by the new Act or by some other means.

#### LONDON SALES, 1903.

**Coffee**—Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 6th instant.

**Cocoa**—Every Tuesday, from 6th instant.

**Tea**—Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**Spice**—Every Wednesday, from 7th instant.

**Cinnamon**—

23rd February

31st August

25th May

30th November

**Vanilla**—

28th January

6th May

26th August

25th February

5th June

23rd September

25th March

1st July

21st October

2nd December

**Cinchona**—

13th January

19th May

15th September

10th February

9th June

20th October

10th March

7th July

17th November

21st April

11th August

8th December

**India Rubber**—Alternate Fridays, from 9th instant.

#### AMSTERDAM SALES.

**Cinchona**—

22nd January

7th May

3rd September

26th February

18th June

8th October

2nd April

23rd July

12th November

17th December

#### COFFEE NOTES.

A project is being ventilated in the columns of *O Estado* of S. Paulo to reduce the supply of coffee by differential taxation by grades, and practical prohibition of exportation of coffees from No. 7 downwards, inclusive.

It is proposed to allow a bounty on all coffees shipped abroad superior to No. 7 New York type, payable part in money at the rate of 10% of the *pauta* or official valuation, and part in State 6 per cent. bonds until the price reaches 600 reis per kilo. when the payment in bonds would cease.



There are besides a number of other stipulations of a subsidiary character of no great importance.

The plan, no doubt, is ingenious and might be accepted, says the *Brazilian Review*, but for the little drawback that the sinews of war must be supplied by the planters themselves.

So long as there is some third party to be bled, no doubt bounties are very interesting but when they come out of our own pockets and planters are taxed to pay bounties to themselves they don't seem quite so enticing. In S. Paulo, outside of the revenue derived from coffee there is practically nothing at all, and even there planters are not quite so unsophisticated as to tax themselves just to allow government to teach them how to carry on their own business.

If, in spite of low prices, planters continue to send low grade coffees to market it is to be presumed that it pays them to do it.

It is believed that in the manner proposed, supplies would in S. Paulo be reduced 15 to 20 %; but unless other producing districts also co-operated, the rise of prices that would inevitably follow would stimulate production and export to a degree that would in the long run counterbalance any temporary advantage.

The coffee industry, like every other, if left to itself will settle the conditions of production without any necessity of outside interference. Even at present prices profits are made on well managed estates.

\* \* \*

In the district of Ribeirão Preto, Sao Paulo, the Melgueira plantation valued at 180:000\$ has been sold at auction for 20:000\$000.

\* \* \*

Heavy rains are reported to have damaged the crops in the western part of the Sao Paulo State.

\* \* \*

A letter from Jahú to *O Estado* describes the prospects for the future crop in Sao Paulo as anything but lively. The berries are said to be nearly all falling off in consequence of injury done by the frost. One-third of the yield is believed to be lost.

\* \* \*

The *Bulletin de Correspondance* of Havre, states that "private telegrams from New York agree in attributing the improvement in prices to the proposed heavy taxation of new coffee trees at S. Paulo. Opinions as to the effects of the measure differ, some thinking that it will cause a rise in prices whilst others argue that there can be no immediate results, as new planting could only affect the volume of production several years hence. The measure, it is added will increase the value of existing plantations and prevent many from being abandoned."

\* \* \*

**Coffee Pests in Queensland.**—Professor Tryon, Entomologist to the Government of Queensland, reports that in 1902 he investigated the following, among many other, points of economic entomology, vegetable pathology, and field work:—

*Coffee.*—Millipede (Jam-Haplosomide) erroneously regarded as injurious, Daintree River, Scale insect (*Diaspis biclavus* Const.) Cairns.

*Coffee.*—Bark-canker, a constitutional disease, Daintree River. Professor Tryon refers to an inspection of coffee plantations in the Daintree River district, jointly with Mr. H. O. Newport,

the Instructor in Coffee Cultivation; and to the commencement of a preliminary inquiry into matters pertaining to the coffee plants, that had been the occasion of complaints on the part of the growers.

\* \* \*

**The Frost in Brazil.**—Messrs. Henry Nordlinger & Co., in a circular letter, call attention to the damage to the Brazil crop by frost as not likely to show itself until after the berries have set. They say: "The mild coffee crops, especially Central America's, are reported to be smaller than last year, particularly those of Guatemala and Mexico. These coffees—that is, about two-thirds of their respective crops—reach consuming markets, as a rule, during the months of January to June; and, if we add thereto the average December receipts, we may look for about 2,660,000 bags of coffee, exclusive of Rio and Santos, between now and the end of the crop year, or a total of 4,000,000 bags for the fiscal year. We certainly have exceptionally low prices now, and, while the distant future depends on the extent of the future production, the immediate future is more or less guided by the actual stocks in sight and the requirements of the trade; and, since these stocks will have to be cut into from now on, we adhere to our belief that a more healthy tone will prevail during the coming months."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of 17th ultimo reports: The market in coffee is very quiet and to many dealers has never seemed so dull heretofore. But the dullness is excusably the usual holiday apathy and as people have not stopped drinking coffee, buying must some day be resumed to refill empty coffee bins. When the grocer has disposed of his holiday staples he will bethink himself again of his coffee.

But the statistical position of coffee remains oppressively heavy, and there is no relief in sight, despite the cheering reports that coffee cherries are dropping from the trees as a result of weakness fostered by the recent frosts. So then the frosts' damages should amount to ravages, but it all remains to be seen. The 1902-3 crop promises to be fully a 12,000,000 bag affair and the 1903-4 one much larger.

In speculative circles there has been more active selling against purchases in Brazil, 35,000 Santos and Rio. Lewisohns have bought Decembers and Januaries and were supplied by W. H. Crossman & Bro.

\* \* \*

Total stock in United States December 1, 2,622,849 bags against 1,833,652 bags December 1, 1901. Brazil stock in the United States December 13, in store and afloat, 2,605,403 bags against 2,424,009 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 222,654 bags, against 275,440 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York December 13, 2,129,203. Stock in New York in other coffees December 8, 202,083, in San Francisco, 17,403 bags, and in New Orleans, 3,168 bags.

\* \* \*

Probably the reason for the failure of so many of the coffee trees at Thandaung and other parts of the Karen Hill was, says the *Rangoon Gazette*, the want of shade. Cultivators there seem to have cleared the whole sides of hills, and where there is no shade coffee will not flourish. That it grows successfully even on the plains has been proved over and over again to Burma. In Moulmein, in Chinese Gardens it is to be found generally protected by plantain trees, and a gentleman in Rangoon informs us he gathered last week over a viss



of berries from the Liberian coffee trees he had in his garden which were watered last hot weather for a couple of months and were shaded by plantain trees.

\* \* \*

Curious some one hasn't thought of getting all the Brazilian coffee-planters into a trust, in order to solve the coffee problem. Here's a task worthy of a Morgan.

\* \* \*

Coffee is divided into two general classes—"Rank" (which takes in Santos, Rio, Bahia, Victoria, and African), and "Mild." Don't confuse the words "Rank" and "Mild" with body and strength, for the mild coffee has much more of both; that is, a pound of mild coffee will make many more cups of good coffee than can be obtained from a pound of the Brazil kinds.—*Merchant Journal*, Topeka.

\* \* \*

Cable advices from Brazil to the U. S. last month stated that the buds were falling off the coffee trees. The following sentiment, written on a cable blank, was circulated on the New York Coffee Exchange as expressing the opinion of certain members on the reports emanating from Brazil from time to time on happenings to the coffee crop there:

"The coffee districts of São Paulo are infested with monkeys—they shake the trees so violently that the buds fall off."

\* \* \*

**Low Record for Coffee.**—The price for green Brazilian coffee on November 13 touched the lowest point ever quoted in the New York market. The price named by brokers on the street was  $5\frac{1}{16}$  for invoice lines. The lowest previous price was  $5\frac{1}{4}$ c. Arbuckle Bros. and the American Coffee Company have reduced the price for their package coffee one-half cent a pound to meet a like reduction recently in prices for green coffee. Arbuckle Bros. are now quoting a net price of  $8\frac{1}{2}$ c. for their Ariosa brand, and the American Coffee Company is quoting 8 cents for their Lion brand of coffee. A good demand is reported for these leading brands of package coffee.

\* \* \*

**Coffee Extract v. Coffee.**—Of samples of extracts condensed from three different blends of Coffee, *Tea*, *Coffee* and *Sugar* writes:—

It is our judgment, as well as that of those who assisted at the test, that the extract is the best ever shown in New York, but far from being a satisfactory substitute for coffee liquor brewed from the bean direct. We are speaking from the point of view of lovers of really good coffee and hence it does not follow that the extract Mr. Palmer has invented may not be acceptable to such as are indifferent to their coffee, and with whom price and celerity in the making of the drink are factors of importance. It seemed to us that while the extract produced a cup of coffee that would be described as coffee, it just fell short of disclosing those qualities that make coffee a delicious beverage to drink. To be more to the point, we were impressed that the liquor was a good coffee spoiled in the making—as if its fine qualities had been steamed away by over-boiling and leaving much caffeine. Some other things surprised us too. Two phials were marked "Mild" and bore the dates October 19 and 21. The extract produced a liquor black in colour, thick in density to syrupy, rather lacking in fine coffee aroma, and if chicory was not used in the preparation, that it was a constituent. But the strength of the article was amazing, and we wonder what a "strong" phial of similar dates would have been. Plenty of water was used, too—a large cup. Last was tried the phial marked October 1 and "strong." Unexpected results followed. Rather than a strong concoction, one was produced about half the strength of the aforesaid "milds" and much lighter in colour, proving itself in that respect nearer to ordinary coffee, but apart from these differences there was no change in the taste. It would appear that . . . coffee extract loses strength by ageing.

**Coffee its own Competitor.**—An American contemporary has something to say about over-production:—

Coffee is going through much the same experience that cane sugar has gone through, but the competition which has affected cane sugar is that of beet sugar, while coffee is its own competitor; the production has been enormously increased. It has outrun consumption, and it is not easy to see what the Pan-American Coffee Congress can do about it unless it can reduce production. \* \* \* The great expansion of production in Brazil has occurred since 1895. It was about that time that Consul-General Chittenden made a detailed report on the profits of coffee culture in Mexico, in the course of which he quoted Mr. Joseph Walsh of Philadelphia, a coffee grower, as saying that Mexican coffee cost to raise 7 cents, and was then worth 20 to 22 cents in the American market; the profits were anywhere from 100 to 300 per cent. Prof. Moses of California gave the cost at 8 to 10 cents, Mexican, and the selling price at 25 to 32 cents. J. P. Taylor of the City of Mexico, described as an expert on coffee, said that a low estimates showed a profit of 100 per cent. to the planter. It was about the same time that one of the largest, and one of the most profitable, coffee plantations in Brazil was sold to an English company which in two or three years was involved in heavy losses. At the third annual meeting of the Dumont Coffee Company in 1899 it was stated that for several years prior to 1896 the price of coffee had been more than double the cost of production, and the Dumont Coffee only fetched 62s a hundredweight, while Santos Coffee usually brought something like 78s. But in 1898-9 the Brazilian production was twice as great as it was in 1893-4.

Profits of 100 or 300 per cent. are abnormal. They appear to have lasted for some years in favored coffee regions, but they could not last always. The rate of profit was noised abroad and new men went into the business. The already existing plantations were extended. The production was pushed upward till Brazilian exports are now very much more than three times what they were in 1893-4, and not much less than three times what they were in 1895-6.

Until coffee is produced at a considerable loss the temptation is to extend the area as fast as the price goes down in an effort to make up for the low price by the quantity. Even a small loss has no influence in curtailing the production; the planter is in the business, and the more he has to sell the more money he hopes to get; it is of no use for him to reduce the area unless all do it. The presumption is that the production of coffee will increase till the price will do very little more than cover the cost of production, leaving a moderate profit on the investment, the value of the plantations being reduced to correspond with the diminished profits.

\* \* \*

**Philadelphia said to be Nervous.**—The coffee trade of Philadelphia is said to be considerably exercised over a movement of Boston and New York capitalists who are soon to erect a big plant at Pittsburg to roast and prepare the Nicaragua product. The establishment when completed will represent a value of \$2,000,000, and the concern has been incorporated under the laws of Maine. It will consolidate four big manufacturing companies having headquarters in Richmond, Ind. While Pittsburg will be the main roasting centre for the present, it is stated that a larger plant will be located in this city later on. The parties in control have 3,000 acres of coffee land, with plantations in Nicaragua and Matagalpa, with 420,000 mature coffee trees.

\* \* \*

The depression in coffee prices causes some of the speculators to resort to all sorts of arguments to show that coffee ought really to be a profitable article to buy at present prices. A member of the trade writes from New Orleans to the *Journal of Commerce* (New York) to point out the absurdity of supposing that the much greater quantity of coffee held to-day could be worth less in the aggregate than the supply of a year ago. Of course, multiplied by the lower price the difference is in favour of the smaller stock of a year ago, that stock being about \$9,400,000 more costly than the present one. The correspondent says: "While the present large supply of coffee might warrant lower prices per pound than last year, does it seem reasonable that the aggregate value of 13,200,000 bags should be less than that of 10,500,000 bags?"



## TEA NOTES.

**Tea Packets for Australia.**—A Kurunegala correspondent writes to the *Ceylon Observer*:—"A leading merchant of Wellington, N.Z., who has great experience, makes the following suggestion which I have much pleasure in communicating to you: 'This brings me to say that there is a grand opening in Australia for Ceylon tea packed in  $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. and 1-lb. packets, 5 and 10-lb. boxes, with original packages coming direct from Ceylon, instead of being repacked from bulk tea, as it is now done in Australia and New Zealand. There should be a large increasing business to be done.'—"But we are aware that there is a packet-business done from Colombo already with Australasia, and our correspondent should tell his New Zealand friend what a merchant says on the above:—"There is a fair lot of packet teas going from here to Australasia, but not so much as formerly, wholesale dealers in Australia preferring to make up their own blends there."

## Ceylon Green Tea in 1901-02:—

	1902. lbs.	1901. lbs.
January	152,873	252,582
February	139,124	116,592
March	170,050	105,644
April	284,137	70,614
May	299,671	24,438
June	368,536	108,017
July	411,262	163,967
August	267,635	177,079
September	370,785	112,244
October	407,151	205,137
November	393,290	117,275
December	649,548	136,411
Total	3,914,062	1,589,990
	Increase	2,324,072

**Tea in the U. S.**—In the tea market business proceeded in the even tenor of its way until about the middle of the week, says the *Merchants' Review* of 12th ultimo, when word came from Washington to the effect that all teas in warehouses, some 70,000,000 lbs., would have to pay duty next January. The effect was like the fall of a thunderbolt, and there was a good deal of telegraphing and telephoning going on, until finally Congressman Payne said that he had introduced a Bill in Congress to relieve tea in bond from payment of the duty. It is expected to become a law within a few days. Since the Washington news arrived, the business in tea has been light. Market is firm.

The *American Grocer* gives the following details:—On Monday the Treasury Department notified Collectors of Customs, and all persons who have made inquiry on the subject, that, in accordance with the decision rendered recently in the Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, in the case of Mosle and others *versus* Bidwell, tea withdrawn from bond after January 1, 1903, must pay duty at the rate of 10c. per pound. The Court held that warehoused goods on withdrawal for consumption are dutiable at the rate in force when the goods were warehoused. The Department's practice under the Customs Act has been to collect duty at the rate imposed by law when the goods are withdrawn. Congress has provided for the free admission of tea after December 31 next, and in the various warehouses of the country there is a very large amount of tea imported under

the impression that it could be warehoused and withdrawn free after December 31.

Secretary Shaw has written a letter to Chairman Payne, of the House Committee on Ways and Means, recommending a modification of the existing law, so as to allow the free withdrawal of tea from bonded warehouses for the purpose of consumption. The Secretary urges that this action be accomplished either by amendment of Section 20 of the Customs Administrative Act, or by a special Act allowing the free withdrawal of tea now in warehouse, as this is necessary to avoid great hardship to tea merchants.

The Department, Secretary Shaw says, must collect duty according to existing statute. He concludes: "Unless the law is modified, the tea probably will be exported, and much delay and litigation will ensue, for much of the tea has been sold to be delivered January 1, 1903, at a price ruinous to wholesale merchants if compelled to pay 10c. a pound duty."

The amount of tea in bonded warehouse on October 31, 1902, was 64,126,785 pounds.

*P.S.*—A Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives, on Tuesday, designed to overcome the difficulty.

**Ceylon Tea Distribution in 1901-2.**—The distribution table which we published for the mail on Wednesday showed that Russia has been our most encouraging tea customer (outside the United Kingdom) last year, taking 1,990,219 lbs. more than in the previous year. Australasia, on the other hand, took 1,919,414 lbs. less; but the increase of 3,031,296 lbs. in 1901 over 1900 was too much to continue and Australasia is still by far our best customer outside the United Kingdom. America shows an increase of 1,343,802 lbs. But it is a question how much of the 4,663,008 lbs. shipped to "China" should be credited to America; and how much ("dust" to make brick tea) to "Russia." The Continent of Europe—apart from Russia—took 1,206,140 lbs. in 1902 or 94,134 lbs. more than in 1901. Belgium and Sweden increased their demands most; France took less and Germany shows about 80,000 lbs., of an increase. Of other places "Africa" gives an increase of 258,548 lbs; Singapore of 70,603 lbs. while Malta and Mauritius have also been better customers. To make the matter clear, we put the comparison in tabular form:—

	1902.	1901.		lbs.
Russia	11,599,953 <sup>2</sup>	9,609,734	Inc.	1,990,219
Rest of Europe	1,206,140	1,112,006	Inc.	94,134
Australia	18,718,794	20,638,208	Dec.	1,919,414
America	5,048,137	3,704,335	Inc.	1,343,802
Africa	564,278	305,730	Inc.	258,548
China	4,663,008	2,682,334	Inc.	1,980,674
Singapore	218,163	147,560	Inc.	70,603
Mauritius	72,659	55,376	Inc.	17,283
Malta	333,636	312,633	Inc.	21,003
India	870,140	1,222,989	Dec.	252,849
Total	43,294,908	39,690,905	Inc.	3,604,003

—*Ceylon Observer.*

The *Times of Ceylon* understands that Mr. Kelway Bamber, who is arriving on the 18th instant, is bringing out with him the machinery necessary for the business of the Soluble Tea Company.

Following are statistics of tea importations at Chicago:—Imported during November, 1902, 2,143,899 lbs.; exported, 12,402 lbs.; withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, including



exports during November, 1902, 588,171 lbs.; remaining in warehouse November 30, 1902, 12,048,449, lbs.; remaining in warehouse October 31, 1902, 10,492,721 lbs.

\* \* \*

We call the notice of all planters to the following letter which has been circulated by the Committee of the Calcutta Tea Traders' Association:—

"Our attention has been drawn to the necessity for teas intended for the Canadian and American markets, being packed in strong chests in order to stand, without breakage, the handling to which they are subjected during transshipment."

"The interests of the Indian Tea Industry undoubtedly demand that every care should be taken to ensure that teas for above named markets should arrive in good order, and the Committee trust that all concerned will, as far as lies in their power, assist towards that end by paying special attention to the selection and packing of the chests."

\* \* \*

**The Tea Situation in the U. S.**—There is a pretty general feeling, says the *Merchants' Review* of 12th ultimo, that prices of tea must come down next month, although some members of the trade look for an advance after the duty has disappeared, basing their opinion on the generally firm attitude of producers. However, the statistical outlook is probably more favourable than it is to the interests of Eastern exporters to report, and it will probably be found that no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining sufficient supplies at reasonable prices for the remainder of the season after the warehouse stocks have been used up. But the latter are good for six months' consumption at least and perhaps seven or eight months' requirements. If there is any shortage it will be in green teas, which are in small supply here and in London.

The Ceylon planters are making a determined attempt to win a larger share of American trade by putting up a green variety specially made for this market.

A comparison of present prices with those of a year ago show that teas in this market are, with the exception of Congous, materially higher in value to-day. Japans duty paid sold a year ago at 24@37c. per lb., as compared with quotations of 18@30c. in bond to-day; Foochoos, fair to good, are about three cents higher; and Formosas, fair to good, are six cents higher. Congous are one cent cheaper for the lower grades.

It will thus be seen that there ought to be room for a strengthening movement in Congou teas, judging from the advance in other grades, but unless the comparative cheapness of Congous causes them to assume an especially attractive appearance in speculators' eyes after the turn of the year, they are not likely, from present appearances, to benefit much from the scarcity of other teas. They can be bought freely at former prices.

This week the members of the tea trade were thrown into a panic by news from Washington that warehoused tea would be taxed under the old law.

The Treasury Department had sent telegrams to the Collectors of Customs at all ports and to all persons who have made inquiry on the subject stating that in accordance with the decision rendered recently in the Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, in the case of Mosle and others *versus* Bidwell, tea withdrawn from bond after January 1, 1903, must pay duty at the rate of 10 cents per pound. The amount of tea in bonded warehouse on October 31, 1902, was 64,126,785 pounds. Other importations since that date, it is estimated, have increased that amount to approximately 70,000,000, the tax on which, if collected, would be \$7,000,000.

Secretary Shaw then wrote a letter to Chairman Payne of the House Committee on Ways and Means, recommending a modification of the existing law so as to allow the free withdrawal of tea from bonded warehouses for the purpose of consumption. The Secretary urged that this action, to be accomplished either by amendment of Section 20 of the Customs Administrative Act, or by a special Act allowing the free withdrawal of tea now in warehouse, was necessary to avoid great hardship to tea merchants. The letter called attention to a recent decision of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, which

held that warehoused goods on withdrawal for consumption are dutiable at the rate in force when the goods were warehoused. Congress has provided for the free admission of tea after December 31 next, and in the various warehouses of the country there is a very large amount of tea imported under the impression that it could be warehoused and withdrawn free after December 31. The department, Secretary Shaw said, must collect duty according to existing statute. Chairman Payne has accordingly introduced a Bill to allow free withdrawal of the teas.

*Later.*—The House has passed the Bill for the relief of the tea importers.

## NOTES.

### Java Cinchona.

The exports from Java for the first half of December were 780,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 500,000 last year, and 470,000 in 1900.

### Singapore Pepper.

It is reported that the Singapore pepper crop will be late, and that supplies which usually begin to come to market in January will be delayed a month to six weeks.

### A Diary and Blotter.

We have to thank Messrs. Davidson & Co. for a very handsome and useful Diary and Blotter, which contains a good deal of information of interest to planters, particularly in regard to the best manner of ordering spare or renewal parts for machines purchased from the Company.

### Dooars Tea.

A writer in the *Statesman* remarks:—The Dooars marks are beginning to show up very red and a slight falling away in flavour is noticeable in some of the invoices. On the other hand, a certain number of invoices clearly indicate earlier manufacture by the better flavour and style offered.

### Currency in India and China.

Sir Edward Sassoon predicts that unless China is assisted to place her chaotic monetary régime on a gold basis an inquiry into the currency of India will force itself, and that before long, and let us hope, before it is too late, on the attention of the Indian Government.

### Tea Output in Ceylon.

Over 650,000 lbs. green tea, which is a record monthly quantity for Ceylon, was made in December; the total for 1902, excluding a small amount which has not paid any bonus yet, was 3,914,062 lbs.; an increase on 1901 of 2,324,072 lbs. Some details are given in our Tea Notes.

### Rubber in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan treasury department has fixed an export duty upon second grade rubber—called there *cernambi*, and in the Amazon regions *sernamby*—at 15 centimos per kilogram. Valuing the *bolivar*, the monetary unit of the country, at 1 franc, the tax is equivalent to \$2.89½, gold, per 100 kilograms [220½ pounds]. This is in addition to state or local taxes.

### Tea for the Navy in Australia.

Tenders will be received by Mr. William Hogarth, Victualing Store Officer, Sydney, up to noon on the 3rd March, for the supply of such quantities of Indian or Ceylon Tea as may be required for the use of H. M. Naval service on the Australian Station, during the twelve months, commencing from 1st April, 1903.



**Calcutta Tea Sales.**

At the tea auction on the 9th instant 22,000 packages were offered and nearly all sold. The quality generally was good and there was brisk bidding for all grades. The prices were firm at previous rates. A large quantity was bought for outside markets, Russian and Australian buyers being the chief operators.

**Rubber's Heavy Burden.**

The *Centro Commercial* of Rio lately received the following telegram from the *Associação* of Manaus :—" 40,000 kilos. of Rubber have arrived from Bolivia *en route* for Pará, on which the following duties have been already paid : to Bolivia 12 % and the State of Matto Grosso 23 % : the Government of Amazonas exacts 23 % more, making the total up to 58 %, an incredible extortion that humiliates this country in the regard of civilized nations. In the name of Justice we beg for your intercession with the Federal Government."

**Sale of a Tea Estate.**

A writer in *Capital* remarks :—I observe that the Samanbagh Tea Garden was sold the other day for Rs.5,000, subject to the mortgages upon it and bought by the agents, Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co. The shareholders lose the whole of their capital, Rs.2,50,000. The Company has never paid a dividend, the area under tea was about 935 acres. At the last balance-sheet there was due to creditors Rs.3,32,000, which the sale of the liquid assets would probably reduce to Rs.2,85,000, and of this Rs.1,30,000 was secured by a mortgage on the tea gardens which stood at Rs.5,11,313 in the books.

**London Tea Market.**

The weekly special telegram from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium-liquoring pekoes and broken pekoes as well as for common pekoes and broken pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6¼d (the same as last report) and the average 7¾d (also the same as last report.) The average for the same period last year was 7½d. *Reuter* reports that common qualities of Ceylon tea command full rates. Fair Pekoes Souchongs are quoted at 5¾d (½d up) but the average for the week is 7¾d (same as last report). 26,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 24,000 disposed of ; while of the 35,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 30,000 were sold at an average of 7¾d. (½d up.)

**Living on Air.**

If the statements about the dietetic value of various articles of food, now in common use, are sustained, then mankind will be forced to live on air, or find some other way of maintaining life. Good wheat bread is declared indigestible; meats are abominable, and only a vegetarian diet permissible; common salt is a poison, and should never be used; the eating of pork is declared worthy the "censure of all Christendom," and so on through the list of eatables there is scarcely an article of food the use of which is not condemned by somebody, and often by such as profess to be teachers. One set declares that "drinking at meals is exceedingly detrimental to good digestion, and promotes manifold evils;" others advise a free use of liquids. Tea and coffee are by some pronounced injurious; milk is a fateful food, being a great carrier of disease germs.

**Britain and Brazil.**

The *Brazilian Review* writes :— Out of a total of 195 different articles exported by this country Great Britain imports 103. With the exception of coffee, of which Great Britain takes only 1 per cent.. Great Britain continues to receive the lion's share of our produce. The proportion of the value of exports of two staples that corresponds to Great Britain is as follows :—

Coffee	...	...	...	1.2 %
Pará Rubber	...	...	...	40.0 "

Including Coffee the Exports of merchandise to Great Britain represent only 12.8 %. Exclusive of Coffee Great Britain takes 30 % of all other merchandise exported to foreign countries. In regard to Coffee, of course, Great Britain is literally nowhere, coming only eighth or ninth in the list of consumers. In Rubber the chief competitor is the United States with 15,427 tons as against 11,610 for Great Britain, Germany only receiving 167 and France 1,925 tons directly in 1901.

**Rubber.**

The first notable attempt in the new world to cultivate any species of *Hevea* ("Pará" rubber) is being made in Ecuador by citizens of Minnesota, one of the most northern of the United States. Now that the feasibility of rubber culture has become impressed upon the minds of Americans, there seems to be no limit to their enterprise in this new field. Another venture mentioned in our pages this month is that of a New Englander introducing the native rubber of Ceará (Southern Brazil) into Nicaragua. These foreign locations, by the way, will not appear nearly so "far from home" as they might to the people of some other countries, for the reason that the average citizen of the United States becomes accustomed to long distances in getting established in business in his own country. If once a promise of profit in rubber appears, no mere consideration of distances will prevent the most from being made of it. Hence the people of the United States may yet be found first in the matter of systematizing the exploitation of South American rubber, both in conserving natural supplies and by increasing those supplies through planting.

**Coffee Seed.**

A correspondent writes us :— "In *Planting Opinion* for 3rd January 'Nursery' writes of Coffee Seed not being garbled, and the cut and malformed beans accounting a good deal for unhealthy seedlings. I must take exception to this, as the seed I supply is thoroughly garbled, every cut and bad bean being removed, having only the best flat and pea berries. If 'Nursery' and those who hitherto have been buying ungarbled Seed Coffee will apply to me for their seed, they will find that the seed supplied is good and free from the cut and malformed beans, and being from perfectly ripe coffee off of thoroughly healthy trees, they will find the plants very good. Last year I supplied a gentleman in Assam with a bushel of seed, and in asking him if he wished any more this year, he replied :—"The seed I got was only for experimental purposes, and it germinated so well, that I don't know what to do with all the plants, in fact, I think, every seed must have germinated." I shall be happy to supply any one with really good seed at Rs 25 per bushel on Estate or rails." We do not give the writer's name, but shall be happy to publish any advertisement that he may send in.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## THE PLANTERS' LABOUR BILL.

At first sight it would seem to be nothing less than extraordinary that, after years of agitation on the part of the Planters of Southern India for legislation to deal with their Labour, and after the researches of the Planters' Enquiry Commission, which was supposed to have unearthed all the difficulties of the question, such a storm of protests should have been raised against the new Bill from the Wynaad, Nilgiri, and Mysore Associations at the eleventh hour. The chief reason of this outburst has been caused by the change in clause 3, from what appeared in the draft of the Bill as was printed at the end of the U. P. A. S. I. proceedings for 1901, to the new clause as it now stands. This clause is the one relating the suspension of Act XIII of 1859 in such areas where the new Act comes into force.

The new Bill, as far as imported Labour is concerned, is in almost all respects an admirable one, and leaves little or nothing further to be desired. It protects the cooly from ill-treatment, insures his being well-housed and fairly treated in every way, and it protects the employer from fraudulent maistries and coolies, and from having his coolies "crimped" by others employers.

But in contracts for specified works, or with Local coolies, it is not only useless but absolutely harmful. As long as the Planter remained under the impression that Act XIII would still remain in force for such contracts, he was content to leave the new Bill to come on in due course and has been waiting patiently, trusting to get what he wanted in the long run. But now that he is threatened with a state that will be far worse than the first, it is by no means extraordinary that he has risen from his apathy at last.

At first sight the note on clause 3 at the end of the Bill would seem to solve the difficulty, but in so doing directly contradicts the definitions in the Bill itself. The note referred to states, "It is however intended that the power which planters have of resorting to the provisions of the Act XIII of 1859 in their dealings with persons, artizans or others, who fall entirely outside the scope of the proposed law, should be preserved." But according to clause 2 (c) every person who works for hire on an estate except a domestic servant is a labourer, and thus is subject to the new Act. Hence, when an artizan comes to work on an estate he ceases to be an artizan and becomes a Labourer, and therefore cannot be dealt with under the Act of 1859, and therefore the note on clause 3 is a delusion.

The new Bill throughout only deals with Labourers as contracting to work on an estate for daily hire, but does not allow for any contracts for definite works, such as are frequently made on the majority of estates in the Shevaroy, Wynaad, Nilgiri and Mysore Districts. In these contracts the labourer receives so much money according to the amount of the specified work he has completed, entirely irrespective of the number of days he has been working.

There is not a single clause in the new Bill which is applicable to such contracts, and apparently the Act of 1859 is to be closed against these too, so there will only be the Civil Court to fall back upon, and those who have tried it know only too well what a hopeless proceeding that is.

It is to be hoped that some substantial amendments will be added to the Bill before it is passed, for there is no doubt that if it is passed as it now stands the majority of planters will find themselves out of the frying-pan into the fire.

A PLANTER.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE CONGRESS.

## THE RESULTS.

The *Madras Mail* extracts the following from the Bulletin of the International Bureau of the American Republics, Washington:—The Coffee Congress, to which reference has been already made, closed its sessions in New York on the 31st October, by unanimously requesting the Government of Brazil to convene, as soon as possible, a second Congress of the same kind, to be attended, as delegates of the different Governments, by intelligent persons experienced in the coffee industry, in order that they might formulate and conclude the conventions or treaties referred to in the recommendations made by the commission, or those that may be subsequently suggested which shall be conducive to the best and most effective protection of this industry, it being understood that these delegates shall be authorised to sign said agreements. In the session of the 27th October, which was the 10th sitting, the Report of the Commission on distribution, which reads as follows, was submitted:—

"The Committee on distribution has studied attentively the reports made by the different delegations, but has not found in them, nor has there been furnished it in any other manner, any concrete proposition upon which it could base an opinion. Consequently it has proceeded to collect the general opinions upon this subject which have been presented in said reports, as well as those which have occurred to its members and those which it has obtained from other sources, and has the honour of submitting to the Conference the results of its investigations."

The subject of the distribution of coffee is so intimately connected with a number of the points already studied by some of the other Commissions that have rendered full reports thereon that this Commission believe it will only be necessary to consider some of the branches which the subject embraces, and with this object in view have devoted their attention to the following points:—

## SOURCE.

The advantages of every business that requires the highest ingenuity to effect its transactions counsel the greatest clearness and security possible respecting the source of origin of articles of commerce, and in such a manner as to eliminate the suspicion of deceit, which is always dangerous to the good repute of products of the best class.

## CLASSIFICATION.

In addition to the advisability of marking the origin of the coffee clearly on the sacks or packages, there follows the necessity of marking thereon, in an equally clear manner, the different grades shipped from the same place for the purpose of distinguishing the product in the markets of the world under its own name and by its different grades.

## SALES.

Among the suggestions prepared by a Commission at San José and submitted to the Conference by the delegation of Costa Rica is the following:—Private sales in the United States have great disadvantages which it will not be difficult to prove. Without any great mental effort one may arrive at the more important conclusions that make clear the value of the system of sales at public auction.

The views of the Commission not being unanimous upon this point, the Commission confined themselves to a submission of the question to the Conference.

## REPEAL OF THE ALCABALAS OR LOCAL TAXES.

A different question of reform is that relating to the system of *alcabalas* now in force in some of the countries, and the existence of which does not depend upon the growers, exporters, or dealers in coffee. The Commission are of the opinion that the abolition of the duties known as *alcabalas* or taxes on goods in transit between



different places in the same country or nation, such as are collected by the various States or by the different jurisdictions in the same State or Province, should be recommended.

#### PROPAGANDA.

A very important, if not an essential, requisite to the increase in the consumption of coffee, and therefore closely allied to its distribution, is that which relates to the propaganda, and with this understanding of the subject the Commission recommends that every step in the sense of increasing the number of consumers by the most appropriate means for that purpose in the countries where coffee is already known be made use of, and that new markets be opened where none now exist.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

Necessarily the question of the means of transportation is of the greatest importance. It goes without saying that this is an inherent principle in the possession of any product, since the acquisition of gold itself would profit one little if that rich metal had to remain confined in the place of its production.

#### PACKING OR SACKING.

An important requisite in this respect is the quality of the packing or sacking, since the shipments must be made by land and water and the covering or packing is to preserve the coffee from dampness and other atmospheric conditions that might injure it.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

With the foregoing as a basis, the Commission have the honour to submit to the Conference the following recommendations:—

The International American Coffee Commission recommend that the Governments of coffee-producing countries take the necessary steps, in conjunction with the other recommendations proposed to them by the Conference, for the accomplishment of the following ends:—

1. To secure severe punishment for the abuse of changing the sacks or the marks indicating the origin of the coffee imported into the consuming countries, or for the employment, in any other manner, of deceit for the purpose of unjustly raising the price of coffee of inferior grades to the prejudice of coffee of higher grades.

2. To secure also the assistance necessary for an effective propaganda in the sense of extending the use of coffee and of opening new markets for it.

3. To secure the abolition of the *alcabala* or any other local taxes that tend to prevent or delay the free movement of coffee.

4. To secure, by the means indicated, or by any other means that may be deemed proper or adequate, the sale of coffee, when it is so desired, at auction in those markets where this practice obtains.

For the home Governments the Commission propose the following:—

The International American Coffee Commission recommend to the Governments represented therein—

1. That they encourage and develop every possible means of transportation in their respective countries, and in the means of communication with other States, in order that they may promote the growth of International commerce as a means of increasing the consumption of coffee.

2. That they adopt regulations looking to the employment of better sacks or packing for the purpose of securing the conservation of the coffee without alteration.

3. That by means of these regulations the manner of classifying and marking each sack of coffee under the name of the country from which it comes be determined.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

In his address last month at the opening of the Legislative Council, the Governor of Ceylon referred to the new products to which the enterprise of Ceylon planters had of late been directed. The desire to avoid having all the eggs in one basket has led to the cultivation of products other than the staple, tea, and it is evident from the Governor's speech that the outlook is very hopeful. Para rubber has now taken its place as a recognised cultivation in Ceylon, with every prospect of becoming a large and profitable industry. The market price during the past year has been good. The trees introduced into Ceylon in 1876 by the Department of Agriculture are most vigorous, and have this year again produced a large crop of seed, some 250,000 of which have been distributed through the island for planting. New areas of tobacco have been planted both in the Northern Province and in the Dumbara Valley.

In the latter district a promising industry, conducted by Tamils, is growing up, and a distinct improvement in the quality of the cured leaf is to be recorded. Improved methods of cultivation and curing have been experimented on by private enterprise in the Northern Province, and the results of these experiments will be of use when the market value of the cured leaf is known. Camphor has been planted out in various upcountry estates, and in suitable climates will prove a useful additional cultivation to tea. Cacao has been producing very good crops, and where the rules for the extermination of canker, as published by the Department of Agriculture, have been carried out, the freedom from this dangerous fungus is most encouraging. The amount of crop harvested for the half-year is larger than any previous cacao crop.

The Cape Colony imported tea during 1901 to the value of £138,092, while the value of the tea imported into Natal was £37,401.

In a review of the cocoa trade the *Grocer* says: "This article is of yearly increasing importance, and each branch of the trade is continually making fresh strides towards a higher point of advancement than it had ever reached before. Apart from mere assertions, statistics prove that the quantities received and delivered in the United Kingdom are far ahead of those in previous years, and, confining the figures as taken from the official accounts to this year and last, it will be seen that the total importations of raw cocoa during the past eleven months have amounted to 53,009,256 lbs., against 49,406,166 lbs. in the same period of 1901. A corresponding improvement was observable in the duty-paid entries for home use, which were 42,619,394 lbs., in comparison with 39,833,326 lbs. last a year; and the quantity taken for exportation was also much heavier than in the first eleven months of 1901, being 12,253,700 lbs., instead of 10,710,189 lbs. As a result of these extra outgoings, the bonded stock in the U. K., as officially stated, was by the 30th ultimo reduced to 10,030,000 lbs., against 15,097,000 lbs. in the preceding year. As a defect which mars the completeness of the Board of Trade Returns it may be noticed here, in passing, that the compilers do not distinguish one description of cocoa from another, and keep colonial separate from foreign sorts. The latter mode, it is but fair to say, is that regularly adopted by the authorities at the Port of London, where the landings and clearances of the leading kinds of cocoa are kept totally distinct from each other. They are on that account doubly interesting to the importer, dealer, and exporter, who carefully note every new movement that shows itself in this article of commerce and manufacture. To follow out this plan we therefore give particulars of both colonial and foreign cocoa as they enter and leave London, from which it will be observed that of the two main growths the former forms the chief portion of what is landed and delivered from time to time as the season progresses. Thus, in the first fifty weeks of the present year, in comparison with those in 1901, the receipts and clearances of cocoa, as returned at this port, have been as annexed:—

	Landings.		Home Deliveries.		Exports.		Stocks, December 13.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Colonial pkgs.	102,450	87,850	72,700	72,550	30,600	20,500	22,700	24,900
Ceylon ...	35,350	32,750	25,850	12,200	17,600	10,400	6,600	14,400
Foreign ...	80,850	89,500	62,500	58,700	24,900	30,600	33,700	41,400
Totals...	218,650	210,100	161,050	143,450	73,100	61,500	63,000	80,700

"These totals confirm in a remarkable manner the general outlines of the Board of Trade Returns above alluded to where in most cases the amounts entered during 1902 exhibited appreciable increases over those in 1901. It is, consequently, no wonder that with an aggregate supply more than sufficient to satisfy all requirements (though leaving stocks materially lighter than in last December) prices of cocoa almost throughout the year have been materially below those in 1901. For instance, under the influence of a large crop of Trinidad cocoa now beginning to arrive, fine quality has latterly been sold at 65s. per cwt., whereas last year it was fetching over 70s. The same may be said of the Grenada description



which offers at 59s. to 62s., instead of at 63s. to 64s. in 1901, or 8s. per cwt. cheaper than the article was in 1900. African cocoa has, however, been little affected by the depression existing for colonial sorts, as its principal market is in Liverpool, where between 4,000 and 5,000 bags come in every week from St. Thomé, *via* Lisbon, and about 15,000 bags have already been sold, *sub rosa*, for arrival next February on terms equivalent to those for 'spot' parcels in London. Guayaquil, on the contrary, is an exception to the prevailing depreciation in values, and is actually shillings dearer than it was a year ago. Beyond this there are faint signs of improvement or better prices in the cocoa market, owing to the fact that supplies nearly everywhere are most abundant, and more than equal to the demands from consumers."

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co., in their weekly report on the coffee market, state that the speculative markets were easy in tone during the greater part of the week, Santos receipts having actually increased sensibly, refuting Messrs. Zerrenner, Bulow & Co.'s cable of last week stating that "Santos receipts are small and likely to continue so." As a matter of fact, last week's figures are larger than those of last year, but many think that this may be the final flicker before the actual falling off so long predicted. The size of the present Brazil crop is still a matter of doubt; certainly it is much smaller than its predecessor, the total receipts to date being 2,391,000 bags less than last year, but 1,040,000 bags more than in season 1900-1901, which eventually totalled 10,900,000 bags. The comparison with season 1899-1900 is not a fair one at present, because in that year there was a landslide on the Santos railroad involving a cessation of receipts for two days. But, despite this, the receipts to date are only 1,321,000 bags larger than in that season, which finally gave 8,971,000 bags. Messrs I. A. Rucker and Bencraft, in their circular, say that "at the moment of writing, December is worth 26s. 6d.; say 1s. 6d. above the lowest price ever known for good average Santos. Thus drought, frost, and an American syndicate combined, have just succeeded in keeping us above the lowest record. The year has been a bad one, all coffees having depreciated in value, mild coffees are heavily lower, and good average Santos is about 28 percent. lower, as compared with the quotation on January 1, 1902. As regards the future, the general view is pessimistic. This time last year, after a great boom, everybody was optimistic, and everybody was wrong. Now, after a heavy fall, everybody is the reverse, and everybody may easily be wrong again. Values are very low; drought and frost have so far done little for us in values; but they were facts, and may yet assert themselves. Receipts may run much smaller, and traders are poorly supplied. It would not take much to turn the current, and caution on the 'bear' side is only common-sense."

As is well known, the various South American States play a very important part in the production of produce of all kinds. Venezuela's chief industry is coffee planting, and its greatest exports are, in the order of importance named:—coffee, cocoa, hides and skins, timber, coprah and cotton. Bolivia is a wonderfully productive country, and it is difficult to imagine a tree, grain, fruit, or vegetable that could not be successfully grown. Bolivia grows barley, oats, wheat, beans, potatoes, maize, and all kinds of vegetables and fruits upon the uplands; and oranges, pine-apples, bananas, coffee, rice, cocoa, chocolate, vanilla, sugar-cane, manioc, and rubber in the forest-covered regions. There are others; as the quinoa, a grain indigenous to the mountain regions; the oca, a kind of potato; the cherimoya, or custard-apple; the tembe, a fruit of a species of palm; the guayava; the granadilla; the fruit of the passion-flower, and many more. Thus great areas of the country may be designated huge gardens, and there are millions of acres of the finest timber, watered by navigable rivers. British Honduras has not merely its mahogany and logwood to depend upon, but vanilla, cacao, rubber, sapodilla, and other valuable products, as well as useful woods of many sorts, are indigenous and abundant, and the soil in many large areas is peculiarly fertile and suitable for the growth of sugar-cane. Bananas, oranges, rice, and maize are only a few of the products which grow luxuriantly, but scarcely anything is done with them, and the bounteousness of nature has made existence so easy that the inhabitants have lived almost solely by cutting their mahogany. Even the natural forest produce remains ungathered. The vanilla grows so abundantly that the traveller when riding through the forest roads has often to clear away the vine of this valuable orchid with his machete

before he can pass. The cochune nut, which yields the finest table oil, grows in immense quantities, and is also entirely wasted.

Brick tea we know, but fruit packed in brick form is a novelty. In California they propose to pack fruit done up in oiled tissue paper, and of about the consistency of the confection known as "Turkish Delight." The fruit bricks are made by boiling down fruit pulp to the required consistency, and then pouring it into pans and allowing it to dry slowly for ten hours, after which it is cut into rectangular or disc-shaped bricks, and wrapped in oiled paper. The plan, it is added, is being adopted in California with satisfactory results. It is said that these fruit bricks will keep for years, although it is not clear how this can be known, seeing that the process is described as a new one. Probably gelatine is used to solidify the pulp, although no disclosure is made to this effect.

The *North China Daily News* recently published an article on the "Resurrection of China Tea," in which the writer referred to the blossom and decay of the China tea trade, and exhorted those interested to make some effort to save the industry from extinction by advertising. A letter is quoted from Mr. E. J. Moss, of Foochow, who also endeavours to awaken interest in the question of a revival of the tea trade of China by means of push and enterprise. Mr. Moss calls attention to some paragraphs which appeared in the *Home and Colonial Mail*, of July and August, in which it was mentioned that the China tea trade had already a good advertising medium in the form of the reports of the various Consuls at the treaty ports. This is so, and if Indian and Ceylon tea received such free advertisement, and its excellence were the theme of praise in various official documents, we do not doubt that such valuable testimonials would be turned to good account. Mr. Moss has, we believe, endeavoured to induce the Chambers of Commerce in each tea port of China to agree to a plan whereby a sub-Committee of members interested in the tea trade shall be elected with the view of collecting from the exporters, with the aid of the Commissioner of Customs, an advertisement fund. No doubt Mr. Moss thinks that if China tea is to compete with India and Ceylon, the former must take a hint from the methods of the latter.

—H. & C. Mail.

## TEA TRADE CHANGES.

### THE MODERN BLENDER.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*.)

The recent regrettable failure of an old and honourable City firm of tea merchants, who attributed their losses chiefly to the changing conditions of their business, has directed attention to the almost complete revolution that has taken place in the tea trade of late years. So far as the retail buyers are concerned, it has come about so silently and gently that they have fallen in with it, quite unconscious that any transformations were proceeding. They are vaguely aware that China tea has to all intents and purposes passed out of their grocer's shop, and they are learning that tea should be drunk when freshly made. Price remains their chief standard of comparison, and the average householder feels she has acted rightly when she orders a quantity at 2s. a pound for general use, and a smaller amount at 2s. 6d. for her weekly "At Home" day. But how it has come about that month after month she can rely upon having the same quality of tea, and the same "robust" or "soft" flavour, to cite the terms of the dealer's price list, she knows not, nor has she any idea of the skill and science which have ousted the rough and ready methods of by-gone days. The old-fashioned tea-caddy, with its divisions for black and green tea, which were mixed at the discretion of the lady of the house, seems as far from the elaborate machinery of scientific blending of to-day as the tallow candle from the electric light.

To understand the present conditions of a trade of such vast proportions and Imperial moment, it is necessary to go back to the early sixties, when the experiment of tea-growing was first made in India. China was then supplying the world, or, rather, such portions of it as consumed tea, and gentlemen of long experience in the trade can tell one that about 1868 the general quality of this tea was at its best, though 1879 saw the "record" of bulk ever furnished by the Celestial Empire. Meantime, it was steadily



deteriorating, however, and India was becoming a more and more formidable rival. Ceylon came into the lists, too, and by 1886 was sending in 6,000,000 lbs., and every year has made enormous strides. It is interesting to note, therefore, the relative proportions of the tea now drunk in this country by the figures of last year. Roundly, India furnished us with 148,000,000 lbs., Ceylon with 91,000,000 lbs., and China with 10,000,000 lbs. According to the latest available statistics, India has nearly 525,000 acres now under tea cultivation, and Ceylon 387,000 acres. Tea is a growth that is most easily affected by soil, height, the wetness or dryness of a season, and a score of other influences, and the products of certain estates are known to be superior to those of others. With the varying conditions of such a wide area, and tea, good, bad, and indifferent available, how is it that it reaches the consumer so unvarying in the standard of quality and flavour?

It is due entirely to the expert ability of the blender, and when new methods were introduced about 1888, the transforming change began. Previous to that the grocer, judging approximately the amount he would require, ordered a few chests of China and Assam tea of varying degrees of pungency or mildness, and according to his own judgment mixed any two or three of them, and gave them labels and designations as he thought most likely to commend them. He did not possess the super-cultivated palate essential to a tea-taster; his ideas of combinations were essentially primitive and restricted, and he quite failed to take into account that, say, the Orange Pekoe from Darjeeling, which had been so good a feature of "our strongly recommended" last year, might this season be a totally different tea on account of an abnormal season. Of course, his mixtures sometimes proved unsuccessful, but there was always uncertainty, and the fastidious people who were wont to say, "they could not drink grocer's tea" were in the habit of sending to one or other of the old-fashioned London houses, which made a speciality of high-priced and choice teas.

The pioneers of the change conceived the bold idea of supplying the grocers with ready blended tea, and bold and enterprising firms pushed forward the scheme with rapid success. They secured the assistance of tasters able to detect the subtlest gradations of flavour, and able to judge to a nicety the exact degree to which a full, rough Assam with its large percentage of theine should be tempered with the softer growth of Ceylon's uplands, and the fragrant dash of some scented variety. By means of constant experiment they mastered the great secret, which is to produce a "negative" blend. In a popular tea at the present time there may be anything from twelve to twenty different kinds of the leaf, each representing some different qualification of strength, delicacy, flavour, or aroma. The importance of the water used is now recognised as it never was of yore, and different blends are prepared for districts where this can be broadly classed as hard or soft. In the mixtures prepared for Scotland and Ireland, for instance, the combinations are quite distinct. But between these clearly defined divergences are endless lesser ones, and it is found on experience that a blend embodying numerous constituents is more likely to prove universally suitable and palatable than one into which fewer varieties enter. Moreover, in the event of a failure in any of the crops represented, it is easier to replace a small proportion of the whole, and to maintain the level standard that the public now demands in what may be termed the "branded" teas of favourite firms.

It is pleasant to be able to state, on the highest authority of the wholesale houses, that never has better value been offered to the retail buyer than at the present time. The prices both of Indian and Ceylon teas have been steadily declining during the past twenty years, and adulteration has thus been stamped out. So much genuine, even if not high class, tea is now available that there has ceased to be the incentive there once was to mix other items with it, so that though the flavour of the cheaper descriptions sold may not always appeal to a critical and fastidious taste in tea, there is no occasion to fear it may contain foreign substances. The average housekeeper, too, has learnt to make tea upon much better principles, and instead of extracting every grain of tannin it contains by long infusion, she uses more of the leaf and pours it out after two or three minutes' "drawing," to the advantage of the nerves and digestion of the consumer. This point is illustrated, to some extent, by the steady growth of the tea drunk per head of the population, which from the 4.91 lbs. of 1895 had attained last year to 6.17 lbs., and is beginning to approach Australia—the greatest tea-drinking country of the world in ratio to its population—with its 7.80 lbs.

## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, December 11, 1902.

The local tea market is firm in tone and buying has been brisk during the week in Indian and Ceylon greens and blacks. There has been a larger percentage of the greens sold this year than usual, probably owing to the scarcity of the China and Japan article. Nothing is available on the spot in Indian Pekoe Souchongs at  $6\frac{1}{4}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d., and foreign advices state that  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. is the price asked for merchantable stuff, and that the buying would be lively if 7 or  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. would be taken for Indian Pekoes or Pekoe Souchongs. Good Ceylon Pekoes were not available at  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d., but first-class goods might have been obtained at 9d. Orange Pekoes from 1 to 1s. 3d. were wanted and obtainable only in a few cases. The prices were altogether in buyers' favour. Green Indians and Ceylons were saleable at  $7\frac{1}{4}$  to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d., and few goods were offering. Fancy green Indians were worth 1s. 3d., and a few were offering. Later despatches say that the Japan and Indian markets are closed and no Ceylons nor Indians, no matter how poor, were lower than 7 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.

MONTREAL, December 11, 1902.

There has not been much change in the tea market. The position of almost all teas is still strong. Ceylon low grades have continued to advance and are now about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. higher than last week. The higher grades, however, have not changed in price, but are still firm. Green teas are also very firm. Japans are still high and very firm. Some arrivals are reported on this market during the week, and one large house announces that it will have sufficient to supply all demands from retailers.

## CEYLON TEA IN AMERICA.

"T. Gossupp," of New York, writes to the *Times of Ceylon*:—

Following my remarks of a week or two back, I may repeat that it is of importance here—where the grocers in the United States are used to Japan teas and receive green teas either uncoloured or coloured, pan-fired or basket-fired, in Japan or China packages that are faced (that is covered) with Japan or coloured papers on the outside of the packages (as well as being matted)—that in order to introduce our teas, we should adopt some method by which the teas will be received in exactly the same way as Japan and China teas are. These teas are sold to the wholesale grocer (that is to the large merchants) as nothing else but Ceylon greens, but they maintain that the ignorance of the retail grocer prevents them from pushing the teas, on account of the difference in the appearance of the packages.

The ignorance of the retail grocer is deplorable where teas are concerned, and to illustrate by an example how great this is:—I went into a shop a day or two ago and asked what teas they had in stock. The store-keeper told me they had "English Breakfast" (which is a China Congou), "Black and Green" (which is a mixture of China Congou, Gunpowder, and Young Hyson), which he called a black tea. As any tea man will know, a Young Hyson is a green tea, but as this particular grocer had no other bin to put his tea in he put a Formosa Oolong (which is a black, leafy tea) into the Young Hyson bin, and was selling this tea to the public as "Young Hyson" and the tea-drinking public were none the wiser.

We have, therefore, still a great deal of education to do before we can get the United States public to appreciate our teas, but the future is the brightest possible, for no nation in the world is so willing to take a good thing if you will only prove to them that it is as good as what they have been used to, at a lower cost to them. It is remarkable, but very apparent, that the American people (and when I refer to the American people, I mean the U. S. people) are most generous and open-minded, and when you have once got their confidence, they are conservative enough to stick to the tea that suits them well and that they can obtain at a lower figure than the tea that they have been used to.

Now, if you will bear these points in mind, you will find that they will be of advantage to Ceylon teas in the future; that we are making steady headway is without doubt, and I consider the cess is of material advantage and encourages many advertisers to include the "Ceylon" teas in their advertisements, when they might other-



wise leave them out. Therefore they bring to the public notice the teas they have been using, but have been loth to boom.

You must fully understand that the retail grocer is not the pioneer. The "missionary" work must be done by the importers here who employ salesmen and travellers to canvass the country and introduce Ceylon teas. The wholesale grocer invariably runs a package tea business of his own, and if he can get a longer profit from selling Ceylon green tea instead of Japan, you may be perfectly certain he does it, for everyone here is "out for the dollar." Another thing that must not be overlooked is that a number of the large wholesale houses finance the small retail grocer, and can, therefore, dictate to them the class of tea they have to sell. . . . I may mention that in many cases Indian greens at the same prices have shown better value than Ceylons, but I have demonstrated on several occasions during my brief visits through the States here, that, whereas a fine flavoury Japan tea tastes (without milk) very delicate and full of flavour, if milk is put into the cup, the flavour is lost, whereas, in the Ceylon and Indian greens, the flavour is not only retained, but there is a pungency and quality of cup that is looked for by the United States consumer.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending November 21st were  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d—12d for 90 d/s Bank paper and  $12\frac{1}{16}$ d. for private. The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at  $11\frac{6}{16}$ d., the corresponding sight rate being  $11\frac{5}{16}$ d. against  $11\frac{5}{16}$ d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday 17th at  $11\frac{3}{16}$ d. and closed this evening at the same rate.

The change of President has come and gone with no sign of the promised revolution even in the Rua da Alfandega.

When one of the Banks wants money it has to put the rate up to 12d. to get it, and as soon as it is satisfied it relapses again to  $11\frac{3}{16}$ d. which has become stereotyped. Business, the little there is of it, is now done at a margin so narrow as to leave little or no profit to the Banks, whilst collections have fallen off to almost *nil*. One of the Banks in which collections previously averaged £5,000, *per diem*, has lately come down to £1,000, and even £300. Clearly without speculation in Exchange or movement in other Banking business there is not enough for five foreign banks in addition to the Banco da Republica to do, and some of them will sooner or later withdraw.

The change is really remarkable and worth a little attention. Why collections should fall off in this manner when imports have been so decidedly on the increase since the beginning of the year is somewhat of a mystery. Unless, indeed, it can be regarded as an indication that the market's indebtedness abroad has been reduced to that for current purchases merely and that the great burden of back debt has been practically wiped out.

For the month of September the value of imports was £2,000,000 as against only £1,500,000 last year, whilst Export values were £3,163,000 as against £3,680,000 last year. Imports of specie in September were only £51,000 and seem to be falling off persistently. All of which are factors that seem to indicate the operation of a gradual change in the relations of Supply and Demand for bills, that should be carefully weighed.

The remarkable falling off in coffee entries during the week whether symptomatic or spasmodic remains to be seen, but, unless it be accompanied by a rise in prices abroad sufficient to make up for the shrinkage of volume, must be regarded as a "bear" factor rather than otherwise.

During the week ended November 21st the value of shipments, (*embarques*) was only £393,000 as against £378,000 for the previous week and £660,000 for the corresponding week last year, whilst declared sales fell again to 171,000 compared with 201,000 last year.

Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended November 21st, show a remarkable falling off, being 81,875 bags less than the previous week's and 149,759 less than for the corresponding week last year of which they represent 62.9 %.

Allowing for the holiday on the 15th the average daily entries at Santos for the week ended November 21st fell from 38,808 for the previous week ended Friday 14th to 33,747 as against the daily average of 45,378 for the corresponding week last year.

There can be no question whatever as to the reality of the shrinkage and, as there seems to be no particular reason to account for it, it is quite possible that it may continue and the current crop not prove so large after all. At 62.9 % of last year's future entries, would give a total of barely 11,000,000 bags. There are, however, persons who seem very well informed who assert that 75 % of the crop is already marketed and that it will not exceed 10,000,000 bags at most.

Of course, money is really very light this year, lighter, indeed, than it has ever been, and this may have obliged many of the smaller and more necessitous class of planters to send their wares to market earlier than usual. But, as a rule, the indomitable optimism of the average planter in this country may be relied on to keep back a good deal of coffee under any circumstances.

It is too early yet to draw conclusions, but the sudden drop of entries from an average of 341,387 per week since the first week in October to only 254,387, over 25%, is remarkable, to say the least of it. In New York it is already regarded as symptomatic and has determined a slight but welcome advance in prices.

The same correspondent who foretold the shrinkage of entries, to which we alluded last week, maintains in the most positive manner that next year's crop at S. Paulo will not be bigger than this, and will not exceed 7 or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million bags at most. As to this we ourselves venture on no opinion.

We believe that the frost has really done a good deal of damage but to what extent the growing crop will be injured by it, or how far new coffee may compensate for it we have not sufficient data to go upon. We, however, know that different parties all well informed, scrupulous and trustworthy, profess diametrically opposite opinions on the subject and defend them with the greatest warmth. All we can do, therefore, is from time to time to put the facts before our readers and comment on them to the best of our ability and then leave them to form what judgment they can; regretting that the proposals we last year made to the Coffee Trade for the organisation of an information bureau was not realized.

Until some such organisation is undertaken crop news must continue to be uncertain and contradictory, because there is no independent authority who makes it their business to find out the real facts over the whole area.

No doubt there are many who possess excellent opportunities of forming opinions as to certain determined circumscribed districts, but there is no one whose information embraces anything but a relatively small section of the vast area now covered by plantations, and it is to the partial nature of the information available that we attribute the tremendous difference of opinions on the subject.

We have just completed the organisation of the Commercial Statistics of the Union, and have at our disposal elements for the organisation of a Coffee Service Bureau on an excellent footing, that we would once more urge on merchants abroad to utilize. Compared to the task just completed it would be a simple matter, though doubtless to make it reliable would require a good deal of money.

Shipments (*embarques*) at the two ports were about the same as the previous week's, but 104,656 bags less than for the corresponding week last year.

Declared sales fell off from 190,000 for the previous week to 171,000, as against 201,000 for the corresponding week last year.

Stocks at the two ports increased slightly, on the 22nd November, being 6,862 bags more than on the previous Friday.

The total value of the coffee sailed from Rio and Santos since 1st July is £9,334,119 as against £12,235,648 on the corresponding date last year, a shrinkage of nearly three million sterling.

In consequence of the shrinkage of entries there was a small but general revival of prices, the week's average for "good average" having risen from 4\$066 for the previous week to 4\$120 per 10 kilos., and for N. York spot from \$5.12 to \$5.20 per lb. as compared with \$6.74 the average last year.

**Planting Conditions in October.**—The *Boletim da Agricultura* for October publishes the following reports of the inspectors:

*1st district* (Taubaté).—After a few days rain and a threat of frost, continuous dry weather has again set in causing serious damage to new plantations. Probabilities of a fair medium crop are, however, maintained.

*2nd district* (Campinas).—The weather this season, especially during the past few months, has been very unsettled—alternate



rain and frosty. October was a dry month throughout the district and very cold in some zones, frost falling in the municipality of Limeira on the 3rd.

Flowering has been retarded and in some districts, where it had already commenced was damaged by drought, cold and strong winds.

**3rd district (Ribeirão Preto).—**The situation here may be resumed in a few words: The current crop is practically over and a violent hailstorm, which traversed this district caused serious damage, especially in Batataes and Mococa estimated at 40 % in the latter.

**4th district (S. Carlos do Pinhal).—**The coffee trees, nearly bare of foliage, even in the newest zones, wear a sad appearance, though, tried as they have been by rough weather, it is a marvel they have survived and proves their extraordinary vitality.

The poor condition of the trees dates from the frost and was not improved by the strong southerly winds that subsequently raged here.

For the reasons mentioned a large part of the September flowering remained unproductive and that of October, which opened about the 9th or 10th, suffering besides by wind and rain combined has likewise given poor results.

Stable Spring weather was looked forward to for October but the first few days of the month were dry and windy, always considered injurious at this time.

A slight frost in the low lands, fortunately causing no harm, fell on the morning of the 3rd, then wind and hail in Babylonia and S. Carlos on the 7th and on the 25th in Santa Eudoxia. On the same day a hurricane caused serious damage to trees and buildings in Ararahy.

Showers fell on the 11th, 12th, 15th, and 16th, and drizzle with excessive heat was the characteristic of the weather to the end of the month.

**5th district (Botucatu).—**The months of September and October were too dry to be good for plantations, but the occasional heavy showers were very beneficial to coffee. The trees, now the crop is over, are regaining vigor and look very well.

The first flowering suffered from frost and cold in August, but the second was uninjured. Trees tired through over-production and others that did not receive proper attention show a poor flowering, but those recently come into bearing are in splendid condition.

#### LATER NEWS.

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending November 28th were  $11\frac{1}{8}$ d.— $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. for 90 d/s Bank paper and 12d.— $12\frac{1}{4}$ d. for private.

The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at  $11\frac{1}{8}$ d, the corresponding sight rate being  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. against  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

**November 29th, 1902.**—Ninety days Bank rate on London for the past week opened and closed at  $11\frac{1}{8}$ d. The market continues on the even tenour of its way unchanged and impartable with  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. apparently a fixture. There is nothing to say about it. Bank counters are empty of customers and the little doing is done direct between shippers and importers. A 32nd is now a thing to be run after, and at one of the banks the difference between drawing and taking rates has been cut down to  $\frac{1}{4}$ th. Clearly at such rates no one can make much, and it must be hard work for the banks and brokers to make ends meet. What is poison to one man may however be meat to his neighbour. Whatever may be the case with mere dealers in exchange, the market and country gain by stability, and business is gradually, if slowly, improving.

That imports are increasing very considerably there can be no question, especially dry-goods, as custom house receipts for the past month were 40 % over those of 1901. It is true that last year imports were lower than they ever were previously and that the present spurt may therefore cease as soon as stocks are replenished. Otherwise, taken with the shrinkage of Exports and possibility of a deficit in the budget, the situation is not altogether re-assuring. On the other hand if coffee entries are smaller, there is still an enormous stock to draw on left over from last season, whilst the balance sheets of the Banks show that they are considerably over-remitted and may have to draw at any moment. It is possible too, that coffee prices may rise abroad. At present the demand and supply of bills seem to be balanced, and until some considerable factor intervene to destroy the equilibrium one way

or the other there seems to be no reason to expect much alteration. During the week ended November 28th, the value of *Embarques* here and at Santos was £397,000, almost identical with the previous week's but £287,000 less than for the corresponding week last year.

Declared sales were 11,000 larger than the previous week's and 5,000 over those of the corresponding week last year.

**Coffee.**—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended November 28th were 3,226 bags less than the previous week's and 93,144 less than for the corresponding week last year, of which they represent 73.4 %.

For the crop, entries on the 28th November were 2,281,371 bags under last year's, of which they represented 76.1 %

In spite of the heavy rains that have been general all over the interior since the 19th or 20th of November, entries were maintained last week, and compared with last year's show a decided revival.

If, however, it is a fact that as is pretended, the sudden falling off last week is not to be attributed solely to the weather it would seem to show that little or no stocks exist at the stations and that the coffee has really been forwarded with unprecedented despatch.

The weather has been bad for the roads but splendid for the trees, which are said to be now in perfect condition.

Shipments or *embraques* during the week ended November 28th were 2,868 less than those of the preceding week, and 105,310 bags less than for the corresponding week last year.

Joint stocks at Rio and Santos on the 28th November showed a slight reduction of 45,414 bags compared with the previous Friday's and are about the same as on the same date last year.

Declared sales at Rio and Santos were 11,000 over the previous week's and 5,000 more than for the corresponding week last year.

Prices improved a little from the average of 4\$120 for Good Average for the previous week to 4\$16 per 10 kilos. as against 5\$450 last year. New York spot quotations also averaged 5.20c. against 5.17c. for the previous week and 6.83c. last year.

The value of coffee sailed from July 1st amounted on 28th November to £9,717,444 or £2,915,023 less than for the same period last year.

#### COFFEE IN LONDON.

The terminal market has exhibited further weakness says the *Produce Markets' Review* of December 20, 1902, owing to a most unexpected increase in the receipts at Santos, and quotations have given way about 6d, reaching a level of only 1s 6d above the previous lowest record. As that price was brought about by an abnormally low exchange, the rate then being less than half what it is now, the present quotation is proportionately lower to the planter, and there is again a talk of production being checked by its unprofitable return. It will require more than talk to convince dealers of this, for at present there is no sign of checking the output, and even a sensational cablegram regarding the next crop has had no effect upon quotations. There is no change to report in mild Coffee; trade has been quiet, and the auctions have been poorly supplied, though valuations have been maintained. A rather better shipment of new Costa Rica obtained higher prices, though still decidedly under those of last year.

#### TEA IN LONDON.

**INDIAN TEA.**—The market is strong with a further upward movement in values, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 20th December and a large business has been done both at public sale and by private contract. For the lower descriptions business has been active at an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., and as there will be no more public auctions until the 31st instant, the market closes very firm with an upward tendency. There is no doubt that the stocks of this class of Tea held by the trade are comparatively small, and, although a large quantity may be brought forward after Christmas, it will probably not be out of proportion to the requirements, even at present prices. The medium qualities are fairly plentiful but include a smaller proportion of the more useful Assams which have been well competed for at higher values, while the other growths show no change of importance. The fine and finest grades are gradually getting into a smaller compass, and, in consequence of the well-sustained demand, prices have again gone in favour of sellers. The latest advices from Calcutta give the estimated total exports for the season to the



United Kingdom as 148,000,000 lbs., or about 5,000,000 lbs. smaller than last season, while the home consumption for the eleven months of this year is larger by about 13,000,000 lbs. At the public sales 33,400 packages were offered and nearly the whole sold at firm to advanced rates, while a very limited proportion fetched under 5½d.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—The last sales of the year were held on Tuesday, when a rather larger, though still moderate, quantity was brought forward, and the bidding was good throughout. Common Leaf Tea remained firm, very little being available under 5½d. while the medium grades were steady at last week's prices. In Broken Pekoes, the medium sorts continued in request, and recent rates were well maintained. Only a small quantity, mostly Colombo-bought Teas, sold under 7½d. but the finer kinds over 9d. per lb. were slower of sale, and showed some irregularity. The supply of dusts and fannings has been very limited, and the finer descriptions realised high prices, while there is nothing to be bought in the former under 5d. per lb. At the public sales 19,900 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,500 were withdrawn. According to present advices no further auctions of Ceylon Tea will be held until the 6th January.

**CONGOU TEA.**—The market has been somewhat quiet, but a fair business has been done, chiefly in the lower kinds of Monings, at steady rates. The quantity of fine Tea now available is small, and consequently prices are firm, although no transactions of any importance are reported.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—The market remains firm for Gunpowders with no quotable alteration, and at Thursday's sale all grades were well taken at late rates. In consequence of the high prices now ruling in the Green market, Indian Young Hysons are well worth attention, and though rather pale in cup, the liquors are of a every pungent character, and should command a ready sale. The Caper market remains steady, and a fair business has been transacted privately. Formosa, Oolong and scented Orange Pekoes are unchanged, and the demand has been limited.

## QUININE AND CINCHONA IN 1902.

The *Chemist and Druggist* says speculation in quinine has again been on a smaller scale this year, the shellac-market having overshadowed it to a great extent, and the latter has proved a more remunerative article. There has been practically no inducement to speculate for a rise in quinine, as the bark-shipments from Java up to November have again been extraordinarily heavy, even out distancing the figures for 1901. So far the total shipments from January to November have been:—

1900 .. ..	9,680,000	Amsterdam lbs.
1901 .. ..	11,499,000	"
1902 .. ..	12,028,000	"

These figures have completely non-plussed the "outside" market, and various theories have been propounded to account for them. Rumours of a combination among the Java planters have been hinted, and that the output was to be restricted, but as each successive month saw heavy shipments such rumours were naturally discredited. Taking the average unit paid for bark at Amsterdam, we find it is the lowest for the past three years. In January it opened at 7'45c., advancing at three consecutive auctions to 8'65c. in May (the highest point), when makers quoted 1s. 3d. From this period there was a gradual decline to 4'90c. in August, when makers reduced quinine to 10½d. In August the unit rose to 6'80c., and subsequently declined to 6'25c. this month. There have been fewer fluctuations in makers' quotations, and they close 1d. per oz. lower than in January. The top price was 1s. 3d. (from April to June), but at the end of the latter month a reduction of 2d. was made, and by September it was down to 10½d. It was barely a fortnight at this figure, for before the end of the month it stood at 1s. 1d., and another ½d. added in October brought it up to 1s. 1½d.—to-day's price. In the "outside" market spot values close about 2½d. lower than at the commencement of the year. The highest price paid was 1s. 2d. in March, and the lowest 9½d. in September, when the makers quoted 10½d. This low figure was merely temporarily, however, and with everybody wanting to buy there was a gradual advance to 1s. 0½d. by the end of the month. From that point it went down to 10½d. in November, and although the market subsequently advanced to 11½d., the position has an element of weakness in it.

## The British and Colonial Druggist remarks:—

Lastly we come to *quinine*, which for B and S and for Brunswick spot stood at about 1s. 1½d. per ounce at the beginning of this year, but changing now and then but little until the latter part of June, when, in consequence of the unsatisfactory result of the Dutch bark auctions on the 19th of that month, the market became depressed, coming down all round. The price on the spot was then 11½d., and declining further on account of heavy bark shipments from Java to 10½d. by the beginning of August, it collapsed a short while after, altogether from the same cause, touching, on Monday, the 18th, for an hour or so, 9d., but soon recovering to some extent, a fair amount of business was transacted, commencing at 9½d. and closing a few days after at 10d. This was, however, of short duration, as after the Dutch bark auctions of the 23rd the market came down again, the official price being reduced the day after to 10½d., remaining at that until September 16th when the convention of manufacturers raised their official price to 1s. chiefly to check a large American demand. This imparted an increased firmness to the market and spot rose to 11d., and subsequently to 1s. 0½d., and this after 1d. and then later on another ½d. had been added to the official price, and the English manufacturers had also proportionately increased their quotations. About a fortnight later, however, the spot price was down again at 11d., in consequence of renewed heavy bark shipments from Java and a large quantity to be offered at the Amsterdam sales of November 6th, remaining at that, a few slight changes excepted, until towards the end of last month, when it recovered to 11½d., raising since with an improved demand from 11½d. to 1s., and declining again to 11½d., which is the price at the close.

## NOVEMBER COFFEE MOVEMENT IN THE U. S.

During November, says the *American Grocer*, the deliveries here and in Europe fell far below the same month last year. The combined movement reached 1,240,213 bags, against 1,535,740 bags in 1901—a decrease of 295,527 bags. The visible supply, December 1, was only 15,383 bags deficient from that on November 1, being that much lighter. It is now more than three times greater than the lowest quantity reported during the past five years. The low point was reached in February, 1897, when the visible supply was 3,882,234 bags, against 13,217,901 bags December 1.

The following statement shows the November movement in detail:

Stocks, November 1, 1902—	Bags.	Bags.
United States ...	2,594,941	
Europe ...	6,319,343—	8,914,284
Receipts during November—		
United States ...	528,240	
Europe ...	1,165,590—	1,693,830
Total supply, December 1, 1902 ...		10,608,114
Less stocks, December 1, 1902—		
United States ...	2,622,849	
Europe ...	6,745,052—	9,367,901
Deliveries, November, 1902—		
United States ...	500,332	
Europe ...	739,881—	1,240,213
Deliveries, November, 1901 ...		1,535,740
Decrease as compared with November, 1901 ...		295,527
Deliveries, July, 1902 ...		1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902 ...		1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902 ...		1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902 ...		1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902 ...		1,240,213
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902 ...		15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901 ...		14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly year, 1901-02 ...		1,293,055

The average monthly deliveries in the United States for the past five months were 559,262 bags, against 555,297 bags as the monthly average for the last trade year ending June 30, 1902.

The total visible supply of the world, December 1, 1902, was 13,217,901 bags, against 10,735,719 bags, November 1, 1901—a gain of 2,482,182 bags.

The total receipts at Rio and Santos for the first five months of the crop year 1902-03 were 7,320,000 bags, against 9,510,000 bags same period 1901-02.



The October sales of options were 1,348,260 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 4.35 cents for December; the highest, 5.80 cents for September.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 438,190 bags were Brazil and 62,142 bags of all other sorts. About 87.6 per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and only 12.4 per cent. of all other kinds.

Coffee at 4.50 cents for No. 7 is certainly at a price to warrant carrying ample stocks. Crop prospects are for crops in 1902-03 in excess of the world's requirements, and another big yield in 1903-04. There are now no signs of any reduction in consumption through the use of nostrums as substitutes.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### NELLIAMPATHY.

Proceedings of a Meeting held at Nelliampathy Meeting Room, January 7, 1903. **PRESENT:**—Messrs. H. M. Hall, W. R. McKenzie, G. H. Welchman, W. L. Ranking, and J. C. Abbott, *Honorary Secretary*. Mr. W. R. McKenzie *in the Chair*.

**New Member.**—Mr. G. L. Duncan was elected a member of the Association.

**Palghat-Wallenghy Road.**—Read correspondence with Head Assistant Collector. As nothing appears to have been done, the Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Chairman of the District Board and call his attention to the disgraceful condition of the British portion of this road, and to point out that the culvert between the 3rd and 4th mile, which fell down about two years ago, had not yet been repaired.

**Hospital.**—Read letter from the Apothecary with reference to the dilapidated and dangerous condition of his house, which had been put up more than four years ago, out of old material, at a cost of Rs.138 and was intended to be used for only six months whilst suitable quarters were being erected, but which was still in use.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to forward a copy of the Apothecary's letter to the Dewan, and the following Resolution was passed:

"That this Association records with regret that notwithstanding repeated representations nothing whatever has been done towards providing suitable quarters for the Apothecary."

**Wallenghy Bungalow.**—Read letter from the Chief Engineer, Cochin State, asking that certain articles of furniture should be provided by the Association.

The Honorary Secretary stated that this had been done.

**French Tariff.**—Read correspondence.

**Planters' Labour Act.**—After some discussion, the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Planting Member of Council with regard to certain points.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) W. R. M. MCKENZIE,

*Chairman.*

( , ) J. C. ABBOTT,

*Honorary Secretary.*

### WYNAAD.

Proceedings of Annual and General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, January 7th, 1902.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

**PRESENT:**—Messrs. Abbott, Atzenwiler, Day, Mackinlay, Romilly, Taylor, Waddington, West, and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*. Mr. G. Romilly *in the Chair*.

1. The Honorary Secretary read the Annual Report for 1902.

#### Annual Report, 1902.

**GENTLEMEN,**—The year under reference has been made auspicious by the event of the Coronation of Their Majesties our King and Queen; and we may well take this opportunity of expressing our earnest hope that they may long be spared to reign over us.

As usual in the Annual Report I will refer to local matters first.

**Roads.**—The district has been unfortunate in having been made the subject of an experiment, our Collector having decided to improve the methods of road repair by replacing the "A system" with what we are told, and sincerely trust, will prove a better one. He has assured us that by doing as little work as possible this season, he will be in a position to spend a proper proportion of money at the right time on metal collecting, *i.e.* between December 1902 and April 1903; and that this metal will be laid next monsoon. This arrangement once started will presumably continue without any further hitch, and we must hope it will be successful.

2. It is unfortunate that, where the Gudalur Cholahé road is so splendidly maintained on the one side, and the Calicut-Chundale road is under the P. W. D. on the other, the intermediate and comparatively small section of some 18 miles of this main highway cannot be handed over to the P. W. D. as well. Were this done it would be a distinct benefit to the district, and a relief to the District and Local Fund Boards, which would then be in a position to afford more liberal aid to other roads in the district that urgently need it.

**Money Orders, Postal, etc.**—In August last I was instructed to draw the Collector's attention to the deficiency of two-anna bits supplied with cash received in payment of M. Os.; and in November we recorded his reply pointing out that the matter would be attended to "with satisfaction." We have been informed that in October and November two-anna bits to the value of Rs.700 were issued to the Vayitri sub-Postmaster. While deploring the continued general deficiency of this small coin which causes great inconvenience in paying coolies, we have a further grievance against the postal authorities in the district for the unequal distribution of the two-anna bits at their command, several planters not having received any of this small coin for the past three or four months.

The attention of the Postmaster-General was drawn to the irregularity of delivery of letters at the Meppadi and Vayitri Post Offices; and his action in the matter has evidently had the desired effect as there have been no further complaints.

**Pepper Disease.**—After two years of almost incessant agitation we have received the good news that the Government of Madras has sanctioned Mr. Barber visiting the district, and arrangements for his tour have just been concluded. Though much valuable time has been lost, and the disease has made rapid strides, we must hope Mr. Barber will succeed in suggesting a cure. No small share of our thanks are due to His Excellency the Governor for this aid, and we also owe our thanks to Mr. Windle, of the Nilgiris, for representing the matter to His Excellency in person.

**Court of Wards Bill.**—A petition was got up in Madras opposing the introduction of this Bill, and it was at first decided by this Association to support it. On the assurance of our Planting Member, the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth, however, to the effect that the Bill was not intended to apply to planters, it was decided not to sign the petition.

**Medical.**—Early in the year we approached the Collector with the request that a Government hospital be erected at Meppadi, our reasons being that the district was not in a position to maintain a properly qualified European doctor with a sufficient number of Apothecaries; and that the population of Meppadi was now sufficiently large to require special medical aid.

Our request has resulted in the establishment of a Dispensary at Meppadi with a Hospital Assistant and Compounder in charge, and the appointment of an Apothecary at Vayitri in place of a Hospital Assistant. All the extra charges incurred by the District and Local Fund Boards in this connection are to be borne by the Association. We owe a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Hackett Wilkins for the interest and trouble he took in drawing up the scheme which has resulted in this arrangement.

**Coffee and Pepper Robberies.**—No particular cases of theft have been brought to the notice of the Association; but judging from the re-establishment of the old receivers' houses it may be presumed that one or other of these products is being stolen to some extent.

**U. P. A. S. I. matters.**—As your delegate to the Bangalore Meeting, I reported on all subjects of interest up to that time; but several important matters have reached a climax since. Among these is—

**The Madras Planters' Labour Act.**—The extraordinarily short time allowed between the publication of the Bill and its introduction



into Council did not leave us any time to think over the recently amended clauses; but it appeared to those of us who were able to meet at such short notice as I was only able to give you, that the matter in the Bill that would be most harmful to our interests is concentrated in that very objectionable clause III.

We put in an immediate and urgent protest *re* this clause directly to Government; our Planting Member is fully informed as to our position; and we must hope that Government will allow Act XIII to run concurrently with the new Act, or if not, permit of such amendments being included in the new Act as will place us in a fair position with our labour.

It is unfortunate that some of the native members of Council do not understand the position between employers and labourers in planting districts better. We cannot too strongly condemn the hysterical tone, and absolute want of truth, in some of their statements.

**Duties.**—*British Import Duty on Tea.*—The Resolution passed at the last U. P. A. S. I. Meeting has so far resulted in the matter having been referred by the Indian Tea Association to its London Committee. That hesitating body is considering the best means of approaching the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is to be hoped that it will be able to solve the problem in time to approach him before the new Budget is framed. Seeing the promise made to the Ceylon Association some two years ago it is difficult to understand the diffidence with which this matter is being taken up.

*French Import Tariff.*—It was decided at Bangalore "that as the matter was receiving the attention of Government we confidently left it in its hands."

In the meantime the Ceylon Government has arranged matters for the Island, and the Chairman of the U. P. A. is taking action in referring the matter again to the Government of India.

*Coffee Cess.*—A fair number of members in this district have agreed to support this Cess on the condition that the scheme, when published, meets with their approval.

*Tea Cess.*—The Cess we agitated for is being allowed by the Government of India, and it is intended that it should come into force on April 1st. Our effort to obtain a larger share of representation

for S. India has not been successful; and it now remains with us to decide whether in our opinion both the representatives allotted us should be planters, or one of them a member of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, which body has consented to appoint one of its number if required.

*Sale of Tea in S. India.*—In this connection I may say that we hoped last year that the Ceylon import duty might be abolished. The representation to the Government of India to act in the matter has not been successful however. It becomes all the more necessary, therefore, that we should strain every nerve to capture our share of the Indian market. The demand for dust tea that exists is, at present, largely supplied by rubbish from Ceylon. We have the opportunity offered by Messrs Parry & Co., of Madras, who, with the Agencies they have in almost every town of any importance in S. India, afford a ready-made Distributing Agency which should enable the S. Indian planter to control the S. Indian tea trade.

It is a matter for comment that one of the largest blenders in England, Messrs. Brooke Bond & Co., are advertising the sale of their blends in Madras.

*Coffee Crop* prospects are fairly good in the district; but prices unfortunately do not promise to improve. We must hope that the Leeming System, which has proved so successful on the Shevaroyis, and which there is every reason to think will answer here, will prove our salvation.

*Tea* has, on the whole, had a good flushing season, and prices are improving.

*Pepper Crops* are decidedly good and prices maintain a good level.

Our numbers have fallen off considerably during the past year—six members having left, one new member joined.

In conclusion, I lay the accounts on the table for your inspection, and my resignation in your hands.

2. Proposed by Mr. Romilly and seconded by Mr. Waddington. That the report be adopted and accounts passed, and a vote of thanks be given to the Honorary Secretary for his work during the year.—*Carried unanimously.*

3. Mr. B. Malcolm was re-elected Honorary Secretary.

# "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

USE

## ST. JACOBS OIL

FOR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

## CONQUERS PAIN





## GENERAL MEETING.

The gentlemen mentioned above were present with the addition of—

Messrs. Armstrong, Behr, and D. Mackenzie. *Visitor*: Mr. P. Guard. Mr. W. Mackinlay *in the Chair*.

1. Proceedings of last Meeting taken as read.
2. Read letter from Mr. S. H. Powell, senior, resigning the Association.

*Resolved*, that this Association reads Mr. Powell's letter with regret and unanimously elects him an Honorary member.

3. **New Member.**—Mr. H. Armstrong was unanimously elected a member of the Association.

4. **Medical.**—Read letter of December 7, 1902, to President, District Board, and Board's proceedings of 18th.—*Recorded*.

5. **Pepper Vine disease.**—Read letter of December 7, 1902, to Board of Revenue, and G. O. No 1121, of December 15, 1902, informing the Association that Mr. Barber's services would be available early in January. Also read correspondence with Mr. Barber.—*Recorded* and Mr. Barber's tour was arranged for.

6. **Money Orders.**—Read letter, received through the Collector of Malabar, from the Treasury Officer, Calicut, dated December 13, 1902, stating that the Sub-Treasury Officer, Vayitri, reported that two-anna bits to the value of Rs.772-8-0 were issued to the sub-Postmaster, Vayitri, during the months of October, November, 1902.

Read letter to Vayitri sub-Postmaster asking what proportion of the above value of two-anna bits had been sent to the Meppadi and Sultan's Battery Offices. Read his reply stating no account is kept by the Vayitri Office of the receipt and distribution of small coins in their respective offices, but that small change of all kinds to the value of 10 per cent. was issued.

*Resolved*, that a letter be addressed to the Superintendent of Post Offices, Calicut Circle, quoting the Vayitri sub-Postmaster's letter and asking that orders be passed to the effect that a proper proportion of each kind of small coin be distributed in future.

Attention was drawn by Mr. Abbott to the late arrival of mails at Vayitri; and by Mr. Day to their late delivery by the Meppadi peon.—*Resolved*, that the Postmaster-General be addressed on the matter.

7. **Roads.**—Read Mr. Winterbotham's letter and Honorary Secretary's reply which was confirmed. Read letter of December 7, 1902, to President, District Board, and his reply of December 23, 1902, stating that no change has been made in the allotments of any of the roads in the Wynaad for next year and that funds are available to meet any expenditure already sanctioned.—*Recorded*.

8. **U. P. A. S. I.**—(a) *Labour Bill*—Read circulars 87, 88, 89, 92, 93, 95, 96, and 97 of 1902.

Read telegram and letter to Government of Madras, of December 11, 1902, and Chief Secretary's reply of 22nd.

Read letter to Hon'ble Mr. Acworth.

- (a) *Resolved*, that the Government of Madras be addressed through the Planting Member strongly protesting against the Bill being hurried through; and requesting that at least another month allowed for its consideration.

- (b) *Resolved*, that Messrs Romilly, D. Mackenzie, Waddington, Day, and B. Malcolm form a Committee to frame amendments to the objectionable clauses of the Bill, and that a Meeting of the Committee be held on Friday, 9th instant:—

- (b) *Sale of Tea in S. India.*—Read letter from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., of December 11, 1902.

*Resolved* (with one exception pending reference), that Mr. Knight's scheme be supported.

- (c) *Tea Cess*—After considerable discussion it was resolved, by seven votes to five, that in the opinion of this Association a planter should be nominated as the representative of Madras interests, on the Tea Cess Committee.

- (d) Also read circulars 91/02 on French Import Tariff, and 90/02 on Coffee in Brazil.

*Papers on Table*—

"Planting Opinion," "Indian Gardening and Planting," I. T. A. Circulars, Proceedings, Coorg Planters' Association, of November 1, 1902, Proceedings, Shevaroy Planters' Association, November 10, 1902.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) W. MACKINLAY,

*Chairman.*

( " ) BERNARD MALCOLM,

*Honorary Secretary.*

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of December 26th, 1902.]

## COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—No auctions have been held this week, and privately sales have been much restricted. Brazil "futures" have ruled easy and values at the close are fully 3d per cwt. lower than when we last wrote, after having been at one time 6d to 7½d down; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 27s 3d, May at 27s 10½d to 28s, and September at 28s 10½d to 29s per cwt. We quote:—

London	...	Santos	...	March delivery	...	27s 3d.
New York	...	No. 7 Rio	...	"	...	4.70 cents.
Hamburg	...	Santos	...	"	...	27¾ pf.
Havre	...	Santos	...	"	...	33½ francs.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Tons	24,642	12,202	44,060	45,644
	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.
Tons	16,362	19,671	14,608	28,400

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports a decrease this year of	...	1,584
Home Consumption a decrease of	...	3,309
Export a decrease of	...	13,792
Stock an increase of	...	12,440

## Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio	2,472,000	3,487,000	1,616,000	2,071,000
Santos	5,482,000	6,866,000	5,301,000	4,534,000
Total	7,954,000	10,353,000	6,917,000	6,605,000
Crop	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11½d, previous day 11½d.

HAVRE, December 23.—Good average Santos December opened steady at 33f. and closed quiet at 33½f., March opened at 33½f. and closed at 33½f., May opened at 34½f. and closed at 34f., July opened at 34½f. and closed at 34½f., September opened at 35f. and closed at 35f.

HAMBURG, December 23.—Good average Santos December opened steady at 27pf. and closed quiet at 27pf., March opened at 27½pf. and closed at 27½pf., May opened at 28½pf. and closed at 28½pf., July opened at 28½pf., and closed at 28½pf., September opened at 29½pf. and closed at 29½pf.

NEW YORK, December 23.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.
Dec. 23	4.45	4.45	4.60	4.70	4.80
Dec. 22	4.45	4.50	4.60	4.70	4.80

## COCOA.

In the absence of public sales little of moment is passing.

## PEPPER.

BLACK—Singapore is firm but quiet; on the spot there are buyers at 6d, and January-March shipment is quoted at 6½d; business has been done in March-May at 6½d per lb.

WHITE is likewise firm, but sales are very small. The spot quotation for Singapore is 9½d and Penang 9d, while for arrival January-March shipment the former is 9½d and the latter 9d per lb.

## QUININE.

Sulphate of Quinine is firm, but, as with most other articles, little business has been done. On the spot there are buyers of best German makes at 11½d and May delivery has sold at 1s per oz.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1903.

[No. 4.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 30th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*January 20th.—Weather—*Everything to be desired, fine days, cool nights. *Dry. Coffee—*Trees wintering, a good show of leaf for the time of year. *Crop—*Most estates stripping. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Abundant. *Interesting item—*Paddy fields being ploughed for the next crop.

### THE AMERICAN TEA DUTY.

AMONG the "Tea Notes" in our last issue were some relating to an important question in regard to the American Tea Duty. Dealers in that country had until recently understood that it was the intention of Congress to provide that all teas remaining in bond should be free of duty on the first day of 1903. Under date April 18th the Department at Washington issued a decision to the effect that "tea which shall have been in warehouse not more than three years on January 1, 1903, may be withdrawn, free of duty, for consumption." Naturally, the trade based their operations upon this assurance; and we can well imagine the consternation produced when the Secretary of the Treasury telegraphed the Collector of Customs:—"by a decision of the United States Circuit Court, southern district of New York, tea now in bonded warehouse will be subject to duty, though withdrawn after January 1." The law-makers and the law-interpreters do not appear to have been in agreement; and the result was temporary paralysis of the tea trade. This produced one excellent result, however. It brought men together and bound them together, as a common danger often does; and the tea men of New York entered a very prompt protest, and a request for immediate action on the part of Congress to set things right, and tea men throughout the States backed them up without loss of time. As practical

Americans the tea men gave a very plain hint that there was a way of circumventing the present law if it were not amended. As the Chairman of the Tea Duty Repeal Association put the point in a telegram to Senator PAYNE:—"Contracts have been made by whole country to deliver tea, free of duty, after January 1. If amendment to law should not be made all teas will have to be exported and re-imported at great expense without benefit to Government and with great hardship to entire trade."

What Congress was to be asked to do was, to pass immediately a Bill providing that the repeal of the tea duty shall apply to stocks remaining in bond January 1, and to enact a Bill providing that section 33 of the Dingley Tariff shall apply to tea on January 1, 1903. In Washington Senator PAYNE introduced in the House a Bill for the amendment of section 20 of the Dingley Act. It is as follows: "Provided, that the same rate of duty shall be collected thereon as may be imposed by law upon like articles of merchandise imported at the time of the withdrawal, and provided, further, that nothing herein contained shall affect or impair existing provisions of law in regard to the disposition of perishable or explosive articles." The Bill provides that importations of tea in bonded warehouse throughout the country at the end of 1902 may be withdrawn, free, after January 1, 1903; when the Bill abolishing the duty on tea became operative. The Bill was passed after favourable report by the Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate passed it without debate. It was later signed by President ROOSEVELT.

The repeal of the Tea Duty in the United States is of some importance to tea-planters in India. It is not because of this, however, that we have given in this and former issues such full particulars of what has recently occurred in American. Our main desire is to emphasise the manner in which American tea men rallied and combined and protested and carried the day, all with decision and with a promptitude that commands admiration. Face to face with a situation that meant a loss estimated at \$1,500,000, a loss that would fall on wholesale grocers and retailers, because of the competition of duty-free tea to be admitted from the beginning of this year, the tea men realised that union was a necessity, they united and they won. There is a lesson here for the planter in India. It is, we are glad to think, a lesson that



the South Indian planter has learnt and has applied, but we need scarcely cite instances to prove that the London branch of the Indian Tea Association, which represents the joint interests of Indian tea-planters in the metropolis of the English markets has on several occasions failed to take action as spirited and vigorous as that recently taken in the United States. We need not attempt to show that the tea industry in this country has suffered in consequence. This is a well-known fact. Need we urge the desirability of taking steps to impress upon all planters and all Associations that represent their interests the excellence of the example set by America and the expediency of making such arrangements as will enable the tea-planting community in this country to show, on occasion, the same determination and unity of purpose as has been lately exhibited by American tea men?

### IMPORT DUTY ON SEEDS.

The Government of India have declined to fall in with the suggestion made by the U. P. A. S. I. that seeds imported for agricultural or experimental purposes should be exempt from duty. The reasons given are that there are administrative objections to the differential treatment of an article for tariff purposes according to the object for which it is intended to be used, and that the aggregate value of the seeds imported is insignificant. As to the first point, we may remark that a differential system is already in vogue with reference to some articles for *industrial* purposes, such as machinery, for instance; so that "administrative objections" to this sort of thing are evidently not insuperable. As for the second point, Government assert that the relief that would be afforded by exempting seeds from duty would be too small to justify a departure from what is considered to be a sound customs principle. That is all very well as matters now stand, but the fact is that the importation of seeds is stunted because of the import duty. The point is that, as a general rule, a considerable proportion of imported seed does not germinate, unless too soon (on the voyage!) Thus a 5% duty on one lot imported may easily come to mean 50% or more on the seed that actually proves useful to the agriculturist in this country. This point the Government of India have chosen to ignore.

### THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR BILL.

We had not intended to revert to this subject, but our attention has been drawn to an article in the *Hindu*, which contains some remarkable statements that ought not to be allowed to pass uncontradicted. The *Hindu* mendaciously refers to the Bill as "designed in the interests of European employers of labour as against the poor and helpless Indian coolies." The truth is that the Bill provides protection for the labourer such as he has never yet had. The *Hindu* goes on to say of the Bill:—"Its main object and purpose is to enable the planters to secure labour at cheap cost. The planter is unwilling to pay the coolie according to the law of supply and demand. If work has to be done in uncongenial soil, in malarial localities far away from the plains, it follows that much higher wages should be paid in order to attract free labourers. But the planter wants to gain profit at the sacrifice of the Indian coolie. His margin of profit will be less if he pays the coolie a scale of wage which will be a

sufficient compensation for his leaving his home and the plains. . . . The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes spoke of the necessity of making advances to coolies; but if attractive wages are given, there will be much less necessity for advances, and the loss of employment with good wages will itself be regarded by the coolies as a misfortune to be avoided by all means." These ridiculous assertions do not, it will be observed, go the length of saying that higher wages would make advances totally unnecessary. They are, however, written in entire ignorance of the labour problem as it affects India, and are diametrically opposed to the facts stated in the report of the Planters' Enquiry Committee and to the terms of the Bill itself. We would ask the *Hindu* to study that report, and to peruse the Bill once more—if it can, with an unprejudiced mind.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in Cuba.**—There has been considerable talk about Cuba becoming a coffee exporting country. The daily Press every now and then airs the views of some promoter with an axe to grind, who talks in glowing language of the immense possibilities offering in Cuba for coffee plantation investments. We have been at some pains and expense, says the *Spice Mill*, to secure from correspondents in Cuba accurate, first-hand information on the subject. We learn—as we had expected—that it is only a certain section of Cuba that will grow coffee and that it is hardly likely that the production of the article will ever be sufficient to supply the home demand. The amount produced there to-day supplies only about 10 per cent. of the total quantity consumed on the island.

\* \* \*

The man who believes that New York ought to get its coffee at 7 to 10c. a pound, would perhaps be surprised to hear, says the *Merchants' Review*, that the poorer consumers sometimes pay high prices for this staple without a quiver. The writer drinks coffee at home that costs 33c., a next-door neighbour pays 25c. a pound for coffee, and another one pays 30c., but a woman who makes a scant living in the neighbourhood by keeping a boarding-house pays 40c. and never makes a "holler." She is satisfied; the other people mentioned are presumably satisfied, and that would hardly be the case had they all been compelled to use cheap grades at 12c. or 15c. But this fact would, of course, make no difference to those daily newspapers which are constantly insinuating that grocers overcharge the public. It would not be easy to overcharge, even if the grocers wanted to do so, for there are too many of them, and the department stores, specialists, and delicatessens are too many also.

\* \* \*

**The Decline of Coffee Prices.**—A surprising assignment in the coffee and sugar trade of New York was that on Saturday, the 20th ultimo, of Gustave A. Jahn & Co., 98, Wall Street. Regarding the assignment Mr. Jahn gave out a statement, in the course of which he said:—"The making of this assignment is one of the saddest acts of my life. I began my business career as an office boy nearly forty-three years ago and have been in business for myself for over thirty-seven years, all in the city of New York. During this time my commercial credit has stood high and it has only been during the past year that there has been any question in regard to my ability to pay all my debts on demand and have



a comfortable surplus in addition. The losses of the firm were mainly the result of our having made contracts for large importations of foreign granulated sugar during 1901, coupled with a continuous decline in the coffee market in 1901, which resulted in making heavy losses."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market is very uneventful. Matters are flat, with the slightest changes in values so far as Brazil grades are concerned. In Milds a firm market obtains, made firmer by the Venezuelan troubles. On the whole the tendency is to lower prices. In Brazil the receipts are still heavy, especially at Santos, where they come in at the rate of 30,000 bags some days. Prices in Brazil are tending to rule on parity with those at New York and if this continues transactions may be stimulated. The speculative market continues quiet and in the main unchanged in New York but is rather irregular abroad.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, Dec. 24.

\* \* \*

**Brazil Crops estimated.**—*Views of a Planter as printed in a Letter in Sao Paulo Paper.* The following letter from a planter named Ramos connected with the Schmidt fazendas was published in the *Estado de S. Paulo* under date of October 28 :

"Wishing to form an idea as approximate as possible as to the effects of the frost on the cultivation of coffee, and its effect on the future crop, I called on a great number of planters and on the largest Commissarios of Santos, and from the information received I arrived at the following conclusions, counting the State as a whole—

"1. The losses caused by the frost on the trees in S. Paulo represent a diminution of from 0 to 35 per cent. on the future crop in relation to what it would have been had there been no frost.

"2. The trees that suffered most were the young ones and it can be considered that the greater part destroyed were those under two years.

"3. August flowering was considerably damaged by the frost.

"4. If this flowering had taken well the S. Paulo crop for 1903-04 would have been at least twelve millions.

"5. October flowering was normal (fairly good) and up to present looks as if nearly all took well, principally in Ribeirao Preto and the surrounding district.

"6. It is quite impossible at present to make a reasonable estimate of the future crop, because during the coming six or eight months climatic changes might upset the most reasonable expectation. All that can be done is to form an approximate idea of the volume on the hypothesis that the weather will keep favourable from November to May, on the basis of the basis of the quantity of fruit that escaped the frost, and at present sticks to the trees.

\* \* \*

Messrs. Duuring & Zoon state in their report dated Amsterdam, December 30, 1902:—The immense over-production of coffee ordinarily appeals as sufficient explanation for the existing cheapness of coffee, but in Europe, it seems, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, they see deeper and hence know differently and explain the lowering prices to the machinations of the Coffee Trust, which, fearing a violent tea fever in the United States, arrest it by making coffee so cheap that of course nobody could afford or want to drink tea, and least Lipton's tea. Perhaps the wish is father to the news heard in Mincing Lane and reported by the *Home and Colonial Mail*. In detail it is that the manipulations of the Coffee Trust have been brought into play to check, if possible, the growing taste for tea of the American consumer. "This," continues the news article, "is attributed to the machinations of the Coffee Trust to keep Lipton's tea out of the market." What ho! Where is this octopus? Nobody has seen him here, not even in Lilliputian size. Truly the times are fit for a Don Quixote and he may issue (the coffee one) from out London.

Business has been extremely slow during the month under review. During the first part, importers met the market freely, but values were not notably lower, part however remained unsold and bidding was slack. Sales were suspended during the last fortnight.

Second hand dealings, chiefly Santos coffee, were quite insignificant, the trade being unwilling to enter into any new engagements, whilst viewing the actual figures of supply; the speculative market continued in a lethargic state.

Arrivals during the month amounted to 81,600 bags Java and 120,100 bags Santos. Deliveries were on a moderate scale 72,300 bags Santos, leaving our stock at 901,100 bags, against 853,300 bags last month.

Afloat from Santos to Rotterdam:

46,000 bags per ss. <i>Baha</i> ...	... sailed December 4th
26,000 " " " <i>Norderney</i> ...	... " " 17th

72,000 bags,

against 172,000 " in 1901.

" 127,500 " " 1900.

" 54,000 " " 1899.

In the terme market, values slowly gave way, in all about 1ct., quotations now being: 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ cts. per March, 16 $\frac{5}{8}$ cts. per May, 17cts. per September, and 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ cts. per December. Dealings only amounted to 77,000 bags for the month. December contracts 358,500 bags of which 77,000 bags were tendered. Contracts this year amounted to 1,517,500 bags, tenders to 378,000 bags, being 25 per cent. against 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in 1901, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in 1900, 23 per cent. in 1899, and 29 per cent. in 1898.

## TEA NOTES.

**Tea in Persia.**—The following note of prices ruling in Meshed in November, 1902, has been prepared by Mr. T. J. Greensill, Government canvasser for trade in Khorassa. and Sistan:—

*Tea.*—There are several kinds of both black and green sold here, but the most in demand are the following:—

*Black Tea.*—Fine Pekoe leaf—wiry and even with few tips—known here as "Kalami," present rate 20 krans (kran equals 4d. to 5d.) per Meshed "mán" (the Meshed tea "mán" is 7 lbs.), with a credit of fifteen months, equivalent to 17 krans cash. Leafy kinds are not much in demand, but some would sell at 20 krans, carrying twenty to twenty-five months' credit, equivalent to 15 to 16 krans cash.

*Green Tea.*—Gunpowder—bold, even leaf, coloured greenish—known here as "Sabz," present rate 21 krans per Meshed "mán" (7 lbs.), with four months' credit, equivalent to about 20 krans cash. For natural unfaced or faced there is no demand, but coloured after the China style, in India known as Bombay tea, would find ready sale if not too expensive. Heavy soapstoned greens are rejected at once.

*White or Silver-tipped Tea*, known here as "Lamsa," is really a mixed tea, consisting of about 15 per cent. silver tips and about 85 per cent. uneven Orange Pekoe and Pekoe leaf, and comes chiefly from Java, usually packed in 5-lb. lead-lined wooden boxes, and sells here at 40 krans per "mán" (7 lbs.), with twelve months' credit, which is equivalent to about 35 krans cash. Those with more white tips fetch slightly better rates, but the demand is very limited.

\* \* \*

We have not yet reached the point in the tea trade that the British have, says the *Merchants' Review* (New York). There everybody in the retail business is liable to sell packet teas, even the stationers and news agents, and people who become reduced in circumstances, as clergymen, widows with a fair list of acquaintances, and bankrupt merchants,



are pretty sure to turn their thoughts to the sale of tea as a means of living even if they do not take it up as a business.

\* \* \*

At the request of the "Thirty Committee," the Secretary has sent to the Colombo papers extract of letter from a New York correspondent of Mr. Wm. Mackenzie's.

In a letter from Mr. Mackenzie, dated London, 29th December, 1902, he wrote as follows:—"I have just had in a letter from a New York friend—a Tea man who handles of lot of our Greens." "I saw a statement that 38 packages a Ceylon Greens had been rejected, and went down to the Appraiser's Stores and found out about it. All I can say is, it deserved rejection, as some colouring trick had been tried on it, resulting in a thick muddy liquor with a curious twang."

\* \* \*

At the Meeting of the Shareholders of the Tea Corporation, Ltd., on 15th instant, the scheme of reconstruction brought forward by the Board of Directors was rejected. The Committee of Investigation also had an alternative scheme; but it was not brought forward, for want, it is believed, of sufficient financial support. Matters are now at a dead-lock.

\* \* \*

**The Ceylon Tea Crop: Estimate for 1903.**—Messrs. Forbes & Walker, of Colombo, estimate the Ceylon Tea Crop at 150 million lbs. distributed as follows:—

	Million lbs.
United Kingdom	94
Russia	15
Rest of Europe	1½
America	14
Africa and Mauritius	1½
Australia	18
India	1
China and Singapore	5
Total	150

The above includes Green Tea, which Messrs. Forbes & Walker estimate at 11 million lbs. All their figures are based on the supposition that the present careful system of plucking is followed out during the year.

\* \* \*

**Tea Exports.**—The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the first half of January, 1903: Calcutta, 4,039,097 lbs., Chittagong, nil. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta, 5,482,778 lbs.; Chittagong, nil. Total from 1st April, 1902, to 15th January, 1903: Calcutta, 115,668,165 lbs.; Chittagong, 18,050,600 lbs. Total 135,718,765 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1901, to 15th January, 1902, 14,060,208 lbs.

\* \* \*

From a report on St. Joseph (Missouri) as a distributing centre for imported goods, written by the British Vice-Consul at Chicago, we learn:—

CEYLON TEA—One very widely-advertised tea is in demand, but wholesale dealers seem to think that there is an opening for Ceylon tea, put up in tins and sold to them at a price leaving a little more profit than they are able to make out of the brand they at present deal in, and that it would—with some judicious advertising—find a market, but the outlook for these teas is not bright.

**Total Export of Tea from all China.**—(Siemssen & Co.'s Market Report: Hongkong, January 2.)

	1902-1903 lb	1901-1902 lb
To England	15,113,663	17,345,606
„ The Continent	6,802,877	6,584,664
„ Russia	25,634,985	30,052,347
„ America	54,871,456	33,126,706
„ Australia	1,138,697	2,036,969
„ South Africa	1,016,423	1,707,242

Total lb. ... 104,578,101      90,853,534

\* \* \*

**Green Tea in America.**—A Fort merchant supplies the *Times of Ceylon* with some extracts from business letters, to show what objections are raised in the United States. There is still, as our informant says, a very considerable difference between Japan and Ceylon green teas; and we are asked whether some machine cannot be invented which would make Ceylon green tea approach that of Japan in appearance. An Indian expert, by the way, points out the necessity of imitating one or the other, and not of producing something which approximates to neither Chinese nor Japan tea—that is, like one in leaf and like something else in cup. This is the old trouble, and prevented our supporting the green tea movement in its unenlightened, unfinished days. Fortunately, Mr. Larkin and Canada came to the rescue, and took the unpolished greens; but the United States continued to reject them—speaking generally.

\* \* \*

**Green Tea and Patents.**—Writing to a Colombo paper under date, 7th January, Mr. Drummond Deane mentions:—"My Ceylon patent for the Deane-Judge Strainer hangs fire owing to the usual red-tape, though it has been granted long ago for India. I am of opinion that the 'Thirty Committee' bonus on green teas should be on a sliding scale; otherwise, as black teas rise in value, greens will fall back. I suggest as worthy of consideration that with black tea average 8d. or over, the green tea bonus should be not less than 8 cents which, with such an average, the black tea producers can well afford and that for every farthing fall (or fraction of a farthing) there should be ½ a cent reduction down to 6d. average, where it should remain at 4 cents. Something on these lines is wanted if you don't want to nip the green tea industry in the bud. We shall shortly have a Deane-Judge Finishing and Pan-firing Machine for the Ceylon public."

\* \* \*

**Tea in New York—50,000,000 Pounds.**—The transactions of tea for November at the port of New York were as follows:

	Pounds.
Imports	12,417,463
Withdrawals for consumption	1,560,810
Withdrawals for transportation to other domestic ports	894,160
Withdrawals for export	27,166
Remaining in Warehouse at close of month	49,951,168

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Tea has been steady but very firm and at some selling still for January delivery. Not a few who have held off buying in expectation of a reaction at this time from prevailing high prices have rushed in to buy. They are not always successful in effecting purchases, for despite the large stock of teas in the country (85,000,000 lbs., it is estimated) sellers look for higher values and hence are indifferent receivers of bids. They have some good logic to support them, but it is based on premises which time alone will prove. It is the impression that the country has been well cleaned out of teas and so grocers' stocks are very low, and to



resume normal conditions each one in the land will buy at least one chest of tea more than heretofore. There are 200,000 grocers in the United States, and their extra demand, hence, means 200,000 packages, which at 50 pounds per package is 10,000,000 pounds of tea.

Something good in this may happen to Congous, which continue flat, and there is many a shake of the head when the recent purchase of the syndicate is recalled. The large stock should quickly disappear, in blending at least. There is some talk now of an export demand for England in view of the advance there in Indias and Ceylons. Exports of greens are still reported and so this tea is especially strong, and the same may be said for Japans and Formosas.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, Dec. 24.

\* \* \*

**Tea in Philadelphia.**—There were 238,257 pounds of tea remaining in warehouse at Philadelphia, December 1, according to the report of the collector of the port. During the month 97,949 pounds were imported.

\* \* \*

“Rubbishy teas in the harbour might have combined with it the question of sand in tea dust offered in Colombo, especially in view of the importance into which the trade in dust has developed owing to the demand for it to give tone to China brick tea. If the bricks were to be used for building, sand to mix with cement, might have its market value; but the proportion in which it figures in some of the samples that go round the Fort—it can only be discovered by blowing—is both astonishing and scandalous.”—*Times of Ceylon*.

\* \* \*

**America Ought to Grow Her Own Tea.**—Reviewing the matter seriously, it may be said that, while it is probably possible to cultivate tea over at least one-third of the area of the United States, it is hardly practicable to hope to bring within the space of a generation an American tea to the point where it will be liked by tea-drinking people, though ultimately this country ought to be independent of China, Japan, Ceylon or India in producing the material for “the cup that cheers, but does not inebriate.”—*McKeesport Herald*.

## NOTES.

### Cinchona “Pays.”

The Cinchona Cultivation Company (“Tjitiis-Pasirangka”) held their Annual Meeting at Batavia on October 31, when a dividend of 19 per cent. was declared. Mr. L. L. A. Maurenbrecher was re-elected Managing Director, and Mr. J. A. Veenstra was elected to the directorate.

### Java Cinchona Bark.

The shipments from Java during December were 1,300,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 1,273,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year, and 1,091,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1900. The total for the 12 months is 13,143,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 12,606,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year, and 10,741,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1900.

### London Tea Sales.

At the sales on the 17th instant 36,972 packages were offered. There was less eager inquiry; and prices were a little uncertain. Up to 6½d., the late rates were not always obtainable; but really desirable invoices received attention. A good deal of poor and unattractive tea was included, for which there is not always a market.

### Cheap Quinine in Italy.

On several occasions we have referred to the practice of the Italian Government in their campaign against malaria of providing

quinine at low prices for the peasants. The *Daily Mail* has now discovered the beneficent intentions of the Government, and adds that in order to meet the demand for the 1903 malarial campaign (from May to November) “11 tons of bisulphate of quinine are now being prepared.”

### Coarse Plucking of Tea.

A special cablegram, dated 12th instant, to the *Times of Ceylon*, states:—“The Tea and Produce Committee has passed a strong Resolution pointing out that buyers maintain that they can keep down prices, Ceylon being sure to pluck coarse; and urging planters to abstain from so doing.” It is quite evident from this that the Committee is by no means satisfied that all Ceylon planters have come to understand the dangers of coarse plucking.

### The British Tea Duty.

As a Colombo paper remarks, “The Joint India and Ceylon Memorial—which it is intended to place before the Chancellor of the Exchequer praying for a reduction of the tea duty by two-pence, is a step in the direction of placing the long depressed tea industry in its wonted place of prosperity.” It does not go far enough, however, unless the memorial has stated quite plainly that what is *eventually* wanted is a complete abolition of the duty.

### A Grant-in-Aid for Green Tea.

A Ceylon planter has gravely suggested that as the manufacture of Green Tea is a new industry a grant-in-aid from Government should be asked for! He questions if payment of a bonus out of the Tea Cess fund is legal. We sincerely trust that planters in India will *not* follow Ceylon’s example if this sort of thing goes on. Never yet was community treated with greater liberality than the Ceylon planters have been by the Local Government, and though the Government has certainly had its reward there is no good reason why its kindness should be imposed upon at every opportunity.

### Calcutta Tea Sales.

At the tea sales, 16th instant, 18,000 packages sold. The offering was not very attractive, and there was a large quantity of red, stalky kinds, last season’s invoices being composed of odds and ends. Except Assams the market was weaker generally and was a farthing lower, except for good tea and pretty leaf kinds which were firmer. Darjeelings were difficult of sale. Buyers had to accept lower rates. There was not so much bought for outside markets as usual Greens (hyson) realised 8 annas; (50 cents) ditto 6 annas 8 pies (41½ cents) young hyson, No. 1, 7 annas 6 pies (47 cents).

### Proposed Cardamom Cess in Ceylon.

The appointment by the P. A. of Ceylon of a Committee to inquire into the question of a cardamom cess, to be raised on the acreage (not on the total exported) of cardamoms has been followed up by investigation on the part of members of the said Committee. The money raised would, we understand, be expended on the Continent and in America by means of the same methods as are in vogue for pushing tea. It seems very doubtful if this expenditure would serve any useful purpose. The demand for cardamoms is limited, and it is questionable if any amount of advertising would cause an important expansion.



**Java Quinine.**

The exports from Java during October amounted to 242 cases, 100 cases of which were shipped to the U.-K., 133 to New York, 7 to Japan, and 2 cases to Singapore. From January 1 to October 31 the exports have been:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Cases	1,363	1,692	1,701	1,467	957

A case usually contains 400 oz.

The result of the quinine tender held at Batavia on Wednesday, December 31, was as follows:—Of 2,150 kilos. Ed. II. offered, 1,900 kilos. were sold at an average of 16½f. per kilo. (about equal to a unit of 6 $\frac{1}{16}$ c. Amsterdam), against 16½f. per kilo. at the previous tender.

**Tea in France and Switzerland.**

Mr. H. Valentine Webster, Chairman of "Tea Planters, Limited," Bâle, states:—"in France and Switzerland

alone during the past twelve months I have sold through the Tea Planters, Ltd., of Bâle, 225,000 Quaker one-ounce decorated tins filled with pure Ceylon tea, beside which considerable numbers of Koh-i-noor, Ugalla, Bee and Maravilla one-ounce tins are distributed every week. . . . Further my distribution of teas in one-ounce tins, is not confined to France and Switzerland but is extended to all parts of the globe." No doubt this is good advertising, and we must hope that in time, pounds will be asked for where now ounces are taken.

**Tea Ring Broken.**

A London daily remarks:—"The tea Clearing House has at last, after long continued pressure from tea producers, importers, dealers, and brokers, expunged from its books the following rule, which has long been considered detrimental to the wholesale tea trade of Great Britain:—

"No subscriber shall be entitled to warehouse or deposit tea with, or employ in connection with tea, any dock company or tea warehouse keeper who is not a member of the Clearing House, or to purchase or sample any tea from the warehouse of any non-member."

This is looked upon as a defeat of the warehouse ring, which has boycotted brokers for selling teas warehoused outside their circle.

**Pará Rubber at 1,600 feet.**

Mr. Francis J. Holloway writes from Matale to the *Ceylon Observer*:—"I am now tapping some trees, at about 1,600 feet, on a hillside, and am very pleased with the excellent results obtained. Trees at this elevation, although a good deal smaller than the ones of the same age, at a lower elevation, are now being proved to yield *better* than those lower down. They only require one incision in the morning, and the cups are emptied at 11 A.M. and replaced under the same cut immediately, and are again emptied at 3 P.M., thus giving the same yield from one cut, as would be obtained from two cuts on trees at the lower elevation. I have never been able to do this at the low elevation, as the latex does not flow at 10 A.M. This is proof positive that Pará rubber yields better at 1,600 feet, than at 600 feet.

**The Pepper-Vine Disease.**

After many weary months, the Government of Madras have accepted the proposal of the Board of Revenue, Madras, that Mr. Barber should investigate the disease said to be affecting the pepper-vine in Wynaad. If he can do so "without prejudice to other work on hand," Mr. Barber is to

visit Wynaad this month. Government explain that these instructions would have been issued earlier, but that a reply was awaited from the Government of India to a reference regarding the recent tour of Mr. E. F. Stebbing, the Forest Entomologist, in the Nilgiri and Malabar districts, and the nature of the investigations made by him. This reply is not yet forthcoming, though the Madras Government regard it as "possible that Mr. Stebbing investigated the pepper-vine disease, and that his report, if available, may afford information on the subject."

**The Indian Tea Association.**

There are several points of exceptional interest in the report we give elsewhere of proceedings of the Indian Tea Association (Calcutta). Commenting on the suggested employment of a portion of the coming Tea Cess for scientific purposes, the *Ceylon Observer* remarks:—"We are immensely surprised at the Indian official proposal to use the proceeds of the tea cess there for its Scientific Department. Here in Ceylon such an institution is supported in the interest of planters out of the General Revenue and we can well imagine the outcry that would arise if cess funds were to be taken for such a purpose. Paternal interest in tea-planters seems less apparent in Calcutta and Simla than in Ceylon." We need scarcely say that we view the suggestion with disfavour. It is, however, evident that the Indian Tea Association has not taken kindly to it, so no more need be said.

**London Tea Sales.**

Weekly special telegram dated 15th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that there is a dull tone generally among buyers and that the market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes as well as for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down) and the average 7½d. (also  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down). The average for the same period last year was 7¾d. Reuter reports that common qualities of Ceylon tea are rather easier. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 5½d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down) and the average for the week is 7½d. (also  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down). 67,000 [? 27,000] packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 24,000 disposed of; while of the 45,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 33,000 were sold at an average of 7¾d. ( $\frac{1}{8}$ d. down). At the tea auctions on the 19th instant, 30,899 packages were catalogued. There was only a moderate competition, and a good deal of tea had again to be taken out chiefly between 5¾d. and 7d. a pound. Really attractive invoices did fairly well, and Broken Pekoes generally are in more enquiry.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****COFFEE AND CHICORY MIXTURES.**

At the Meeting of Bermondsey Borough Council on Tuesday, the 16th ultimo, the Public Health Committee reported having had under consideration a letter from the Metropolitan Grocers', Provision Dealers', and Oilmen's Association with reference to the action taken by Battersea Borough Council in respect to mixtures of coffee and chicory. On October 7 last the Committee reported to the Council a letter from the Battersea Council, in which that body expressed the opinion that the sale as "coffee and chicory" of articles containing large proportions of chicory (*i.e.*, 70 per cent.) could not be regarded as legitimate, and that some definite limit



should be fixed, or the vendor should be compelled to declare the constituent parts of the article. The Battersea Council had addressed a letter to the Local Government Board pointing out that as there is nothing in the Acts regulating the proportion of the constituents of articles sold as mixtures, it was a matter of urgent necessity that steps should be taken to enforce by legal enactment the recognition of such limits as the Board might see fit to determine. Bermondsey Borough Council, upon the recommendation of the Public Health Committee decided to support the views of Battersea. Since then a communication from the Association had come to hand. The text of this letter was published in the *Grocer* of November 15 (p. 1218). It stated that it was not practicable to fix a standard of the proportion of coffee and chicory in mixtures of these two articles for the following reasons:—"Firstly, that the proportions of coffee and chicory depend in part upon the price paid by the consumer for the article, whilst they also depend upon the relative value of the coffee and chicory employed. The public would be able to purchase a cheap article at 1s. per lb. containing cheap coffee and cheap chicory, in which the proportions might be larger of coffee than of chicory; the mixture, however, would be a common one. On the other hand, the public could purchase a mixture of coffee and chicory in which the coffee was of superior quality, and therefore the chicory would be in larger proportion, but the resultant mixture would be of much finer quality. Secondly,

#### THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF COFFEE MIXTURES

often exhibit startling variations, especially where the mixtures are sold in tins that are kept in stock for some time. The chicory being the heavier article in such mixtures naturally falls to the bottom, with the result that when the tins are opened, unless the mixture is thoroughly re-compounded the probabilities are that the portions of the sample purchased for analysis would show very varying results." The Committee went on to report as follows:—"As regards the first of the foregoing points, it seems, from inquiries, that coffee, according to its quality, will blend with a certain proportion of chicory. It is the custom of wholesale coffee merchants to blend the different qualities of coffee before roasting, and it is thus possible for them from year to year to produce a blend of constant quality that will always be able to stand the same proportion of chicory. Thus, if a grocer were required to make a declaration on the cover of the percentages of coffee and chicory in a mixture sold as such, it would be quite easy for him to get a mixture always having the same quality and proportions according to the price paid for the articles. As regards the second reason, there may be some truth in it, as the tins in which the mixture is packed are in some cases filled tight, and in some loose, according to the weight of the coffee. This difficulty is, however, probably exaggerated, since if the chicory is a little heavier, it would require not only to be kept a good while in stock, but to be more or less regularly shaken up before the chicory would fall to the bottom. Chicory appears to be a comparatively harmless ingredient. On further consideration of this question, we have come to the conclusion that our first opinion was wrong (as far as coffee and chicory mixtures are concerned), owing to our not being in full possession of both sides of the question in order to judge the merits, and we recommend (a) That the Association be informed that this Council is of opinion that it would be preferable for vendors to sell mixtures of coffee and chicory in wrappers stating the proportions of each, rather than that the Government should fix a standard; (b) that a copy of this report be sent to the Local Government Board, and to the Battersea Borough Council."—These recommendations were adopted.

#### IMPORTANCE OF BEEKEEPING.

It is estimated that Europe produces about \$18,000,000 worth of wax and honey, and that a similar sum results from the benefits conferred by the fertilizing habits of the bees. So highly is this industry esteemed abroad that Germany has 1,900,000; Spain, 1,690,000; Austria, 1,550,000; France, 950,000; Holland, 240,000; Russia, 110,000; Denmark, 99,000; Belgium, 200,000; Greece, 30,000. These countries practically consume their own honey crop. There is no reason why our consumption should not be proportionately great. The chief obstacle is the general ignorance of the value of honey as food, and the use of it only as an occasional treat, instead of an article of daily food.

#### THE TEA TRADE: THE COMPLAINT AND A REMEDY.

Mr. Herbert S. Parker writes to the *Home and Colonial Mail*:—

The absence of response to the proposals lately made to you for helping producers by adoption of schemes elaborate in detail and difficult to carry out should not deter others who may have simpler plans to suggest. I would like, therefore, if you can spare the space, to show a way out of some of our difficulties, which I believe will be effectual, which is practicable, and will not involve either the cost or the hazard of the plans to which I refer.

I ask your help with the more confidence because you helped me twelve years ago by printing some letters signed "Negotiator" to bring about a change in the way of selling tea. It was a small matter, merely the omitting from catalogues sundry details, of which the publication was prejudicial to re-sale, but because it was an innovation, so much persuasive reasoning was required to make it acceptable that I fear this correspondence will make a large demand upon your columns.

For I am going to indict the *system* and the *method* by which tea is sold in London, to charge it with being responsible for the recent undue depression of prices, and with being answerable for the unreasonable *extent* of the decline in the value of tea during recent years.

Please to underline "system," "method," and "extent," because I am going to speak with emphasis, and mean to make it quite clear that the subject under discussion is an impersonal entity, and that I do not want to overstate my case.

The system that I condemn, believing that it is doing us a serious injury, is the almost exclusive reliance upon the auction room for the disposal of tea.

It is of little use to say that a method is bad unless you can show how to improve it, so I pass on to suggest a remedy. It is, that steps be taken forthwith to create a market, alternative to the Public Sale Room, in which sellers can deal with buyers by direct negotiation with each other through the medium of their brokers.

If this be begun at once and developed by degrees, dealings on a large scale will in time be possible; the market that once extended intermediate between the consignee and the counter will be re-created; operators who cannot now turn their talent or their money to account in the tea trade will be attracted to it; the need for trying to regulate sales will disappear, and little more will be heard of alleged combinations in the room to keep down prices.

What is the origin of public auctions? They were essential when Indian, and afterwards Ceylon, teas were new to the market and in need of advertisement. They were useful for years after when teas were of high and doubtful value, and buyers as well as sellers needed the guidance of bids made under the hammer. They are useful still at certain times of the year, and for certain sorts of tea—possibly for a large portion of the crops—but as the sole channel of business they have failed, and have become a menace to the stability of the London market.

How and why has this happened?

1. Because the perpetual and exclusive auction has destroyed the intermediate market there once was, in which tea could be "turned over," and has thereby spoilt the business of the dealers who used to be mainstays of the trade, driving some of them out of it, lessening the buying-power of them all. And this has spoilt the business of the buying brokers whom the dealers supported—a valuable element in the market—of whom some have been driven into exile, some are heart-broken, and some have retired in disgust to find more congenial occupation.

One among the latter, as straight a dealing and able a man as one could wish to meet in negotiation, who at one time had the finest business in London, a man invaluable in such a market as I foresee, has told me that he would not resume attendance in the auction room for ten thousand pounds a year! That is the sort of man to be attracted to the market, together with the strong, shrewd independent men still left among the dealers.

2. It has come about through the uprising of the blender and of those great trading companies which swallow grocers by the hundred. Their success has greatly reduced the number of independent buyers able to compete and hold stocks, and has placed



a power in the hands of a few, which if used in effective combination might seriously injure the interests of producers.

"Combination" is not my word. I prefer to speak of these great powers "acting in concert"; it is more diplomatic; moreover, less is known about their combinations by men who have spent their lives in the trade than seems to be known by some who have never set foot in the "Lane." But supposing they were to combine to buy cheaply, which is said to be their business, either by exclusive dealing, or by abstaining from bidding, having previously well supplied themselves from the Calcutta and Colombo sales, how could they be met? Importers have met a recent emergency (which was the outcome of the dispute with the Clearing House) by adopting a course which has been to some extent successful, and may continue to be so for a time, if they do not part with the teas that are going to improve in value and keep back those that are not. But success has been due to the fact that the basis of price was unreasonably low and the position unusually strong. Under other conditions such a course would be hazardous, not to say impracticable, for we all know the difficulty of selling tea withdrawn from sale—it is damned by the fatal record of the price bid in the auction room, and trying to get  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. more is like trying to drag a bull up a chimney, unless such an advance take place as sellers have lately had to help them.

The plan which I suggest seems the only one that can be followed continuously from the beginning to the end of the year and from one year to another. It has the promise of keeping the market *permanently* in a healthier condition, and it leaves each importer free to sell his produce at his own time in his own way without binding himself to the uniformity of action which is so difficult and inconvenient to maintain.

I know the objections that can be raised to selling tea except at or after public auction, and with your permission I will discuss them in another letter. Some will say it is impossible to sell any considerable quantity in any other way. Have they ever tried to do so? There was a time when the auction room was the *last resort* of those who had unsaleable tea or were unskilful in negotiation; then, the *raison d'être* of a broker was to find out who wanted to buy, bring him in touch with the client who wished to sell, and to go on bargaining until they came to terms. To do it well was the aim of his life. Thirty years ago I was continuously instrumental in large transactions by private negotiation, and have been so to a lesser extent at intervals ever since, and my experience is that there is no difficulty whatever that cannot be got over if both seller and buyer mean business.

Importers will hesitate, and as sound men of business will be right to look at my proposal from every point of view. But let it not be dismissed as a dream, for nothing less than the future of the London market and the welfare of producers may be at stake. I repeat that this thing can only be done by degrees—here a little, there a little; and a suitable time must be chosen. That time is now, whilst the position is so good that sellers can treat with buyers on strong ground. They will find the very men who are supposed to be deriving the most benefit from the chaotic condition of the trade the most ready to deal in the way I suggest, and help make the new and healthier markets. This sounds like a paradox. It is a paradox, but it is true, for none are more dissatisfied with the present state of affairs than some of the thoughtful men who buy for and direct the principal firms in the trade.

### TEA IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, December 16.—This market is slow in responding to the feverish conditions almost daily reported by cable as prevailing both at Calcutta and Colombo. At to-day's sales, however, a better feeling prevailed, although prices obtained fell far short of covering rates. Stocks have been considerably worked down, so that there is every prospect of buyers very shortly having to draw up-high-priced shipments to meet their current requirements. The trade confidently expect that the new year will herald distinctly better conditions as far as tea is concerned.

MELBOURNE, December 19.—The December month is a quiet one as a rule in this department, and this month has proved no exception. Stocks have been worked down considerably, but even now it is almost impossible to get covering rates. Shipments for the next

few weeks will be comparatively small. The Australian market apparently responds very slowly to the animation at producing centres, and it thus remains an extraordinary feature of trade that importers still find it unprofitable to unload stocks. There are, practically speaking, no really choice teas on the market, but, apart from this, all excepting commons that have been offered have firmed to the extent of about  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on the month.

ADELAIDE, December 17.—Merchants report an active demand for all likely kinds, and large orders are due to arrive from India and Ceylon by the next Eastern steamer, *Fortunatus*.

BRISBANE, December 16.—Values have improved at least 1d. per lb., and higher prices are looked for owing to the advanced cost at producing centres. Good Indians are required, but medium Ceylons have been selling very freely owing to improved demand from the country districts.—*Australasian Grocer*.

### CASTILLOA AND COFFEE.

Mr. J. Hill, a coffee-planter at Santa Anna, Salvador, is making the experiment of planting *Castilloa elastica* amongst the coffee trees on his plantation. Two years ago he planted six thousand castilloa trees, which have already reached a height of from one to two-and-half yards. There are between thirty thousand and forty thousand castilloa trees one year old, and in this year he hopes to bring the total number of trees to sixty thousand. It seems as if at the comparatively high altitude at which the coffee plantation is situated, the castilloa trees grow somewhat slowly, and only future experience can show whether the yield of rubber is not affected thereby. Mr. Hill appears to feel a little apprehensive regarding the effect of these trees upon his coffee. He writes according to the *Tropenpflanzer* 1902, p. 542: "Many condemn the mode of planting as likely to be prejudicial to the coffee when the rubber covers it, but I am going to try anyhow, and I will let you know later on how the thing works, so that others may profit by the experiment."

How the rubber trees will thrive in that locality I have no data to express an opinion upon, but I think I may reassure him on the question of influence of the castilloa trees upon his coffee. *Castilloa elastica* does not develop a dense crown, and could, therefore, hardly be considered a shade tree. Moreover, there is a considerable plot planted in exactly the same manner on the plantation at Las Cascadas, and while the rubber trees are doing extremely well, there is not the least evidence that they interfere with the bearing of the coffee trees. At the time of my visit to that plantation the coffee trees amongst the rubber trees were in full, rich bearing.—*India Rubber Journal*, Dec. 8.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, December 18, 1902.

Buying in all grades of Ceylon and Indian blacks has been fairly active on the local market this week, and the holders, on the strength of firm advices from the primary markets, are strong in their views, and values have been fully maintained. The heavy sale of Indian and Ceylon greens continues, and the Chinese article is scarce, the cheaper grades of young hysons being now unobtainable at first hands. There is an active demand for Ceylon and Indian greens at from 14 to 19c. Indian greens of attractive style are in good demand, but there is no stock of those at 14c. Indian Pekoes and Orange Pekoes at about 16c. would sell readily, but the stock is almost exhausted and good drawing teas are hard to procure. Those grades of Kangra teas, at from 18 to 20c., are scarce, and 22 to 36c. descriptions are luxuries, as they are in few hands. Some lots of ordinary Darjeelings, at from 18 to 20c. are offering, but goods of this class, at from 30 to 40c., are sparsely offered, there being none here and hardly any on the London market.

MONTREAL, December 18, 1902.

A very good demand is reported on the local market for dusts, siftings and fannings; these are somewhat scarce at present and the prices are firm. The Indian market is now closed and prices are in consequence a little higher. The Ceylon market has followed this advance. There is a good demand for Ceylons. Although



There were 4,500,000 lbs. more exported from Ceylon this year than last, yet the consumption, from one cause or another, has also increased, and to such an extent that there has not been left the same quantity as last year in holders' hands. Japan low-grades are in fair demand, but there is not a great deal on the market; in fact, it is reported that two or three houses have sold all their stocks. Gunpowder teas, in some cheap grades, have arrived in small quantities on this market, and are offered at 15c. per lb.

### SIAM GROWN TEA.

"Tea in Xien Mai (Chiengmai, Siamese Laos), regarded as a European enterprise," is the summary of information derived from the Report of the Vice-Consul of France at Nan. Tea-trees grow spontaneously and on large areas in most of the higher valleys of the chain that divides the waters of the Méping and the Mé-Lao and Woung, as well as between these rivers and the Mê-Ing and the Mêkong. These forests of tea-trees, known as "Va-Mieng" are cropped principally between the Mê-Ing and the Mé-Lao. But everywhere the natives, generally Khamoos from the left bank of the river, crop only a small quantity, for which they pay a slight due, by no means legal, to the village chiefs, or even to the first occupant who discovered this forest. The croppers content themselves with taking off the leaf stalks without any cultivation or attempt at multiplication. Four times a year they harvest the leaves, the first being the best; the green leaves piled up in small packets and first of all boiled with steam, are left aside during two months and, after this maceration, sold under the name of "Mieng" for chewing, at about Rs.12 the 60 kilos. (135 lbs.). The natives do not know that this same "Mieng," sold at this low price, is nothing else than tea. Even were they told this, they would not know how to prepare it. But it is certain the rational cultivation of these large groups of trees by an experienced colonist and with the help of head coolies imported from China or Ceylon, would give excellent results in a region so highly favoured by nature. This should be quite as remunerative as the cultivation of teak forests now so largely carried on there with European capital. It would have the advantage of requiring smaller capital and of being carried on for long periods, whereas the reserves of teak are being exhausted. Nothing would prevent a forester from carrying on the two cultivations. Besides, the working with teak presents this peculiarity that although a large staff of workmen must be hired by the year, yet they are often inactive, while waiting for a temporary rise that shall enable them to float some logs in the small streams, and there may be a further idle time while waiting for the next storm. Such enforced leisure might be well utilised. — *Straits Times*, January 5th.

### MESSRS. GOW, WILSON & STANTON'S INDIAN, CEYLON, AND JAVA TEA REPORT FOR 1902.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, in their report, say:—

The Tea industry has been passing through a series of years showing unsatisfactory results to producers, and 1902 proved perhaps worse than any of its predecessors. The year opened with the most gloomy forebodings, the market being overweighted through surplus production, while it was generally anticipated that the output in 1902 would be even larger, and that prices in consequence would show a further fall. This cloud hanging over the market not only prevented a rise in prices throughout almost the whole year, but resulted in the lowest average ever recorded, that for Indian tea being for many months about a penny below the excessively poor rates in 1901;—perhaps lower than would have been warranted even had the anticipated increase in production taken place. But during the later months of the year it became evident that crops would not be as large as was originally expected. Even this created no impression upon the market until too late to materially affect the average price. Although the last few weeks showed a considerable advance, so much of the crop had already been sold that the benefit to producers will probably be counterbalanced by the expected shortage in supply. Nevertheless, the outlook is at length decidedly more cheerful than for many years past; the certainty of moderate supplies gives time to work off the world's accumulated stock caused by recent over-production, while the fact that very little tea

has been planted in either India or Ceylon for some few years back obviates the probability of largely increased crops for some time to come, the planting of former years being mostly in bearing. It is now an ascertained fact that consumption at home has been but very little interfered with by the late increase in the duty, and that the normal rate of progress has been about maintained, while the lower prices of recent years have considerably increased the use of British-grown tea in foreign and colonial markets. Consequently, with a crop almost stationary and every probability of a continued increase in consumption, the conditions so long prevailing in the trade are likely to be entirely reversed. The natural result of over-production has been a continued fall in price, and conversely the outstripping of production by expanding consumption should be accompanied by a corresponding rise in value. Hence the industry looks now in a more healthy condition, and there is every reason to believe that for five or six years to come, i.e., until any new lands which may be brought into cultivation commence to yield heavily, prices will be on a scale more remunerative to producers, while should there be a decrease in the rate of duty the industry would, to some extent, be relieved of a very pressing burden, with the probable result of a further improvement in price.

#### GREEN TEA.

The quantity of green tea made in Ceylon has been gradually increasing and is finding favour in North America; India has this year also made some green tea which is being well taken, and there is every probability that both countries will next year manufacture increased quantities, by which means the black tea market should be still further relieved.

#### INDIAN TEA CESS.

The Viceroy has decided to legislate for the purpose of raising a tax of one-fourth of a pie per lb. on the exports of Indian tea, for raising money to exploit new markets. Planters should therefore soon have larger funds at their command for promoting the use of Indian tea, both in India itself and in other markets.

Foreign markets continue to expand satisfactorily, about 105 million pounds being taken, against 95 millions last year.

#### PRODUCTION.

It is expected that the total crops of India and Ceylon will be about the same as last season.

#### INDIAN TEA.

The quality of the crop, as a whole, was hardly equal to that of last season, although Darjeeling showed a considerable improvement. The average price of tea sold on garden account was 7'35d, against 7'50d in 1901, and from June 1 to end of December 7'24d, against 8'04d for the same period last season.

#### CEYLON TEA.

There is not much change to notice in the quality, which, on the whole, was very fair and about up to the average. The average of tea sold on garden account was 6'81d, against 6'86d in 1901, and from June 1 to end of December 6'66d, against 7'05d for the same period last season.

#### JAVA TEA.

Production in Java has lately increased, and imports were in consequence somewhat heavier, previous quality being maintained.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending December 5th, were 11½d.—11¾d. for 90 d/s Bank paper and 11½d.—12d. for private. The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at 11¾d., the corresponding sight rate being 11¾d. against 11¾d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

*Saturday, December 6th, 1902.*

Ninety days' Bank drawing rate on London opened on Monday, 1st instant, at 11¾d. and closed this evening steady at 11¾d.

The rate during the early part of the week showed decided symptoms of weakness, which encouraged the bears to attack. Bills were kept back in the usual manner, and an artificial scarcity created, which later on will have to be sold again if they have not been so already.

That there was no real falling off of the current supply of bills is shown by the figures in our Coffee market report, as declared sales



were larger even than last year, and *embarques*, though less than last year's, were 38,042 bags over the previous week's and considerably over the average for some time, yielding in sterling £455,000 as against £397,000 the previous week and £691,000 last year.

Of course, the great difference between the value of exports this year and last, amounts for coffee alone to over £3,000,000 since June, which, must tell on the supply of bills in the long run and possibly create a disequilibrium with demand. But just at present with the rubber and cotton exports beginning to get active in the North, the danger does not seem very acute, though no doubt it requires to be carefully watched, as the slightest sign of weakness will certainly be taken advantage of to bear the rate. Fortunately the stringency of money is a serious impediment to any regular bear onslaught. As the table published in another column shows, none of the foreign banks seem, at present, to be in a position to lock up much money in bills, the aggregate account of cash in the different branches being only 87.7 % of their slight deposits.

For very many and powerful reasons it seems advisable to maintain the rate even at some slight sacrifice. In the first place a fall of exchange would bring no advantage to coffee planters, as currency coffee prices would, in view of the over-supply, certainly fall here because gold prices would fall on the other side in sympathy with exchange and thus provoke a counter fall of exchange again, and so on indefinitely until the minimum at which shipments of coffee would cease were reached. It is this effect and counter effect of a simultaneous fall of coffee prices and exchange, in a market where coffee is over-supplied and bills in danger of being under-supplied, that is extremely dangerous and should be avoided at all risks. If, therefore, the Bank of the Republic is, as appears, utilizing its great deposits to secure bills whenever rates go to 12d and lets them go when it falls decidedly below and thus keeps the market steady, it is acting unquestionably in the general interest and fulfilling its true function as a regulator of exchange in the market.

**Coffee.**—Entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended December 5th were 40,163 bags less than for the previous week and 79,359 less than the corresponding week's last year, of which they represented 73.2 %.

The rains continued more or less throughout the week and though bad weather may have interfered with entries, to some degree, it is clear that it is not exclusively to that cause that the shrinkage of the last three weeks must be attributed as the percentage to last year's entries is still remarkably heavy. Entries during the first 24 weeks (up to December 6th) of each crop year, in million bags, were as follows:—

	Entries.	Crop.	Percentages entries to crop on Dec. 6.
1897-98 ... ..	6.6	10.4	63.4
1898-99 ... ..	5.0	8.8	56.8
1899-1900 ... ..	6.2	9.0	68.8
1900-1901 ... ..	6.5	10.9	60.4
1901-1902 .. ...	9.8	15.5	63.2
	34.1	54.6	62.6

It will be observed that the percentage falls off and rises again regularly on alternate years, as the crop is earlier or later. This year the crop is later than last and the entries in December should represent a smaller average. On the other hand, the Sorocabana railway is working more regularly and a sudden spurt of entries towards the close of the crop as was witnessed last year is not therefore likely to occur. Taking the general average 62.6 % as the basis of calculation with entries of 7,489,000 bags up to December 6th, entries at Rio and Santos during the current season should reach 11,900,000 bags as against 11,600,000, our estimate on similar statistical lines on the 14th October last.

Shipments (*embarques*) during the week ended December 5th were much larger being 48,052 bags more than the previous weeks and only 60,738 bags less than the corresponding week last year.

Declared sales were also very active promising good *embarques* this week, being 16,000 over the previous week and 39,000 more

than the corresponding week last year. Stocks, in consequence, fell off a bit and on the 5th instant were 76,867 less than on the previous Friday but 214,644 more than last year on the same date.

Prices gave way a little all round, the average of both currency prices here and gold prices at New York being lower than the previous week. Up to 5th December the F. O. B. value of coffee sailed from this port and Santos was £3,162,833 less than last year.

Mr. Kilburn<sup>™</sup> Scott, M.E., well known in connection with the manganese mining in this country, has been commissioned by the Ironmasters Society of Great Britain to report on the manganese deposits of south Russia. The outcome of this commission is important as it can scarcely fail to affect manganese interests in this country one way or another.

Telegrams to *O Estado* state that the roads in many districts are intransitable in consequence of the heavy rains.

From S. Paulo reports are general as to the injury inflicted by the late heavy rains on the growing crop which seem to have stripped the trees, weakened in many districts by frost and drought, of a great deal of their fruit.

It is stated that, in consequence of the judicial liquidation of the Banco Uniao de S. Carlos, a number of plantations mortgaged to that bank will have to be sold.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

In an article in *Chambers' Journal*, entitled "The Table and the Empire," the writer refers to the important part played in history by tea. The American declined to pay the price of "duty" and independence for "the cups that cheer but not inebriate," and a revolution was the result. But tea has played a happier part. "It has been the means of rescuing parts of India from a state of nature that was neither attractive nor profitable; it has saved Ceylon, one of the most interesting and valuable of British possessions, from a worse fate than that which foreign bounties have inflicted on the West Indies; it has provided the Imperial Exchequer with enough funds, if need be, to pay for the construction yearly of three or four ironclads; it has contributed materially to our manufacturing industry, thus bringing wages and profit to the pocket of the Briton at home; above all, it has afforded the Briton who turns his attention and capital to the outlying portions of the Empire an excellent opportunity of showing the grit that is in him." The story of the rise and progress of the tea industry in Ceylon supplies, in the writer's opinion, one of the best instances on record of British refusal to be beaten. When coffee, the chief article of Cingalese produce, was attacked by a virulent disease, and when the blight was followed by a decline in the public taste for coffee, the plucky planter raised new capital, tried tea, and won in the very teeth of disaster—an Imperial triumph which "will not be disputed by anyone who understands the importance of Ceylon to the British Empire." The writer shows how the spice trade, after passing from the Venetians to the Spanish and Portuguese, and from the Spanish peninsula to the Dutch, was lost by the latter as a consequence of their overbearing attempt to extort an excessive price for the products of which they held a practical monopoly. An attempt to raise the price of pepper in London from 3s. to 8s. per lb. met with prompt resistance. "The Lord Mayor of London instantly called a Meeting of merchants to discuss the exactions of the Hollanders. On September 21, 1599, Sir Stephen Soames, the Lord Mayor, sundry aldermen, and others of less dignity—such as grocers, drapers, vintners, leather sellers, skinnners, and haberdashers—met together at Founders' Hall, Lothbury, and there agreed with their 'owne handes' to embark on a 'voyage to the East Indies, the which it may please the Lord to prosper.' Rather more than a year later the charter of the first East India Company was signed by Queen Elizabeth, and in three months more the Company's first fleet of four vessels set out on the voyage which was to pave the way to Empire."

Tea-drinkers frequently express sympathy for the unfortunate people who lived before the days of tea-drinking. There may have been compensation, but we doubt it. A writer in the *Globe*, under the heading "Some Queer Teas," recently called attention to the great variety of beverages and decoctions made from herbs and plants quite unknown in China or India, called



"teas," in imitation of the genuine article and drunk from various motives. He says: "In early tea-drinking days, when fragrant Bohea was sold for from twelve to twenty shillings and more a lb., poor folk, who could not afford such a luxury, endeavoured to content themselves with decoctions from less expensive leaves. A great favourite of old was sage-tea, which was regarded not only as a pleasant but a particularly wholesome drink. John Wesley, who was a determined opponent of the Chinese leaf, strongly recommended sage as well as mint and pennyroyal, as an excellent substitute; while another enemy of the cup that cheers ventured to prophesy about the middle of the eighteenth century that the pernicious foreign leaves would quickly become cheaper, wherein he was right, and that tea would then go out of fashion and be replaced by sage, wherein he was hopelessly wrong. At the time when this wise person wrote, an ordinary breakfast among the poorer folk was bread and butter with sage-tea; but the cheapening of the real tea simply drove such substitutes as sage out of use. In revolutionary days in America various herbal substitutes for tea were used from patriotic motives. After the Boston mob had thrown the cargoes of the three East India tea-ships into the harbour, and the colonists had taken a vow to buy no tea which had to pay the obnoxious duty, their wives and daughters—'daughters of liberty' they called themselves—devoted their ingenuity to devising fragrant beverages to take the place of the boycotted leaf from the Far East; and some strange decoctions were made and perhaps enjoyed. The stalwart New Englanders drank 'tea' made from the leaves of rib-wort, strawberry plants, and currant bushes, sage, thoroughwort, and other herbs. So-called 'Liberty Tea' was made from the four-leaved loosestrife, while 'Hyperion Tea,' says Mrs. Earle—an invaluable chronicler of Colonial life and habits—was from 'raspberry leaves,' and was said by good patriots to be 'very delicate and most excellent.' The beverage may have been so when tasted by patriotic palates, but we can feel pretty certain that many a colonial dame must have thought with longing of the cups of fragrant Hyson which she had been accustomed to enjoy before the embargo was laid on the imported leaf. One at least of the substitutes named above, thoroughwort, is still used in rural New England for medicinal purposes, if Miss Wilkins' stories may be accepted as authorities. No reader of those delightful sketches will forget how often thoroughwort tea, as a remedy, especially for an ailing or more often supposedly ailing child, is suggested and made by village wisdom. Rural medicine of the same kind is, of course, common enough also on this side the Atlantic. Herbal remedies might not be used quite so much, perhaps, now adays as in times gone by, but 'teas' from herbs of various kinds are still brewed and firmly believed in by many country folks. Valerian, for instance, which is commonly known by the significant popular name of 'all-heal,' is one of these herbs, for the 'tea' made from its root is believed to be of efficacy in cases of consumption. An infusion of milk-wort—the plant whose pretty flowers, varying in colour from pink to a deep blue or purple, are so abundant on dry, upland pastures—is good for a cough. In Sussex villages 'gazel-tea' is a favourite prescription for a cold. Berries of any kind are called 'gazels,' but those usually employed for medicinal purposes are black currants. But much stranger things than black currants have been similarly used. For example, when Queen Anne was known to be suffering from gout, a certain Martin Bowes wrote to the Prime Minister, the Earl of Oxford, suggesting as an easy cure a 'decoction, or tea, made of nettle-seed.' Not a few of the herbal teas which were drunk as beverages were, like the New England thoroughwort, also considered to have no small medicinal value."

The excessive production of coffee in Brazil is the cause of many economic troubles. Last season the crop exported exceeded 16,000,000 sacks, equal to about 970,000 tons. This season the total is estimated at 13,000,000 sacks, or nearly 800,000 tons. This latter amount is equivalent, approximately, to the world's consumption. As there are other important sources of supply in addition to Brazil, it is obvious that the surplus stocks of coffee in 1902 and 1903 must be exceptionally heavy. This accounts for the unusually low prices now ruling, New York only paying a little above 5c. per lb. for the quality known as Rio No. 7. But even at these low prices a profit is left to the Brazilian grower, and, as a consequence, the inclination is rather to increase than to restrict the area under cultivation. It is said that frosts in the neighbourhood of Sao Paulo damaged the plantations, to some extent, during September

last; but this injury was exaggerated, in some cases purposely so, in the hope of causing a rise in values abroad. With production continued on the present scale it is reasonable, says the *Times* correspondent at Rio Janeiro, to anticipate a further drop in the price of coffee; indeed, a steady decline until the price is such as to leave no profit to the producer. When that stage is reached a large number of estates will be abandoned—a development to be looked for at the end of another two years. But even the abandonment of plantations does not mean the complete cessation of a supply of coffee from the localities no longer cultivated. The trees will continue to produce a certain quantity of berries when uncared for; these will be gathered by the country people living in the vicinity and sent forward for sale. In the circumstances it is difficult to see how the Brazilian crop is to be reduced sufficiently for several years to come. Until it is restricted to some 10,000,000 sacks, or consumption augments in a manner hitherto unprecedented, no substantial advance in prices can be expected. Naturally the commercial situation is affected directly by the crisis in the coffee trade. The more wealthy classes have less money to spend, and the wage-earning portion of the community, composed largely of Portuguese and Italians, save all they can and remit the amount to Europe. Hence, in spite of the immense crop of coffee, less money is in circulation than formerly, and merchants in all branches of commerce complain of hard times in business. The fact that there is no immediate prospect of this stagnation disappearing exercises a disheartening influence over all commercial enterprise. The export of rubber continues to be large, and this year will be worth from £8,000,000 to £9,000,000; but this money is confined to the districts of the Amazon and its tributaries, and affords no relief to the more thickly populated central states. —*H. & C. Mail.*

### A GOVERNMENT REPORT ON RUBBER.

Since the United States department of agriculture has been understood for some time past to be devoting special attention to the subject of rubber culture, on account of the possibility of developing this interest in our new tropical possessions, the space devoted to this subject in its latest annual publication\* and the treatment accorded to it are likely to prove disappointing to those who may look to this volume for information. In a report on "Agriculture in the Tropical Islands of United States," by Mr. O. F. Cook, botanist-in-charge of investigations in tropical agriculture, less than two pages, under the heading "Rubber and Guttapercha," form the single reference to the matter under discussion. The spirit in which Mr. Cook writes is decidedly unfavourable to the formation of rubber plantations. He says, for example: "Notwithstanding widespread interest and the investment of millions of dollars, it cannot be said that rubber culture has passed the experimental stage, if indeed that period has been fairly reached." But there is no reference to any experiment made in any country, or to the results, in such detail as will enable the reader to look into the subject further with a view to satisfying himself as to the present status of rubber cultivation, or to investigate the reasons for "the investment of millions of dollars" which is still going on.

Mr. Cook says again: "Moreover, it is known that many rubber plantations established with the most lively expectations have been abandoned because the anticipation of a profitable yield of rubber from cultivated trees proved to be fallacious." This report would have been more complete and more convincing had it been followed by a list of such plantations and of their locations. As a matter of fact, there has not been time, since the systematic planting of rubber on a commercial scale began actively, for very many of the plantations to become productive, and, so far as we can learn, the results attained have been such as to encourage very many others to engage in this branch of planting. There is reason to believe that more rubber trees have been planted in Ceylon, the Malay peninsula, Burma, Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies during the last twelve months than in any previous year, and in the list of plantations on record in the *India Rubber World* office—which includes all that we have been able to gain any

\* Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1901. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902. [8vo, pp. 846 + xc plates.]



knowledge of during the past ten years—there has been no case of abandonment of trees once planted. Mr. Cook admits, however, that “similar disappointments, misapprehensions, and misrepresentations”—referring to the prospectuses of certain companies formed to plant rubber in Mexico and Central America—“have, of course, marked the early history of many finally successful and important industries.”

The author of this report seems to think that a particularly weak point in the projected rubber-planting enterprises is a lack of definite botanical knowledge as regards species yielding rubber, and he notes that “the traditional rubber tree of Pará has recently been described as a new species and found to be quite different from the *Hevea Brasiliensis*, with which it has so long been confused.” We don’t believe that any botanist to-day is prepared to designate without “confusion” the several species which actually yield the rubber product of the Amazon valley. But, none the less, the trees found there yield the same quality of rubber, whether termed *Hevea Brasiliensis*, *Siphonia Kunthiana*, or *Jatropha elastica*—all of which designations have been applied by botanists of standing to a single species, to say nothing of designations by writers of less reputation. Of course, it will be wise for any intending planter of rubber to first be assured that the species which he is planting is one which actually produces rubber. But it is hardly fair for Mr. Cook to quote as a discouraging fact a recommendation by some unnamed person that *Eucommia ulmoides*—a plant found in China—be cultivated for the sake of Guttapercha, when, as he states, “Guttapercha would need to be worth \$50 a pound before the culture of *Eucommia* would become profitable.” The fact that this plant contains a small quantity of Guttapercha has been printed rather widely within two years past, but a careful reading of all the journals devoted to tropical planting fails to show in any case a recommendation that the species referred to be planted as a source of Guttapercha.

We regard it as the province of a government bureau charged with the advancement of planting interests to guard the readers of its publications against wrong courses, no less than to point out new channels for profitable industry. But the greatest agricultural department in the world, and one whose statements are received with respect in every country, should not, in a comprehensive review of cultural progress for the year, touch upon the subject of rubber cultivation in such a way as to leave the impression that no practical results have been attained, that the “experimental stage” has not even been “fairly reached,” and that many rubber plantations established have been abandoned. A not unreasonable inference from this report would be that there is no practical rubber-planting in existence. However, Mr. Cook has since visited some rubber plantations in Mexico, and the results of his observations may appear in later reports of a different character.—*India Rubber World*.

### COFFEE IN 1902, AND PROSPECTS.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon’s Monthly Market-Report, dated December 30, 1902, says:—

Arrivals in Holland have been more than in any previous year, altogether 1,940,000 bags. The Trading Company imported 21,900 bags more. Private imports from Java and Padang were 153,700 bags more, but from Celebs 11,100 bags less. Foreign descriptions 7,900 bags less from Africa, but 85,900 bags more from Santos and 3,300 bags more from Central America. The latter descriptions seem to lose ground on account of the preference given to Santos Coffee, being so much cheaper. Production of Liberian Coffee is on the increase in Java. The quantity offered for sale this year amounts to 114,300 bags, against 108,000 bags in 1901, 110,700 bags in 1900, 96,300 bags in 1899, and 37,300 bags in 1898. The quality, as a rule, is improving.

Total arrivals in Holland for private account amounted to:  
1,814,300 bags in 1902

against 1,593,700 bags in 1901.	against 1,240,000 bags in 1898.
“ 1,431,800 “ “ 1900.	“ 1,184,000 “ “ 1897.
“ 1,466,000 “ “ 1899.	“ 978,000 “ “ 1896.

Values have been drooping nearly uninterruptedly, with a temporal recovery in September on the report of frost damage in Sao Paulo, closing at the lowest. Santos Coffee was particularly

affected by its abundance. Java Coffee has been fluctuating entirely on its own merits, Plantation experiencing the heaviest fall.

Values fluctuated as follows:

		1 Jan.	May.	June.	Sept.	30 Dec.
Java good ordinary	... cts.	38	34	32	37½	33
“ pale	... “	40	38	37	38	36½
“ Plantation colory...	“	39½	32	32	34	30
“ Liberian	... “	26½	22½	21	22	21
Santos	... “	23	17½	19	20	17½
African	... “	20	16½	15½	17½	15½

Arrivals and deliveries.—Arrivals in Europe have again been beating the record in consequence of the unprecedented crop in Brazil, whilst deliveries have not been more than last year.

Arrivals and deliveries in Europe amounted to:

	*1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Arrivals	597,690	626,710	516,870	539,160	554,520	540,110	433,780
Deliveries	496,090	557,260	524,570	521,640	500,170	468,710	435,630
Excess in arrivals	101,600	69,450	...	17,520	54,350	71,400	...
Excess in deliveries	...	...	7,700	...	...	...	1,850

Consumption in the United States during eleven months has been:

1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
350,938	365,760	289,760	344,231	309,171	286,408	243,529 Tons.

Prospects are not bright, more or less dependent on stocks falling or increasing, consequently on receipts. The experience of both last years has given evidence how unreliable Brazil crop estimates are. Consumption is increasing but very slowly and by no means proportionate to Brazilian production. Arrivals during the first semester of 1903 are bound to be considerably inferior to this year’s, probably on a par with 1900 and 1901, say about 60,000 tons or one million bags less. This deficiency is likely to be felt sooner or later, the trade, as a rule, being but poorly supplied. The pressure of oversupply will probably relax during the first part of the year, at least until next crop is coming in, which will be late on account of the damage done by frost to the first flowering, but no higher range of values can reasonably be expected as long as Brazilian production is giving a surplus. Frost and other reports concerning next crop are still too vague and indefinite to produce any effect. The trade is looking to facts and no longer to sensational reports. It is of the greatest importance that a check may be put to production in Brazil without delay, in order to avoid a crisis in that country and ruin to Coffee estates. Present stocks are much too heavy to be borne by the trade and the surplus is carried by outside speculation; this carrying power however is not unlimited either. Production in countries other than Brazil is not increasing generally, but still the outlook for next year is for a better yield than this one.

Crops and crop prospects up to date:

	Estimate. 1903-1904.	Estimate. 1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio	4,500,000	3,750,000	4,976,000	2,971,000
Santos	7,500,000	7,750,000	9,732,000	7,820,000
Victoria	325,000	250,000	436,000	200,000
Bahia	200,000	150,000	214,000	192,000
Java	700,000	727,000	414,000	452,000
Padang	50,000	55,000	59,000	40,000
	Estimate. 1903.	Estimate. 1902.	1901.	1900.
	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Ceylon & British East-India	200,000	130,000	330,000	250,000
Venezuela	600,000	545,000	735,000	800,000
Costarica	325,000	250,000	300,000	270,000
Mexico	500,000	400,000	350,000	420,000
Guatemala	350,000	450,000	575,000	500,000
San Salvador	300,000	250,000	300,000	370,000
Nicaragua	150,000	150,000	140,000	150,000
Haïti	370,000	400,000	375,000	460,000
Portorico	80 Kgr.	120,000	80,000	120,000

Of the present Rio crop 2,353,300 bags have already been shipped leaving 1,396,700 bags (82,158 tons) for shipment up to 30th June, against 95,820 tons in 1902, 80,389 tons in 1901, 75,640 tons in 1900, and 83,562 tons in 1899.

\* In eleven months.



The *Santos* crop is estimated at  $7\frac{3}{4}$  million bags (455,882 tons) leaving to be shipped 2,737,000 bags (160,995 tons) against 208,276 tons in 1902, 201,648 tons in 1901, 85,787 tons in 1900, and 123,806 tons in 1899. The present crop is not as small as has been anticipated also on account of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million bags old crop having been included in this season's shipments.

Next *Java* crop does not promise quite as well as some time ago, low grown has suffered from drought and will probably yield less, whilst high grown estates will produce more than last year. Private production as now looked at, is likely to give 50,000 piculs less, but Government rather more than this year.

Prospects of the *Venezuela* crop are not bad, but shipments will be greatly interfered with by revolution and war. Nearly three years' revolution in *Columbia* have caused so many crops to be held back in the interior, perhaps about 400,000 bags, part of which may be forwarded to shipping ports, as soon as circumstances will permit. Altogether crop estimates in Central American and South American republics are mere guess work, for want of reliable figures.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—A fair amount of business has been transacted by private contract, more particularly in the lower qualities, at late public sale rates, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 27th ultimo. At the resumption of the auctions next Wednesday, the quantities to be offered bid fair to be of a moderate character, and former prices are likely to be well maintained. Later Calcutta advices confirm the report of the early closing of the season, and in most districts the out-turn is below the earlier estimates, so that reduced shipments to this market compared with the previous season are anticipated.

CEYLON TEAS.—In the absence of public sales no alteration in values has taken place, and the market remains quiet. There has, however, been some enquiry privately, and a fair business has been transacted, higher prices being generally anticipated in the new year.

CHINA TEA.—There have been no public sales this week, and, consequently, no business of any importance has been reported. Prices remain unaltered for all descriptions. There is no quotable change in Scented or Green Teas.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

With a continuance of heavy receipts, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 27th ultimo, the terminal market has remained weak and quotations have further given way, but only to the extent of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt. At this season of the year there is not much chance of new contracts being entered into, and the general position is such that unless some news comes to hand the actual business transacted is likely to be small. Prices are too low to tempt operators to open a "bear" account, yet the weight of stocks and the uncertainty of the actual turn-out of the present crop, to say nothing of the prospects of the coming one, check buyers from increasing their holdings. As no sales have been held, and will not be until the 6th proximo, there is no alteration to note in values of actual spot parcels.

### THE AMERICAN COFFEE WAR COST \$50,000,000.

Robert J. Trimble, of New York, has filed an amended Bill in the Court of Chancery of New Jersey asking that the American Sugar Refining Company be restrained from dealing in coffee and from selling sugar at less than cost price, and that the Directors be compelled to distribute among the stockholders as dividends a portion of the Company's undivided profits which, it is alleged, amount to more than \$50,000,000.

A similar action was begun by Mr. Trimble in May, 1900, but was dismissed by Vice-Chancellor Pitney, who sustained a demurrer filed by the Company holding that the Bill failed to set forth a sufficient equity on the part of the complainant to justify the proceedings, but with leave to file an amended Bill setting forth sufficient grounds to warrant interference by the Court. In the original Bill, the Vice-Chancellor held that legal conclusions were substituted for statements of facts.

To substantiate the claim that the fight against Arbuckle Bros. in the coffee trade is not within the powers conferred to the American Sugar Refining Company by its Charter the Bill quotes from that Charter the objects of the Company. It is charged that in violation of the powers conferred by its Charter the Directors of the Sugar Company, upon the refusal of the Arbuckles to enter a combination to control the sugar output, determined thereafter not to distribute a reasonable proportion of the undivided profits among the stockholders, but to use these profits to engage in the business of buying, roasting, and selling coffee in competition with the Arbuckles. As part of this plan, it is charged the Directors have since been selling sugar below cost, to lower the price of that article and cause the Arbuckles such losses as would force them to enter into the proposed combination.

It is estimated in the Bill that the fight against the Arbuckles has entailed upon the Sugar Refining Company a loss of \$50,000,000, and it is charged that if the Company is allowed to continue in the coffee business and to sell sugar below cost the entire balance of the undivided profits, including such an amount as should be reserved for a working capital, will be dissipated.

The Bill asserts that the existence of a large amount of undivided profits has been persistently and fraudulently concealed by the Directors of the Company ever since it exceeded \$10,000,000 and that the Directors have never made any statement of the financial condition of the Company to any of the stockholders.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar.*

### SEYCHELLES VANILLA.

The Administrator of the Seychelles, in the course of his annual report on the Trade for 1901, states that the falling off in the value of exports of cocoanuts, coconut oil, and soap is attributable to neglect of existing plantations in favour of the cultivation of vanilla. Admirably suited as are the climate and soil of Mahé, Praslin, La Digue, Silhouette, and many other islands for the cultivation of this valuable orchid, the abandonment, or even partial neglect, of coconut-plantations is much to be deplored. In view of the many uses to which cocoanuts can be put, the danger of over-production is slight; but in the case of vanilla, the danger of over-production is considerable. There is a capriciousness about its price, which renders it desirable that planters should have some other products of economic value to rely on when the yield is small or its selling-price unremunerative. This conclusion seems to be justified by the following statement, showing the quantity of vanilla exported from Seychelles and its declared value at the Customs, from 1891 to 1901:—

Year.	Quantity in Kilos.	Declared Value. Rs.
1891	40,929	373,190
1892	28,177	394,478
1893	28,869	346,428
1894	34,444	293,328
1895	4,553	60,344
1896	31,227	936,000
1897	30,691	920,730
1898	25,177	748,810
1899	41,835	1,338,720
1900	17,569	580,877
1901	71,899	1,108,792

Nearly the same amount of vanilla was exported in 1891 as in 1899, and yet the declared value of the vanilla of 1899 exceeded the declared value of the vanilla of 1891 by almost 1,000,000r. In 1901 the quantity of vanilla exported exceeded four times the quantity exported in 1900, and, had prices been maintained, the declared value of the vanilla exported should have been over 2,000,000r., or four times what it was in 1900; but it will be seen that it was not quite twice as much, and, as has been pointed out before, the declared value probably exceeded the actual value.

The first year for which there is any record of vanilla being exported from Seychelles is 1877, and in this year the quantity was 60 kilos., valued at 1,195r. The next year the quantity exported rose to 147 kilos., valued at 2,950r., but fell in 1879 to 8 kilos., valued at 160r. In 1880 the export of vanilla amounted to 1,713 kilos., valued at 22,877r., and from that year Seychelles has never looked back as a vanilla-producing country.



### THREE GENERATIONS IN THE TEA TRADE.

Joseph Tetley & Co., of London, England, Colombo, Montreal, Winnipeg, New York, Boston, and Chicago, are one of the largest firms of wholesale tea merchants in the world. Their firm is one of three generations' standing, and is admitted to be one of the most reliable and enterprising in the wholesale tea trade. They are specialists in tea, and believe most strongly in Ceylon and Indian teas, dealing heavily in which has placed them at the head of the list in Great Britain.

Joseph Tetley & Co. in 1889 first introduced these teas to the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America, but found that the battle which they had fought and won triumphantly in Great Britain had to be fought even more stubbornly in these great countries. Ceylon and Indian teas were then practically unknown here. They therefore decided to introduce them in the packet form, and were the first firm in London, England, to which Her Britannic Majesty's Customs granted the privilege of having their own bonded warehouse for this purpose. They, by this means, introduced the consumers of Canada and the United States of America to taste Ceylon and Indian teas, and now have the gratification of knowing that their own verdict on these sterling teas have been endorsed and confirmed here.

It is strange, however, that looking at the consumption of tea the world over, it is in Canada and the United States alone that the tea trade remains stationary. While in the last three years Ceylon and Indian teas have doubled their output in Canada and the United States, they have trebled their output even in the Empire of China, have increased it fourfold on the continent of Europe, and have swept all before them in Australia and Great Britain.

#### THE WORLD'S CONSUMPTION OF TEA.

	1895.
	Lb.
Great Britain ... ..	221,000,000
Canada and United States ... ..	117,000,000
Russia, etc. ... ..	98,000,000
Australia ... ..	31,000,000
	1900.
	Lb.
Great Britain ... ..	250,000,000
Russia, etc. ... ..	132,000,000
Canada and United States ... ..	108,000,000
Australia ... ..	34,000,000

#### THE WORLD'S CONSUMPTION OF CEYLON AND INDIAN TEAS.

	1901.
	Lb.
Great Britain ... ..	236,000,000
Australia ... ..	30,000,000
Russia, etc. ... ..	27,000,000
Canada and United States ... ..	18,000,000

From these interesting and important figures it will be seen at a glance that in Canada and the United States alone has the tea consumption actually declined in weight, though we think it safe to assume not in the volume of liquid tea drunk. One pound of Ceylon and Indian tea makes as much of liquid tea, of equal strength and infinitely superior flavour, as two pounds, at least, of any other tea; therefore, Joseph Tetley & Co. are not surprised to see that the additional one million pounds of Ceylon and Indian teas now consumed in Canada and the United States have displaced 20 million pounds of tea from other countries, of a weaker growth—so, that, instead of taking 109 million pounds from other countries and 8 million pounds from Ceylon and India, as in 1895, Canada and the United States find it necessary to take only 90 million pounds from other countries, as they are now taking 18 million pounds annually of the stronger teas of Ceylon and India. We must, however, accept the fact of the tea consumption in these countries being stationary, if it is not declining. Is it because too many tea dealers in these countries are pushing low-priced common teas, with far too much regard for leaf value and far too little regard for cup value, which is resulting in a stationary tea trade and an increasing trade in coffee, cocoa, chocolate, etc.?

Be this as it may, Joseph Tetley & Co. annually buy and sell more Ceylon and Indian tea than is consumed in the Dominion of Canada and the United States put together. They have always put quality first. Their watch-words are Quality and Uniformity, and as tea is to be drunk, not looked at, their packet teas and their

loose blends are standards of cup-value the world over. This is why they sell annually nearly 20 million pounds of high-grade Ceylon and Indian teas. Their standard teas win them staunch and lasting friends, because in trading they build on a solid foundation. They do not take large profits, nor do they give lots of credit, but they buy for cash in the largest tea markets in the world, and sell close and on short terms, they make few bad debts, and so they give fighting value and their enormous turnover is always increasing. They enjoy the highest reputation to which a firm can attain in the tea trade. They put their name upon their packets and they put their shipping mark



upon their standard blends of loose bulk teas as a guarantee of good faith, and as their business has been built upon quality, their goods stamp any store in which they are as one which sells high-grade articles.

Joseph Tetley & Company, buying for cash only, are always welcomed in the three great markets for Ceylon and Indian teas, and get whatever pull is going; but it is in London, where 250 million pounds of these teas annually pass the hammer, that their great strength is felt. At 5 and 7, Fenchurch, London, they have one of the finest tea sale rooms in the world, in which they transact their immense home business. Here the work is so organized and systematized that they employ expert buyers for each of the following departments: Ceylon leaf teas for home consumption; Ceylon broken teas; Ceylon teas for export; Indian leaf teas; Indian broken teas; Travancore teas; Java teas; China blacks; China greens; China Oolongs; China scented.

They have three expert tasters, who do nothing but select from their purchases the most suitable teas for exporting to Canada, the United States, and the continents of Europe and Africa. They have two experts who devote themselves to blending and packaging their highest grade teas.

Joseph Tetley & Company's buying experts are admitted to be at the head of their profession. Through these skilled men they get the best and most suitable teas for their customers at the lowest possible prices. They have at No. 54, Commercial Road, London, large duty-paid and bonded warehouses, fitted with the latest electrical machinery for blending, weighing and packaging their teas. Here there is all that experience and expert knowledge can suggest to obtain the quality, uniformity, and economy.

Joseph Tetley & Company's turnover is such that their packets and standard blends are always in the fighting front. Turnover means freshness. There is no necessity for their customers to stock heavy at one time, as they are quite satisfied to have their customers draw from their stocks as much or as little at a time as suits their own convenience.—*Canadian Grocer*.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

A Meeting of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association was held on the 6th instant, at which there were present: Mr. Lockhart Smith (*Chairman*), Messrs. W. Warrington (*Vice-Chairman*), G. Kingsley, A. C. Lawrie, T. McMorran, G. Pickford, R. R. Toynbee, and T. Traill.

#### BRITISH IMPORT DUTY.

In the letter, dated 19th December, it was stated that a joint Memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon this question was being prepared by the Indian and Ceylon Associations in London. The Memorial asked for the removal of the twopence per pound which was added to the duty on account of the South African War.

The Committee noted this information with much satisfaction; and considered what action they could take in the way of supporting the Memorial. They came to the conclusion that it would be best to adhere to the decision at which they had arrived at their Meeting on the 16th December, that is, to defer approaching the Government of India until the time for the presentation of the



Budget to Parliament was somewhat nearer. In the meantime enquiries were to be made of the Ceylon Planters' Association as to whether the Ceylon Government had been invited to move in the matter.

#### INDIAN LABOURERS IN NATAL.

In the letter, dated 19th December, the London Committee enquired as to the extent to which Indian labourers emigrate to Natal. They had been informed that recently five hundred labourers had been sent from Calcutta to Natal for work on the tea estates in that Colony.

From information before the Committee it appeared that the number of emigrants from India to Natal during recent years was:—1900-01, 6,312; 1899-1900, 1,590; 1898-99, 4,958; 1897-98, 6,036.

The Committee had not, however, been able to obtain any particulars as to what proportion of these labourers had been engaged for the tea gardens in Natal. They accordingly decided to ask the Government Emigration Agent for that Colony if he could furnish information on this head; and also if he could give the total number of emigrants from India to Natal in the year 1901-02.

#### INLAND FREIGHT ON TEA.

Considered a letter, dated 11th December, from Messrs, Gow, Wilson & Stanton, making enquiries as to the quantity of tea sent by rail from Calcutta to Bombay. Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton had been informed that since the 1st January, 1902, the Railway Companies had reduced the freight on tea from Calcutta to Bombay to approximately the same as the rate by sea. Consequently a considerable part of the supply for the Bombay market had since been sent by rail; and not being required to pass through the Custom House, had escaped notice in the official returns. To the end of July 3,273 packages or about 327,300 lbs. had been thus sent. Nearly the whole of this quantity had been bought at the Calcutta auctions, and would, in former years, have been sent by sea, and have been included in the official returns.

The Committee decided to make enquires from the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railways; and to include the figures in future issues of the monthly export circular. Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton were to be informed that this action was to be taken; and the result of the enquiries was also to be communicated to them.

#### EXPORT STATISTICS OF TEA.

On the 21st November the Committee had addressed the Calcutta Collector of Customs with reference to the statistics of exports of Indian tea from Calcutta and Chittagong on through bills of lading. They pointed out that shipments were sometimes made under a London bill of lading with option of transshipment for America or the Continent. Similarly, shipments were made under American or Continental bills of lading with option of landing in London. The point upon which information was desired was, as to whether, in the Custom House statistics, these shipments were treated as sailings for America, or as sailings for the United Kingdom.

The Committee now had before them a letter, dated 19th December, from the Collector of Customs, with reference to the question. In this letter the Collector stated that the Custom House did not scrutinise bills of lading—whether through or only to port of transshipment—as regards exports of tea or other cargo. The export statistics were entirely controlled by the ports shown in the application submitted for outward entry by the agents of the steamers concerned. But even then it was not necessary for the exporter to disclose his port of ultimate destination. In the case, for example, of a vessel entering outwards to London and taking cargo for New York, if the exporter declared London to be the port of destination, the Custom House would have no option but to accept that declaration. At the Chittagong Custom House a similar procedure was followed.

The question had been raised originally by the London Committee to whom the information furnished by the Collector was to be forwarded.



**THE  
STOMACH  
MAKES THE MAN.**

A competent stomach means vigour, vitality, health, for by digestion alone can food be transformed into blood, brain, muscle, wasted tissues repaired, decay arrested and life sustained. Imperfect digestion (indigestion) upsets the whole economy of life. It makes good food poison, breeds dolts, laggards, hobbling rheumatics, nerve racking pains. Seigel's Syrup ensures digestion, dispels disease, produces health. Backed by 34 years' unbroken success in 16 countries.

# SEIGEL'S

## SYRUP

"Two years ago I contracted indigestion and had it pretty badly," says Mr. Geo. Matthews, 93, Bourke St., Sydney, N.S.W. "I suffered from severe pains in the stomach, sleeplessness and vomiting. I lost flesh and strength rapidly and could not work nearly so well as previously. My wife induced me to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. The first bottle relieved me wonderfully and before the second was emptied I was quite cured and as 'right as rain.' July 1st, 1902.

**TONES THE  
STOMACH.**



## THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.

In the proceedings of the Meeting held on 9th September it was stated that the Government of Bengal and the Assam Administration were to be addressed with reference to their grants towards the expenses of the Scientific Department of the Association. It will be remembered that early in 1900 the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal sanctioned a grant of Rs.5,000 annually for three years to the Fund, and the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam, a grant of Rs.2,500 annually for three years. As the Committee were most anxious that Mr. Mann's services should be retained, and that the work of the Scientific Department should be extended, they had asked—in the letters referred to—that these grants should now be renewed and, if possible, enhanced.

The Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam had expressed his agreement with the view that investigation should be on a larger and completer scale, if practical results were to be hoped for. He had further given it as his opinion that the cost of the researches might be appropriately charged to the proceeds of the Tea Cess.

The Committee now had before them a letter, dated 23rd December, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Revenue Department, on the subject. In this letter it was stated that the Acting Lieutenant-Governor concurred with the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner in thinking that the cost of the Scientific Department might be charged against the Tea Cess. And if the levy of the Cess were legalised in terms which would permit of the appropriation of a portion of the proceeds for this purpose, the grant of a special Government subsidy would, His Honor thought, be unnecessary. At the same time His Honor was pleased to accord provisional sanction to a grant of Rs.7,000 a year, for a period of three years from the date of the expiry of the present grant. This decision was, however, to be subject to reconsideration, if it should be determined to provide for the Scientific Department from the Cess funds.

The decision to increase the grant was noted by the Committee with much satisfaction, and an expression of their cordial thanks was to be conveyed to His Honor. But it was to be pointed out that the work of exploiting foreign markets would make such demands upon the Cess funds, as to preclude the possibility of the Scientific Department being maintained from that source. The Committee were not disposed to favour the idea that the Cess should be legalised in terms which would permit of a portion of the funds being devoted to this purpose. And even if it were so legalised, it by no means followed that the grant of a special Government subsidy was unnecessary. The Cess funds were provided not by Government but by the industry; and the fact of their existence did not, in the opinion of the Committee, relieve the Government of their obligation to assist the development, upon scientific principles, of the cultivation and manufacture of tea.

A letter in terms similar to the foregoing was also to be addressed to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Papers relating to the establishment of a proposed Experimental Farm in Assam were discussed by the Committee in connection with the question of the Scientific Department. It was, however, decided to postpone consideration of the proposal, pending the completion of the negotiations for the renewal of Mr. Mann's agreement.

## SHEVAROYS.

Proceedings of the monthly Committee Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, held in the Victoria Rooms at Yercaud, on the 12th January, 1903, at 1 P.M. PRESENT:—Messrs. C. G. Lechler, J. C. Large, C. Dickens, W. I. Lechler, W. Rahm. Mr. R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. Read notice calling Meeting.  
2. Mr. Travers Drapes not being present, his case could not be proceeded with.

3. Read letter from Mr. Large pointing out that the Ghaut Road would be almost useless without feeder Roads for which it was very desirable that the savings on the original project should be expended.

Honorary Secretary read letters that he had written on this subject to the Collector, and through him to the Chief Secretary of Government, so long ago as the 15th August last, to which he had received no answers.

*Resolved*, that he should be requested to send a reminder at once asking for an early reply.

4. Read Secretary's Circulars Nos. 93/02, 96/02 and 97/02 regarding the proposed new Labour Bill.

*Resolved*, that the Honorary Secretary be requested to address the Planting Member, pointing out that Government originally proposed to frame a new Act, applicable to certain Districts only, which imported their labour from a distance; and that Act XIII should run concurrently with the new Act. Also that it should in any case continue to be applicable to those Districts which did not desire fresh legislation or to which Government refused to extend it. It was always—until quite lately—understood that the application of the new Act to any District would depend on the wishes of the planters. The new Act is totally inapplicable to local labour and the Planting Member's proposed amendment to Section 7 would entirely fail to meet the difficulty, since weeding contracts, etc., are usually made for a year and the coolies, though coming from villages within the District, do generally prefer to reside on the Estate. If Act XIII of 1859 cannot be allowed to run concurrently with the new Act, this Association would much prefer the former; as Act XIII, though bad, was infinitely better suited to Local labour than the proposed new Bill.

The following letters have been recorded:—

1. Chalan from Treasury Officer, dated 16th December, acknowledging receipt of Rs.75 for twelve Bamboo pass books.

2. Secretary's Circular No. 94/02, dated 19th December, 1902, stating that Planting Member fears it will be impossible to retain Act XIII of 1859.

3. Replies to Mr. Nicholson's proposal *re* payment of maistries  
(1) of those who do agree.  
(2) of those who do not agree.

4. Letter from District Forest Officer, who declines to forward correspondence *re* Bamboo Passes to Board of Revenue.

5. Letter of 27th December from Mr. E. G. Windle wanting more information about proposed system of paying maistries.

6. Letter from the Madras Railway Company, No. T. 30, dated 27th December, 1902, wanting a list of Plantations and their distances from the Railway.

A number of books and papers received during the month were laid on the table.

ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of January 2nd, 1903.]

## COFFEE.

*The London Commercial Record* says:—The public sale market is still closed; auctions will be resumed on the 6th instant. Business in "futures" has been quiet and variations in price slight; on Wednesday Santos for January delivery sold at 26s 3d, March at 27s 3d, May at 28s, September at 28s 10½d to 29s, and December at 29s 7½d per cwt.; yesterday was a blank day. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery ...	27s 3d.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio...	" ...	4'60 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	" ...	27½ pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	" ...	33¼ francs.

No sales of importance have taken place privately to-day and auctions will not be resumed until next Friday.

Brazil "futures" open steadily and remained unchanged during the day. Transactions are only small, the market still being in a holiday mood. March done at 29s 3d, May at 28s, September at 29s, and December at 29s 7½d.

Closing quotations:—

	Sellers.	Buyers.
March ...	27/3	27/
May ...	28/	27/9
July ...	28/6	28/3
September	29/	28/9
December	29/9	29/6

Hamburg unchanged. Havre closed until Monday. New York opens unchanged to 5 lower.



Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.
West India ...	398	347	1,293	821
Ceylon ...	163	125	354	348
East India ...	1,786	1,866	4,487	10,393
Mocha ...	566	300	1,216	824
Brazil ...	15,412	5,654	15,203	7,886
Other Foreign...	6,099	4,012	21,554	25,715
Total tons ...	24,424	12,304	44,107	45,987

	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.
West India ...	342	213	892	698
Ceylon ...	146	176	159	220
East India ...	3,131	3,826	1,529	5,443
Mocha ...	907	828	56	88
Brazil ...	2,633	3,488	2,299	3,184
Other Foreign ...	9,350	11,302	9,791	18,844
Total tons ...	16,509	19,833	14,726	28,477

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports a decrease this year of	1,880
Home Consumption a decrease of	3,324
Export a decrease of	13,751
Stock an increase of	12,030

Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3. Bags.	1901-2. Bags.	1900-01. Bags.	1899-00. Bags.
Since July 1—				
Rio ...	2,555,000	3,544,000	1,654,000	2,114,000
Santos ...	5,670,000	7,038,000	5,428,000	4,632,000
Total ...	8,225,000	10,582,000	7,082,000	6,746,000
Crop ...	...	15,426,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, previous day 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

HAVRE, December 31.—Good average Santos December opened steady at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f and closed steady at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., March opened at 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ f., May opened at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., July opened at 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ f., September opened at 34 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 34 $\frac{3}{4}$ f.

January—Market closed.

HAMBURG, December 31.—Good average Santos January opened steady at 27pf. and closed quiet at 27pf., March opened at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf. and closed at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., May opened at 28pf. and closed at 28pf., July opened at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., and closed at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., September opened at 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf. and closed at 29pf.

January 1—Market closed.

NEW YORK, December 31.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.
Dec. 31 ...	...	4'40	4'50	4'60	4'70
Dec. 30 ...	4'45	4'40	4'50	4'60	4'70

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated January 2nd, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	891,592	666,634	43,000
1901-1902 ...	893,398	672,851	39,248

7,852 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 8,971 packages were offered in public auction  
 1,119 " CEYLON } this week.  
 1,119 " JAVA }

The small shipments from India are at length beginning to tell upon arrivals in England, those for December being about four million pounds below the corresponding period of 1901, while the stock of Indian tea is now about five millions less.

INDIAN.—The market opened on the 31st ultimo with a small sale of 7,852 packages; little change was shown from rates current before Christmas, and as merchants were inclined to be very firm, several parcels were withdrawn for higher limits.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 6,312 pkgs., av. 7'39d.—1902, 22,333 pkgs., av. 7'28d.

# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/11 & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 656,301 pkgs., av. 7.24d. 1901-2, 674,789 pkgs., av. 8.02d.

CEYLON.—The market still remains closed, the first sale of the year not taking place till the 6th instant.

JAVA.—1,119 packages were brought forward and sold with good competition fully up to recent prices, while occasionally an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. was noticeable.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight :—  
Calcutta  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{4}$ . Colombo  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{5}{8}$ .

#### Comparative prices of Indian Tea in London.

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Dust.	(Fair ordinary, dark liquor)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
Fannings.	(Red to brown, strong rough liquor)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6d
Broken Tea.	(Brownish to blackish, strong liquor)	6d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d
Pek. Soug.	(Blackish, greyish, useful liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d
Pekoe.	(Greyish to blackish, some tip, useful liquor)	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	7d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
Pek. Soug.	(Blackish, greyish, inferior liquor)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	6d
Pekoe.	(Blackish, greyish, some tip, inferior liquor)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6d	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d

#### Comparative prices of Ceylon Tea in London.

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Pekoe Soug.	(Ordinary leaf, fair liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d
Pekoe.	(Ordinary leaf, little twist, fair liquor)	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	7d	6d	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
Pekoe. Soug.	(Rather bold leaf, indifferent liquor)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
Pekoe.	(Somewhat bold leaf, indifferent liquor)	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	6d	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d

#### COCOA.

The market is quiet awaiting the resumption of auctions. The only business of importance is in Ceylon growth, for which a moderate demand exists, principally for fine Estate quality at 70s to 80s per cwt.

#### PEPPER.

BLACK—The firmness reported last week has been maintained, and buyers have been compelled to raise their limits. Business has been done in fair Singapore on the spot at  $6\frac{1}{16}$ d, and now no

further sellers at this, while  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. has been paid for 10 tons to arrive January-March (s.).

The shipments of Black Pepper for the month of December compare as follows:—

	1ST-HALF.		2ND-HALF.	
	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.
U.K.—Singapore	nil } nil	nil } nil	nil } 30	40 } 50
" Penang ...	nil } 200	nil } 90	30 } 50	10 } 170
Continent ...	120	130	60	40
United States ...				
Total tons ...	320	220	140	260

WHITE—is also firm, but no sales are reported. On the spot the quotation for fair Singapore is  $9\frac{1}{16}$ d, and for Penang  $9\frac{3}{16}$ d; to arrive the respective values are unchanged at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d and  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for January-March (s.).

The shipments of White Pepper for the month of December compare as follows:—

	1ST-HALF.		2ND-HALF.	
	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.
U.K.—Singapore	60 } 100	30 } 110	20 } 40	20 } 60
" Penang ...	40 } 30	80 } 30	20 } 100	40 } nil
Continent ...	nil	30	nil	nil
United States ...				
Total tons ...	130	170	140	60

#### QUININE.

Quinine has been very quiet, but firm, the year closing with a small business in the usual brands of German sulphate at  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d per oz., spot, and 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for May delivery. To-day there are sellers at  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d, spot, and buyers at  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. If the bark shipments from Java had been moderate, as was expected, there would probably have been a better tone.

#### MOVEMENTS (IN LBS.) DURING DECEMBER FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

IMPORTS.						DELIVERIES.		
		1902.	1901.	1900.		1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian ...	...	21,989,385	25,819,392	21,618,371		12,394,090	13,731,661	12,345,413
Ceylon ...	...	7,070,781	6,545,271	8,065,452		6,968,555	7,173,378	7,931,647
Total lbs. ...		29,060,166	32,364,663	29,683,823		19,362,645	20,905,039	20,277,060

FROM 1ST JUNE TO 31ST DECEMBER.						DELIVERIES.			STOCK.	
		1902.	1901.	1900.		1902.	1901.	1900.		
Indian ..	...	109,623,814	111,844,933	113,073,834	85,569,282	77,710,861	70,169,792	68,211,602	73,023,647	69,922,810
Ceylon ...	...	57,885,473	54,509,400	62,488,319	60,308,741	60,542,336	62,877,179	19,881,036	19,710,621	24,860,984
Total lbs. ...		167,509,287	166,354,333	175,562,153	145,878,023	138,253,197	133,046,971	88,092,638	92,734,268	94,783,794

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1903.

[No. 5.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 6th proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Kotagiri.

*22nd January.—Weather—*Much brighter, but still a bit cloudy, though no rain. *Crops—*Still picking lightly; stripping has begun on one or two of the lower elevation Estates. Plenty still to come on higher ones. *Labour—*Sufficient. *Health—*Improving, though there is a certain amount of what appears to be influenza. *Spike* is a great deal too forward to be pleasant, and general appearance of trees is poor.

#### Kotagiri.

*28th January.—Weather—*Continues fine, though there are still clouds hovering round. *Crop—*Picking steadily though slowly. A large amount of Dry Cherry being gleaned. Weeding is being taken in hand now that fewer coolies are needed for picking. *Labour—*Sufficient. *Health—*Fair. *Interesting items—*(i) The Volunteer Prize Meeting on the 3rd, 4th and 5th February; (ii) one tiger has accounted for 12 head of cattle and ponies in two months. He has been wounded slightly, but is still at large; (iii) a Dance at the Club to-night, a "farewell" to Mr. & Mrs. F. T. F. Wilson.

### SCIENTIFIC AID FOR PLANTERS.

FROM various parts of India comes information that clearly points to an insufficiency of scientific aid for the agriculturist (including the European planter) in this country. In India there is supposed to be one Entomologist; in the Madras Presidency there is one Botanist; in the comparatively small Province of Mysore there is an Agricultural Chemist. So far as the planter in South India is concerned, this completes the list, save that he may at times obtain a little useful assistance from the authorities of the Indian and Madras museums.

Is it enough? We have heard complaints from planters in Mysore that they have not derived the benefit from the Agricultural Chemist that they looked forward to when they advocated the engagement of this official. We hold no brief for Dr. LEHMANN; he is quite capable of defending himself, if attacked. But we say that even in the territory that he has had to deal with, he has found his hands more than full. Until recently he has been handicapped by the want of a laboratory, and he has made no secret of the fact that he does not regard himself as quite "complete" when he has no laboratory at hand. Coffee cultivation in Mysore is in such parlous condition that an investigation of it that had any pretensions to thoroughness would occupy the full time of any scientist. We want the whole matter looked into, from the preparation of the soil and the selection of seed to the curing and packing of beans. There have been fresh complaints lately about deterioration of quality. If a competent scientist could devote his time to a thorough investigation, we should, in time, know one of two things: either that there is deterioration that cannot be prevented, or that there are means of preventing it. We take the deterioration for granted. There are exceptions to the general rule; but we take it as established that the average quality of Indian coffee beans offered for sale in the London market is not as high as it was, say, ten or twenty years ago. Curers say their machinery and methods are the best available; if so, the fault lies with soil conditions or methods of cultivation or atmospheric conditions. The first two can be improved perhaps, and some changes might even be introduced to counteract unfavourable atmospheric conditions.

If for Mysore one scientist is insufficient, how about the Madras Presidency with its one Botanist, India with its "regulation allowance" of one Entomologist? It seems to us that both Tea and Coffee demand the attention of scientists. Pepper has claimed that attention for months past, and never was there a clearer indication of the undermanning of the scientific side of agriculture in Madras than was afforded by the delay that occurred before the Government Botanist was deputed to look into the diseases of the pepper-vine. Mr. BARBER is not to blame. He has had, among other matters, to investigate diseases of the sugar-cane, a much wider, and a more important subject. We assert that one man is not enough for the investigation of diseases in planting products alone; and it stands to reason that no one man can



deal thoroughly with the many and varied agricultural products of the Madras Presidency. Planters have expressed ere this a desire for the appointment of a special scientist; in Mysore their representations have been partially successful. In Madras they stand to all intents and purposes much where they did a decade and more ago. It is on this ground, and because of the knowledge that planters have suffered greatly for want of scientific advice and assistance, that we urge that this matter be pressed on the Government again—and, if necessary, again and yet again until victory is achieved. Some few men may be satisfied with things as they are, but it needs no more than the prevalence of pest, or blight, or disease to dissipate their contentment. Only a few years ago coffee was practically exterminated on the Pulneys at a time when it might perhaps have been saved if immediate scientific aid had been forthcoming when first the inrush of the enemy was observed.

The Government may be said to owe the planter assistance such as we urge him to claim. Apart from considerations of the general duty of the State towards every important agricultural industry, there is in India a special reason why Government should help the agriculturist. We do not say the planter alone, though we advocate the employment of a special scientist, or more than one, to help him. Whatever influence the present Currency Policy of the Government may have had in checking over-production of Tea, it has had no such effect in regard to Coffee. Even with Tea also it has tended to withdraw from the planter a large share of his revenue; in return for this he, along with every agriculturist in India, has a right to claim at least that Government should provide all necessary scientific aid, to protect him from the effects of plant pests and diseases and to help him to perfect methods of cultivation and preparation. We do not invite any discussion on the Currency question. Let us take that question as settled. Still, the fact remains that the artificial raising of the rupee has been a serious handicap to the planter, to the coffee-planter in particular, for he has been met by the competition of other countries not equally handicapped, and has never incurred any risk of over-production. Whether planters make use of the argument with which this Currency Policy furnishes them or leave it alone, they have a strong case to put forward, and we urge that it ought to be put forward again and again until it is taken into proper consideration. Every year of late the need of scientific aid has been felt in increasing force; and there is no good reason why the Government of India and the Government of Madras should not be urged to give at least as much support to planters in this respect as the Government of Ceylon does.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Retail Coffee Prices in the U. S.**—The *Merchants' Guide*, of Philadelphia, says: "Importers and wholesale dealers in coffee are excited because the Treasury Department says in its report that they are receiving extortionate prices from the consumers, besides selling inferior grades for the Mocha and Java growths. Many of the importers were in possession yesterday of the reports, which also contain the statement that, while the standard grades of coffee are the lowest ever quoted, they have not brought about any appreciable reduction in price to consumers.

"Many of the importers declared yesterday that the reports did them an injustice, especially in the matter of price, for

in no sense was extortion practiced upon retail dealers or consumers."

The *Merchants' Review* comments thus:—"The Philadelphia coffee handlers probably had not seen the article in the *Merchants' Review* exposing the absurdities of the Treasury statement, otherwise they would have understood that there was no ground for undue excitement. The Government officials are not supposed to know much about coffee or any other product, and, as a matter of fact, they do not know much. The Treasury outpourings on the subject of coffee are about as valuable, and no more, than the tommyrot of the Department of Agriculture on the subject of home-grown tea.

"For some reason the Treasury Department and the Agricultural Department seem bent upon making things as unpleasant as possible for the importing element in trade, although without the import trade the country would not have much use for either department, for imports mean exports, and the Treasury Department would amount to very little without the one while the Department of Agriculture would cut an absurd figure without the other. Yet it seems that neither department can be satisfied unless hatching some scheme to make life unpleasant for the importers.

"Real harm, however, does not often result from attempts like that to which we referred editorially a week ago, and when the importers and wholesalers have cooled down they will recognize the uselessness of anger or any feeling of annoyance over the excursions of Government officials into realms that are strange to their feet.

"We do not think the Washingtonian officials who had a hand in sending out the statement alluded to by the *Review* last week, will care to subject themselves to a second dose of the reproof conveyed in our criticisms, and the question of the proper margin of profit in the coffee trade will probably be left, as before, to the grocers for settlement with the help of the irresistible force of competition.

"It should be a sufficient answer to all attacks such as we are considering, that the consumption of coffee has doubled within a little more than a decade. The *per capita* consumption of coffee is much larger here than in any other important nation, and this could not be were there any truth in the charges lately given currency in the Press."

\* \* \*

Coffee is certainly much more freely drunk than formerly, says the *Merchants' Review* of New York. This could hardly be unless the price had been greatly reduced to the consumer. Where the price has not been materially reduced it will be found, generally speaking, that the quality has been improved. This raising of the quality when the market price has fallen is a rather common practice with grocers. Thus butter, tea and cheese, as well as coffee, do not vary much in price in some grocery stores, the ups and downs of the market being represented by an up-and-down movement of the quality. Newspaper charges, which ignore the influence of the competitive principle, may mislead some people, but those who have studied such matters are well aware that the public is always the gainer by marked reductions of price, whenever the low level is retained for a considerable time. Sharp, sudden fluctuations of course cannot be expected to affect the retail selling prices to the same extent.

\* \* \*

Demand has been slow, and prices for spot easier for high-grade Brazil, says the *American Grocer* of December 24, 1902. It is the same old story of excessive supply and indifferent



demand, subject to speculative manipulation on the Exchange, where quotations have dropped to 4.40c. bid for December and January. Mild coffee firm for fancy marks and all desirable roasting grades. Stocks are moderate.

\* \* \*

The same old canard! The *Merchants' Review* writes:—The quality of Indian coffee is good—so good that it is appreciated by the Arabs and Turks. It is not easy to determine how much of the 250,000 pounds of Indian coffee shipped to Arabia finds its way to Europe and America as the finest "Mocha."

\* \* \*

The packers of cereal coffees, with their free use of printing-ink, seem to be troubling the souls of some of the friends of coffee in India; yet while the "Postum" people have been hammering the Arabian berry it has doubled its consumption in the United States.

\* \* \*

**Bickford's Coffee Circular.**—Advices from numerous sources in Guatemala as to the actual or even approximate damage sustained by the recent volcanic eruptions there are conflicting an authoritative estimate is impossible. Some place it at 400,000 quintals lost to this crop, while others go variously to the opposite extreme. Important estates near the volcano are known to be permanently ruined. Others, more distant, will occupy a season or seasons in recuperating. As the distance increases the damage lessens and many who felt themselves ruined at first will now partly or largely save their crops. Still others will lose, not as the direct result of the eruption, but by neglect occasioned through the fleeing of their native labourers and the delay and difficulty in securing their gradual return. The area involved has been pretty well defined and there is no doubt that the aggregate loss will prove severe, but the planters seem unable to more than approximate their figures. As a rough hazard we would put the shortage of this crop at 250,000 quintals, say 185,000 bags.

New crop coffees have begun to arrive in small quantities, but no business has transpired in these and none in old crop worth mentioning. The market has been very dull the past month and is likely to continue dormant until the turn of the year. Prices in New York for spot Brazil coffees are about the same as on November 7th. but futures are one-half cent lower, with general conditions very dull there.

First hand stocks December 13th consists of 58 bags Costa Rica, 1,113 Nicaragua, 982 Salvador, 12,344 Guatemala, 398 Mexican, and 7,050 various; in all 21,945 bags.—*Weekly Commercial Review*.

\* \* \*

Statistical positions at the moment count for little; it is sentiment that is required, and there is a total absence of that just now. It may be a consolation, though a poor one, that other trades are no better off, on the contrary some fare even worse. Look at fine coloury East Indian coffee. The first arrivals of the new crop have met with a very poor demand, and were sold at ruinously low prices. Two well known and liked Coorg crops realized an average of 50s., landed, and this figure was only reached after a great deal of trouble and work on the part of the selling brokers, for not more than 45s. was bid in sale for the parcels. This, we feel sure, will be a great shock, not only to the owners of the estates in question, but to the entire Coffee community in India—Planters, Dealers, and Shippers. For a long while they could not be brought to realize that the prices which they demanded were far above the parity of other coffees, and also that old stocks were still lying in London, which were depressing the market. We have cautioned our readers several times, but were only called pessimists in return. This week's sales, although we cannot regard them as a criterion, for the quality of the coffee did not come up to their usual standard, will serve as an indication what the feeling of the London Coffee trade is like. Brazils are pouring in upon us, and under their weight prices slowly but surely must decline. We have almost reached the lowest point of last year, but with this difference, that we are facing about double the quantity of visible supplies. The market is full of weak and tired bulls, who are only too anxious to clear out, and they avail themselves of any improvement to reduce their holdings. We are afraid the outlook is not very promising at the movement.—*London Commercial Record*, Jan. 9.

From a prominent Anglo-Brazilian firm Messrs. Willett & Gray have received the following about the crop prospects: "The course of events and what we can learn from the best sources of information available, have confirmed our opinion, as expressed in our circular of September 1, that the damage by frost in the State of Sao Paulo was greatly exaggerated, and that the prospects of the growing Rio and Santos crops continue very favourable. The heavy flowering seems to have set well, and now any but local damage is improbable. We prefer not to name figures, purporting to be more or less exact, because there is no exact data on which to base such figures. In former years we could usually estimate the crop with some exactitude, but the extension of area under cultivation has made crop estimation largely a matter of guess-work. Should above forecast be realized, it appears to us that the supply of coffee in excess of demand is assured for some time to come, and that the position of the article is in consequence inherently a weak one. Apart from possible unforeseen causes, or any extraordinary damage, we do not see reason to expect any great falling off in the production of Brazil, even if prices go much lower, as the bulk of the crop will be picked, even if the smaller and poorer planters have to neglect theirs, while new planting has continued of late years, and still goes on, though of course on a small scale compared with some years back." This has been confirmed by cable of late, and the information being spread of fruit falling off and other damage does not seem to be entitled to any consideration.

### TEA NOTES.

Tea, like coffee, is cheap, but, unlike coffee, tea does not increase in consumption, says the *Merchants' Review*, of New York. We do not look for any material gain in the popularity of the article until Ceylon and India teas, or blends of these teas with Chinas and Japans, have been thoroughly introduced.

\* \* \*

The effects of green tea upon the nervous system of the consumer have frequently been made use of in fiction, and it is well known that green tea is much more trying to the nerves than other sorts. The consumers in the United States prefer green tea to black tea as a rule.

\* \* \*

**The "Thirty Committee" and Green Tea.**—The "Thirty Committee" have decided that the information placed at their disposal goes to show a probable export during 1903, of twelve million lbs. of green tea. At the same time they can only see their way to paying a bonus of 4 cents per lb. on seven million lbs. and unless the Cess rate is temporarily increased, all beyond this quantity must go without the bonus. The vote for Mr. Renton must go on till the end of 1903, Rs.7,500 has been expended on Mr. Foley's scheme for Afghanistan; but Rs.5,000 of this is expected back from Mr. Foley.

\* \* \*

All teas placed in warehouses are, says the *American Grocer*, when withdrawn, subject to duty in force at the time they were warehoused. Unless this ruling is changed by act of Congress, there is trouble ahead for the tea trade.

\* \* \*

The United States and Canada imported 17,710,873 pounds of Indian and Ceylon tea during the first nine months of 1902, against 12,382,755 pounds for the same time in 1901.

\* \* \*

**Selling Tea and Coffee.**—It is astonishing, says the *Journal of Commerce*, Kansas City, what poor tea is sold at the average grocery for 75c. per pound. It is simply because most retailers are not good judges of the article. No man is capable of buying tea on its merits who is not a lover of the beverage, and that remark applies



to coffee as well. There is no legitimate excuse for not selling tea and coffee of fine flavour and good body at popular prices, yet thousands of grocers fail to make these articles large profit-payers simply because they are not good judges of quality. Such retailers should rely on the judgment of an honest expert; one who will take a lively interest in aiding to establish a growing trade. These should study flavours, and learn to test and select fine tea and choicy coffee. There is not only a big profit in the articles, but a means of enhancing the popularity of the store.

**Car Loads of Tea for Milwaukee.**—One dealer notified the collector that he has four car loads of tea destined for Milwaukee, while nearly every wholesale merchant has car load lots on the way. All of them have plenty of room in their warehouses. The removal of the tax on tea will reduce the receipts of the Milwaukee office by \$10,000, that being the amount of the annual tax paid here by tea merchants.—*Milwaukee Sentinel*.

### NOTES.

#### Ceylon Cinchona.

been :—

The exports from Ceylon from January 1 to December 15 have

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Lbs. ...	397,931	571,357	499,039	592,492

#### Para Rubber in the Kelani Valley.

A Syndicate of leading planters in the Kelani Valley have, according to the *Ceylon Standard*, concluded negotiations for the purchase of 600 acres of land for the cultivation of Para Rubber. The land is situated at Bulatkohupitiya in the Three Korales.

#### Java Cinchona.

Exports for 1902 are given at 13,143,000 Amsterdam lbs. of bark as against 12,606,000 for 1901. In English lbs. the comparison runs :—

1902 ...	29,440,320
1901 ...	28,237,440

The Amsterdam *pond* is equal to 2.24 English pounds—the French kilogramme being 2.20.

#### Cacao.

The Ligu cacao (*Theobroma bicolor*) is now fruiting at the Botanic Station, Dominica. Several plants of the Alligator cacao (*Theobroma pentagona*) has also flowered. Both of these species were obtained from Nicaragua by Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the the Botanic Gardens, Trinidad. On one estate in Grenada where very particular attention is given to cultivation and manuring the efforts of the proprietor have been rewarded by a yield of 130 bags (of 182 lbs. each) of cacao from about 16 acres. This is at the rate of 8 bags per acre.—*Agricultural News*, Dec. 20.

#### Java Cinchona.

The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe during December, 1902, as under:—

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1902 ...	1,318,000	1897 ...	731,000
1901 ...	1,300,000	1896 ...	890,000
1900 ...	1,100,000	1895 ...	634,000
1899 ...	626,000	1894 ...	531,000
1898 ...	1,018,000	1893 ...	391,000

Total Shipments June-December.

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1902 ...	13,346,000	1897 ...	8,437,000
1901 ...	12,799,000	1896 ...	10,079,000
1900 ...	10,780,000	1895 ...	8,827,700
1899 ...	11,409,800	1894 ...	8,917,700
1898 ...	11,150,000	1893 ...	7,342,000

#### Dumont Coffee Company.

A circular has been issued stating that the coffee crop for the current year, owing to the trees having borne a very heavy crop last year, which was followed by a severe drought, has fallen considerably below the Manager's estimate of 60,000 cwt., the yield only amounting to 42,650 cwt., against 143,395 cwt. in 1901. The market price of ordinary Santos coffee has averaged 28s. 9d. per hundredweight since the selling season began, but the average price realised to date on 15,702 cwt. sold on the Company's account is 40s. 3d. per hundredweight. Owing to the unsatisfactory harvest and the low price of coffee, the Directors regret no further distribution can be made at present on account of arrears of preference dividends.

#### London Tea Sales.

Weekly special telegram dated 22nd instant from Messrs Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is weak and that the market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for teas for price is easier. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6d. (the same as last week) and the average 7½d. (also the same as last week). The average for the same period last year was also 7½d. Ruter reports that common to medium qualities of Ceylon tea are rather easier. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 5½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7½d. (also same as last week). 22,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 18,000 disposed of; while of the 33,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 26,000 were sold at an average of 7¾d. (same as last week).

#### Java Government Cinchona-plantations.

A sum of 289,000fl. has been allotted to the Java Government cinchona-plantations, in connection with the estimates for 1903. This sum is an increase of 189,000fl. on the estimates for 1902. It is intended for the purchase of quinine, gathering, manufacturing, transport, and sale of cinchona, etc. In 1902 the production of Government bark was estimated at 1,000,000 Amsterdam lbs., but this year they hope to increase the output by 50 per cent.—i.e., 1,500,000 Amsterdam lbs. In view of this, and also because more money is required for laying out new nurseries, upkeep of nurseries, etc., expenses of the Government plantations are estimated at 5,000l. There is also an increase of 3,250l. in the estimates for the purpose of meeting the extra cost of manufacturing the quinine produced by the Bandong Quinine Works. The revenue for 1903 is expected to realise 399,000fl., chiefly derived from the sale of Java quinine.

#### American Journalism.

*Apropos* of the recent article in the *Boston Herald* "booming" Pinehurst Tea, Mr. P. C. Larkin writes to the *Ceylon Observer*:—If you think the *Boston Herald* would allow any institution or person to boom itself at the expense of the proprietors of the *Herald*, then you are mistaken. Every line of the article you allude to was paid for, and paid roundly for, and, in fact, it is articles like this that bring around the donations from the Government of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to help on the "experiments" of the "Pinehurst Plantation." Therefore when you reflect on your Commissioner for not getting similar articles inserted free, you are doing him an injustice. I will venture to say that Ceylon tea has had more free reading articles in the Press of the United States twenty



times over than the "Pinehurst Plantation," but this has been done not only by making the articles interesting, but also by buying much space in their advertising columns.

**Cinchona.** Statement of the movements of "Peruvian" Bark in the United Kingdom, according to the Board of Trade Returns for the twelve months of last and two previous years :—

			1900.	1901.	1902.
Imported...	...	cwts.	41,108	42,546	39,705
Value ..	...		£92,187	£120,670	£97,058
Exported ..	...	cwts.	44,326	25,767	24,108
Value ...	...		£115,800	£69,323	£59,109
Exports of Quinine and Quinine Salts	...	...	...	...	1902.
Value ...	...	...	...	...	348,459
					£15,792

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Bark in London :—

	(12 months.)		1900.	1901.	1902.
Imported	...	pkgs.	21,749	24,501	19,285
Delivered	...	"	28,227	23,824	21,503
Stock	...	"	9,621	10,298	8,080

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Quinine :—

	(12 months.)		1900.	1901.	1902.
Imported	...	lbs.	98,430	74,710	57,552
Deliveries	...	"	28,227	23,824	21,503
Stock ...	...	"	209,782	222,312	224,628

GENERAL ARTICLES.

HOW TREES DRINK.

Irrigation on the capillary attraction principle is now being investigated by the State Board of Horticulture, and the Government Experiment Station at Fort Collins, with a view to recommending it for adoption in this State. Fruit-growers who have experimented with the scheme declare it to be entirely feasible and much more effective than the old way of feeding moisture to trees by way of the roots.

Mr. Flage Carter, of Park County, the first person to try the plan in this State, wrote to Governor Orman some time ago explaining the method of irrigating a tree by capillary attraction. He takes a vessel, a pan or a bucket, or anything that can be tied to a tree limb, and will hold water. He fills it with water and then bends a twig about the circumference of an ordinary lead pencil into the water. The liquid will be rapidly absorbed by the twig, and in turn the water will enter the limb and soon permeate every part of the tree. The problem of keeping the vessels supplied with water is not difficult, for the reason that a half-gallon of water will do as much irrigating as many cubic inches under the present plan the adherents of the scheme claim.

"Capillary attraction is the future of orchard irrigation," says the originator of the proposition. "I took up the matter two years ago, but did not put it to a final test until this Spring. Then I had two trees that needed attention badly, and I experimented with each. One young tree had been rubbed thoroughly by a horse, and was wilted badly. I applied my method of watering it, and within one week it completely revived. I next treated a sick apple tree, and now it is all right, thanks to the capillary attraction principle."—*The Denver "Post."*

TOBACCO CULTURE.

In the *B. C. African Times* a correspondent gives the following hints as to growing Tobacco in those parts :—

Tobacco beds require to be made up very carefully and the soil made into as fine a tilth as possible. It is sometimes advantageous to mix well-rotted manure with the soil and the beds should be burned over. That is, a layer of grass and brushwood and small sticks should be placed on top of the bed and set fire to. This burning is for the purpose of destroying grass seeds which come up with the tobacco and give much trouble unless they are eradicated in this way as the young tobacco seedlings, being

so small and delicate, do not stand much weeding. After burning, the charred remains and unburnt portions of the wood should be removed and the surface made fine for sowing the seed.

As regards quantity a tablespoonful of tobacco seed is sufficient for a bed 50 feet long by four feet broad if the seed is good. It should be sown evenly and to effect this the tablespoonful of seed should be mixed with fine sifted ashes and sown broadcast on a still evening, as the least wind carries the light seed away. The hand should be held close to the ground when sowing. One of the best ways is to sow half of the mixture up and down the bed as evenly as possible, the other half being sown over the first but crosswise. The bed should then be covered with chopped straw (without any grass seeds,) and watered gently, preferably with a fine rose or, if that is not at hand, by using a brush of small leaves to scatter the water on the top of the straw. The bed should be kept moist and for this purpose should be watered morning and evening. The seed should appear in about a fortnight according to weather conditions and freshness of seed.

Plants are ready for planting out when the leaves are about three to four inches long.

MORE ABOUT COFFEES.

The more some people talk about coffee the more they reveal their ignorance. This opinion has been elicited from us by the remarks on a recent Treasury statement which have appeared in the shape of an interview in several contemporaries. In this interview the nonsensical talk of the Treasury expert relative to 25-cent coffee being extortionately high, in the face of low-grade Rio selling at 5½c., is deservedly criticised, but the usual cloven hoof appears in the shape of a hit at the importers who are charged with selling bogus Java and Mocha grades in place of the genuine.

Surely it is hypocrisy for any Jobber of teas and coffees to attempt to point the finger of scorn at another Jobber because the latter sells Java and Mocha as he finds them in the market. Surely it would be hypocrisy on the part of the grocer, knowing nothing of Java and Mocha save as trade names, to attack another dealer or even an importer for handling trade Javas and Mochas instead of the real thing.

It has been told so often that Java and Mocha coffee is usually Brazil coffee of a superior grade that is sometimes worth more than the East Indian coffees, and the trade has for so long a time accepted the designation of "Java" or "Mocha" less as a geographical term than as a trade grade meaning something like "prime" or "superior," that one would have thought that no experienced dealer would have lent his name to an attack on the good faith and trade honour of the members of the coffee trade. But, of course, when one has certain goods to sell it may help them to move out freely if one can impeach the trade morals of rival dealers.

A Philadelphia paper has set the pace for this kind of thing, having assailed the mass of Philadelphia importers and handlers of the coffee bean in such a manner that a remonstrance was made, but it was ignorance rather than malice in its case, an excuse which should hardly hold when an experienced dealer begins to talk about his fellow-jobbers in the following terms:

"The better class of grocers in the United States do sell real Java and real Mocha coffee, but it is unfortunately true that a certain proportion of the trade sells coffee for Java and Mocha which never saw the island of the first name nor the part of Arabia from which Mocha is supplied. But this is not altogether the fault of the grocers.

"During the past year some of the most glaring deceptions in this respect have been discovered by experts, who have had samples from the trade all over the country, which, upon being tested, showed, without exception, that the retail grocer had not been getting what he asked for and paid for—Java and Mocha."

Now this dealer who is speaking knows perfectly well that the calling of these so-called Mochas and Javas something else would not make them sell any lower in price. And whatever name should be chosen for them, he knows that they would be sold by the retailer as Java and Mocha, and would be hailed as Java and Mocha by the consumer. The retailer could not help himself in most cases, because the public insists upon having Java and Mocha, and there is not enough Java and Mocha by a great deal to accommodate their demand.—*Merchants' Review.*



## IS COFFEE ROASTING AN ART?

E. F. Navlet, a Practical Coffee Roaster of Twenty-six Years' Experience, writes in the *Spice Mill*:—

Coffee roasting is an art from the very fact that it requires a long experience in the handling and roasting of the different kinds of coffee grown in the different parts of the world.

For instance: we have the high mountain and low-land coffees. In colour they run from a dark olive to a pale golden, and bleached. It is necessary that the operator be familiar with the different kinds of coffee. He should study their nature thoroughly and treat them accordingly.

I have known many coffee roasters to turn out a roast where the outside would be well done and the centre of the berry under done. The reason for this is that they rushed their coffee too much. They should give it the proper time to roast. A roast should not be hurried or left over the fire too long. That is the reason why, I say, you should treat coffees according to their nature in order to develop their full aroma. It is easier to roast coffee under-done than to roast it to the finishing point.

Some coffees require much heat, while others must be roasted over a slow fire. You must bear in mind that if you want to become an expert coffee roaster, you must study it thoroughly or else you are not a fit candidate for the roasting room. Some of the best coffee roasters in San Francisco, California, served their apprenticeship under me. I served my apprenticeship under the following expert coffee roasters: Mr. Leon Rebour, of Paris, France; Mr. Gibson, of London, England; and Mr. Gates, a pioneer of San Francisco, California.

I dare say that after serving under the French, English, and American coffee roasters, I have gained points that very few possess. You hear people say, "Why most any old lady can roast coffee." Yes, that might have been so in the days of our grandmothers but the new woman of our day does not bother her head about coffee roasting. She prefers to buy her food ready cooked and "predigested."

With the latest improved coffee roasters, operated by skilled hands, I do not see any reason why a perfect roast can not be had. My first coffee roasting was done with a man killer. From that I have been roasting with different makes, but of all, I prefer the Burns. I speak from my own practical knowledge of twenty-six years' experience.

## THE FARM ORCHARD.

### WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE.

The "Agricultural Annual and Mark Lane Express Almanac" for 1903 contains a variety of articles specially written by experts, together with several new attractive features.

Dealing with the subject of fruit orchards, a writer says they are established institutions in connection with the majority of farms, be the latter situated in strictly fruit-growing districts or not. The common way with the tenant farmer is to accept the orchard as a kind of legacy from his predecessor, and after getting his bit out of it during his term of tenancy, he passes it on to his successor in much the same condition as he received it, with the additional deterioration brought about by the hand of time. We can do more than our grandfathers did, and reap the benefit in our own day, as well as leave legacies behind us, because we have the advantages of cheap trees, high-class varieties, and the spread of knowledge. There is no general need to sweep away existing institutions and make a fresh start, for there are hundreds of established orchards that only need renovating. They may contain old worn-out trees that have had their day. Let them be rooted out, and submit others that are still vigorous and healthy to a judicious thinning of the branches. If these are strong specimens that bear useless and unprofitable apples, cut their heads off and re-graft them with such a variety as Bramley's seedling, than which there is none better for grafting on to old stocks. In a few years the tree will be furnished with a new head that will be a source of profit for many years to come.

In the interests of both this and succeeding generations it is necessary that the work of establishing orchards on farms where they do not exist go on, and the man who plants an orchard, be he

landlord or tenant, should remember that he is doing something for posterity, therefore he should be careful in his selection of varieties and his method of establishing the trees. Doubtless the best site for forming an orchard is on arable land, as trees establish themselves quicker on ground that is under cultivation for a few years and is then laid down to grass. But where trees are planted in pasture the turf should be pared off and the grass not allowed to grow round the stems for a few years. In the case of a young orchard it is a mistake to be too anxious about fruit. In the first place get a good specimen, by judicious shortening of the young shoots in the early stages of the tree's existence, and when once the foundation is laid, fruit will be sure to follow. Above all things plant good varieties, whether the fruit grown be apples, pears, plums, or what not. In the selection be guided by the varieties that do well in the district, then go to a respectable nurseryman and secure good specimens. If they cost a little more they will be cheaper than poor trees, which are dear at any price. Though the foreigner may send his wares into our central markets and compete there with the wholesale fruit-growers at home, there are people enough in the provinces to buy what the ordinary farmer has to dispose of at prices that will pay, provided that he supplies them with a good article.

## COFFEE IN 1902.

A review of the Coffee trade for the year 1902 naturally divides itself into two parts, viz., that of the market for "Futures," and that for landed parcels alone. We will take the first-named before the other, because it has of late years overshadowed the article on the spot, which does not occupy anything like the same pre-eminent position that it did in the last century. It was well known that the Brazil Coffee crops, on which hinges the whole scheme of speculation as reflected in the "terminal" market, were for the year 1901-02 the largest ever recorded, the receipts from the interior aggregating 15,522,000 bags (Rio and Santos together), as contrasted with nearly 11,000,000 bags in 1900-01 and barely 9,000,000 bags in the season 1899-1900. For want of a better reason, it was urged by some authorities that a rate of production on the formidable scale above indicated was hardly to be expected in the ensuing year, and they began to indulge in prognostications of failing supplies and advancing prices for coffee in the year 1902-03. But at the outset it was a matter of immediate importance that the huge old crop of the former year should be dealt with ere any new movement should be started having for its object the setting up of a higher level of prices. In this respect the sanguine anticipations of holders fell far short of the actual mark, and good average Santos at the start in January last was deliverable between that month and the following December as low as 31s. 3d. to 33s., which showed a total depreciation of quite 10s. per cwt. from the previous highest point in September, 1901. From February, 1902, until July there was an almost continuous decline in quotations, when the same description of Coffee was forced off at 27s. to 27s. 6d. for that month's and September delivery, at 28s. to 28s. 3d. for this December, and at 29s. to 29s. 6d. for contracts in March to May next. Up to this period (July last) the "bears" evidently had things all their own way, but later on the "bulls" had the satisfaction of seeing circumstances work round rather strongly in their favour instead, and reports of frosts inflicting damage on the growing crops being subsequently circulated, quotations for forward deliveries gradually rose to 31s. 6d. to 34s. per cwt. for September to July coffee (1902-03). The action of speculators now rested upon the nature of advices from the Brazils as to the probable size of the coming crop, and its increasing deficiency as compared with the "monster" one in 1901-02 was already regarded as a foregone conclusion. As the year wore on the question that most puzzled the wits of operators was the erratic movements of the article in connection with the daily receipts of Rio and Santos coffee at the shipping ports, which varied to such a nicety in swelling and shrinking that for weeks and months together it was almost impossible to gauge what would be the full extent of their final outcome, and it was not known beyond a doubt that the decrease was really heavy until November, when the receipts at the ports of shipment turned out to be about 2,000,000 bags less than those in 1901-02—say (from July 1 to November 12) 6,643,000 bags, against 8,637,000 bags. All this time neither buyers nor sellers felt quite



sure of their ground, and after numerous fluctuations backwards and forwards, prices for good Santos near the close of the year, to be delivered between the present time and September, 1903, were seldom much above 26s. 6d. to 30s., or but little, if at all, higher than they were about the middle of 1902. Turning to coffee "on the spot," it cannot be said that a very glowing account can be given for the simple reason that there has not been the requisite assortment of qualities exactly suitable for either the home or export trades. Although the aggregate importations into the United Kingdom have nearly equalled the enlarged total in 1901, it was because they were composed of a much heavier proportion of Brazil kinds than before, and these being not the useful sorts sought after by either the dealers or exporters, a gap was left in the general supply which was not easy to fill up from other sources. Desirable or plantation coffees, such as arrive from the East or West Indies, Central America, or other foreign countries, have been relatively scarce throughout the year, as is proved by the scantier imports that have come in from each quarter, and as similar demands have had to be satisfied as hitherto, business in many respects has been greatly cramped for want of the necessary selection of wholesome coloury qualities. Of the rival branches of trade, the shippers or the home dealers, the former appear to have suffered the most from deficient and unsuitable supplies, if the quantity exported from the United Kingdom can be taken as a criterion of their loss, as for the first eleven months of the year only 335,300 cwts. were shipped from hence, in contrast with 653,000 cwts. in the same period of 1901. Purchasers for home use have also been losers and put to a deal of inconvenience through the dearth of fancy or coloury growths, many of which have been secured by exporters at every opportunity, and where the superior and attractive grades have been competed for with more than usual spirit, stiff prices, and closely on a par with those of the previous year, have been the rule rather than the exception. Stocks of coffee in Europe are very excessive, computed at 130,000 tons more than those in 1901, but they do not consist of the right sort, and until the whole bent of the world's supply is reversed by some preponderance of the preferable qualities over those that are admittedly inferior, the anomaly of extremely low prices at one end of the list and very high rates at the other will continue to exist in the opening year.—*Grocer*.

## TEA IN 1902.

### CHINA TEA.

Owing to the unfortunate rise in the price of common Tea about the middle of October, 1901, the smaller anticipated crop of 1901-02 was increased by some 3 million pounds; and the total landings for the season were 2 million pounds more than the previous season. One at last knows that common grades are only wanted by the home trade as "make-weight," in case Indian and Ceylon grades rise to such a price that China has to be used for the low-priced canister. Luckily for the blender, this extra quantity was not wanted, and the bulk of it has been hanging over the market and depressing values all the year. Each forced sale lowered the price without sending it into consumption, and even the Continent refused to take it. The lowest point was touched about September, when really good sweet Monings were to be bought at 3d. to 3½d., and clean sweet Panyongs and Kaisows at 2½d. to 3d., while common leaf could be had at even a lower price. Large lines of low-priced Foochow Teas were at last absorbed by the Continent at the lowest rates ruling, and in November "blenders" began to take Monings in quantity, and prices rapidly recovered ½d. to 1d. per lb. from the lowest point touched, but still ½d. under rates ruling the beginning of the year. Foochow Teas, however, participated only slightly in the improvement in values. On the other hand, good Monings were scarce from 6d. up, and fancy prices were paid in retail quantities up to the end of June. These remarks, however, do not apply to Foochow Teas, which are scarcely used by the trade, while exporters did not want them. Supply of Foochow Tea, luckily, was small and losses were not heavy. The first new season's Monings (1902-03) arrived per *Himalaya* on July 1, with further supplies on the 14th, including new season Foochow Teas. The bulk of the first crop was now in, and the trade and export settled down and selected the best for their immediate wants. The Kintucks were not liked—quality was light and indifferent, with no "stand-out" Teas, and everyone bought very carefully and

under "protest." The Ningchows and Oonfaas, however, were particularly good, but realised very reasonable prices, as they are not so much used by the home trade, and exporters gave little support. Common grades have been in very small supply this season, and even the few were not wanted. Trade and the Continent bought from hand to mouth up to the end of the year, while America took several thousand half-chests of Ningchows and Kintucks between 6d. and 1s. in October-November. Prices kept very steady, importers being willing to wait until they were asked for. Anything standing out in Kintucks and worth over 1s. in the importers' hands got so scarce that dealers were able to realise good profits on the market for what they had bought earlier in the season, while forced sales of fair grade Monings between 4½d. and 5d. in August and September were turned over at ¾d. a lb. profit towards the end of the year, as there was nothing left in first hands. As regards Foochow Teas, the crop was decidedly better than last season's, more particularly for Panyong kinds, but there has been no market for them since the season began, and prices have ruled low. The Soo Moos were good and very useful, but with no style or make in the leaf. Importers dropped the price of the crack chops about 1d. per lb. on the opening rates ruling for the last few years, and the Continent took them readily. Panyongs, however, have been most difficult of sale, and exporters have helped themselves at the lowest prices we have almost ever seen for good medium grades—between 5d. and 8d. The best Ching Wos, on the other hand, and of which we only get a few hundred half-chests, realised full rates from 10d. to 1s. 2d. There have been no common grades from Foochow, and none are wanted, but a few fair grade Panyongs sold down to 4½d. to 4¾d. per lb. Souchongs were good, and have sold quietly at steady values. Foochow Pekoes were very well scented, and prices very moderate, but with a limited market. The Canton Scented Caper trade is a dying one, and they are only used by one or two big houses in any quantity, so that they control the market more or less. The quality has been good, and the early arrivals were splendidly scented, and prices opened very moderate, so that rates have kept fairly steady, and supplies look as if they will not be equal to the demand, as stocks are already getting small. Formosa Oolongs have been a light and rather poor crop with no choice teas. America has been lately taking all the surplus stock of old crop, and also new season's up to 11d., so that the small supply now on the market consists of Teas between 1s. and 1s. 6d. per lb. Green Teas have again been the startling feature of the year. Prices ruled very high until the new crop arrived in August, and then there was a sharp drop. A very large crop had been made in China, and we expected to be flooded. America, however, could not be satisfied, and only has let us have a million more to date than last season. The demand here, too, has been steady and strong, and prices have been going up and up until they have now reached a giddy height; as an instance, Gunpowders at 9d. in September are now worth 1s. 3d., etc., and other classes have moved up from 2d. to 4d. per lb. within two months.

Figures for the year are very good. The landing of the new crop is over 3 million lbs. less already, and the deficiency is likely to be 6 or 7 million lbs., as there is virtually nothing more to arrive, whereas last year they sent us 3 or 4 million lbs. of low-priced Teas at the end of the season. Home consumption has increased over 2 million lbs., and export nearly 2 millions, and if deliveries continue at the same rate for the rest of the season the stock of Congou ought to be reduced to about 4 million lbs. by the end of June. The surplus of common Tea has been quietly absorbed during the last few months, and if the blenders are forced to fall back upon China Tea for their cheap blends, the price is bound to rise. As the year closes values are still low, with sweet Monings at 4d. to 4½d. and Kaisows and Panyongs at 3½d. to 4½d. per lb.

### INDIAN TEA.

Although the year 1902 has not been so eventful as the previous one, yet it has been disappointing for the trade generally, and some heavy losses were sustained by the dealers the first half of the year. The crop of 1901-02 exported from Calcutta to London was about 153 million lbs., against the bumper crop of 162 millions the previous season, yet the landings in London amounted to 155½ lbs. The extra few millions seem to have been attracted here from other ports, and were not included in the Calcutta figures. The present season 1902-03 has been variously estimated at 150 to 153 million lbs., but latest wires from reliable sources say it will not be more than 148 million lbs. However, the sharp rise of 1d. per lb.



in common grades in November may divert some of the shipments that would otherwise have gone to America and the Continent, so that one might reckon on receiving 150 million lbs., while the total delivery for the year will be 160 million lbs. We began the year 1902 with a stock of 73 million lbs., or an increase of 3 million lbs. over 1901, notwithstanding the splendid deliveries of 1901, which showed an increase of 13 million pounds. Imports and deliveries both fell off considerably the first half of this year, and when the new season's arrived we had increased our stock to  $5\frac{1}{4}$  millions more than in June, 1901. Science then, however, deliveries have gone up by leaps and bounds, and as we now write, we have actually reduced the stock to about 7 million pounds less than last year's, while the total deliveries for the year will be nearly 3 million pounds more than in 1901—truly wonderful. Re-exports only show  $\frac{3}{4}$  million pounds increase on the year, so that home consumption has increased 2 million pounds. The year opened strong with a quotation of 6d. per lb. for Pekoe Souchongs; prices, however, soon gave way and dropped to 5d. to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. for the remainder of the season. The stock on hand consisted principally of good tippy Pekoes and Broken Pekoes, and as they had to be forced off, prices dropped 2d. to 3d. per lb., and the bottom was not reached until well into the new season's. Losses to dealers have been considerable, as they were tempted into buying far more than their requirements. No one could be found to relieve them of their burden, until at last they had to take  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. for good tippy Pekoes that had cost them  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2d. per lb. more. Common grades, however, were in smaller compass, and price only dropped 1d. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., with a quotation of 4d. to  $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. about the middle of July both for new and old, or, say, 2d. per lb. under the rates ruling the beginning of the year, and there was a quotation of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. for whole leaf. This was the lowest point of the market, but common and undesirable new season's showed no improvement until the end of September. The new season's were generally very light, poor, and dry, and compared badly with last year's crop. A few very choice Assams and Darjeelings came to hand in August to October, and these brought exorbitant prices. Darjeelings, however, have been very poor and pointless, and have ruled very low all through. Fine and finest have not brought so high an average as last year. There has been a generally steady to improving market for all really good liquoring Teas, both old and new, over  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. since June, but the ordinary new season's Teas were kept down by the weight of old season's that were hanging over the market. There was a distinct improvement in prices and trade towards the end of September, which continued for a month. Several of the big buyers then combined to get prices down, and a drop ensued, much to the surprise of holders, and the recent rise in common tea was lost. The combination only lasted two or three sales, and there was a scramble to get in the middle of November, which resulted in a sharp rise to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for common Pekoe Souchong leaf. Dealers all turned over their stocks at a profit on the market, but the better grades were only slightly affected. As we close the year, the sound position of the market is recognised, and there is every probability of rising prices in the new year. We are still under the rates ruling for common teas a year ago, and most of the big importers and agents controlling large gardens or supplies have recently agreed not to sell any tea privately, and to regulate the supplies at auction for the next two months. Importers certainly hold the key to a very strong position, and may be able to twist the lion's tail to a lively tune if supplies only turn out as anticipated.

#### CEYLON TEA.

This class of Tea has a market value of its own, more or less, although the lower grades are affected by the rates ruling for Indian growths of the same grade. Losses, however, are not sustained by the trade in the same degree as Indian Teas, for the simple reason that supplies come in month by month throughout the year with great regularity. As Ceylon Tea does not keep fresh, the trade only buy for immediate wants, and consumption rises or falls with supply. The imports for the year have been about 2 million pounds less than in 1901, but the deliveries have fallen off some 6 million pounds, and almost entirely on account of home consumption, the re-exports being  $\frac{1}{2}$  million less than in 1901. Supplies for the first five months of the year fell off 5 million pounds, but arrivals from July to October were much heavier, *viz.*, 5 million pounds, while from October to end of this year they have fallen off 2 million pounds, and deliveries since June have been identical with 1901, the great falling-off being in the first half of the year, and so synchronising with the shorter imports. This year's crop has been

uniformly good, but with no particularly choice teas. The spring of the year was noticeable for the wonderful value offering in fair to medium Broken Pekoes. Another feature is that Russia does not now pay the fancy prices for those fine pure Pekoes and Orange Pekoes she used to do, and which were often 2d. to 3d. per lb. over what the home trade would take them at. Even Russia is now losing its refined palate since she gave up using so much China Tea, and is getting used to the stronger flavours. 1902 has not been marked with the violent fluctuations of 1901. The year began with a stock of  $19\frac{3}{4}$  million lbs., against  $24\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. in 1901, and a quotation of 6d. for Pekoe Souchongs and  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. for Pekoes. The market was very strong for price Teas up to  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., and also for fine grades, but owing to heavy supplies and indifferent quality there was a drop of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. by the end of the month. Demand, however, was good in February, March, and part of April—quality good; and value in Pekoes and Broken Pekoes was exceptional between  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. After the Budget was over trade was very bad, and prices had a sharp drop for all but fine stand-out Teas; the latter continued a strong market all through the season whenever anything thick or fine was offered, as the bulk of the supplies arriving were too thin for the trade, but in May and June there was a recovery in all but the common grades. From July until the end of the year trade and demand have been fairly good, with flat weeks now and again. For instance, we notice that in mid-August the quotation for leaf had risen to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. from  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d., lowest point. Prices held good for a few weeks, when there was another drop on the lower grades and a bad market all through September, while in October prices rose sharply on all good and fine liquoring Teas, and well known garden marks were 1d. to 3d. per lb. up as the quality improved. Common grades also firmed up, but the great rise came suddenly mid-November; but a week or two before the big blenders combined to get prices down, to the astonishment of brokers and importers, who knew the position to be strong and warranting a rise rather than a fall. However, they had their way for a time, and let the dealers and ordinary trade get some cheap stock. For reasons best known to themselves they suddenly rushed in to secure what they could. Common to fair grades at auction rose  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in a day, and before the week was out all dealers' stocks were bought up at good profits by the same big blenders who had combined to lower rates. Quotations for leaf rose to 5d. to  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. at once, and, although they again tried to get prices down, rates gradually rose to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d., but even at that the quotation is still  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. under the closing prices of last year, with a stronger statistical position. We have landed 2 million pounds less on the year, and the stock on December 31 will be nearly 1 million pounds less. The argument, of course, is that Ceylon is an "unknown quantity," and, given favourable conditions, an extra 10 millions is easily turned out. On the other hand, we are told by well-informed and thoughtful men that excessive supplies to London are most improbable in the future. Russia, the Continent, and other countries are taking more and more each year direct, while about 10 million pounds of Green Tea will be made next year (which would otherwise be Black), against about 3 million pounds made this year. Considering the short supplies from India and China, we have the strongest belief in an active market and rising values for Ceylon Tea at the beginning of the new year.—*Grocer.*

#### "OOLONGS."

At the Annual General Meeting of the Dimbula Planters' Association on the 19th instant, Mr. T. Fairhurst delivered the following address on Oolongs:—

When I met Mr. Welldon in the train the other day, he asked me if I would lay before you what little knowledge I possess concerning China Oolongs. I have pleasure in doing so, but regret that my knowledge refers more to the tea as ready for shipment than to its actual manufacture. In China, European merchants are confined to the Treaty Ports—travel in the interior of the country being discouraged by the Chinese and only entered upon with what amounts to a "safe-conduct" in the form of a letter from some high official to all Government officers in the interior. The purchase of land by Europeans, outside of the Treaty Ports is forbidden by Chinese Law, and so it happens that we who live at the threshold of the tea districts, know so little of the methods of manufacture. Even were the necessary



permission to visit those districts obtained, the very rough nature of the country, necessitating travelling in comfortless boats up rivers encumbered by rapids, making progress very slow, together with contact with the frequently unfriendly dwellers by the river, would deter most men. We, therefore, only come into contact with the tea after it is manufactured and packed, as is the case in Colombo. The nearest tea district to Foochow lies about 20 miles distant, and the leaf is frequently brought into that town in a half-finished state. Thus we see a little of the later processes, such as firing or drying and sorting. Some years ago it was possible to see the final stages of green tea manufacture, but at Foochow only a low grade of green tea was made, very highly coloured, and when the United States legislated against the excess of colouring matter, the manufacture in Foochow ceased. All other teas than those of the near district which I have mentioned, are manipulated and packed on or near to the spot where they are grown. Touching Oolongs in particular, Foochow and Amoy in China, and Tamsui in the Island of Formosa are the ports of shipment. As regards Formosa Oolongs, these, as their name indicates, are grown in the Island of Formosa—the principal market is at an inland town distant about 15 or 20 miles from the port of Tamsui. The leaf in a partially prepared state is purchased by Europeans or their Agents and brought down to Tamsui for final manufacture. This is done not only by Europeans but by Chinese and the teas thus prepared are sent by steamer to Amoy on the China Coast, for final shipment to the different markets in the United States and England. The teas so shipped from Tamsui by Europeans are mostly already ordered by their constituents, whilst those shipped by the Chinese are intended for sale on the Amoy market to the European buyers.

The teas grown in the island of Formosa, are all of one variety ranging from common to extra choicest. The best "chops" are frequently scented with a flower belonging to the Jasmin tribe. The soil of the island of Formosa is volcanic and very rich, and it is to this that the teas grown there owe their special and peculiar flavours. This is proved by the fact that the tea trees in Formosa are grown from seed imported from Amoy—the produce of the parent trees on the China side possessing nothing of the peculiar Formosa quality and like all Chinese teas deteriorating so much, that the produce of the Amoy gardens has practically ceased to be cultivated.

I myself some years ago, to my after regret,

IMPORTED INTO CEYLON SOME SEED FROM THE FORMOSA TREES, and the resulting plants reverted to the worst China type. I am of opinion that this type of Oolong, known as "Formosa Oolong," can never be produced in Ceylon to possess the true characteristics of the type. But it is different with the Oolongs made and grown at Foochow. Of these there are *three* varieties, and I see no reason why their manufacture should not be successfully attempted in Ceylon. These varieties differ materially in make and flavour. The best are usually brought to market in what are called "String-chops," that is they consist of "lots" varying from 500 to 3,000 half-chests, which must be bought *altogether*. There are usually 5 grades in each "string," "common" to "choice," and they are sold at an average price for the "lot," which the European buyer calculates by working out each grade at his idea of its value. The lower grades are large in leaf approximating to the leaf of an up-country Pekoe Souchong of long leaf. The size of the leaf decreases as the quality improves, until the best would resemble in size, a boldish Pekoe. The infused leaves show a greenish colour, very even in the finer ones, but becoming mixed with darker leaves in the lower grades. The liquor is soft and fine in the better teas, becoming coarse in the commoner ones. Black leaves in Oolongs are highly detrimental, and cause danger of rejection by the United States Tea appraisers. No tea intended for the United States market should contain more than 10 per cent. of dust. The price paid for these in China is based on, say b.c.i.f. New York up to about 1/3. The only other kind which requires special notice is a variety made more after the style of Congou or Black Teas as regards the size of dry leaf, but of course showing the same light-coloured infused leaf and liquor as the variety previously spoken of. The flavour however differs greatly, for whilst, with all their softness, the first kind mentioned as "Stringchops" possess a good deal of pungency—the last named variety—known as "Suey Kut" Oolongs, taste more like the Black Teas from the Suey Kut district, and have little distinctive Oolong character. The leaf, especially of the finer sorts, resembles closely the teas which were being made

in Ceylon 3 years ago, as Ceylon Green Teas. Their value ranges from about 10 cents, say 5d. to 1s. 2d.

The remaining kinds of Oolong grown in Foochow are mostly of large leaf, and varying quality, many being below the standard insisted on by the United States.

The average crop of the Formosa Oolongs amounts to about 15 to 17 million pounds, and of the Foochow Oolongs to about 5 millions. But both crops are liable to sudden increase according to demand, and this has been exemplified during the season of 1902 by an increase in the Foochow production of 50,000 half-chests equal to 2½ million pounds, owing to the speculative demand from America contingent on the abolition of the Tea Duty there.

I think that the class of Oolong known in Foochow, as

"SUEY KUTS" COULD EASILY BE IMITATED IN CEYLON, but whilst "Suey Kuts" were on their first introduction into America, much liked and eagerly bought, there is not now the same demand for them. As regards that, I would suggest enquiries being made from some of the leading New York brokers, whilst as to the processes of manufacture—of both Foochow and Formosa Oolongs—the best way would be to ask the information from the British Consuls at Foochow and Tamsui. And the information would be more readily obtained if the request for it is forwarded through the Government of Ceylon, English Consuls abroad not being very well disposed to incur trouble over trade matters, which are regarded as somewhat outside their province. I would also recommend that a similar application should be made through the German Consul in Colombo to the German Consuls at the ports named. All Green Teas and Oolongs should be packed in half-chests containing 54 to 60 pounds Tea net. My own connection with China has practically ceased, but I could give the names of one or two firms in Colombo who could, I think, procure large samples of Oolongs, and possibly assist in obtaining particulars of their manufacture. I will now reply categorically to the

QUESTIONS WHICH YOUR CHAIRMAN HAS ADDRESSED TO ME.

"How many kinds of Oolongs are sold in America?"—The reply is, three from Foochow and one from Formosa shipped at Amoy.

"Where are they manufactured and what is the range of prices?"—In Foochow and Tamsui the range of prices paid being from 5d. to 1s. 3d. or 1s. 4d. for Foochow, and from 6d. to 3s. for Formosa. Many of the finest of the Formosas are sent to the London market.

"Could we in Ceylon, manufacture Oolongs that would give an average of, say, 1s. per lb?"—To this I should answer decidedly, No!—since the average of the "Suey Kut" Oolongs, which would be more easily made, runs only about 9d. per lb. if so much.

"Are 15 to 18 millions of Oolongs sold in America?"—A circular of the Foochow Chamber of Commerce, dated 19th December last, gives the export of Oolongs to America from Foochow as 6½ millions, and the annual export of Formosa Oolongs would be about 12 to 14 millions.

"Could Ceylon hope to displace, say, 5 or 6 millions of these Teas?"—I think that Ceylon could certainly hope to place that quantity, provided the quality was right, and the average I have named—say 8d. to 9d., a paying one.

"Are Oolongs artificially scented and is the process of scenting them difficult?"—So far as I know only the finer or finest kinds are scented. The process is not difficult or very expensive, provided the scenting flower is at hand.

"Can you tell us how it is done?"—The scenting flower is added in certain percentages to the tea before final firing. After the tea and flower have been left together for half or one day, they are fired or dried together and afterwards the flower is sifted out before the tea is packed.

"Is Formosa a country to which we should be likely to obtain admission in case of wanting to study the manufacture of Oolongs?"—Anyone can enter Formosa and visit the tea centres. A person so doing could doubtless pick up the process by watching, but as there are no inns or hotels in those parts, he would perforce be the guest of one of the European firms engaged in the trade, and if they knew his purpose, they might do their best to thwart it, besides which, the guests attempting it would be placed in a very uncomfortable position.

"Is the crop of Green Teas going from Japan this year, due to labour difficulties or is it climatic?" I am unable to say, but should think it was mostly climatic.—"Are we likely to see a great fall in the price of Green Teas in America, supposing 15 to 17 millions were shipped this year from Ceylon and India?" I should say most certainly such an export would cause a reduction of



possibly 3 to 5 gold cents per lb. ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) unless the quality so pleased as to throw the greater fall on to the teas from Japan and China. "How do Ceylon greens compare with Japan and Indian greens? If the comparison is unfavourable to Ceylon, will not our teas suffer severely in the event of a large Japan crop?" I have not seen enough Ceylon greens to form an opinion. Those I have seen compare favourably with Japans and Chinas in leaf, but are, in my opinion, too thin in liquor. If the American verdict was the same and the importations from Japan and China large, there would undoubtedly be danger of a severe fall in Ceylons—which could only be tided over by a liberal cess allowance, until the industry had it upon the desired quality and colour. For information regarding the method of manufacturing Green Teas, I would recommend application being made to the English and German Consuls at Ningpo, in which district all Green Teas are grown and made. "In Western America beyond St. Louis, is there not still a large continent where Black Teas are consumed and where Ceylons are unknown?" Undoubtedly there are many large cities, such as San Francisco and others within a radius of 1,000 miles (Chicago included) where Black Teas are largely used and where the "Thirty Committee" Commissioner has done little or nothing, (excepting at Chicago), but those markets have been and are being exploited by firms in Colombo having Agents there. More might be done by the means at the disposal of the "Thirty Committee" in the country indicated. There is one danger ahead which I would notice. Should the Export to London fall off and become lower than the requirements of that market, an opening would be given to China to send larger supplies of common Black Tea. China can increase or decrease that supply at will, witness the large increase during 1902, in the Export of Oolongs, which excess will have been made from the "Suey Kut" Congou leaf by which the supply of Black Teas has been curtailed to the extent of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions of pounds. The fact also that the larger crop of Oolongs has been made out of the leaf usually converted into common Black Tea shows that the manufacture of Oolongs in Ceylon as well as Greens can be as well carried out on low-country estates as on those of high elevation.

FINAL.—In conclusion, I would merely add that I have always been of opinion that the money expended by the "Thirty Committee" in the Eastern states in pushing Black Tea has been simply and absolutely wasted, and would have been of far greater use had it been applied to exploitation of the same tea in Russia.

The Eastern States are the ones which use Oolongs and Green Teas, and funds may, I think, still be employed in pushing them there advantageously. A great effort should be made at the St. Louis Exposition to bring Ceylon Greens and Oolongs into notice, whilst at the same time it can do no harm to show also Ceylon Black Teas.

It would be a great pity, I think, to discontinue the campaign in the Eastern States on behalf of Green Teas and Oolongs, as those are the kinds used by  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the population of those States, and to cease the effort now would be to destroy what good has already been done.

I do not think that China will be able to compete with Ceylon as regards Black Teas so long as Europeans are prevented from holding land in the interior, and even should that privilege be eventually granted, it is a question how far the China leaf will lend itself to machinery.

The result of an experiment made at Foochow, where a small factory with Jackson's machinery was erected, was a decided improvement in the appearance of the dry leaf, and a thicker liquor in the cup, but the flavour was destroyed, the taste being mawkish and dull, and the peculiar flavour, which the leaf tried, should have developed was entirely absent.

The CHAIRMAN invited members to put questions to Mr. Fairhurst. Mr. CHARLES RYAN.—I should like to know in this connection from Mr. Bosanquet, what the "Thirty Committee" has done in regard to Oolongs?

Mr. BOSANQUET.—From what I gathered at the last Committee Meeting, I understand it is intended to offer a prize of Rs.500 for the first good sample of Oolongs, but we did not consider that we were quite ripe for making the offer yet.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think, gentlemen, we are all very much indebted to Mr. Fairhurst for so kindly having come here to-day and also for so fully answering Mr. Bosanquet's questions. (Applause.)

Mr. FAIRHURST.—Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending December 12th, were  $11\frac{2}{3}$ d.— $11\frac{1}{8}$ d. for 90 d/s Bank paper and  $11\frac{1}{8}$ d.— $11\frac{2}{3}$ d. for private.

The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at  $11\frac{5}{8}$ d., the corresponding sight rate being  $11\frac{5}{8}$ d. against  $11\frac{5}{8}$ d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

Saturday, December 13th, 1902.

Ninety days' bank rate on London opened on Tuesday 9th instant, Monday being a holiday, at  $11\frac{2}{3}$ d. and  $11\frac{1}{8}$ d. and closed this evening at the same rates.

The market is dull and nothing happens to give it animation.

**Coffee.**—During the week ended Friday, December 12, aggregate entries at Rio and Santos show a decided shrinkage being 52,655 bags smaller than those of the preceding week, and represented only 67.9 % of those during the corresponding week last year.

Joint entries for the crop on 12th instant were 2,438,585 bags less than on 13th December, 1901.

**Embarques** (shipments) for the week were 67,214 bags smaller than the previous week's and 80,614 bags less than during the same week last year. The corresponding decrease in sterling values was £103,000 and £241,000 respectively.

Sales seem to continue on the same scale as the week before being only 3,000 bags smaller, but were 38,000 bags less than during the same week last year.

Rio currency prices were slightly firmer than the previous week's, whereas Santos prices were weaker. New York No. 7 spot quotations remained unaltered. The f.o.b. sterling value of coffee sailed during this crop-year up to date shows a decrease of £3,400,311.

## VISIBLE SUPPLY OF COFFEE

	on January 1st,	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Ton.
Stocks eight European markets		430,750	303,800	234,350	242,050	224,500
to { afloat — Brazil ...		41,700	55,700	32,860	31,270	22,010
to { loading — do. ...		1,240	4,650	1,000	...	...
Europe { afloat — the East ..		4,990	3,160	3,890	3,700	1,580
to { do. — U S. A. ...		940	820	590	530	710
		479,620	368,130	272,690	277,550	248,800
Stocks U. S. of North-America		152,940	126,350	60,700	63,530	54,000
to { afloat — Brazil ...		20,650	36,530	20,000	26,180	30,590
to { loading — do. ...		4,650	4,590	1,060	...	...
U. S. A. { afloat — the East ..		1,120	1,590	1,240	1,880	650
		658,980	537,190	355,690	369,140	334,040
Stocks in Rio ...		34,120	30,820	16,470	10,700	14,880
Do. Santos ...		79,410	71,000	75,650	37,880	37,940
Do. Bahia ...		1,820	2,470	2,760	940	1,290
		774,330	641,480	450,570	418,660	388,150
Total		774,330	641,480	450,570	418,660	388,150
On December 1st...		1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
		783,360	636,530	464,850	429,840	411,290

## THE TEA TRADE: THE COMPLAINT AND A REMEDY.

Mr. Herbert S. Parker writes to the *Home and Colonial Mail* :—

The objections which can be raised to the plan outlined last week for dealing in tea, otherwise than at public sale, are of two kinds — theoretical and practical.

It will be well to consider first the objections, which are theoretical, because if the scheme can be shown to be sound in principle and likely to conduce to the general welfare of the trade, the difficulty of carrying it into practice can be overcome.

At the outset it will be said: "You propose to strengthen the middlemen, who have been deemed interlopers, to be set aside if possible, in order that produce may come into closer contact with consumers." This is so, and it is mainly by making them stronger



that I expect the end in view will be attained. It cannot be proved that their gradual decadence is the principal of several causes contributing to our declining prosperity, but it has certainly been coincident with it, and those who hold that prosperous, numerous, and strong middlemen are a necessity to us have good reasons. Tea is perishable. It is sent here to be turned into cash, not to be locked up in a warehouse, at the cost and risk of the grower. Some one is needed to hold stocks ranging from 50 lbs. to 100,000,000 lbs. For this much capital is required. Capital does not remain in a trade unless it find profitable employment.

It has been said that the interests of dealer and importer are identical. That will not do. It has been more often assumed they are antagonistic. That will not do either. Their interests are separate, but not necessarily antagonistic; the one is supplemental to the other. When the dealers and blenders and distributors are recognised not as dangerous opponents to be kept at arm's length, but as our useful allies in the difficult task of passing 300,000,000 lbs. a year from the tea plantation to the teapot, then the position will begin to mend.

A criticism not quite so easy to meet is this: "Your plan will only help the grower if it raise the average value; you also contemplate more profit accruing to the middleman. From whose pocket will all this come?" A higher average price would not be the only benefit. Steadier markets, with larger facilities for selling, buying, and re-selling are in themselves great advantages. But I reply without hesitation that the difference will in the end come from consumers. There has been clear proof since 1900 that retail quotations can be raised somewhat without checking consumption, or consumers feeling it at all. But it may not be necessary to raise prices. Sooner or later the duty will be reduced, and just as the average retail price has not risen the full 2d. of the extra duty, so, too, it will not fall the full 2d. or 4d. of the reduction when it comes. Something will remain to the middleman, and something will come back to the grower. I am able to say there is at least a hope of the great distributing firms, in whose hands the matter rests, agreeing to abstain from the ruinous policy of perpetually lowering retail prices, one against the other, when the duty is reduced. This is a kind of "combination" that all will welcome, for it will strengthen the trade at home and benefit the industry abroad.

Again, it will be said: "Have you not always maintained that prices must fall if supply is larger than requirements? How can this be averted by a new or different system of sale?" Prices must fall to the end of time when there is too much tea, and will rise when there is too little, controlled by a law which declines to be suspended. But how much they will fall, or how much they may rise is the point. If from 8d. to 7d., why not to 6d. or 5d.; if from 8d. to 9d., why not to 10d. or 1s.? This is not determined (until long after) by any known law, but by other influences of which good or bad management, a sound or unsound system of business, may be the post potent. We have not only to see how to make the best of a good position, but also how to mitigate a disaster in a bad one. Has any one considered what would have happened since October, but for the mercy of Providence and the forethought of planters in sending us short crops?

And some will say: "If you let a buyer procure by private purchase what he wants, he will not bid in the sale room, which will lessen competition, and reduce the price." Let us follow this to its logical conclusion. "If you sell all buyers all they require privately, there will be no bids at all in the sale room." Possibly, but then there will not be any tea to put in sale, unless the speaker foresees perennial over-supply, which I do not.

In practice, selling by private contract to thriving, up-to-date men, who will be the first to buy, has quite a different effect. They either re-sell the more quickly because the tea was bought privately, and are ready for more, or they bid for similar tea in the auction room in order to protect their own stocks. Every thousand chests sold beforehand, and thus taken off the weight of tea in catalogue, helps the sale of those that go to the hammer. If one-third of the tea destined for sale next month could be disposed of without being put in a catalogue, and the auctions could be reduced by that third, the improvement in the tone of the market would convince those who are sceptical.

Another question that may be asked is this: "What reason is there for thinking that buyers will support a plan which promises to make the market first steadier, then stronger, and finally a little higher?"

It is a pertinent question, but is based upon a misconception. A weak and declining market, subject to sharp fluctuations, may suit a few buyers prone to speculate, but it does not suit the great majority of them, who want a steady, even a strong, market that is not liable suddenly to give way, and for this reason: Principals seldom take upon themselves to buy the tea; it is entrusted to their subordinates, who have to incur grave responsibility and run grave risks if they are caught with much stock in a declining market, and are, therefore, obliged to protect themselves, often against their own judgment, by buying as little as possible at the first sign of weakness. It is directly to their interest to support a plan that will make the market steadier, make tea easier to re-sell here and in the country, and save their stocks from depreciation.

I must ask you to allow me to postpone until next week examination of the practical difficulties that have to be overcome.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

The terminal market has been affected by the holidays to even a greater extent than that for actual coffee, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 3rd instant, and very few transactions are reported while prices have hardly fluctuated. The year, however, opens, in some respects, with a much better prospect, than 1902 did, for the fall in "average Santos," which has been very nearly 30 per cent., has brought the quotation to 26s. 3d. for the current month, and even the most pessimistic "bear" would hardly look for another such fall during the coming year. With regard to coffees other than Brazil, prices are also considerably lower than a year ago, and there is a much brighter prospect to look forward to. The past year, while being one of enormous Brazil crops, has been disappointing both as to values and quantity, as will be seen by the following table, which gives the amount offered in public sales compared with the previous year:—

	CEYLON.	EAST INDIA.	MOCHA.	JAMAICA.	AFRICAN.
	Packages.	Bags.	Bags.	Packages.	Bags.
1902	.. 831	.. 67,904	.. 4,435	.. 13,976	.. 6,850
1901	.. 1,009	.. 150,455	.. 3,093	.. 5,515	.. 8,016
	COSTA RICA.	GUATEMALA.	COLUMBIAN.	Other Foreign.	
	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	
1902	.. 132,952	.. 117,707	.. 23,689	.. 59,117	
1901	.. 190,505	.. 166,281	.. 48,334	.. 48,326	

Though perhaps not quite equalling the figures of 1901, both East India and Costa Rica should show a much larger quantity, and with the Columbian revolution closed, it is impossible to estimate the quantity that may be looked for from that country.

## TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The public auctions were resumed on Wednesday, when 7,900 packages were offered, and competition was fairly active at prices fully equal to those prevailing before Christmas. The bidding for the lower grades was well sustained, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of January 3rd, but owing to the firmness of importers a considerable proportion was withdrawn, and only a limited quantity was obtainable under 5½d. Prices for the lower qualities are now only about on a par with those at the same period last year, although there has been a rise of a 1d. from the lowest point. For the medium teas the market has shown strength, and improved rates in many cases have been established. The Assam growths still attract the most attention, but some of the Dooars and Sylhet teas are in more favour, owing to a marked improvement in quality. Fine teas met with a good inquiry, and were readily disposed of at decidedly stronger prices. The quantity of the season's crop available for the United Kingdom is estimated at from 5,000,000 lbs. to 7,000,000 lbs. below that of last season. This reduction is reported to be attributable in a great measure to direct shipments to other markets, especially to Russia and the United States, the former having taken a much larger quantity than formerly, and there is every probability that the demand will increase. The comparative returns for December and in the same month in 1901 are as follows: Imports 21,989,000 lbs. against 25,819,000 lbs.; deliveries 12,394,000 lbs. and 13,731,000 lbs., while the stock is smaller by 4,812,000 lbs.



**CEYLON TEA.**—This market has not yet opened, no public sales of Ceylons having been held since the holidays, and transactions privately has been very limited. The next auctions are advertised for Tuesday, 6th instant, when about 26,000 packages will be brought forward, a very small quantity after so long an interval, and it is expected that strong prices will result. The following are the figures for the past month compared with December, 1901:—The imports were 7,070,000 lbs. against 6,545,000 lbs., the deliveries being 6,968,000 lbs. and 7,173,000 lbs. respectively, while the stock stands at 19,881,000 lbs. as compared with 19,710,000 lbs.

**CONGOU TEA.**—There have been no public sales this week, and consequently business has been quiet. No transactions of any importance have been reported, although prices for all descriptions remain firm.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—A slightly easier tendency was noticeable for all descriptions at the sale of Green Tea held on Thursday, and a better business has been transacted, prices being more reasonable than had been the case for some time before the Christmas interval. A good business is reported in low price Oolongs, and there is a fair enquiry for the finer sorts. Capers are unchanged. The following are the public sale figures for the week:—2,083 packages of Green Tea were offered, of which only 430 failed to find buyers, and on Wednesday about 990 packages of fancy tea were brought forward for auction.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, December 24, 1902.

Buying in teas on the local market is slow this week, but the prices are maintained at the previous advances. As the tea markets in India are closed, advices as to the outside markets now come entirely from London. Indian teas in transit are now of good quality in all grades. The best property is Pekoes and Orange Pekoes at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. Good Pekoe Souchongs are worth  $6\frac{1}{4}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. Darjeelings are scarce and low grades are quoted at  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. The finest goods of this description used on this market are now worth 1s.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 6d. The last sales made locally were at  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. for good imitations of Japan and China teas. . . . A private letter, bearing date of November 26 from Hiogo, Japan, states that the season there had closed and that while shipments from there to Canada had been smaller than last season, the total export of Japan teas was slightly in excess of last year. The stocks there were entirely used up. Last mail advices report that China greens at the close of the market jumped from 7 to 12 taels per picul, owing to the great scarcity and buying orders without limits.

MONTREAL, December 24, 1902.

Sales of Japan teas are not large, but considering the very high prices the demand for them is comparatively good and is evidence that no other teas can quite take the place of Japans with a certain class of trade. Quite a number of small lots have been selling during the past week or two, the price ranging between  $17\frac{1}{2}$  to  $18\frac{1}{2}$ c, and in the finer grades, 23 to 24c. There has been no quotable changes in Ceylon teas, which are in fair demand.

### THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

[From the *Journal of the Society of Arts*.]

The change which has come over the Tea trade, not of Foochow alone, but at other producing centres in China, and which is ruining what was once a flourishing industry, seems, according to H. M. Consul at Foochow, ascribable to several causes, not all within the power of the sufferers to remedy. Firstly, there is the indisputable fact that the use of due care in the manipulation of the leaf when growing, when being picked, and when being prepared for its transit over the sea, is not exercised by the native grower. The means of ensuring all this has been repeatedly indicated to him, and put within his reach, with no result, owing either to apathy, ignorance, or dogged conservatism. He has been in turns implored, scolded, and lectured, but all to no purpose. Some years ago a circular was issued by the Inspector-General of the Customs, warning Tea-growers that owing to the superior methods prevailing in India, the trade was slipping out of China's hands—hands that used to supply the world. It was recognised by Europeans

interested in the industry, that the lead taken by India and Ceylon has been secured by the substitution of machinery for hand-labour. Machinery was accordingly imported. In some places, more even than this was done in the effort to infuse new life into a moribund industry. While Formosa was still Chinese the Governor imported into the north of the island not only the machinery considered desirable, but even an expert from Assam. But neither in Formosa nor in Foochow have these devices proved of any avail. To the intelligent native they possibly appealed, but not to the fountain head—the grower and picker, whose methods continued to be unscientific and primitive. His livelihood was obviously slipping from him, but the prospect of even that catastrophe has had no power to startle him from his invincible optimism. Secondly, there is the change which has come over the public taste in Europe. When China held the monopoly of Tea production, China Tea was necessarily bought. But when Assam and Ceylon entered into the competition, it was very soon apparent that the liking for their products was increasing rapidly, and China Tea was in no long time hopelessly distanced. It is likely that as regards delicacy of flavour and aroma, the Teas of China are still assured the suffrages of the cultivated few. Teas from the nearer East are, says Consul Playfair, admittedly coarser of taste, and contain a larger proportion of tannin, on which account they are condemned by medical men as prejudicial to digestion. But they make an attractive dark brew, and are economical in that a little of them goes a long way. Thirdly, the trade in Indian and Ceylon Teas has been fostered by judicious advertising, to which the Foochow merchants have not resorted. Fourthly, the trade is crushed by an excessive export duty. When the duty on tea was first made specific, it no doubt represented fairly enough the 6 per cent. *ad valorem* sanctioned by treaty. The diminishing value of teas, has, however, resulted in the export duty representing 40 instead of 5 per cent. The first, second, and fourth causes seem beyond the control of the merchants, but the remedy for the third should be within his reach. Advertisement is the life blood of commerce at the present day, and is freely resorted to in all departments whenever there is an element of competition. Consul Playfair says that a dozen virtues might be predicated about teas without overstepping the bounds of truth. If the teas of India or Ceylon had occupied exactly the space once filled by the teas of China the case would be more desperate. But it is not so. If China teas disappear the breakfast tables of the world will be the poorer.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

According to the figures issued by the Indian Tea Association (London), the quantity of tea exported from Ceylon for the twelve months ending December 31, 1902, was  $104\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs., as against  $107\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. in 1901. From the figures given elsewhere it will be seen that the Indian exports for the period, April 1 to December 31, were  $130\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs., compared with  $135\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. for the same period in 1901. There was therefore a total shortage of 8 million lbs. in 1902 compared with the previous year.

Messrs. McMeekin & Co. estimate the consumption in the United Kingdom of tea to have been 6.01 lbs. per head last year, comparing with 6.17 lbs. in 1901, and with 6.10 lbs. in 1900. The decline last year is doubtless to be attributed to trade movements, and not to be taken as representing a decline in actual consumption. Some statistics are added to show the proportions of the different kinds of tea drunk in this country. Indian tea leads the way with 58 per cent., Ceylon is next with  $33\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., "China, etc.", has the tiny proportion of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  per cent., and Japan and Java together supply the remaining  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

It was to be expected that there would be talk in the United States of the necessity for increasing the area of tea cultivation, so that ultimately the whole tea supply should be grown within the boundary of the States. The day is far distant, but some of the newspapers live in hope. One journal says: "Reviewing the matter seriously, it may be said that, while it is probably possible to cultivate tea over at least one-third of the area of the United States, it is hardly practicable to hope to bring within the space of a generation an American tea to the point where it will be liked by tea-drinking people, though ultimately this country ought to be in-



dependent of China, Japan, Ceylon, or India in producing the material for 'the cup that cheers but does not inebriate.'"

Discussing the Indian tea cess the *Financial Times* says:—"Curiosity is naturally excited as to how much money the cess will put at the disposal of the Committee, which, subject to the approval of the Government, will have the control of the fund. On the assumption that one-fourth of a pie will be levied—the maximum amount asked for—a 96-lb. box of tea will pay 2d., and according to an authority in the tea trade the total yield of the tax will amount to about £20,000. This is considerably below the rate in Ceylon, the tea-planters in which island have spent in advertising in America no less than £100,000. The general opinion in Indian tea circles is that the imposition of a cess for the purposes mentioned is a step in the right direction. One Indian tea-planter whom our representative met in the course of his inquiries was entirely of this view, which he said was generally held by his confrères in India. A tea expert in discussing the position said: 'It is not surprising that those interested in Indian tea should be anxious to follow the lead of Ceylon. It is not so very long ago that Ceylon tea was almost unknown, yet thanks to the enterprise of the planters it has gained a position in foreign markets, especially America, which is justly envied by the Indian producers. Even in this country Ceylon is popular, and only last week it sold for 1d. more per lb. than Indian. The cess is almost a necessity for the Indian industry if it is to hold its own.' 'But will this not mean keener competition between India and Ceylon?' inquired our representative. 'It will certainly place competition between the two countries on more even grounds.' Another gentleman pointed out that the effect of the cess will be to provide more money for pushing Indian tea and also to distribute the burden more equitably over the industry. Up to the present subscriptions for advancing the interests of Indian tea have been voluntarily made by certain of the tea-growers. The total amount collected has been considerably less than half that realised under the Ceylon tax, but it has been subscribed by not more than about 75 per cent. of the growers, while the remaining 25 per cent. have more or less benefited at the expense of the others. It is somewhat premature to forecast the policy of the Committee and the application of the fund, in view of the fact that the Bill has not yet become law, but we understand that it is altogether probable that the course adopted by Ceylon will be largely followed. Opening up new markets will be one feature, and it is more than likely that bonuses will be given for the encouragement of the production of green teas."

The *Westminster Gazette* calls attention to the efforts of India and Ceylon to capture the trade of the world. It says:—"India and Ceylon, having secured the control of the world's trade in black teas, are now making a serious attempt to capture the green tea trade also. A cablegram received by the London Committee of the Indian Tea Association this week states that legislation for the purpose of levying an export duty on black tea and applying the proceeds as a bonus on green tea is now practically assured. This tax was proposed by the Indian Tea Association in consequence of the great success of a similar cess and bonus in Ceylon. What this effort may mean to India and Ceylon can only be justly estimated by a look at the recent history of the tea trade. By producing a tea suited to the English palate the Indian and Ceylon planters have in thirty years practically driven China and Japan teas out of the English market. In the United Kingdom alone we drank 250 million pounds of tea in 1900, 90 per cent. of which came from India and Ceylon, and only 10 per cent. from other countries, and almost every pound of the 90 per cent. was 'black.' Ceylon began seriously to consider the necessity of encouraging the making of green tea in 1901, when a bonus of 16-25d. was paid on 863,000 lbs. During ten months of 1902 the bonus was paid on nearly 3,000,000 lbs. India, on the other hand, only paid on 250,000 lbs. in 1902, the bonus of nearly ½d. per pound being provided by voluntary subscription, but in 1903, when the planters will be under the necessity of making a regular contribution, the production is expected to reach 3,000,000 lbs. The samples of Indian green tea sent last season to American ports have been well reported upon, and the Ceylon green tea has met with a ready sale in Canada. So far these new green teas have not made their appearance in English retail shops, though 137 packages from Cachar were sold in Mincing Lane a few weeks ago."—*H. & C. Mail*.

## EAST INDIA AND CEYLON TEA COMPANY (LIMITED).

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on January 5, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. G. A. Talbot presiding, to consider a Resolution for removing Mr. C. T. Richardson from the Board of Directors. The Chairman stated that there were matters of vital importance to the Company with regard to which Mr. Richardson's views were in conflict with those of the other Directors. He regretted that it was necessary to submit such a proposal to the shareholders, but no other course was open to him and his colleagues. He concluded by moving the Resolution. Mr. A. C. Cronin (a Director), in seconding the Resolution, dealt with the questions at issue between Mr. Richardson and the other Directors, and referred in particular to the endeavours which the Board were making to get rid of the difficulties caused by the formation of the Hopewell Tea Company, in which this Company are interested. The Hopewell Company, he stated, could no longer affect their financial position to any great extent, as their business was not only thoroughly sound, but was steadily improving. Headed that he had recently increased his holding of shares. Mr. Richardson replied to the points in dispute between himself and his co-Directors. He remarked that he was one of the largest shareholders, and stated emphatically that he had no interest, direct or indirect, in any firm connected with the management of this or the Hopewell Company. There was not the least foundation for the suggestion that he had attempted to sacrifice the interests of this Company to the Hopewell Company. He urged that the proper course to adopt, in order to get relief from the consequences of the agreement with the Hopewell Company, was to open negotiations for arriving at a friendly settlement. With regard to his action as a Director, he claimed that he had been the means of cutting down the local expenditure on the Indian estates by over 6,000% per annum, and that his practical experience had enabled him to recommend other economies. A discussion followed, and eventually, on a show of hands, the Resolution was defeated by a single vote. A poll was thereupon demanded, with the result that the Resolution in favour of removing Mr. Richardson from the Board was carried by considerably more than the requisite three-fourths majority.

## TEA IN AUSTRALIA IN 1902.

The year 1902 has been unsatisfactory for traders in this article. The removal of the duty by the Federal Government found dealers with more or less heavy duty-paid stocks, on which a loss of 3d. per lb. had to be faced. In addition, there was an impression amongst the trade that financial necessities would induce the Government to try and reverse the decision of Parliament, and in anticipation thereof large sales were effected at high prices. Tea, however, remains free of duty, and it has taken many months to get rid of these surplus stocks on a market which has been continuously adverse to all holders.

A further adverse element was the unexpected action of the Federal Government in condemning on a purely chemical analysis (which was part of the Customs Act) certain teas imported from India and Ceylon, because they contained a limited portion of ash in excess of the academical standard laid down by the Act, although the tea extract they contained was largely in excess of the standard, and by the analysis they are admittedly "fit for human consumption." The contention of the trade is that reasonable notice should have been given to importers, *viz.*, time to advise their agents in the Far East, and that it is impossible to know whether teas comply with the Act until their arrival in the States and analysis here. On these grounds permission has been requested to re-ship the teas in question.

It is now hoped that the Government will amend the clause relating to tea in the Customs Act—on the lines of the American Customs Act—which thoroughly protects the public without harshness to the trade. Over-importation during the past two years, due to tariff speculations, also contributed to depress the market, so that during the greater part of the year complaints were heard amongst all sections of the trade. For the past few months, however, imports have been restricted, and stocks are now getting into a more healthy position.

Colombo continues to be the main source of supply. Imports, however, will be fully 10 per cent. less than last year. Prices in



Colombo have risen considerably, owing to the London market recognising the strong statistical position of tea generally, and this market will, doubtless, follow suit. With very moderate stocks held in the States, the new year should see a larger business passing on sounder lines, the present position being certainly in favour of stock holders.

Indian teas have been disappointing in quality. The earlier shipments were distinctly good, but with heavier arrivals the teas seemed lacking in point and distinctive quality, and they have certainly lost ground with the blenders as compared with Ceylon. The trade, however, are quick to notice all teas with point, as they form a valuable element in all blends owing to their superior keeping quality, as compared with Ceylon.

The Calcutta market has risen considerably in the last three months, especially in common teas. The crop is expected to be less than was estimated, and an early closing of the season is looked for. Colonial imports will be 25 per cent. below last year.

China teas are getting into smaller and smaller compass. The year's imports will only be about 1,000,000, lbs; the only demand has been for a little fine tea, fine buds, fine Panyongs and scented teas, which are in short supply. Kooloos are not so much used, and their sale has been slow and unprofitable. Stocks are now very much reduced, but the outlook for next year is very poor. —Age, Jan. 2.

## A LITTLE ABOUT TEA AND COFFEE.

### ITS GROWTH AND CURING.

A Tea Expert (eight years in Ceylon) writes in the *American Grocer* :—

At this time of the year, people are generally looking for something interesting to read, and in doing so, if a little knowledge can be gained, so much the better. It will perhaps not be out of place to tell your readers something about the growing and curing of tea and coffee on some of Sir Thomas Lipton's magnificent estates. Covering some thousands of acres of some of the finest tea-growing land in the world, the estates are situated at an elevation of over 5,000 feet above sea-level, where only the finest quality of teas can be grown. The scenery from these gardens (as can be easily imagined) is panoramic. For forty miles can be seen mountains and undulating land, extending on one side to the sea and on the other are acres of tea land. The mountain scenery is most picturesque, and just above us can be seen thick jungle in which big game abound in large quantities. On these tea gardens are many thousands of coolies (that is, natives) employed to pluck the fine leaves which make the delicious teas that are so liked by those who drink any of Lipton's well-known blends. The coolies employed are generally natives or Tamils, from Southern India—small men and women, very black, and when standing in the field (watching, perhaps, a white man passing), look very like bronze statues, so wonderfully shiny is their skin from the natural blackness, and the oil which they rub on their bodies. Men, women, and children, all do their share of work on the gardens, either plucking leaves, weeding or carrying tea. With a basket on their backs (in which to put the leaves that they are plucking) they bring it, full to the brim, to the factory door, where it is weighed, and they are credited with so many cents, according to the weight brought in. The tea is then put on the floor, all the stalks or damaged leaves being carefully picked out. The good leaves are then sent up to the floor above, where they are put on shelves, made of burlap, stretched on rollers, and the leaf is then allowed to remain until it withers and becomes as pliable as a lady's kid glove. In this condition it is brought down and placed in a large tea roller, where for two or three hours it is turned and rolled till the little cells in the leaf are broken and the leaf is rolled into the shape it is known to us. Even now, however, the leaf is still just as green and very little altered in colour from what it was when growing on the bush. After it has been sufficiently rolled, it is put on fermenting tables, where it matures. This is one of the processes which requires the most constant attention and experience, for if the tea ferments too long, the delicious aroma is lost. Finally being put into what is called a sirocco, or a drying machine, the tea leaves are fired by hot air, and fermentation checked. Then they are sorted into grades and packed into chests or cases for shipment all over the

world. Transportation from the gardens to Colombo (which is the shipping port) is done by bullock-wagons and rail-road, the former quite a picturesque sight. Throughout the entire curing of Lipton's teas, they are untouched by hand, thus insuring absolute cleanliness, purity and hygiene. They are then packed in hermetically-sealed cans, thus ensuring that delicious flavour so well known in all Lipton's brands of tea.

Readers of the above cannot fail to be impressed with the fact of how little these teas come in contact with anything but the most modern methods of making tea.

Before ending my little article, it might be of interest to know a little about coffee, the United States being such an enormous coffee-drinking country.

The growth of the coffee tree is somewhat different to the tea bush, inasmuch as the tea bush when it blossoms does not produce leaves suitable for making tea, whereas the coffee tree has to blossom before the berries appear. It is a very pretty sight to see several thousand acres with small trees, closely planted together, covered with a most beautiful "orange blossom," with a scent very like honeysuckle. At this period of flowering of the trees, the coolies are not allowed to go near them, as, if a blossom is shaken off, the berry may not appear. After a few days, the blossom begins to fall, and in a short time a small green berry appears. This, after growing until it gets nearly the size of a cherry, begins to turn yellow, and the whole of the coffee estate is covered with coffee trees, bearing yellow berries. From a yellow, this berry turns into a red colour, and then looks very like the cherries we know in this country, inasmuch as if you open the cherry you find a stone in it, so if you open the coffee berry you find two little coffee beans in the same place where you would find a stone in an ordinary cherry. These are packed and carried to the factory, where there is a large pulping machine, which takes off the outside husk and leaves the coffee beans, ready to be washed and put in the sun to dry. This is what is called "green coffee," which is roasted and ground before the consumer drinks it, and in doing so, it is always best to have the coffee freshly roasted and freshly ground, as the mere fact of ground coffee remaining for ever so short a time unused, the oil in the coffee changes the flavour and is not so palatable as freshly roasted coffee.

## COFFEE.

When the brown is on the pancake and the coffee's fragrance steals through one's every nook and cranny, from the cranium to the heels, that is the time when the average man can appreciate the good qualities of his family grocer. Whether he does or does not do so depends upon the kind of coffee he is drinking, its aroma and its flavour. The average man does not care a picayune whether the coffee he drinks is called Java or Mocha, whatever some people may say. All he cares is that the coffee shall taste good and smell good. It will drink and smell no better for being called Java and Mocha, and will drink and smell no worse for being called something else.

This matter of the aroma and flavour of the consumer's cup of coffee is of prime importance to the grocer. Upon it rests the whole edifice of his business, nine times in ten, for, let the coffee be good, any small defects in other articles are passed over, whereas if the coffee is poor there is always dissatisfaction. Whoever heard of a grocer making a considerable success unless he sold decent coffee?

Coffee will drive more customers away, if it is bad, and make more new customers, if it is good, than any other article in the stock or than any half-dozen articles combined, barring butter.

Coffee will nourish the human system, fill the heart with goodwill, bring new trade to the grocer, keep down the tide of drunkenness, tighten the bonds of trade and sentiment that bind the great republic and her small sisters to the South and even furnish a substantial basis for the Monroe Doctrine. For consider our position as lovers of the aromatic berry, if any foreign enemy, after acquiring a foothold in Central America, should maliciously or ignorantly shut off our supply of coffee! We could stand a substitution of the mild monarchism of Western Europe for the despotic republicanism of our southern neighbors, but could we stand a deprivation of our favourite beverage?

But to return to the grocer's relationship to the coffee habit. It is clear that choice coffee is a good thing to tie to—a good thing



to advertise and push in every possible way. There is one drawback of coffee, according to the point of view of some of the Association grocers, and that is the manner in which the dealers in especially fine blends are compelled to open branch stores.

Drawn by the fame of the choice goods people come for miles and after a while they tell the dealer that they wish his store was nearer their homes, perhaps adding that there are a large number of people in their neighbourhood who would be glad to patronize him if his store were more conveniently situated. The usual consequence is soon seen in the shape of a new branch store.

Great is coffee and liberal is its profit! Liberal, but not so much in the actual margin as in the contingent advantages that come from the sale of a good blend.—*Merchants' Review*.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### KANAN DEVAN.

Proceedings of Extraordinary General Meeting, held in the Munaar Reading Room, on Saturday, the 17th January, 1903. PRESENT:—Mr. A. F. Martin (*Chairman*), Messrs. E. E. Williams, C. B. H. Hunt, C. E. Hancock, J. C. Swayne, W. O. Milne, A. Yates, H. L. Pinches, W. D. Martin, R. Quartley, C. Bell, A. B. Redmayne, and E. R. Howlett. Mr. R. W. Cole, *Acting Secretary*.

*Visitors*: Messrs. J. A. Guyne, W. Pottie.

1. Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

2. **Labour Law.**—The Chairman roughly explained to the Meeting each section of the New Labour Act now being introduced into the Madras Legislative Council and at the request of the members present, went carefully into such points as the Committee considered affected this Association. After some discussion it was resolved, that the Planting Member of Council should be approached on the following points:—

*Section 2, Clause (G).*—Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr. Howlett, that the words "*or the Manager for the time being*" be introduced instead of as the clause now stands.

*Section 3.*—Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr. Hunt, that this Association strongly protests against Section 3 and the repeal of Act XIII of 1859 *especially with retrospective effect*.

*Section 7.*—Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr. Hancock, that this Association is very much dissatisfied with this section unless numerous special Magistrates are appointed under the Act.

*Section 10.*—Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr. W. D. Martin, that this Association objects to this section, because by present wording a Kangany contracting to bring 100 coolies to an Estate, may march them off as soon as the advance is cleared by paying 3 annas a day for three months *for himself alone*.

3. **Election of Chairman.**—Mr. A. F. Martin, the Chairman, tendered his resignation at the Meeting as arranged at the last General Meeting of the Association. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and it was unanimously agreed by the members present, that in view of the fact that the Annual General Meeting for election of office-bearers was approaching, that the Committee be asked to attend to the Chairman's business until that time.

To this the Committee agreed.

4. **Coffee Cess.**—Read and recorded U. P. A. Circular No. 70/02.

5. **Tea Packing Requisites.**—Read and recorded U. P. A. Circular No. 84/02. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth to take such steps in the Legislative Council as he may consider desirable, to obtain the same advantages for the India Tea Industry in exemption of Import Duties on Tea Packing Requisites and oil for motive power, as is enjoyed by the Ceylon Industry.

6. **Bodi Mettu Ghaut Road.**—Read and recorded Messrs. Sealy and Bewley's correspondence on this subject. The Secretary was instructed to inform both gentlemen that the Association was not prepared to undertake any responsibility in connection with the work and suggested that as the road mostly affected Surianella Estate that they should arrange the matter between themselves privately.

7. **Mr. Sealy.**—Recorded letter from Mr. Sealy. The Acting Secretary was unanimously instructed to write to Mr. Sealy and express the regret of the Meeting that through an oversight on the part of the Secretary who was absent, that he had not as Honorary Member received an official notice of this Meeting.

The following papers were laid on the table:

1. Parry & Co.'s letter refusing to sell coffee in connection with Tea Exploiting in S. India.
2. Proposal that an agent be sent to investigate coffee cultivation in Brazil.
3. Tea Exploiting in S. India.
4. French Import Tariff.
5. Import Duty on Seeds.
6. Metric System.
7. Cardamom Cultivation.
8. Supply of Tea to Chief Supply and Transport Office.
9. Limitation of Advances.
10. Report of Sub-Committee on Local Labour question.
11. Adulteration of Coffee.

ROBERT W. COLE,  
*Acting Honorary Secretary.*

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of January 9th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—Public sales were resumed on the 6th instant, when supplies to a fair extent were brought forward. The first arrivals of new crop East India, consisting of Coorg, were very unsatisfactory in quality, and the demand was slow and prices disappointing, being about 2s to 3s per cwt. below valuations. Fine Costa Rica sold well, but less desirable qualities were easier. Central American was fairly steady, but country damaged Colombian closed at a decided decline. Santos was 1s per cwt. lower. "Futures" have been irregular, and the closing rates show a reduction for the week; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 26s 7½d to 26s 6d, May at 27s 6d to 27s, September at 28s 6d to 28s 1½d, and December at 29s 1½d to 28s 9d per cwt. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery ...	26s 6d.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio...	" ...	4.45 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	" ...	27 pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	" ...	32½ francs.

Auction supplies to-day consisted of 1,022 bags East India, 31 barrels 44 bags Jamaica, 20 bags Nicaragua, 533 bags Nyassaland, 64 bags Guatemala, 34 bags Salvador, 639 bags Columbian, 19 bags Mexican, 2,661 bags Costa Rica, 235 bags New Grenada, and 44 bags Venezuelan.

Brazil "futures" opened steadily, but gradually firmed up during the day, closing firm at top prices. The offers on c.i.f. terms from Brazil are being freely absorbed by the trade, and bears seem anxious to cover.

Transactions include: March 26s 4½d to 26s 10½d, May 27s 3d to 27s 7½d, September 28s 3d to 28s 7½d.

Closing quotations:—		Sellers.	Buyers.
March ..	...	27/	26/9
May ..	...	27/7½	27/6
July ..	...	28/10½	27/10½
September ..	...	28/9	28/6
December ..	...	29/3	29/1½

Brazil receipts 27,000 bags, against 24,000 and 23,000 the two previous seasons, and exchange 11½.

Hamburg ½ up. Havre ½ up. New York opens 5 higher.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	24,522	12,606	518	729
	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	188	283	217	146

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports a decrease this year of	211
Home Consumption a decrease of	95
Export an increase of	71
Stock an increase of	12,916

The following are the particulars of this week's auctions, viz:—  
EAST INDIA.—546 bags partly sold as follows: Coorg, new crop, smalls 38s, low middling 45s, bold 55s, peaberry 53s, old crop peaberry 53s to 54s.



**MOCHA.**—55 half-bales ordinary short berry sold "without reserve" at 55s.

**NYASSALAND.**—417 bags sold—pickings 29s to 34s 6d, smalls 36s 6d, fine ordinary to low middling 40s to 46s 6d, peaberry 46s 6d.

**COSTA RICA.**—Of 1,547 bags new crop offered, 1,490 bags sold—smalls 42s 6d to 48s 6d, low middling to middling 50s 6d to 59s 6d, good middling blue 60s 6d, fair bold 61s 6d to 64s, good to fine blue bold 66s to 76s 6d, very fine bold 78s to 86s, peaberry 52s 6d to 83s 6d.

**GUATEMALA.**—488 bags mostly sold—new crop smalls 37s, good middling 58s 6d, fine bold 70s, peaberry 60s; old crop, fine ordinary to low middling 42s to 49s, fair bold 57s, peaberry 48s to 53s 6d.

**SALVADOR.**—750 bags offered and 430 bags sold, smalls 39s to 39s 6d, low middling 46s to 46s 6d, peaberry 51s.

**COLOMBIAN.**—860 bags damaged mostly sold—smalls 28s 6d to 30s, ordinary palish 27s to 29s 6d, low middling greenish 42s to 46s 6d, bold 47s 6d to 54s, peaberry 45s to 49s.

**MEXICAN.**—95 bags bought in.

**NICARAGUA.**—125 bags passed the hammer unsold.

**ECUADOR.**—317 bags withdrawn.

**VENEZUELAN.**—51 bags bought in.

**BRAZIL.**—Of 2,025 bags washed Dumont Santos 1,850 bags sold, smalls 29s to 32s 6d, medium 33s to 40s, bold 36s 6d to 51s, peaberry 38s 6d to 51s. Of 201 bags unwashed, quay terms, 50 bags sold, small pale greenish 26s, peaberry 25s.

*Receipts in Rio and Santos.*

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags	Bags.
Rio ...	2,605,000	3,589,000	1,686,000	2,168,000
Santos ...	5,764,000	7,173,000	5,542,000	4,715,000
Total ...	8,369,000	10,762,000	7,228,000	6,883,000
Crop ...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, previous day—d.

**HAVRE, January 8.**—Good average Santos January opened steady at 31 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed steady at 31 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., March opened at 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ f., May opened at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., September opened at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., December opened at 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ f. and closed at 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ f.

**HAMBURG, January 8.**—Good average Santos January opened steady at 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf. and closed barely steady at 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., March opened at 27pf. and closed at 27pf., May opened at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf. and closed at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., September opened at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., and closed at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf., December opened at 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf. and closed at 29pf.

**NEW YORK, January 8.**—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.
Jan. 8 ...	4.25	4.35	4.45	4.55	4.65
Jan. 7 ...	4.30	4.35	4.45	4.55	4.65

**TEA.**

**INDIAN.**—This week the offerings comprised 36,000 packages compared with 53,000 in the first week last year. With the exception of a few Assam and Dooars invoices of the more recent manufacture, quality has mostly been of a medium character, and included very little really fine. There was a good demand throughout at hardening values, strong thick liquoring Broken Pekoes and Fannings especially marking an advance. Any "stand-out" parcels and autumnal kinds sold very freely at full rates.

**SOUTH INDIA.**—A useful selection was included in the catalogues, many of the teas showing improvement either in point of flavour or colour in the cup; this combined with the better market has resulted in more remunerative returns to growers.

The statistical position continues to develop further strength, and in the face of a shrinking stock and visible supply, perhaps the most striking feature is the moderate basis on which the ordinary consuming qualities can still be purchased.

We would reiterate the importance of guarding against anything like an excessive quantity being brought forward in any one week; following a period of unduly depressed prices, and until a level more in accordance with the improved position has been thoroughly established throughout the whole country, buyers will be chary of going into stock and the market needs to be fed accordingly.

Exports to outside centres continue to be one of the most hopeful indications for the future. Russia, in particular is well fulfilling the promise of being one of our best customers both for

Indian and Ceylon produce, and the displacement of China tea in that country is, we are informed, proceeding apace.

As might be expected clearances for home consumption are smaller than at this period last year. An increase in duty was then looked for as not improbable, while the exact reverse being now the case retailers will more likely be inclined to restrict their customs payments to actual requirements until after the Budget has been brought forward. In consequence of this also the Board of Trade returns for the twelve months of 1902, show a slight decrease from 1901 in the quantity of tea taken out of bond throughout the United Kingdom, though owing to the expansion in our export trade during the year which has just closed the total deliveries are slightly in excess, say, 300 million lbs. compared with 299 $\frac{1}{4}$  million lbs. in 1901.

We understand that the various Trade Associations are taking steps to approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer praying for some reduction in the present heavy duty impost.

For 31,000 packages on estate account 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. was obtained against 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. for 40,000, and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for 44,000 in the two foregoing seasons.

Total amount catalogued in December was:

1902.	1901.	1900.
101,000 pkgs.	129,200 pkgs.	142,300 pkgs.
making 769,000 packages of the present crop brought to sale to 31st ultimo, versus 784,000 packages in that period of 1901, and 876,000 packages in 1900, and on the latest revised estimate of the proportion of the crop available for this country, what remains to be disposed of should be appreciably less than for the concluding months last season.		

**CEYLON.**—The market remained practically closed until Tuesday, 6th instant, when 26,000 packages were submitted, opposed to 31,600 for the same interval a year ago, when, however, two sales took place.

There was an active demand for all kinds up to 7d per lb., Pekoe Souchongs and Pekoes mostly selling in favour of importers. Medium leaf grades were taken up on about the same basis as before Christmas. Broken Pekoes with useful cup were wanted, and under 10d per lb. showed little change in value, though above that price buyers were scarcely so eager, partly due to some falling off in quality.

The average remains as on the 18th ultimo, when it was 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb in 1902.

**JAVA.**—Rather over 2,300 packages passed the hammer, and went off briskly to the advantage of sellers.

Printed in December:—

1902.	1901.	1900.
4,100 pkgs.	4,100 pkgs.	2,800 pkgs.
(Ave. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.)	(Ave. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.)	(Ave. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.)
<i>Deliveries.</i> —Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—		
From January 1 to 6, 1903	...	4,192,559 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	5,433,883 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India ...	30,421	5,684	36,105
Ceylon ...	22,860	3,253	26,112
Java ...	2,082	242	2,324

Total ... 55,363

Also 145 packages from second hands.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated January 9th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	927,741	692,774	45,397
1901-1902 ...	946,477	694,191	40,814
36,149 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 64,686 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
26,140 " CEYLON			
2,397 " JAVA			

There was a great falling off in exports from both India and Ceylon to this country during December, the former showing a decrease of nearly three-and-a-half million pounds and the latter of three millions, making a total shortage for December of nearly



6,500,000 lbs. when compared with the corresponding month last year:—hence there seems absolutely no occasion for producers to bring forward supplies in other than very moderate quantities. The figures quoted at foot show that the stock of all tea in London is eight million lbs. less than it was twelve months ago.

**INDIAN.**—The market was decidedly firm, rates previous to Christmas being easily obtained, while the tendency was towards improved prices with strong general competition more especially noticeable in lower and medium teas.

The official wire gives exports to U. K. for second half of December as 5,740,000 lbs., against 7,840,000 lbs. for same period last year, making the total from 1st April to 31st December 130,660,000 lbs., against 135,481,800 lbs. last season.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 31,251 pkgs., av. 7.76d. 1902, 40,207 pkgs., av. 7.63d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 688,552 pkgs., av. 7.26d. 1901-2, 714,996 pkgs., av. 8.00d.

**CEYLON.**—The first Ceylon sale since Christmas was held this week, when prices ruling before the holidays were well maintained for all grades, rather better rates being occasionally paid for teas up to about 9d per lb.

Private advice from Ceylon gives shipments to U. K. for December as 9,000,000 lbs., against 12,000,000 lbs. last year, making the total from 1st January to end of December 104,500,000 lbs. against 107,000,000 lbs. during 1901.

Average for week 7.75d, against 7.48d in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 1,101,626 pkgs., av. 6.84d. 1901, 28,175 pkgs., av. 7.48d.

**JAVA.**—Offerings were mostly of very fair quality and attracted strong competition—resulting in an occasional improvement of about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. 108 pkgs. "Goalpara" averaged 11d per lb.

#### COCOA.

The opening auctions of the year, held on Tuesday, presented 11,889 bags for competition. The sales opened with a slow demand, but subsequently buying became more active, and about 6,000 bags

sold at a decline in some cases of 2s to 3s per cwt. Trinidad brought steady prices, 960 bags out of the 1,515 bags catalogued selling at 68s to 68s 6d for very fine red, 61s to 65s for good to fine, and 58s to 60s for ordinary to good. 4,269 bags Grenada offered and 3,250 bags found buyers at about 2s depreciation, viz., 57s to 59s for good to fine, and 54s to 56s 6d for common to fair. Of 1,763 bags Dominica 1,540 bags sold at a decline of 2s to 3s, common to fine being quitted at 52s 6d to 57s 6d. 164 bags common to fine St. Lucia sold at 53s 6d to 56s 6d, showing a similar decline to Dominica. Of 357 bags Jamaica 85 bags sold at 52s to 56s for ordinary to good, which was about 2s below valuations. 82 bags Esmeralda brought 60s to 60s 6d, and 83 bags Carupano 70s. Of 402 bags Guayaquil only 60 bags Caraquez sold at 63s, being steady. Of 2,595 bags Ceylon only 400 bags sold, the demand for this growth being very slow, but prices about unchanged; fine bold and medium red brought 74s 6d to 75s, fair to good 64s to 71s 6d, middling medium and small 60s to 61s, small 40s to 50s per cwt. Bought in growths comprised 2 bags Monserrat, 27 bags Colombian, 83 bags Carupano, 135 bags Bahia, 32 bags Brazil, 49 bags San Domingo, 167 bags Puerto Cabello, 19 bags Java, and 216 bags African. Private sales embrace fine Trinidad at 69s, Carupano at 70s, Puerto Cabello at 115s, Arriba Guayaquil at 74s, Caraquez at 63s to 70s, and Esmeralda at 60s 6d per cwt.

#### PEPPER.

**BLACK.**—The market is dull and business has been of small importance this week. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d, with sellers January-March shipment at  $6\frac{5}{8}$ d, and March-May at  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.

At public sale on the 7th instant 497 bags Penang were bought in at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d to 6d, also 291 bags Trang at 7d, and 339 bags Lampong at 6d, with the exception of 27 bags of the latter, which sold "without reserve," all faults, at  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

**WHITE.**—is quiet. On the spot sales of fair Singapore at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d, and fair Penang at  $9\frac{3}{8}$ d. For arrival Singapore January-March shipment is quoted at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d, and Penang at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d.

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# CONQUERS PAIN



At auction on Wednesday, of 11 cases 311 bags Singapore catalogued 11 cases 26 bags sold—fine, in bags, 10½d, small and dusty 9d, and good, in cases, 10d. 118 bags Penang passed the hammer unsold at 9½d per lb.

GINGER.

COCHIN.—A quiet but steady feeling prevails. Offerings were limited to 48 cases 130 bags, which retired unsold at 80s for medium to bold rather roughly cut and scraped, and 35s per cwt. for leanish Calicut rough Sorts.

No Japan or Jamaica catalogued.

CINCHONA.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on January 22 will consist of 10,215 bales and 775 cases weighing 929,229 kilos. In the drug-auction 20 serons of ordinary lean and dull Loxa quill sold at from 9½d to 10d per lb.

CINCHONA BARK.

Offered, 44 packages. Sold, 20. Those sold, all being *Loxa*, obtained 9½d to 10d per lb. *Carthagena* was bought in at 6d.

QUININE.

Practically no business was reported until to-day, when a small sale was made at from 11½d to 11¾d spot, being firm.

CARDAMOMS.

Very slow of sale, medium qualities of Ceylon-Mysore being 2d to 3d per lb. lower, while fine were about steady. The following prices were paid: Ceylon-Mysore, extra bold pale bright, 2s 11d; medium and bold pale, 1s 10d to 2s 2d; medium bright pale, 1s 10d; bold medium pale, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; small and medium pale, 1s to 1s 3d; very small pale 10½d to 1s; small yellowish, 11d; brown and split, 10 to 1s; decorticated seed, 1s 4d to 1s 5d per lb.

MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING DECEMBER FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

				IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
				1902.	1901.	1900.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian	...	...	...	21,989,385	25,819,392	21,618,371	12,394,090	13,731,661	12,345,413
Ceylon	...	...	...	7,070,781	6,545,271	8,065,452	6,968,555	7,173,378	7,931,647
Java	...	...	...	330,750	253,750	367,290	374,290	422,730	259,560
China, etc.	...	...	...	1,686,811	3,160,403	1,703,767	1,900,067	1,795,684	1,950,373
Total lbs.				31,077,727	35,778,816	31,754,880	21,637,002	23,123,453	22,486,993



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1903.

[No. 6.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 13th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*February 2nd.*—*Weather*—Excellent drying weather for the coffee and healthy for the human subject. *Coffee*—A little leaf disease. *Crop*—Most estates getting towards the end, some have started pruning and weeding. It is to be hoped that for our next crop the blossom showers will hold up for another month. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—Our local wigs have been distinguishing themselves by issuing the red-tapist of red tape circulars, that all applications for gun licenses must be on Mysore five-rupee stamp paper, or they will be returned—poor things.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 4th February.*—*Weather*—It is fine now and cool at nights. There is little East wind which is good for the coffee. It is a good thing the clouds have passed away. *Crop*—Stripping has been begun. Estimates are being obtained in most cases. Pruning is following on the heels of stripping and a good supply of wood is being left for next season. *Labour*—Ample. *General health*—Fair. *Interesting item*—Chief Commissioner's tour.

### THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR BILL.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

IN OUR issue of the 17th ultimo, we reviewed the draft Madras Planters' Labour Bill in the form in which it was submitted for the consideration of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George. The report of that Committee has now appeared, and we publish it to-day, together with the draft Bill in its revised form. We are glad to note that amendments have been suggested in regard to every point in the old draft to which we took exception.

These amendments do not go quite as far as we could wish, but they are all leading in the right direction, and the Bill is now decidedly less objectionable than it looked three weeks ago. Clause 3 still stands, by which this application of the new Act to any planting district annuls Act XIII of 1859 in that district; but retrospective effect is not to be given to this. Running contracts made under Act XIII and not wholly carried out when the new Act is applied are to be upheld; and we have information to the effect that the new Act, when passed, will not be applied to any district if planters there express a strong desire that it should not be so applied. This is a great point, but we could wish that it was made clearer in the Bill itself. The Committee have had to reconcile the necessities of planters with the demands of the Government of India, and they have succeeded to such an extent as to warrant our saying that they have done very good work. They have done this work quickly, too; and if at certain points the planter still sees provisions of which he cannot fully approve he will yet realise, we are sure, that the Planting Member has done his utmost on their behalf, and has secured very valuable amendments. He has managed to get a distinction made between *imported* and *local* labour; and while in certain districts this distinction may not quite meet local requirements, there is probably no district in which planters cannot so adapt their arrangements that the new Act will do all that is necessary to safeguard their interests.

The position is practically this: planters, district by district, may go on under the present Labour law or may agree to the application of the law that is about to be passed. This new law will, we think, if passed in its present form, be found generally preferable to the old; but that is a point which the planters in each district can consider for themselves. Once the new Act is accepted, they must abide by it; there can be no reversion to the old. When Native States Administrations introduce similar legislation, as they doubtless will if planters desire them to do so, there will be the same law governing estate labour in Madras, Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin; with the additional advantage that there will be reciprocity in regard to the administration of the law. This last point is too important to be overlooked, and should outweigh some of the minor defects or disadvantages that may be thought to be still present in, or imposed by, the new Act. It is yet, however, too early to write with



certainty of the new Act, because the full Council has not adopted the recommendations of the Select Committee, nor has the sanction of the Government of India been obtained. So far as we can judge there is nothing in these recommendations that undermines the principles of the former Bill, and the Madras Government have been so helpful to planters throughout the negotiations on this subject that we are confident that the Bill will be passed in very much the form in which it now appears. Nevertheless, the last word of criticism or comment can only be uttered when the exact terms of the law enacted are made known. We understand that the Legislative Council will meet again very shortly, and it should not be many weeks before the Bill is passed into law, with the approval of the Government of India.

Only after that time can the law be tested in its actual working. In the meantime we have thought it well, for purposes of ready reference, to publish to-day the report of the Select Committee, the amended draft, and a certain amount of Press comment showing how the Bill has been received in various quarters. Among Anglo-Indian writers it has been, on the whole, well received; and the hostile criticisms of the native Press deal solely with points that have been considered and settled long ago, or with points that are entirely irrelevant. We feel sure that planters generally will endorse our remarks as to the work of the Select Committee, and more particularly of that member who directly represents their interests. In the Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH they have a Planting Member in whom they have rightly placed confidence; and it is easy to see that he has proved himself a strong, reliable, and tactful representative. We venture to voice the opinions of the community, by saying that he deserves a very hearty vote of thanks; but in doing this we detract nothing from the value of the remark by adding that Mr. ACWORTH'S labours were greatly lessened by the firm and sound foundation laid by his predecessors in the Legislative Council, Mr. GEORGE ROMILLY and Mr. H. P. HODGSON. To all intents and purposes these gentlemen have constituted a very valuable defensive Triple Alliance on behalf of the planting industry of Southern India.

### THE AMERICAN TEA MARKET.

In the closing week of 1902 the New York Tea market was a waiting one; early in the present year there was a decline consequent on tariff changes. Reports dated 7th ultimo point to small sales and the probability of quietness for a fortnight ago. *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* remarks:—"Apart from the withdrawals from the custom house of the free tea, the event of the week has been the shipment from New York of Congous to England. This tea sold for export amounted to at least 5,000 packages and still to arrive. It will be reshipped as soon as it arrives here. It will, in all probability, be followed by other shipments of Congous, for the India and Ceylon continue too high to suit Englishmen, who thus fall back on the English Breakfast Tea. The circumstance, of course, improves the market for Congous here where they have been too plentiful. Other teas remain unchanged in prices." These are statements that seem to call for investigation. There was a rush for tea from the customs on January 2, and it is said that one quarter of the trade catering to consumers have yet to come in and buy of the 85,000,000 pounds in the country. Having held off so long, however, they may decide to wait still longer for the break in prices to occur.

### BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

DECEMBER, 1902.

**Cocoa (raw).**—Supplies of this article in the United Kingdom were greatly swollen during December, and, in spite of expanding deliveries, some accumulation of stock took place.

In the twelve months.		1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	lbs.	58,191,153	51,798,802	52,647,318.
Home consumption..	"	45,643,784	42,353,724	37,829,326
Exports	"	13,244,697	11,201,067	9,197,104
Stocks in bond	"	10,964,000	13,263,000	17,398,000
Value of imports	"	£1,691,637	£1,551,242	£1,668,965
Do. exports	"	372,511	342,576	301,555

**Cocoa (prepared)** was officially detailed as follows:—

In the twelve months.		1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	lbs.	8,748,981	8,390,286	7,860,966
Home consumption..	"	8,123,018	7,692,591	6,890,683
Exports...	"	693,202	807,567	784,233
Stocks in bond	"	96,000	209,000	364,000
Value of imports	"	£805,875	£865,647	£729,283
Do. exports	"	74,565	87,871	86,373

**Coffee.**—Amounts returned were very light.

In the twelve months.		1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	cwts.	941,522	958,464	759,656
Home consumption..	"	293,702	332,272	283,884
Exports	"	365,756	676,601	463,149
Stocks in bond	"	543,000	269,000	326,000
Value of imports	"	£2,644,380	£3,324,254	£2,541,726
Do. exports	"	1,050,826	1,949,464	1,543,340

**Chicory.**—The December entries here ran rather small.

In the twelve months.		1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports	cwts.	99,462	103,882	98,657
Home consumption..	"	83,096	82,544	83,371
Exports	"	616	716	428
Stocks in bond	"	9,000	11,000	7,000
Value of imports	"	£45,024	£46,715	£42,461
Do. exports	"	689	728	449

**Tea.**—Most of December's movements were on a somewhat diminishing scale, and totals at the end of the year were barely on an equality with those in 1901.

In the twelve months.		1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports—China	lbs.	17,447,276	20,419,806	21,315,538
Do. British East India	"	158,140,926	160,123,984	151,918,666
Do. Ceylon	"	106,639,627	104,601,531	114,480,023
Do. Other countries...	"	12,328,889	10,118,821	9,486,630
Total imports	"	294,556,718	295,264,142	300,230,857
Home consumption—China	lbs.	11,531,834	9,825,302	13,143,854
Do. do. B. E. I.	"	148,727,837	147,959,734	138,025,015
Do. do. Ceylon	"	85,540,878	90,825,519	92,470,019
Do. do. O. C.	"	8,639,643	7,262,532	6,153,199
Total	"	254,440,192	255,873,087	249,792,087



In the twelve months.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Exports—China ... lbs.	12,942,364	10,905,354	18,283,992
Do. British East India ..	13,921,617	13,226,910	10,172,949
Do. Ceylon ... ..	17,352,345	18,072,668	13,775,433
Do. Other countries... ..	1,273,262	1,184,586	825,510
Totals ... ..	45,489,588	43,389,518	43,057,884
Stocks in bond ... lbs.	107,780,000	115,685,000	119,430,000
Value of imports ... ..	£8,837,880	£9,440,374	£10,686,910
Of which British Indian ...	4,830,727	5,284,280	5,577,011
Do. Ceylon ... ..	3,150,553	3,249,616	4,096,214
Value of exports ... ..	1,827,391	1,698,694	1,688,915

## COFFEE NOTES.

Bogota coffee has come more to the front in recent years. It has always had a good reputation. It is grown on the slopes of the Andes, thus reminding one of the famous Blue Mountain coffee of Jamaica, and gives a full, heavy, fragrant infusion which is much relished by good judges of coffee. It is a native of Colombia, which has an area of fully 160,000 square miles that is suitable for coffee culture. This vast area could supply the coffee demands of the United States several times over.

\* \* \*

**The New York Market.**—Advices up to 7th ultimo say, 'dull,' 'dull,' ever 'dull.' "It is hard to get away from the extremely bearish statistical position of coffee. The chances are that the visible supply of the world for January will not have decreased very much short of 5,000 bags, which leaves the total still above 13,000,000 bags. It is now certain that the crop now being marketed will be very little short, if short at all, of 12,000,000 bags and the one growing will be at least as large as the bumper crop marketed last year. So cheap coffee seems to be the rule for some time to come."

\* \* \*

A. Trommel & Co., Santos, cabled to New York as follows on coffee: "Next Santos too early to estimate crop; probably 8,000,000 bags lowest."

\* \* \*

**A Speculation on Speculation in Coffee.**—The New York *Commercial* says:

"The present year has been a disastrous one for those who have tried to hold up the price of coffee. Lewisohn Bros. have been the head of the bull movement and the Lewisohn interests have for their 12 months of speculation in coffee, a showing of a total loss, which, on paper, amounts to about \$5,000,000. Other interests show a loss of about half this amount.

"The firm that has led the market on the other side is W. H. Crossman & Co., and the interests represented by them are very heavy winners. In a general way, however, it has been the whole market against the Lewisohns, and almost all of the other large coffee houses have been on the right side.

"At the beginning of the year it seems that the Lewisohns greatly underestimated the crop. They went into coffee with the idea that the supply would be short, and that

by securing and taking off the market great quantities of coffee they would be able to force prices up. The more coffee they bought, however, the more came to the market.

"After they had secured control of more than 1,500,000 bags, prices went on lower than before, and nothing has been able to stop them.

"It is generally conceded that the campaign of the coffee bears has been managed with rare judgment, and for this management W. H. Crossman & Co. are given most of the credit. This firm has been ready to meet every emergency of the market, and has been able to checkmate every movement intended to send prices up."

\* \* \*

A movement is on foot in the New York Coffee Exchange to alter the rules so that the minimum fluctuation in the market may be reduced from 5-100 of a cent per pound, to 1-100 of a cent. The circulation of a petition favouring the change has called forth much talk. Those who advocate the amendment contend that many operators are kept out of the market who would trade if the difference was reduced. The present difference of 5 points amounts to \$16.25 on a contract of 250 bags, or one lot. If the minimum is reduced to one point, the difference on 250 bags will be only \$3.25.

Some large firms are opposed to the proposition. They argue that the change would bring into the market small operators detrimental to the trade.

Some members believe that if any change is made a reduction from 5 points to 2½ points will be adopted, as a compromise.

\* \* \*

A year ago, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, Rio No. 7 was 7c. and the quotation to-day is 5¼c., while in options the decline has been in that time 345 points, the January option in 1902 being 6.80c. compared with 4.35c. for the same month at the opening of 1903. The world's visible supply has grown to 13,000,000 bags, and what with the crop now being marketed, the great one growing equal, if not indeed in excess of that one which was marketed in 1902 of nearly 20,000,000 all told, even lower prices seem destined. Strange to say the Brazil growers are the only ones that have profited, whereas they should be the losers. No doubt they are happy and pleased to be with them in the same boat as the bears who have made millions at the expense of the unwise bulls and not least pleased are the Yankee people, who, as consumers, get a reasonably cheap coffee and appreciating the privilege have increased their consumption of coffee enormously although not enough to make a decided impression on the stored coffee crop.

\* \* \*

*Tea, Coffee and Sugar* remarks:—The amount of coffee raised in Java for importation to this country has shrunk to such small proportions that not even 1 per cent. of the total imported here is genuine Java. Of the Mocha, there is no doubt that a large quantity comes from Brazil, where the Mocha tree has been transplanted, and the consumer cannot detect the difference in the taste of the Mocha as grown in Arabia and the Mocha as grown in Brazil.

It is certain that not more than 5 per cent. of the coffee sold as Mocha and Java has ever seen Arabia and Java, and if the public desires to be deceived and buys coffee simply by the description of Java and Mocha, paying an exorbitant price for it, the fault lies at its own door.



Representatives of New York city coffee firms are in Mexico for the purpose of buying all the coffee stocks of this country, including this season's crop that is in the hands of the planters. Considerable head way has already been made toward getting control of the Mexican coffee supply by these firms.—*Associated Press Dispatch.*

### TEA NOTES.

**A Week's Review.**—Reductions of tea prices in wholesalers' price lists this week show, says the *Merchants' Review* of New York, how the repeal of the duty has affected prices. The decline ranges from about five to ten cents. This reduction should put a stop to all talk of the foreigners getting the best part of the saving due to the lopping off of the tax.

\* \* \*

The return to free tea is, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, the particular gift of the Federal Government to the people and from every corner of the land the fact is hailed with jubilation and additionally by some others with comment that the tax never should have been imposed; indeed, that the imposition was an "outrage." In Boston there were special editorial felicitations and very properly was recalled the relation of tea to American Independence. It is pleasant to note this sentiment as it may serve against another violent laying on of hands by Congress should occasion arise, unless, indeed, the American tea industry should cry out to be protected. But about this there is much difference of opinion.

Meantime tea is not so cheap as it was before the duty was imposed. Since last Spring there has been on the average an advance of five cents a pound, which advance has been variously accounted for but the most reasonable seems to be that it is due to the demand which was started last Summer when the trade found itself very nearly sold out owing to abstention from purchasing to any large extent during the twelve months previous. The main event in the situation was the restraint the trade exerted against speculation, which has hitherto been a factor in the repeal of tea duties and so disastrously. Conservative influences, well known, deserve much thanks for this salvation of the trade, which, in consequence, welcomed the dawn of the most extraordinary January 1 in the history of the American tea business as certainly full of hope and prosperity, and this, however it may be effected from a possible reaction from the high prices prevailing, can experience no overwhelming adversity unless it comes in a universal way and there are no signs of such a calamity.

\* \* \*

**Plain Words from Ceylon.**—In the course of his remarks at the Annual Meeting of the Dikoya Planters' Association on 26th ultimo, Mr. W. R. Tatham, the Chairman, said:—

#### THE TEA CROP.

As regards the estimate of crop, gentlemen, it is very much the same as last year. Last year it was 13,423,860 lbs., whereas this year it is 13,022,450 lbs. The yield is 455 lbs., as against 465 lbs. last year. I think that, gentlemen, is a very satisfactory yield from the whole district. There is little doubt that we have gone through a very depressing year, and the price of all tea sold in London has gone down to the very lowest it has ever touched, namely, to 6'61 as against 6'68 the year before. This depression, gentlemen, I think, is now lifting. The dark clouds that have overshadowed us for so long are rolling off, and I think there is

every chance of our doing well in the future. Figures speak for themselves. Last year we exported, approximately, 103,000,000 lbs. of tea to the United Kingdom. The year before that I think it was 108,000,000, and I think this year 96,000,000 is estimated. Well, gentlemen, these figures speak for themselves, and there is no doubt that with the last export we ought to hold the buyers in England in the palms of our hands (applause)—if, gentlemen,—I emphasize the word *if*—if we are not so ill-advised as to resort to coarse-plucking again. (Hear, hear.) The big buyers in London have given out that if the growers will continue to resort to coarse-plucking they will be able to keep the price at what it is now. I am perfectly sure if we go on in the future as we do now, and don't send more than they want, we shall have those buyers in the palms of our hands, for they are sure to fall out among themselves when the demand is greater than the supplies.

#### GREEN TEA AND THE BONUS.

There is only one other point I should like to make some remarks upon, and that is the green tea manufacture and bonus. Green tea has taken a very great spurt in the last few months, and has necessitated the provision of some means whereby the bonus on the extra quantity can be paid. I think I should like to tell you the views of the Thirty Committee on this point, as there is a good deal of misapprehension. At the end of the season when we apportioned how the money for 1903 should be spent, the Committee voted a sum of 4 cents on 7,000,000 lbs. of green tea. At that time we thought that 7,000,000 lbs. would probably be the amount made. Later we awoke to the fact, however, that 7,000,000 lbs. was going to be exceeded, and the question then arose, how was money going to be found to pay the bonus on the extra amount? A letter was drafted by the Chairman to London proposing to raise the cess from 30 to 50 cents. This proposal, however, did not meet with the approval of the Home proprietors and an alternative scheme was sent out by Mr. Rutherford. At the Committee Meeting held in Kandy last month the Committee were of opinion that it was not a very business-like proposal and they then proposed that the cess should be raised from 30 to 50 cents for eight months, and that would allow of sufficient funds to meet the bonus on the tea between the 7,000,000 and the 12,000,000, which is the official estimate. The figures in the room showed that the green teas would amount to 12,000,000 lbs. That, gentlemen, is the position of affairs now. I don't say that I am entirely agreed that the cess should be raised, but under the circumstances I see no better scheme than that proposed at the last Meeting in Kandy, namely, to raise the cess for eight months. That being so, I shall give it my heartiest and most cordial support.

#### "A FATAL STEP."

There is no doubt, gentlemen, that the bonus on the 7,000,000 of green tea will run out about July or August, and it would then be a fatal step to stop giving a bonus to green tea manufactures. If we do stop I think it will mean that we shall find a lot of them going back at once, and making black. At the present time undoubtedly the price of green tea is very good, and when the Committee voted four cents for 7,000,000 lbs., of course, they didn't know that the prices would be so good, and I must confess I should like to see the bonus fixed on the sliding scale, that is from two to five cents. However, gentlemen, it was four cents which was voted.

#### VINDICATING THE THIRTY COMMITTEE.

I have heard one or two remarks made as regards the Thirty Committee. In the Maskeliya meeting I noticed some gentleman said that, if there was not sufficient funds, then why not reduce the bonus at once? You may remember that the Committee pledged themselves to pay four cents on 7,000,000 lbs., and on that guarantee forward contracts were made in Colombo, and therefore it is impossible to go back and upset everything, for all the contracts would be upset. Then there is one other remark that I have heard made in one or two quarters which I should like to repudiate, that most of the gentlemen sitting on the Committee have their own axes to grind; that they are mostly interested in green tea; and that is the reason why they want the bonus kept up. That is not a fair remark to make. There is not a bit of truth in it, and it is not fair to make such remarks about a set of gentlemen who devote their time, leave alone the expense, to attending the Thirty Committee.



**Ceylon Green Tea Report.**—Messrs. Walker, Lambe & Co. for the week ending 8th January, 1903 says :—

The public sale offerings amounted to 3,208 packages

1,110 Packages	..	..	..	Moyune
417 "	..	..	..	Teen kai
680 "	..	..	..	Fychow
160 "	..	..	..	Local Packed
508 "	..	..	..	Ping Suey
333 "	..	..	..	Indian

3,208

In addition to this very full supply some few teas were offered privately.

Although there was a little more confidence among buyers the supply was too heavy and prices for most grades again weakened, so much so that some importers would not face the results and about 1,000 packages were withdrawn. It is stated that some of the fine Moyune teas of very recent arrival were sold to show about 1d. loss on the actual net cost. Finest Sow Mees and also 1s. 4d. 1s. 5d. grades again dropped and are now bringing 1s. 4d. to 1s. 9d. for teas worth 1s. 7d. to 2s. 1d. in November. Gunpowders sold at 10d. to 1s. 3d. for firsts and extra grades a further half-penny fall worth 1s. 1d. to 1s. 6d. in November, some very common cup teas with make bringing only 9d. to 10d. Foong Mees over 1s. 4d. were steady—lower grades declined a full 2d.; indifferent cup Young Hyson were also weaker but the good ones sold well.

Ping Sueys met with but little bidding and in sympathy with country teas declined a full half-penny, meeting no buyers in the room.

The tea trade of Boston is a growing one. In 1901, 202,281 packages were imported but in 1902 the quantity was 232,929 packages.

## NOTES.

### Darjeeling Tea and Railway Rates.

The Darjeeling railway has reduced the rates for tea 22½ per cent. without conditions.

### Export Duties in Ecuador.

(10s. 1d.) per quintal.

### The Tea Clearing-House Question.

The special correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*, wiring from London, says :—There is every probability of a reconstitution of the Tea-clearing House on broad lines.

### Oranges in Florida.

By heroic efforts the orange crop of Florida was saved from destruction by frost. Orange growers kept bon fires and sheet-iron stoves burning throughout the cold nights. The bulk of the crop has now been picked, so there will be little loss.

### Science and Agriculture.

At last the Madras Government have made provision for the employment of an Agricultural Chemist, on a salary of Rs.500, rising to Rs.700. The mischief is that he will have to work under a Department where higher officials are eminently unscientific !

### The French Import Tariff.

A Reuter's telegram dated..... instant says :—The French Customs Commission have approved a Bill provisionally granting minimum tariffs on foodstuffs from countries concluding agreements with France before 24th February. An agreement has been already concluded regard-

ing Seychelles. Negotiations concerning India, Ceylon, and Mauritius are approaching conclusion.

### Cinchona at Amsterdam.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on January 22 will consist of 10,215 bales 775 cases (929,229 kilos.). Java bark, containing 46,503 kilos. sulphate of quinine, are an average for the manufacturers' bark of 5.45 per cent., against 5.74 per cent. for the December auction last, and 5.51 per cent. average of the ten auctions held here in 1902. The shipments from Java up to January 14 amounted to 250,000 Amsterdam lbs. —a decline.

### Colombo Tea Sales.

The *Times of Ceylon*, of 28th ultimo reports :—At the public sale of tea at the Chamber of Commerce room to-day, 13,668 packages = 1,120,917 lbs. were offered, of which 9,264 packages = 764,259 lbs. were sold. A buyer writes to us this afternoon : —“The tea sales went very well this afternoon. London seems to have no effect upon prices here. It is astonishing what a lot of rubbish planters have been trying to send down just now. It is bound sooner or later to knock the bottom out of things.”

### China Teas.

The *Press*, Hong-kong, says :—It seems a thousand pities that China should have given up the valuable tea trade with Great Britain without any genuine effort to keep it. Neither repeated written warnings nor the damnatory evidence of the Customs statistics have availed to induce the Chinese Government to reduce the crushing export duties, which raise the cost of low-grade teas by as much as 40 per cent. Nor have the successive losses of markets served to impress the Chinese producer with the necessity for improving the cultivation and firing of the leaf.

### Science and Tea Growing.

At a recent Meeting of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association, a discussion took place as to the possibility of putting into operation their scheme of extended investigations. The total annual cost of this scheme was estimated at about Rs.27,000. Of this amount the Government of Bengal, and the Administration of Assam, would provide Rs.10,000; and it was thought that the industry would be able to contribute Rs.7,000. For the provision of the remaining Rs.10,000, it was decided to invite the assistance of the Government of India.

### Cinchona in the East.

Dr. Frederick Rose, His Majesty's Consul at Stuttgart, in his report on the trade of Würtemberg during 1901 and part of 1902 attributes the present state of German industries to over-production, with its concomitant symptoms. Dr. Rose's remarks about cinchona are curious. He says : “The hope is expressed that the new plantations in Ceylon and British India may be increased in size, as prices demanded by the Java planters seem to be regarded as abnormally high.” Evidently, he is not aware that Ceylon and British India send us infinitesimal quantities compared with Java, and that the output from those countries tends to decrease, especially as regards Ceylon, while the Java prices could scarcely be lower than they are.

### The St. Louis Exposition.

The managers of the St. Louis Exposition, 1904, announce that under the classification of “Sugar and Confectionery, Equipment,



Processes, and Products," there will be installed in the Agriculture Palace of the Exposition, displays as follows: Sugar and confectionery, sugar, glucose, chocolate, coffee, tea, substitutes for coffee, aromatic drinks, mate, and chicory. Spices—pepper, cinnamon, allspice, etc. Equipment and methods of preparation: Sugar manufactories and refineries; manufacture of chocolate and confectioneries; decoration and roasting of coffee. There will be no charge for space occupied by exhibits, and a limited amount of power for the operation of mechanical devices to illustrate processes of special interest will be furnished to exhibitors without charge.

#### Cinchona and Quinine.

Messrs. C. F. Boehringer & Söhne have issued an annual statement in regard to cinchona and quinine, from which we extract the following:—*Cinchona-bark*.—The imports into the United Kingdom in 1902 amounted to 4,447,000 lbs., or 318,000 lbs. less than in the year before. Java exports were 13,346,000 Amsterdam lbs., or 447,000 lbs. more than in 1901. The stock of bark in London was 8,080 pkgs. on December 31, 1902, and in Amsterdam 16,952 pkgs. *Quinine*.—The estimated amount of quinine in the bark sold in London last year was 1,400,000 oz., and in Amsterdam 11,304,000 oz. The combined figures are the highest for the past six years, as were also the stocks of quinine in London on December 31, 1902—*viz.*, 3,594,000 oz.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 29th January from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo report that the buyers are operating

very cautiously and that the market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common and broken Pekoes is weak. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6d. (the same as last week) and the average 7½d. (also the same as last week). The average for the same period last year was 7¼d. Reuter reports that fine qualities of Ceylon tea are good at fully previous rates. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 5¾d. (½d. down) and the average for the week is 7½d. (same as the last week). 17,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 15,000 disposed of; while of the 31,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 22,000 were sold at an average of 7¾d. (¼d. down).

#### A Cup of Coffee in Persia.

The expression "to give a cup of coffee" has in Persia a somewhat ominous significance. This is due to the fact that the coffee cup is one recognised medium for conveying poison, says a writer in the *Leisure Hour*. Some years ago the governor of the city which he had styled Aspadana, having long been at daggers drawn with the chief of a powerful mountain tribe, determined in this way to put an end to all trouble. He professed to entertain a great degree of friendship and esteem for the chieftain, and invited him to visit him at his palace. The chief unsuspectingly came, accompanied by his two young sons. For a week they were right royally entertained. But at last one morning, when the chief came into his host's presence, he was coldly received, and an attendant soon stepped forward with a single cup of coffee in his hand, which he offered to the guest. The latter could not fail to understand that he was doomed. Preferring, however, steel to poison, he declined the cup, and was thereupon, at a signal from his host, stabbed to death in his presence. This is but a single instance of the way such matters are managed in Persia.

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## THE PLANTERS' BILL.

### REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

*Bill introduced into the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George for making Laws and Regulations.*

The following is the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Madras Presidency, together with the Bill as amended by the Committee.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COUNCIL OF THE  
GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE  
FOR MAKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

We, the undersigned, members of the Select Committee to which the Bill to regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Madras Presidency was referred, have considered the Bill and the papers noted in the margin and have now the honour to submit this our report, with the Bill as amended by us annexed thereto.

2. We have divided the Bill into six chapters and slightly re-arranged the sections following in this respect to a great extent the arrangement in the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901.

Chapters I to X of the report of the South of India Planters' Enquiry Committee (Paper No. 1).

Telegram from the Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, dated 11th December, 1902 (Paper No. 2).

G.O., No. 2, Legislative, dated 19th January, 1903 (Paper No. 3).



3. *Section 1.*—We have not changed the terms of this section but we think it right to put on record our opinion that the Government should always give due notice and await the receipt of and consider local representations before bringing the Act into force in any local area.

4. *Section 2.*—As several estates especially for growth of pepper are small, we consider that twenty should be altered to ten in the definition of estate [clause (b) of sub-section (1)]. That definition has also been amended in order to prevent a person removing his estate from the operation of the Act by ostensibly breaking it up into smaller areas than ten acres.

We have amended the clause—defining “planter” clause (g) of sub-section (1)—so as to make it include every person entrusted, whether temporarily or permanently, with the management or superintendence of an estate.

5. *Section 3.*—We have had much discussion over this section and would have preferred, had it been possible, to provide that this Act should be withdrawn at the option of the Local Government, from any district where its operation was found unsuitable, with the power to revive the operation of Act XIII of 1859. It seems clear that it is impossible in any way to revive the Act of 1859 after the introduction of this Act. We have therefore had to accept the position that this Bill will, when it becomes law and is extended to any district, have the effect of annulling the Act of 1859 for good and all in that district. We have, however, as will be seen below, tried to modify the Act to make its provisions more suitable to meet the wants of those planters who are now in the habit of using the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859. We have provided that contracts already executed under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, when this Bill comes into force shall still be enforceable, as in our opinion it will only be fair that such contracts should be carried out.

There is no doubt that the Bill will meet the wants of a great number of planters. The Committee, however, are aware that in certain portions of the country there is a strong feeling that the position under the Bill will be less satisfactory than it is at present. We have endeavoured as far as possible to meet the difficulties put forward without infringing the principles which are at the basis of the Bill.

6. *Section 6.*—We have added a proviso to section 6 from the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, to prevent women from entering into labour contracts against the will of their husbands or guardians.

7. *Section 7.*—It has been strongly represented to us that in some districts where local and coast labour is much employed on very short contracts the provisions of the section requiring the signature of all contracts in the presence of a magistrate will cause great inconvenience, and make the employment of any large number of such labourers impossible. Such a course would interfere very gravely with the progress of planting industry in these districts and would also probably seriously interfere with the opportunities for wage earning at present enjoyed by labourers living in these parts.

We have added a proviso to section 7 to provide for cases of this kind, understanding that it is never the custom to house in permanent lines on the estates, labourers who enter into such short contracts.

We consider that contracts between a maistry and a planter need not be signed in the presence of a magistrate, as such maistries are intelligent men and may be expected to understand what they are doing. There are a number of such petty contracts for weeding and digging portions of an estate, and it would be very inconvenient for the planter if he had to attend before a magistrate for the signing of each of these contracts and it seems unnecessary that he should be compelled to take this course.

8. *Section 8* (Section 9 of the original Bill).—We have amended this section by the addition of the following words to paragraph 1: “and in case of dispute on his showing to the satisfaction of a magistrate sufficient cause for such determination of the contract.”

We consider that a labour contract ought not to be determined unless a magistrate is satisfied that the planter or labourer has good cause for such determination. The planter by the desertion of a large number of his labourers in the middle of the working season would be caused very serious inconvenience. On the other hand, the planter should not have the power of summarily dismissing his labourers. Both parties should be able to appeal to the magistrate.

We have omitted the last words of the proviso which seem to us to place an unnecessary restriction on the recovery of advances. We think that advances given to the labourers on any account should be repaid before he quits the estate.

We have made corresponding amendments in section 10 of the original Bill (now section 9). We notice that in section 8 of the Bill referred to us no limitation was put on the word “advance.”

*Sections 11 and 13* (Section 13 of the original Bill).—We have broken up section 13 into two sections to make it clearer.

9. *Section 12* (Section 14 of the original Bill).—In this section we have provided for a subsistence allowance as an alternative to food.

10. *Section 26* (Section 25 of the original Bill).—We discussed the terms of section 25 at length, but are unable to suggest any considerable amendment to the section. It is impossible to make imprisonment the only punishment for neglecting to work, as the aim we have had in view is not to punish the labourer but to get him to work. The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. Srinivasa Rao considers that the provision compelling the labourer to pay his employer As. 4 a day should be omitted. We, however, consider that the power of inflicting a fine instead of or in addition to imprisonment should be retained, but we have reduced the period of imprisonment to seven days, which we think will be sufficient for the purpose.

11. *Section 28* (Section 27 of the original Bill).—We have provided that from the fine levied under this section any advance due by a labourer to the employer shall be repaid.

*Section 35* (Section 34 of the original Bill).—We consider that it is advisable in this section to make it distinct that any person who induces a labourer to leave his employer for employment on another estate shall be deemed to come under this section. We understand that this is not at all an uncommon form of annoyance to which planters are subjected and one which in many cases causes them heavy loss. It seems doubtful whether without the explanation we have added, such action would be punishable.

12. *Section 44.*—We have added this new section to empower specially authorized officers to make enquiries under this Act.

13. The other amendments we have made are merely drafting amendments and do not call for any remarks.

14. Our colleague, the Hon'ble the Advocate-General, was unavoidably prevented from attending the meetings of the Committee.

15. We recommend that the Bill be passed as amended by us.

G. STOKES.

J. N. ATKINSON.

G. SRINIVASA ROW.

GRANVILLE L. ACWORTH.

GEORGE G. ARBUTHNOT.

MADRAS,  
30th January, 1903.]



No. 3 OF 1902.

A

## BILL

TO

*Regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Presidency of Madras.*  
(As amended by the Select Committee.)

## CHAPTER I.

## PRELIMINARY.

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Presidency of Madras; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the “Madras Planters’ Labour Act, 1903.”

Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to such local areas within the Presidency of Madras as the Local Government may by notification direct.

(3) It shall come into force in any local area to which it may be extended by a notification *under sub-section (2)* on such day as may be specified in that behalf in such notification.

2. (1) In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

Definitions.

(a) “Employer” means the planter or maistry for whom a labourer is bound under a labour contract to work.

(b) “Estate” means land not less than *ten acres in extent held by one or more persons and whether the same be in one or more blocks* situated within any local area to which this Act has been extended which is being prepared for the production of, or actually produces tea, coffee, pepper, cardamom, or cinchona or such other products as the Local Government may by notification specify.

(c) “Labour contract” means a contract entered into in accordance with the provisions of this Act to work for hire on an estate otherwise than as a domestic servant.

(d) “Labourer” means any person who enters into a labour contract with a maistry or a planter.

(e) “Magistrate” means a magistrate of the first or second class, and includes a magistrate of the third class when he is specially empowered by the Local Government to perform the functions of a magistrate under this Act.

(f) “Maistry” means any person entering into a contract with a planter for the supply of labourers to work on an estate.

(g) “Planter” means *any person owning, managing or superintending an estate or the chief person for the time being in charge of an estate.*

(2) All words defined in the Indian Contract Act, 1872, and used in this Act shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them by that Act.

*Note.*—The figures in square brackets in the margin refer to sections of the Bill as referred to the Select Committee.

3. From and after the date upon which this Act comes into force in any local area the provisions of the Workman’s Breach of Contract Act, 1859, shall cease to apply within such local area to any contract between a planter and a maistry, or a planter and a labourer or a maistry and a labourer.

*Provided that any such contract entered into before the date of the notification extending this Act to such local area shall continue to be enforceable under the said Workman’s Breach of Contract Act, 1859.*

## CHAPTER II.

## LABOUR CONTRACTS GENERALLY.

Maximum term of labour contract.

4. No labour contract shall be made for a term exceeding one year.

5. No provision in a labour contract which conflicts with or purports to set aside any of the provisions of this Act shall be of any effect.

6. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Indian Contract Act, 1872, it shall be competent for any person of the age of sixteen years and upwards to enter into a labour contract.

*Provided that no woman shall be capable of binding herself by a labour contract, if her husband or lawful guardian (if any) objects.*

7. (1) Every contract between a planter and a maistry, and every labour contract shall be in writing and shall be in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Local Government may by rules made under this Act direct, and every labour contract shall be signed in the presence of a magistrate, or of some other person expressly authorized by the Local Government by name or in virtue of his office.

*Provided that any labour contract for a period not exceeding two months, entered into with a labourer who neither is nor is about to be accommodated in permanent buildings on the estate, need not be signed in the presence of such magistrate or other person, but may be signed in the presence of two witnesses.*

(2) It shall be the duty of the officer or person before whom such labour contract is signed to see that its terms are fully explained to and are understood by the parties.

[9] 8. (1) Any labour contract may be determined by either party thereto on his giving at least three months’ notice of his intention to do so and in case of dispute on his showing to the satisfaction of a magistrate, sufficient cause for such determination of the contract.

(2) Any labourer who desires so to determine his contract shall, before quitting the estate to which the contract refers, complete

Act VI of 1901, section 9.

Act VI of 1901, section 2 (j).



the repayment of any money found by a magistrate to be due by him to his employer.

9. Any labourer may without giving the notice prescribed in the last preceding section determine his contract at any time before the expiration of the period of the contract on his showing to the satisfaction of a magistrate sufficient cause for such determination of the contract and on completing the repayment of any money found by the magistrate to be due by him to his employer, and further on payment to his employer of a sum of annas three for each working day of such unexpired period, or of a period of three months, whichever is less.

10. (1) If any labourer shall by reason of illness or accident be disabled from completing his contract, and the parties are unable to agree as to the terms upon which the contract shall be determined, the employer may, and if the labourer so desire, shall, send the labourer, or, if the labourer is unable to travel shall send notice, to the nearest magistrate, who, if on enquiry he finds the labourer to be permanently disabled from completing the contract, shall declare the contract to be determined and such order shall be final.

(2) The magistrate making such declaration shall likewise make such order as he may deem fit regarding the repayment of any money found by him to be due to the employer by such labourer and may also direct that the employer shall bear the whole or a part of the cost of the labourer's journey to his home.

CHAPTER III.

PROVISIONS AS TO THE LABOUR-DISTRICTS.

11. (1) Every planter shall keep such registers of all the labourers and other persons employed on his estate and of their dependents in such form as the Local Government may by rule or special order prescribe.

12. Any labourer who is incapacitated by illness or accident from work shall during such incapacity be entitled to food or subsistence allowance at the rate of two annas a day and to lodging as well as medical care, at the expense of the planter upon whose estate he is employed.

Provided that such labourer shall not be entitled to receive during such period his wages in addition.

Provided further that nothing herein contained shall prevent the employer from taking steps for the determination of the contract under section 10.

13. Every planter shall provide for the labourers employed on his estate such house accommodation, water-supply, sanitary arrangements and

medical attendance as the Local Government may by rule or special order prescribe.

14. The District Magistrate, the sub-divisional Magistrate, the District Surgeon, and any other officer specially empowered by the Local Government in this behalf by name or in virtue of his office, shall have power to inspect any estate upon which labourers are working under labour contracts, and to enquire into the health and condition of the labourers and into the accommodation provided for them.

15. (1) If it appears to the Local Government upon the report of a District Magistrate that any estate or portion of an estate is unfit for the residence of labourers, or of any class of labourers, by reason of any sanitary defects which can be remedied, they may call upon the planter to remedy such defects within a period to be stated.

(2) If the planter neglects or omits to remedy such defects within the period so stated or if the estate or portion of the estate has been reported as unfit for residence from causes which it is impossible to remedy, the Local Government may declare the estate or portion of the estate to be unfit for the residence of labourers or of any class of labourers.

(3) After such declaration has been made and so long as it remains in force no labourer, or no labourer of the particular class to which such declaration relates shall be bound by any labour contract to work on such estate, or portion of such estate, as the case may be.

16. Any labourer desiring to make a complaint that his employer or any person acting on his behalf has personally ill-used such labourer, or has been guilty of a breach of any of the provisions of this Act or any of the rules made thereunder may without forfeiting his wages during his absence but subject to the provisions of section 17 absent himself from his work for the time necessary for the purpose of proceeding to the nearest magistrate and making his complaint to such magistrate.

17. If after such enquiries as the magistrate thinks fit, he is of opinion that the complaint is frivolous or vexatious he shall dismiss the complaint, and shall specify in his order the number of days during which the complainant has been absent from his work in consequence of such complaint, and may direct that the labourer shall forfeit to his employer a sum not exceeding double the amount of his wages for these days.

18. If after such enquiry the magistrate finds that there is sufficient ground for proceeding with the case, he shall dispose of the case according to law.



**19.** (1) If upon the complaint of any labourer, it is proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate that the wages of such labourer are overdue or that wages due to any person whose labour contract has determined have been withheld after such determination, the magistrate may award to such labourer or person the amount which appears to be then due to him, and also, by way of compensation, such further sum, not exceeding that amount, as to the magistrate seems just.

(2) A magistrate making such an award may, if the labour contract has not already determined, on the application of the labourer, declare *such contract* to be cancelled, without prejudice however to the continued liability of the employer in respect of the amounts awarded.

**20.** Whenever it is proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate —  
 Power to cancel labour contract on conviction of employer.  
 (a) that any planter or maistry has been convicted of any offence causing injury to the person or loss or damage to the property of any labourer working under a labour contract for such planter or maistry, and under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, triable exclusively by the Court of Sessions, or

(b) that any planter or maistry has been twice convicted of any such offence against any such labourer and under the said Code triable by a Magistrate, or

(c) that any such labourer has been compelled by the planter or maistry for whom he works or by any person placed by such planter or maistry in authority over him to perform any *work* while he was unfit for it, or has been subjected to ill-usage by such planter or maistry or person,

such magistrate may, if he thinks fit, on the application of the labourer aggrieved, cancel the labour contract of such labourer, and award to him compensation not exceeding thirty rupees.

**21.** When on complaint made it is proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate that any maistry who has received from a planter an advance of money in consideration of his contracting to supply labourers to work on an estate has failed duly to supply or to maintain the supply of such labourers, the magistrate may direct that the maistry shall repay to the planter such portion of the advance as, taking into consideration the number of labourers, if any, supplied and the period during which they have been supplied, the magistrate shall deem proper.

Provided that if no labourer has been supplied the magistrate may direct that the whole of the advance shall be repaid.

[18] Act VI of 1901, section 151.

[19] Act VI of 1901, section 152.

[20] Act VI of 1901, section 170 (b).

[20] Act VI of 1901, section 170 (c).

[22] Act VI of 1901, section 186.

[23] Act VI of 1901, section 187.

[24] Act VI of 1901, section 189.

[25] Act VI of 1901, section 193.

[26] Act VI of 1901, section 197.

## CHAPTER IV.

### PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE.

**22.** Any maistry who

(a) fails, without sufficient cause to present himself at an estate upon the date specified in his contract; or

(b) having contracted to remain upon an estate for a specified time fails without sufficient cause so to remain; or  
 (c) fails to account for the money advanced to him by a planter in consideration of his contracting to supply labourers to work on an estate;  
 shall be *punishable* with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may amount to five hundred rupees or with both; and the magistrate may award to the planter out of the fine such compensation as he may deem fit.

**23.** Any planter, or any person acting under his orders, or on his behalf who wilfully obstructs any inspection or enquiry made under this Act shall be *punishable* with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

**24.** Any planter or maistry and any person placed by a planter or maistry in authority over a labourer, who compels any labourer to perform any work knowing that he is at the time unfit to perform such *work* shall be *pnnishable* with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

**25.** Any planter who wilfully omits to provide house accommodation, water-supply, medical attendance, or sanitary arrangements in accordance with the provisions of this Act or of any rule made hereunder shall be *punishable* with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

**26.** Any labourer who without sufficient cause absents himself from his *work*, or neglects or refuses to work, shall on conviction by a magistrate be liable to forfeit his wages for the days during which he has been absent or has neglected or refused to work and to pay to his employer a sum not exceeding four annas of each such day, and shall also be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding *seven* days.

*Explanation.*—Ill-treatment of such labourer or failure of the employer to fulfil any condition of the labour contract is sufficient cause within the meaning of this section.

**27.** Whenever an employer or a person acting on his behalf complains to a magistrate that a labourer has deserted from the estate upon which such labourer has

Complaint of desertion of labourer or his failure to present himself.



contracted to work or without reasonable cause has failed to present himself on the estate at the time specified in his contract, such magistrate may, without previously examining the complainant, issue summons for the attendance of such labourer, or a warrant for his arrest, and fix a day for hearing the complaint.

**28.** (1) Every labourer who deserts from an estate upon which he has contracted to work, or without reasonable cause fails to present himself on the estate at the time specified in his contract, shall be *punishable* with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine *not exceeding* fifty rupees, or with both.

(2) *Out of any sum received on account of the fine levied under this section shall be paid to the employer any money found by the magistrate to be due to him by the labourer.*

**29.** If it appears to the magistrate trying a labourer for deserting from an estate that such labourer was arrested without sufficient cause, such magistrate may impose a fine, *not exceeding* fifty rupees, on the person at whose instance such labourer was arrested, and the magistrate may award to the labourer out of the fine such compensation as he may deem fit, and may, if he thinks fit, on the application of the labourer, cancel the labour contract of the labourer.

**30.** (1) When any maistry has been sentenced to imprisonment for an offence under section 22 or when any labourer has been sentenced to imprisonment for any offence under this Act the planter with whom such maistry has entered into a contract or the employer of such labourer as the case may be may apply to the magistrate at any time previous to the expiry of such sentence that such maistry or labourer be forthwith made over to him with an order to complete his contract or his labour contract as the case may be.

(2) On such application being made the magistrate may if he thinks fit cancel the remainder of such sentence and subject in the case of a labourer to the provisions of section 34 order that such maistry or labourer be made over or forwarded to the applicant.

**31.** Every person who obtains an order of a magistrate under the *last preceding section* for the purpose of making over or forwarding maistry or labourer of any maistry or labourer shall be liable to defray the expense (if any) incurred in such making over or forwarding; and shall, before the order is issued, deposit with the magistrate such sum as is in the magistrate's opinion necessary to defray such expense.

[31] Act VI of 1901, section 204. **32.** On the expiry of any sentence of imprisonment for any offence under this Act the labourer after conviction shall, subject to the provisions of section 34, make over such labourer to any person appointed on the part of the employer to take charge of him, and no conviction under this Act or imprisonment under such conviction shall operate as a release to any labourer from the terms of his labour contract.

[32] Act VI of 1901, section 205. **33.** When any labourer is convicted under section 26 or section 28 or is sentenced to imprisonment for any other offence under this Act, the magistrate so convicting or sentencing him shall endorse on the employer's copy of the labour contract the period during which such labourer is convicted under the sections aforesaid of being absent from his work or the term for which he is sentenced to imprisonment, or both, as the case may be, and the period so endorsed shall be added to the term for which the labourer contracted to serve, and such labourer shall not be deemed to have completed his labour contract till he has served for the term specified therein in addition to the periods so endorsed.

[33] **34.** Whenever the periods of imprisonment endorsed on the labour contract of any labourer under the provisions of the *last preceding section* amount to nine months the magistrate shall, on application, cancel the labour contract of such labourer, and shall endorse on the labour contract a certificate of such cancellation, or if such contract be not forthcoming, he shall give to the labourer a certificate *in writing* of such cancellation.

Provided that such cancellation shall not bar the institution of a civil suit for the recovery of any money due in respect of such labour contract.

[34] Act VI of 1901, section 208. **35.** (1) Any person who entices or attempts to entice a labourer bound by a labour contract to labour on any estate, to leave such estate, or knowingly employs any such labourer who has, in contravention of the terms of his labour contract, left the estate upon which he has contracted to work shall be *punishable* with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with both, and when any such offence is committed in respect of more than one such labourer may be so punished in respect of each and every such labourer as for a separate offence.

*Explanation.*—Any person who induces a labourer to determine his contract under section 8 or section 9 or to desert his employer for the purpose of employing him on another estate shall be deemed to entice such labourer.

(2) The convicting magistrate may out of



the fine award such compensation as he may deem fit to the employer from whom such labourer was enticed.

36. Any employer who without reasonable [35]  
 cause fails within a rea-  
 sonable time to comply  
 with the provisions of sec-  
 tion 10 shall be punishable  
 with fine which may extend to two hundred  
 rupees.
37. Whoever abets any offence against this [36] Act VI  
 Penalty for abet- Act shall be punishable  
 ment of offence. with the punishment pro-  
 vided for such offence. 213.
38. Whoever commits any offence against [37] Act VI  
 this Act shall be triable for  
 of 1901, section  
 214.  
 Place of trial of such offence in any place  
 in which he may be found,  
 as well as in any other place in which he  
 might be tried under any law for the time  
 being in force.
39. Notwithstanding anything contained [39]  
 in the Code of Criminal  
 Procedure, 1898, offences  
 under sections 22, 24, 26,  
 28 and 35, and the abetment of such offences,  
 may be compounded at the option of the com-  
 plainant.
40. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed [38]  
 to prevent any person from  
 being prosecuted under  
 any other law for any act  
 or omission which constitutes an offence  
 against this Act, or the rules made hereunder,  
 or from being liable under any other law to  
 any penalty higher than that provided by this  
 Act for such offence.  
 Provided that no person shall be punished  
 twice for the same offence.

## CHAPTER. V.

### RULES.

41. The Local Government may make [42]  
 rules—  
 (a) prescribing the form or forms in which  
 labour contracts shall be made ;  
 (b) specifying the particulars which shall  
 be stated in such labour contracts ;  
 (c) prescribing the registers of labourers  
 which planters shall be bound to keep ;  
 (d) regulating the accommodation, water-  
 supply, sanitary arrangements and medical  
 attendance which planters shall be bound to  
 provide for the labourers ;  
 (e) for the guidance of officers appointed  
 under section 44 ; and  
 (f) generally, for carrying out the purposes  
 of this Act.

## CHAPTER VI.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

42. Any money ordered to be repaid under [40] Act VI  
 section 10, or section 21  
 Recovery of sums or any sum awarded under  
 due under Act. section 19 or section 20, or  
 any sum payable to an employer under section  
 17 or section 26, may be recovered on appli-

cation to a magistrate having jurisdiction  
 where the person from whom the money is  
 due is for the time being resident, by the  
 distress and sale of any moveable property  
 belonging to that person which is within the  
 limits of the magistrate's jurisdiction.

- [41] 43. The Local Government may, by notifi-  
 cation, direct that pro-  
 cesses issued by the courts,  
 or by any specified courts,  
 in a Native State under  
 any Act for the enforce-  
 ment of labour contracts in force in such  
 Native State shall subject to such conditions  
 and restrictions as may in such notification  
 be prescribed be executed within the presi-  
 dency of Madras as if they were processes  
 issued under this Act.
44. The Local Government may authorize  
 any officer by name or in  
 virtue of his office to make  
 any enquiry necessary  
 under or for the purposes  
 of this Act and such officer shall be guided by  
 such rules or special order as the Local Govern-  
 ment may prescribe.

A. T. PRINGLE,

Asst. Secy. to Govt. in charge, Leg. Dept.

### PRESS OPINIONS.

We publish to-day the full Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Planters' Labour Bill. It will be seen that the Committee propose certain important alterations in the original draft of the Bill, and these seem to go far towards meeting the objections that have been put forward with regard to the Bill. The most important sections that have been altered in Committee are Sections 3 and 7. To Section 3 has been added a proviso that any contract already entered into before the Act comes into force in any area shall continue to be enforceable under Act XIII of 1859. The drafters of the original Bill had apparently not realised the grave inconveniences of applying the new Act to contracts entered into under the old Act; and naturally there were strong protests when it was found that previous contracts under the old Act would not be enforceable when the new Act came into force. But the Select Committee's proviso satisfactorily meets the difficulty.

At the same time, it is pointed out in connection with the same section that it would be impossible to "revive" Act XIII of 1859 after the new Act has once been applied to any area, if the later Act were found in practice to be undesirable. "We have, therefore," says the Select Committee, "to accept the position that this Bill will, when it becomes law and is extended to any district, have the effect of annulling the Act of 1859 for good and all in that district." It seems a pity, nevertheless, that power is not expressly taken in the Bill to provide for this, for there is a precedent supporting it in the Assam Act. A special reference would no doubt be necessary to the Government of India in this connection; but if it were treated as "urgent," presumably the requisite sanction might be obtained early enough. It makes it all the more obvious, however, that each planting district should carefully consider the desirability of having the new Act applied. And in this connection the Select Committee's remarks on Section 1 are noteworthy, namely:—"We have not changed the terms of this section, but we think it right to put on record our opinion that the Government should always give due notice and await the receipt of and consider local representations before bringing the Act into force in any local area." No less noteworthy, too, are the Committee's concluding remarks on Section 3, namely:—"There is no doubt that the Bill will meet the wants of a great number of planters. The Committee, however, are aware that in certain portions of the country there is a strong feeling that the position under the Bill will be less satisfactory than it is at



present. We have endeavoured as far as possible to meet the difficulties put forward without infringing the principles which are at the basis of the Bill."

Under Section 7—the other important section—the Select Committee have endeavoured to arrange matters with regard to short-term "Coast" and "Local" labour by adding a proviso "that any labour contract for a period not exceeding two months, entered into with a labourer who neither is nor is about to be accommodated in permanent buildings on the estate, need not be signed in the presence of such magistrate or other person, but may be signed in the presence of two witnesses." This ought to meet the objection raised that in some districts where "Local" and "Coast" labour is much employed on very short contracts the provisions of the section requiring the signature of all contracts in the presence of a magistrate would cause great inconvenience, and make the employment of any large number of such labourers impossible. Another alteration in the same section is the exclusion of contracts between a maistry and a planter from obligatory signature before a magistrate, the Committee remarking:—"Such maistries are intelligent men and may be expected to understand what they are doing. There are a number of such petty contracts for weeding and digging portions of an estate, and it would be very inconvenient for the planter if he had to attend before a magistrate for the signing of each of these contracts; and it seems unnecessary that he should be compelled to take this course."

Another hardly less important section is Section 26 (Section 25 of the original Bill). The Committee, in view no doubt of the criticisms it evoked in Council, discussed its terms at length, but are unable to suggest any considerable amendment to the section. "It is impossible to make imprisonment the only punishment for neglecting to work, as the aim we have had in view is not to punish the labourer but to get him to work." The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Rao considers that the provision compelling the labourer to pay his employer As. 4 a day should be omitted. The Committee, however, consider that the power of inflicting a fine instead of or in addition to imprisonment should be retained, but have reduced the period of imprisonment to seven days, which they think will be sufficient for the purpose.

Such are the more important suggestions of the Select Committee. Their Report should be carefully and immediately studied in the planting districts and by all concerned; and any further amendments that may seem desirable should be put forward without delay, for the Council meets in the last week of this month. And this applies not only to planters but to those who may be said to represent the labourers in the Council. The Bill, whatever its provisions may be with regard to dishonest appropriation of "advances," so far as the protection of the honest estate cooly is concerned, is a great advance on any previous legislation; but there may still be points that are worthy of consideration in this direction.—*Madras Mail*.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Madras Planters' Labour Bill, 1903, have completed their labours. Particulars of their suggestions have appeared in a *Port St. George Gazette* Extraordinary, a copy of which has been published in the form of a supplement to this paper. The celerity with which the Committee handled this matter, and the still more extraordinary celerity with which the Bill in its revised form has been placed before the public, show that the Government is desirous of pushing the Bill through without further delay. There is more than a suggestion of irony in this sudden acceleration of speed. It is now thirty-six years since the planters of the Nilgiris and the Wynaad first appealed to the Government of Madras for special legislation in regard to estate labour. They got a Bill in 1866, but it was of no account. Men who were young have grown old without seeing effect given to one of the great desires of their hearts; and some of those who laboured strenuously to set Government machinery in motion with respect to this matter are now no longer among us to note the progress that has at last been made.

Madras Act V of 1866 was the outcome of early agitation in regard to this matter; but it has been a dead letter from the beginning. In 1876 the Wynaad Planters' Association made fresh representations to the Government of Madras, and after repeated appeals during a period of twenty years, action was taken in the appointment of a Special Committee of Inquiry, consisting of two officials and one planter. The recent Bill was the result of this

Committee's investigation, but it had been under the hands of the Government of India, and was, in several points, entirely out of harmony with that Committee's recommendations. It is worth noting that as far back as in 1866 the Madras Government expressed the opinion that any law which might be passed would probably prove in the end more onerous to the planters than "the caprices of their labourers." Planters have long appreciated the force of these words, though being forewarned, they have been forearmed and have not so far had to complain of the passing of any too onerous law.

If conditions have changed since 1896, when the Committee of Inquiry held their meetings, how much greater are the changes that have occurred during the last 26 years? Yet there is no more need now than there was then, of a law of the type of that which regulates the relations between planter and labourer in Assam. The draft Bill submitted to the Select Committee have not made due allowance for certain changes, and did not reflect a right appreciation of the position. Even in its present revised form it is open to hostile criticism, but it is decidedly improved. As an instance of how planters' requests have been misapprehended, we may say that in pointing out the unsuitability of Act XIII of 1859, planters remarked that it was cumbersome, expensive, and so vague that magistrates themselves felt considerable uncertainty as to what their duties under it were. Still, planters asked only for an amended Act. The Committee of Inquiry suggested an entirely new Act; but their report appears to suggest the idea that Act XIII of 1859 should be retained, running concurrently with the new Act. The Madras Government at first framed the new Bill on these lines, but at a late hour clause 3 was introduced, which in its original form had the effect of summarily withdrawing Act XIII of 1859 from force in any district to which the new law might be applied.

Planters are hot against this innovation; but the Select Committee have had to uphold the general principle while depriving clause 3 of a good part of its sting. As the draft Bill stood at the time it was referred to them, it provided that every labour contract should be in writing and should be executed in the presence of a magistrate. The planter was led to infer that the new law could be applied to all planting districts, that Act XIII of 1859 would then cease to have any force there, and that thus the thousand and one petty contracts, of short duration, that he has to enter into in the course of a year—mostly on the basis of advances—would, if he was to have any protection at all from the law, involve his almost perpetually dancing attendance upon a magistrate.

Reading the revised draft as a whole we are glad to find that important changes have been made in regard to these points. It is obvious in the first place that there is no intention of foisting the new law upon a planting district that would prefer the old. An attempt has been made to differentiate between local and imported labour. Certain other modifications have been introduced that obviate any necessity for the execution of all contracts before a magistrate. In short, the Select Committee have gone a long way towards meeting the chief objections raised by planters, and we shall be surprised if the Bill in its new form is not received with feelings of great relief, though not, perhaps, entire satisfaction.

There has been a certain amount of hostility to the Bill on the part of natives of India. We have not seen a single criticism from an Indian member of the Legislative Council or from an Indian writer in the Madras Press, that need be taken seriously. It is noticeable that the Select Committee considered these portions of the Report of the South of India Planters' Inquiry Committee that deal with the matters embraced in the Bill. It is at least as noticeable that no single Indian Councillor or Indian journalist in Madras has studied this report with the care it deserves. It is to be hoped that this will be remedied before the Bill is again taken into consideration by the Legislative Council.—*Madras Times*.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the Planters' Labour Bill have done their work with commendable promptness. They have submitted a unanimous report, which means that the Honourable Member for the Southern District Boards is in complete accord with his European colleagues. Except in the matter of form and nicety, the Committee do not appear to have introduced any material change in the original Bill either as a concession to public opinion or out of considerations of humanity towards the coolies. We have said that we object to the legislation on principle; and so far no ground has been shown for the belief that without



such exceptional law the planting industry in Southern India cannot stand on its legs. We have expressed, and hold to the opinion, that this law has been needed only because the planter is unwilling to pay adequate wages for the labour he requires. Even under ordinary circumstances the Indian labourer will be helpless against his powerful employer. With the help of a one-sided law such as this, he will be, without doubt, reduced to absolute slavery. Indeed, by the Bill certain protection is secured to him at the hands of the magistrate. But this will be only on paper. In Assam we have seen how partial the magistrates have proved to the planters; and in Madras we do not expect to find magistrates who will care to quarrel with their countrymen for the sake of justice to the poor Indian coolies. The planters, as a rule, would not have other than European magistrates among them, and the Government has always been particularly obliging to them. There is not even the guarantee for the coolie that he will get the opportunity to lay his grievances before the magistrate, much less that his grievances will be considered in a spirit of fairness. These are evils inseparable from a partial legislation of this sort; and in India the European, even though he be only a planter, must himself determine his own rights as well as those of the Indian, though they may conflict with one another. The Indian can have no share in the settlement of these disputes even as a magistrate. The coolie is expected always to be at the service of the planter; his hours of labour will be regulated for him. When he will be permitted to approach the magistrate and represent his grievances to him, we are unable to see from the Bill, either as originally drafted or as amended by the Select Committee.

"Estate" was defined in the Draft Bill as land not less than 20 acres in extent. The Select Committee, being of opinion that several estates are small, have altered twenty into ten acres. The definition of the word "planter" has been extended so as to include not only the owner or manager of an estate as in the Draft Bill, but any person owning, managing, or superintending an estate or the chief person for the time being in charge of an estate. The objection to the repeal of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act has been considered by the Select Committee in a very sympathetic spirit; but it is found impossible to revive the Act after the introduction of the new Act. They have, however, considerably modified the Bill so as to make contracts, entered into before the date of the notification extending the new Act to any area, enforceable under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act of 1859. Hence even when the new law comes into force, the planters will have the remedy of the old Act as regards contracts entered into before the Act is actually announced to be operative in any area. As regards contracts with women, it has been expressly provided that no woman shall be capable of binding herself by a labour contract, if her husband or lawful guardian (if any) objects. This will afford some remedy against poor ignorant women being inveigled by interested intermediaries into contracts binding them to labour on plantations, without any idea of the nature and hours of work and of the wages and conditions of life. The necessity for signing a contract in the presence of a magistrate has been dispensed with in case of "any labour contract for a period not exceeding two months, entered into with a labourer who neither is nor is about to be accommodated in permanent building on the estate." The Committee explain that in some districts where local and coast labour is much employed on very short contracts, the necessity to sign contracts before a magistrate will cause great inconvenience and make the employment of any large number of such labourers impossible, and will interfere alike with the progress of planting industry and the opportunities of wage-earners. In the place of the magistrate, two witnesses are to be substituted. Whatever may be said on behalf of planting industry, we are not prepared to say that the guarantee which the presence of a magistrate will ensure can be equally secured by two witnesses; and we fear the modification will encourage the kind of deception already practised on helpless coolies.

The Select Committee, so far as they have improved the Bill, have improved it against the coolie. The Draft Bill, for example, provided that any labour contract might be determined by either party on his giving at least three months' notice of his intention to do so, provided only that the labourer before quitting the estate should refund any advance he might have received in consideration of his engagement to work during the unexpired period of his contract. But the Select Committee feel such great concern for the planting interest that they are of opinion that a

labour contract should not be determined unless a magistrate is satisfied that the planter or labourer has good cause for such determination; for "the planter by the desertion of a large number of his labourers in the middle of the working season would be caused very serious inconvenience." It is added, in the interests of the labourer, of course, that "the planter should not have the power of summarily dismissing the labourers." The result of this equal concern for the planter and the labourer is the new provision that neither party shall be allowed to terminate the contract unless in case of dispute he is able to show, to the satisfaction of a magistrate, sufficient cause for such termination of the contract. We cannot give our approval either to the new provision or to the reasons which the Committee assign in support of it. We understand them merely to mean that the planter should not be left in the lurch even after a three months' notice. Their concern for the coolie is simply ridiculous in the face of the fact that it is the planter that wants this exceptional law and not the labourer. The latter can well get on without a labour Act; and he has no grievance against his contract being terminated after a three months' notice. The alteration which the Select Committee have introduced can have no other effect than that of denying the coolie the only chance of escaping from oppression even after three months. If a coolie is oppressed and feels his position intolerable, the Draft Bill provided for his securing freedom at least after three months. But the Select Committee, which include the Honourable Member for Southern District Boards, have deliberately deprived him of even this chance, and made the planter's grip over him absolute and complete.—*Hindu*.

A *Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary* issued yesterday contains the Report of the Select Committee, on the Bill to regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Madras Presidency, together with the Bill as amended by the Committee. As the Select Committee say, the Bill has been divided into six chapters, with the sections slightly re-arranged, following to a great extent the arrangement observed in the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901. Though the terms of Section 1 have not been changed, yet the Select Committee have thought it right to put on record their opinion that the Government should always give due notice, and await the receipt of and consider local representations, before bringing the Act into force in any local area. Section 3 appears to have undergone much discussion at the hands of the Select Committee and they would have preferred, had it been possible, to provide that this Act should be withdrawn at the option of the Local Government from any district where its operation was found unsuitable, with the power to revive the operation of Act XIII of 1859. But since after the passing of this Act, it will be impossible to revive the Act of 1859 the Select Committee have accepted that this Bill must have the effect of annulling the Act of 1859. To Section 6, a proviso is added preventing women from entering into labour contracts against the will of their husbands and guardians. The convenience of the planter has been very largely considered, and Section 7 says that contracts between a maistry and a planter need not be signed in the presence of a magistrate on the ground that such a procedure besides being "very inconvenient" would make "impossible" the employment of any large number of labourers. In cases of disagreement between master and employed, culminating in dismissal by the planter or in the abrupt desertion by the labourer both parties are given rights to appeal to the magistrate. Unnecessary restriction on the recovery of advances is removed and advances given to the labourers are to be paid "on any account" before they quit the estate. A grant of subsistence allowance to "any labourer who is incapacitated by illness or accident" as an alternative to food is provided for in Section 12. According to Section 26 the period of imprisonment has been reduced to seven days and in spite of the protest of the Hon. Mr. G. Srinivasa Rao against compelling the labourer to pay his employer four annas for each day he absents himself "the power of inflicting a fine instead of or in addition to imprisonment" has been retained by the majority. Some other changes have also been made and we propose to deal with the whole question in a future issue.—*Madras Standard*.

It has taken nearly seven years to evolve a draft Bill out of the recommendations of the South of India Planters' Enquiry Committee, and now this Bill is being dealt with so hastily as to make the former delay look worse than ever it did. The Select Com-



mittee recently appointed have issued their report, and this, with the Bill in its amended form, has been published in a *Port St. George Gazette Extraordinary*. The Committee have done their work excellently on the whole, and theirs is not the fault if clause 3 has not received the drastic treatment it deserved. The Committee have taken the view that it is impossible to revive Act XIII of 1859 after the introduction of the new Act. Certainly, that will be so if the new Act be carried in its present form; but there is no good reason apparent why the two Acts should not run concurrently, the one applying to labour contracts between planter and imported cooly and the other to specific work contracts between planter and local labour. The simple fact is, however, that the Government of India have insisted that Act III of 1902 shall, wherever introduced, annul Act XIII of 1859; and the Committee no doubt feel that it would be labour thrown away to go beyond trying to make the new Act as good a substitute for the old as possible. The objectionable retrospective portion of the amendment clause has been cut out, and the Committee have provided that contracts already executed under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act 1859 when the new Act comes into force, shall still be enforceable. That is a common-sense provision. For the relief of planters in particular districts we may also remark that the Select Committee have recorded their opinion that the Government should always give due notice and await the receipt of and consider local representations before bringing the Act into force in any local area. If this suggestion be adopted, the practical effect will be that planters in a particular district may prevent the enforcement of the new Act in their district, and remain faithful to the old. It appears to be well understood that the Madras Government have no intention of putting the new Act into force in any district where the feeling of planters is opposed to it.

A distinction between imported and local labour has been made by the addition of a proviso to clause 7 of the Bill. As far as this goes it is perhaps as efficient a method as could have been devised for differentiating between labourers imported on regular labour contracts and "locals" contracted with to do specific work of short duration. But one point still remains to be explained: ruled outside the provisions of the new Act, under what law will current contracts of this class come, Act XIII of 1859 being annulled the moment Act III of 1903 is applied to any district? The Committee consider that contracts between a maistry and a planter need not be signed in the presence of a magistrate, as such maistries are intelligent and may be expected to understand what they are doing. This and other modifications suggested provide for the execution, without reference to a magistrate, of very short petty contracts for weeding, digging, etc. Such contracts may be signed in the presence of two witnesses, but the option of execution before a magistrate is still available. As the proviso applies only to labour contracts for a period not exceeding two months, it will not fully meet the necessities of planters in all districts; but the plan suggested is probably as good a one as could be devised to meet the requirements of a complicated variety of systems. The clause in regard to "specific performance of contract" appears to have evoked a considerable amount of discussion. This is the backbone of the planter's case. It is what he has been fighting for during many years past. His plea has always been that no punishment of the labourer will recompense the planter for loss caused by the former's failure to perform the work he has undertaken to do. We are glad to see that the Special Committee have stood firm on this point.

In clause 28 a minor amendment of some moment has been made, the effect of which is to provide that from the fine levied under this section any advance due by a labourer to the employer shall be repaid. The clause dealing with seduction of labour has also been strengthened. Other amendments do not appear to call for special remark. Generally speaking, the amendments suggested by the Select Committee will go a long way to meet the objections raised to the former draft by planters in every planting district of South India. The Bill is by no means perfect in its new form, but it is a great deal nearer to perfection than it was, and it probably marks the most favourable compromise that planters as a body could have hoped for. As we have said, the option of refusing the new Bill is virtually left with the planters of each particular district. The Select Committee are correct in saying that the Bill will meet the wants of a great number of planters. They had a delicate task before them. In certain districts there was a strong

feeling that the position under the proposed Bill would be less satisfactory than it is at present. The Committee had to endeavour to meet the difficulties put forward without infringing the principles that are at the basis of the Bill. If we judge their work aright, the new Bill will now be readily accepted in a majority of the planting districts if not in every one of them. At any rate, no district can be placed in a worse position than before unless with the consent of the planters themselves, for they may elect to cling to the present system rather than adopt the new. This point is not made as clear as might be wished in the Bill itself, but we believe we have correctly interpreted the intentions of the Government of Madras. All we have now to suggest is that these intentions should be stated in some official form to the Governments of the Native States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin, so that the true meaning of clause 1 should be fully understood by them. As stated in a previous article on the draft Bill, the idea is that corresponding legislation should be resorted to in all these States, and it is desirable that all the Governments concerned should realise that the intention is that planters should have the option of letting Act XIII of 1859 (or the equivalent regulations in Native States) run, or of accepting Act III of 1903, or its equivalent.—*Daily Post*.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### THE CEYLON TEA CESS AND BONUS QUESTION.

Mr A. C. Kingsford, Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, has addressed the following letter to the Ceylon Association in London, with reference to the proposed increase in the tea cess:—

In September last I addressed you, on behalf of the "Thirty Committee" with a view to obtaining through your Association the consent of the Home proprietors to an increase in the cess from 30 cents to 50 cents per 100 lbs. of tea, for the purpose of placing the Committee in a position to encourage to its full extent during 1903 the rapidly-growing green tea industry of Ceylon, thereby considerably relieving the overstocked black tea market.

Your Tea and Produce Committee, after considering my letter, passed a Resolution to the effect that, whilst approving of the encouragement given to the green tea industry, they did not consider it necessary or desirable at the present moment to increase the cess, and the following compromise was suggested by Mr. Rutherford:—"That the Thirty Committee guarantee 4 cents per lb. bonus on 7,000,000 lbs. of green tea out of the 1903 cess, which it is proposed should not be increased over its present rate, and in the event of there being insufficient funds from which to pay a bonus on green tea exported in 1903 in excess of 7,000,000 lbs., then the payment of the bonus of 4 cents on such excess quantity shall be a first charge on the unexpended balances for advertising, etc., and on the cess of the following year."

This Resolution you circulated to the Home proprietors, together with my appeal for an increase in the cess, with the result, I think, that two voted for the abolishment of the cess, thirteen supported the proposed increase in the cess, and the rest, perhaps not, unnaturally, in view of your Committee's resolution, approved of Mr. Rutherford's scheme.

My Committee, with the information at present before them, do not consider Mr. Rutherford's suggestion practicable, and at a Meeting held on the 10th instant, twenty-six members being present, passed the following Resolutions:—

*Resolved*:—"That it be publicly notified that the funds available are only capable of meeting the payment of a bonus at 4 cents on 7,000,000 lbs. spread over the year and that should larger quantities be made, say, than an average of  $\frac{3}{4}$  million pounds per mensem, payment will have to be held over from time to time until funds are available; (II.) that the 'Thirty Committee' considers Mr. Rutherford's proposal to guarantee a bonus of 4 cents a lb. for 1903, payable partly out of 1904 funds, extremely inadvisable; (III.) that proprietors at Home be again approached through the Ceylon Association in London, and that it be represented that in view of the outturn of green tea during December, 1902, having been over 700,000 lbs., and of the estimated manufacture for 1903 (submitted in detail) amounting to 12,000,000 lbs., the Committee



would again ask the Ceylon Association in London to consider the question of an increase of the cess, and would push for an increase up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per lb. limited to eight months from 1st May to 31st December, 1903, thus providing funds for the payment of a further bonus of, say, 5,000,000 lbs. at 3 cents per lb."

The position is somewhat changed, both financially and otherwise, since I wrote in September last. It was then anticipated that we should carry forward to 1903, funds amounting to Rs.20,000, but owing to short shipments during the last months of the year, reducing the estimated cess income, the available carry-over amounts to only Rs.8,592.78. (Amount in hand at the end of 1902, Rs.16,047.53, but of this amount Rs.7,454.75 was required for payment of the balance due of the 5 cents bonus.)

Again, the estimated income for 1903, was calculated in September last at Rs.480,000, being based on a crop of 160,000,000 lbs. Messrs. Forbes & Walker estimate this year's crop at 150,000,000. The P. A. estimate is not yet available, but from the district returns received to date, the estimated crop does not appear likely to exceed last year's estimate of 154,000,000, and as our revenue is based on actual shipments 1st December, 1902, to 30th November, 1903, and December last was a considerably shorter crop than is probably estimated for December this year, we cannot count on the whole 154,000,000, and about 150,000,000 is perhaps a safe working estimate; and the revised financial position is therefore as follows:—

1903 cess income 150,000,000 lbs. at 30 cents per 100 lbs.	...	Rs.450,000
Available balance from 1902	...	" 8,592

Total estimate income .. Rs.458,592

Estimated expenditure voted and sanctioned by Government, Rs.470,000, as follows:—

Green tea bonus 7,000,000 lbs. at 4 cents	...	Rs. 280,000
America	...	" 105,000
Continent of Europe	...	" 75,000
Administration, Contingencies, etc.	...	" 10,000

It will thus be seen that the anticipated unvoted balance of Rs 30,000 mentioned in my last letter, and counted on by Mr. Rutherford in his alternative suggestion, is not now likely to be available, and the Committee are already committed to a larger expenditure than their probable income.

Mr. Rutherford suggests that any further payment necessary on a guaranteed bonus of 4 cents per lb. on the total output of green tea during 1903, that we are unable to meet out of 1903 funds, should be made a first charge on 1904 funds.

This is an unknown liability which the Committee are reluctant to incur. They are quite willing to admit that a smaller expenditure during 1904 is possible, and that a charge on account of 1903 expenditure amounting to perhaps as much as Rs 100,000, could be met, if spread over the year; but to guarantee a bonus of 4 cents on any quantity of green tea made, and to make this a first charge, might necessitate the entire stoppage of all work during the first half or more of next year, as the quantity made, at present unprovided for, may amount to 5,000,000 lbs. incurring a liability of Rs.200,000, or might possibly reach 8,000,000 with a first charge of Rs.320,000 against next year's funds.

When I addressed you last, the output of green tea for the previous nine months averaged about 250,000 lbs. a month; since then the monthly output has averaged over 500,000 lbs., and last month exceeded 700,000 lbs.; several new estates are commencing to manufacture, so that given sufficient encouragement, an outturn of a million pounds a month is not at all unlikely. We have already obtained estimates totalling 12,000,000, and this does not include the crops of several estates, so that full estimates of those now making may amount to 15,000,000, and circumstances may add others to this list. The contingency of a 12 to 15,000,000 output was possibly not seriously considered by Mr. Rutherford, when submitting his alternative proposal. I may mention that already over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions is sold on contract, apart from Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co.'s factory outturn, and most of this is for delivery during the first six months of the year, but all contracts are dependent on the bonus being available. It would seem therefore quite possible that the 7,000,000 pounds for which a bonus is provided may be made before the end of July, unless the deferred payment of the bonus checks the output. If no bonus is available from July on, the manufacture might cease or only be continued on a very reduced scale, as at this period, when prices for black tea

should be rising and green tea possibly lower in value, a drop from a 4 cents bonus to no bonus would be seriously felt. That the output of Ceylon green tea should cease, at a time when China, Japan, and India, are all putting teas on the market, should undoubtedly be prevented if possible, but we do not see our way to do this without increasing the cess for a period.

With regard to the voted expenditure for 1903, it is not possible, to now alter the apportionment. Arrangements have to be made some months in advance, and the sanction of Government obtained.

The "Thirty Committee" in September outline the expenditure for the following year, and having announced some months ago that failing funds for a 5 cents bonus on 12,000,000 pounds, feasible only had the cess been increased from the commencement of the year, they would pay a 4 cents bonus on 7,000,000, it is not now possible to reduce this rate.

The same remark applies to the other votes. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Renton have to be advised in advance of the sums available in order to allow them time to make their arrangements for the year, and a smaller sum than £5,000, including salary, could hardly be allotted to Mr. Renton.

Of the £7,000 voted for expenditure in America, £4,000 has been given to Mr. Mackenzie for work in previous channels, and £3,000 has been reserved for preliminary expenditure at the St. Louis Exhibition and work in this part of America, where chiefly green tea is drunk, but this vote may have to be reduced by £800 to meet the deficit in the estimates. I think it would have been folly to have ceased all work in America this year, with the duty coming off and the large increase in green tea that has to be pushed. Our votes are meagre from want of funds and not for lack of appreciation of our Commissioner's work. The work of both our Commissioners has been starved of late for want of money, and realizing this, both Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Renton offered to work for half salary last year. I may mention that nearly all the expenditure in America during the last two years, has been spent in pushing the sale of our green teas, although where possible, of course, black tea has been included in the advertisements.

If the manufacture of Ceylon greens had been commenced in 1895, when we opened our campaign in America, the result of our campaign would be very different to-day, and the position of Ceylon tea generally during the last few years would have been much firmer. It is only fair to Mr. Mackenzie to point out that from the commencement he has persistently advocated the manufacture of green tea, and the main point in his report, after his first visit to America, was that as Americans drink green tea we should endeavour to supply green tea.

At that time black tea paid us well, over-production was still only a bogie, and we were unwilling to alter our manufacture for what we considered was a mistaken fad on the part of our American friends. We determined to proceed on the peculiarly British lines of refusing to alter our goods to suit the requirements of the market. Green teas were wanted; we would give them black. Mr. Mackenzie was instructed to go back and point out how pernicious green tea was, and offer the people black, an article differing as much as cocoa from coffee. What hold we have obtained in America has been through the displacement of China Congou, but we have made about as much impression on the green tea drinking community, as a Japan green tea crusade would make in England. Adversity brought about a change in our tactics, with the result that this year Messrs. Forbes & Walker estimate (bonus permitting) direct shipments to America at 14,000,000 lbs., thus reducing the amount available for export to the United Kingdom to 94,000,000, a total 10,000,000 less than that shipped last year, and 20,000,000 less than the 1900 shipments, and we have to go back seven years to 1896 to find so low a total shipped to the United Kingdom.

The Cess Ordinance was passed for "increasing the consumption of Ceylon tea in foreign lands," the main object being not so much the laudable one of providing the world with a pure tea, but the indirect gain, by diverting our surplus production from the London market; and whether this is done in black or green tea is entirely immaterial. If this can be effected a good deal easier and cheaper by pushing green tea, this surely is the line to follow. Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton in their annual circular, dated July, 1902, state "The world's annual consumption of green and uncoloured tea amounts to nearly 90 millions. Out of that total Ceylon last year contributed about 1 million pounds, and India only 70,000. Surely it cannot be impossible for British tea-planters to adapt the style of their produce to the wants of the large body



of consumers of such teas, and thus supply some portion at least of a new and almost untried market."

This green tea market appears to be the most promising field for exploiting at the present time. The manufacture of such tea has the additional advantage of reducing the supply of black, as for every pound of green tea made a pound of black would be displaced. Hence the advantage obtained would be two-fold.

The development in foreign markets during the last 11 years has been remarkable, and has had the effect of saving the industry, so far, from a crisis such as may yet be probably averted if strenuous efforts are made in the way of more vigorously opening up existing outlets and finding new means of exploiting hitherto untried markets. I think it was Mr. Rutherford who suggested, in 1901, that we should endeavour to turn out green tea on a large scale; and to enable this being done, the black tea producers should subsidise the green tea manufacturers.

I hope I have now sufficiently emphasised the fact, which does not appear to have been previously understood in some quarters, that the aim and object in encouraging the green tea industry, has been the consequent improvement in black tea prices, by a reduction in the output of black tea. Hitherto the difficulty has always been to get the manufacture of green tea undertaken in sufficient quantity, and although there has been a bonus offered since 1896, it was only in 1898 that the manufacture was commenced in a small way, and in no year since has the amount of bonus available been fully applied for.

We commenced with a bonus of 10 cents a lb., reduced it to 7 cents, then to 5 cents, and are now paying 4 cents. The total amount of green tea on which a bonus was paid to end of December amounted to 6,149,862 lbs., costing Rs.347,549.18, or an average bonus of 5.65 cents per lb.

It appears to me that both high and low-grown estates are interested in preventing the supply of tea exceeding the demand. It is true, perhaps, that when common teas, from over-supply, are at their lowest, high-grown teas may be in greater demand and reap a temporary benefit, but the inevitable result of over-supply brings about the necessity for finer plucking from low and medium grown estates, and it is then that high-grown teas suffer in comparison. I notice that the average of the Uda-Pussellawa and Nuwara Eliya districts dropped 1d. from 1899 to 1901.

If the tea planting industry is in a bad way, high and low feel the loss of credit and want of confidence in the enterprise.

The Committee undertake to return the amount of the additional levy asked for, if not required for the purpose stated, by reducing the cess next year, and they also wish me to state, that although the cess is leviable at its present rate until June, 1905, they hope before that time, possibly from the 1st of January next, to lower the rate, apart from the undertaking above. As mentioned previously, a reduced expenditure next year should be practicable. A smaller bonus on green tea, for perhaps six months, may be necessary, and some expenditure in America will have to be carried out in connection with the St. Louis Exhibition, and it may be advisable to continue pushing green tea to some extent. It must be remembered very little money has been spent in the big green-tea consuming districts, apart from Canada.

The continuance of the campaign on the Continent next year will depend a good deal on the results obtained this year, bearing in mind, of course, that no very appreciable results are likely to be at once visible from the disbursement of so small a sum. Mr. Rutherford's scheme would stop all work from the 1st of January, many bonus payments would have also to await settlement for perhaps six months, and for these reasons the Thirty Committee considered his suggestion extremely inadvisable.

Is the producer therefore willing to agree to an increase in the cess for eight months, amounting to  $\frac{1}{5}$ th of a cent, or say  $\frac{1}{30}$ th of a penny per lb., for the purpose of enabling the Committee to prevent a possible deadlock in the manufacture of green tea from July on, and for the probable removal of an additional five million pounds of tea from the black tea market.

As to whether the Cess funds have been well or badly administered in the past is not the question now to be discussed, although personally I consider the lines our Commissioners have worked on have been the only possible ones with the funds at our disposal, and to those at Home I would draw attention to the remarks made by Mr. Rutherford at the last Annual Meeting of the Ceylon Tea

Plantations Company, Limited, who, in reply to a query put by Mr. Brooke with reference to the tea cess, stated:—"As to the tea cess, I see by this mail that the Ceylon Government have passed an Ordinance to increase the tea cess to 30 cents per 100 lbs. I think this is a wise move. It has been proved up to the hilt that it has resulted in Ceylon teas being sold all over the world, and we can only hope that the planters of India, who have applied for a similar cess to be enforced on Indian teas, will be equally successful."

The total expenditure by the Thirty Committee from the commencement in 1894, including this year's voted expenditure, will barely cost  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. on this season's crop, whereas the expenditure on green tea only, by which 13,000,000 lbs. of black tea is displaced should alone more than recompense the producer for the whole ten years' outlay.

Your Committee were good enough to issue a circular last year, addressed to all Ceylon tea growers, advocating careful plucking, and quoting Messrs. Thomas, Cumberlege & Moss as follows:—"Of the 187,000,000 lbs. and 145,000,000 lbs. respectively produced in India and Ceylon during season 1900, the last 12,000,000 lbs. from the former country and the last 8,000,000 lbs. from the latter were at a moderate estimate, the actual cause of an aggregate nett loss to producers of over £1,000,000 sterling; this on the face of it, is an absurd situation, and it is not to be doubted that by individual or collective action some means will be found to prevent its recurrence."

The best means we can suggest to prevent this recurrence is to encourage the manufacture of green tea to its full extent, and when we recognise that this over-production of 20,000,000 lbs. in 1900 has cost us £1,000,000 sterling per annum since, and a possibility of taking 12,000,000 lbs. of the black tea market is offered at a cost of under £30,000, or  $\frac{1}{33}$ rd of the above sum, it does not surely require much consideration on our part to decide as to whether the money should be provided or not.

The Chairman of the Indian Tea Association (London) at the last Annual Meeting remarked, "If they could only capture half or even a quarter of the market for greens, they could do away with their over-production at a single blow. Here, again, was a need for funds, for the Association could not expect to do such things without large advertising."

I have not lost sight of the fact that the production of a large quantity of green tea from both Ceylon and India may cause a glut in the green tea market, and bring about a serious fall in prices, but this would probably be more felt by the declining Japan trade, and ultimately result in smaller shipments from that country.

I hope your Association will use its best endeavours to obtain the consent of proprietors to the proposed increase, and I take this opportunity of thanking those who supported the Thirty Committee in their last appeal. I have been obliged to go over a good deal of old ground and explain matters rather more fully than would be necessary had I the further opportunity of answering any questions before a decision is arrived at.

## IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

### THE TEA CESS BILL.

The first Meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council this session took place on January 30th (morning), at Government House, Calcutta. There were present:—His Excellency Baron Curzon, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor-General of India, presiding; His Honor Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal; His Excellency General Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., Commander-in-Chief in India; the Hon. Mr. T. Raleigh, C.S.I.; the Hon. Sir E. F. G. Law, K.C.M.G., C.S.I.; the Hon. Major-General Sir E. R. Elles, K.C.B.; the Hon. Mr. A. T. Arundel, C.S.I.; the Hon. Sir Denzil Ibbetson, K.C.S.I.; the Hon. Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale; the Hon. M.R.Ry. Panapakkam Ananda Charlu, Vidya Vinodha Averal; Rai Bahadur, C.I.E.; the Hon. Mr. L. P. Pugh; the Hon. Sayyid Husain Bilgrami; the Hon. Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, C.I.E., the Hon. Sir Rameshwara Singh, K.C.I.E., Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga; the Hon. Sir M. C. Turner, Kt.; the Hon. Mr. G. C.



Whitworth; the Hon. Mr. R. F. Rampini; the Hon. Mr. G. F. T. Power; the Hon. Rai Sri Ram Bahadur; the Hon. Mr. A. W. Cruickshank, C.S.I.; His Highness Agha Sir Sultan Mohamed Shah, Agha Khan, G.C.I.E.; the Hon. Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I.

After sundry other matters had been dealt with, the Hon. Sir Montagu Turner moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of customs duty on Indian tea exported from British India, and to amend section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.

He said: My Lord.—This Bill is the outcome of action taken by the Committee of the Indian Tea Association commencing in December, 1900, with correspondence with the Government of Bengal, and culminating in a petition addressed to Your Excellency in March, 1902, signed by a very large number of tea-garden proprietors and others representing an acreage of tea of 416,000 acres as against the total area under cultivation in British India of 520,000 acres. The Memorialists prayed that legislation might be introduced whereby an export duty on Indian tea would be levied, the proceeds of this tax to be devoted to pushing the sale and increasing the consumption of Indian tea in foreign countries.

In acknowledging the memorial, the Government of India pointed out that the request was both novel and unusual, but that it would be granted if it was shown to the satisfaction of Government that the tea industry was substantially of one mind and that no weighty or widely entertained objections were received. It is quite true as described in the Resolution referred to that the request for compulsory legislation for self-taxation from any body of producers is both novel and unusual, but I contend that the circumstances have justified both the making of the request by the petitioners and the consent of the Government of India to legislate. The justification is the necessity for extending the consuming markets of tea, grown in British India, the production of which has for the time being outrun the demand. The tea industry is quite a sound one. It is an industry which demands and obtains the sympathetic consideration of Government, and I believe it will, before many years have passed, reassume its former flourish condition.

It might reasonably be argued that payment of the tea cess should be purely voluntary. But this, as you are aware, My Lord, has been tried without sufficient success to justify its continuance. At no time did the whole industry subscribe as it should have done and latterly there were indications that in due time the voluntary fund would become extinct. The cause of this decrease in subscriptions was perhaps indifference on the part of some proprietors and dissatisfaction on the part of those who subscribed for the benefit of their more selfish (or less enterprising) neighbours. The Committee who had the management of these funds were hampered in their action by the smallness of the fund and the uncertainty as to the continuance of the subscriptions. For to be successful the efforts made to capture foreign markets must be persistent and continuous. Spasmodic ventures in foreign countries result in no permanent benefit to the trade. Furthermore, it has been proved by experience in Ceylon that the imposition of such a compulsory tax as is now proposed can be entirely successful.

In 1893 to provide funds for making a suitable exhibit of Ceylon tea to the Chicago Exhibition a cess of ten cents on every 100 lbs. tea exported was, at the request of the planters, levied by Government and set apart for that particular purpose, *viz.*, expenditure at the Chicago Exhibition. This proved so successful that the levy of the cess was repeated in the following year and raised to 20 cents per 100 lbs. for the purpose of increasing the consumption of Ceylon tea in foreign lands. The system is still in force, but the cess has been raised from 20 to 30 cents per 100 lbs.

To prove the success of the system in Ceylon, the following figures may be quoted:—

In 1896 foreign markets took 12½ per cent. of the Indian crop; in 1900, 17 per cent.; in 1901, 18 per cent.; in 1896, foreign markets took 21½ per cent. of the Ceylon crop; in 1900, 33 per cent.; in 1901, 40 per cent. The result has been that the amount expended from 1895 to 1901 has been some 18 lakhs of rupees devoted to the exploiting of foreign markets.

In the Bill which I am about to introduce it is proposed that a cess at the rate of one-fourth of a pie per pound shall be levied on all tea produced in British India when exported by sea to any foreign port or when exported by land to any territory to which the provisions of section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1897, may

apply. The Bill, if passed, will be in force for five years, to be extended to a further term if Government on the recommendation of the Committee, shall so direct; and the proceeds of the tax which will be collected (as in the case of other export taxes) by Government agency will be made over month by month to the Tea Cess Committee of twenty members who will be a most representative and reliable body possessing the entire confidence of the contributors to the Fund. Finally, the expenditure of the Committee will be subject to an annual Government audit.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon. Sir Montagu Turner introduced the Bill.

He also moved that the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons relating thereto, to be published in the *Gazette of India* in English, and in the local official Gazettes in English and in such other languages as the Local Governments think fit.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

With reference to the movements on foot for approaching the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the tea duty, we trust they may prove effective. It is unwise, however, to expect any satisfactory result at present. The *Daily Telegraph* was not far wrong when, in commenting on the position of tea and tea-growers recently, it said: "Our import duty of 6d. per pound has told heavily against the growers, and strong pressure to get it reduced is likely to be exercised. Income-tax payers, however, are more numerous; they call for relief with a louder voice, and are nearer the Chancellor's ear than the poor struggling planters of India and Ceylon, so that it would be rash to predict any reduction in duty that would tend to stimulate an increase in production."

The question of green tea *versus* black is likely to form the subject of discussion amongst consumers, and there will be considerable opposition shown to green tea in certain quarters. "Anti-Green Tea," writing to the *Westminster Gazette* apropos the tea cess, says:—"In Ceylon this duty, called 'the tea cess,' has been in operation for some years, and, so far as it has been used for advertising black tea, it has been more or less useful, but so far as it has been useful to promote the making of green tea, it is in part a bounty paid by one class of planters to another class (high estates against low estates), without which bounty green tea cannot profitably be made. It is now generally recognised that though an artificial stimulus, by means of a bounty or otherwise, may apparently benefit the persons immediately concerned, it in the long run works harm to the country depending on it. India is quite right in advocating a cess for advertising purposes, but whether it is wise in promoting the sale of green tea, with all the possibilities of facings, etc., is another thing. Why has green tea ceased to be used in England? Simply because it caused sleeplessness and nervous depression. Why should an attempt be made to reintroduce it? Black tea is free from these objections. Its consumption by the natives in India is rapidly advancing by means of the 'one-pice packet' system, and its consumption will, no doubt, be increased by judicious advertising in foreign countries. The consumption of black Ceylon tea is increasing by leaps and bounds; advertising has done its work, and it is thought by many that it can now go alone." If the sale of green tea is to be pushed in the Home market it will be necessary to combat the prejudice against it now existing amongst many people who regard it as harmful.

In its "Hints" for the New Year the *Grocer* says: One good Resolution for the New Year is—Try to sell more tea. A good name for tea stamps a business with the seal of efficiency. The wholesale blender who has stocked tea, as he ought at the prices and qualities recently ruling, should be in a position to help greatly the smaller grocer in his struggle for a tea trade. But the grocer should liquor his blends carefully and regularly, and keep the firm who supplies him thoroughly up to the mark. For although a name for tea benefits the trade in other goods, yet once break faith with your customers, give them a tea they cannot relish, and no trade is so difficult to regain."



Coffee-planters cannot be expected to take much interest in coffee substitutes, but a French paper calls attention to a new one, called "gombo," about which some information may be useful. The new substitute is found in the form of small, dry fruits, often to be seen among the exotic products in which certain merchants deal. According to our contemporary, this is a very agreeable preparation, decidedly superior to the inferior qualities of coffees, and sometimes even comparable with Mocha. It should be mentioned, however, that to obtain this result only well-selected seeds must be employed, and those which are quite ripe, and which have been roasted with great care. It appears that black coffee is supplied by the *Cassia occidentalis* (a shrub belonging to the Leguminaceæ family), growing in the warm regions of Asia, America, and Africa, and emitting a very disagreeable odour. According to M. Bélanger, black coffee figured very prominently at the Universal Exhibition of 1855 in a number of products from Guadeloupe, and in the notice sent to the exhibition with these products, the following interesting statement by Dr. Desbonne occurs: "These nuts are collected and roasted, and, after having been reduced to powder, a very agreeable infusion can be prepared from them very similar to coffee." In the course of Dr. Desbonne's eulogy of this product he maintains that this infusion would answer admirably as a coffee substitute, being far preferable to coffee and chicory. —H. & C. Mail.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

With the resumption of the auctions on Tuesday the various parcels of new crop coffees that had arrived during the holidays were offered, and included East India, Costa Rica, and Guatemala, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of January 10, 1903. The quality of the former is very unsatisfactory, but the earliest arrivals are often amongst the worst of the season, and reports state that the general outturn is better than last year. Prices, from an importer's point of view, are, no doubt, disappointing, but if maintained on the present basis a healthy and steady trade may be looked for; but, on a higher range, it is evident from last year's experience that the trade on the Continent will not buy, but will be satisfied with Santos and other Brazil growths, a quantity of which is flooding all markets, and also show a very marked improvement in quality compared with a few years ago. There has been a slight decrease in the world's visible supply, but an increase of about 25,000 tons in the European stock during last month, and the year commences with a total world's stock of 774,330 tons against 641,480 tons. Deliveries, however, in both Europe and the United States during the last few months have shown such a marked falling-off, that it is quite likely that the interior stocks are smaller than usual, and that therefore an increased trade will somewhat lower these figures during January.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The market continues firm, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 10th ultimo, and with more liberal supplies, coupled with a good selection of most kinds, the demand has improved. The finer qualities have been well bid for, showing a further advance, and as they are much less plentiful than was the case a few weeks ago, a stronger market is quite probable. This comparative scarcity of really stand-out teas may, to a certain extent, be relieved later on by the arrival of the autumnal growths which are reported to be of better quality than those of last season, and will, no doubt, meet with a good reception at remunerative rates. The medium descriptions have met with a good inquiry, the more useful sorts having been freely taken at improved values and, although showing a rise of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. from the lowest point, these kinds are still worth attention as they offer comparatively good value. As the supply becomes more restricted, especially from the Assam gardens, some difficulty will probably be experienced in securing the teas, on such favourable terms. The bidding has not been so active for the common grades, the trade having shown less inclination to follow the rise; consequently a larger proportion was available at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d., and a smaller quantity was withdrawn. There have been numerous complaints during the past season of irregular bulking, including teas bulked in India, which should

claim the careful consideration of the owners of gardens. To bulk tea at the seat of manufacture is undoubtedly the right thing to do, but unless it is efficiently carried out, it causes distrust in the minds of buyers, and turning out the packages on this side for rebulking invariably depreciates the value of the tea. It is clearly, therefore, in the interests of owners that proper care and attention should be given to this subject, otherwise there will be a prejudice against teas so treated in India.

CEYLON TEAS.—This market opened on Tuesday last, after an interval of three weeks, and, with good bidding, a firm tone prevailed for all descriptions, while some kinds were slightly dearer. The lowest grades of Whole Leaf were well taken at late rates, only a small quantity being available under  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d., and these, for the most part, were of inferior quality. For the medium Pekoes the demand was also good, but no change in values can be quoted. In Broken Pekoes, there was again a noticeable absence of teas under  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d., and very little was sold under  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., while dusts and fannings remain scarce and dear. At the public sales, 26,100 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,300 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—The market has been firm for all descriptions, and a fair business has been done chiefly in the lower kinds. Low-priced Black Leafs have been in demand, a considerable quantity having changed hands, at prices fully equal to those previously ruling.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—Young Hysons and Sow Mees showed a decided decline at the public sale held on Thursday, and the demand being quiet a considerable quantity was withdrawn. A slightly easier tendency was also noticeable for Gunpowders, but the decline was not so marked as in the other sorts, and a fair business is reported. Capers and Scented Orange Pekoes are quiet, with only a limited demand. The public sale figures for the week are as follows:—3,237 packages of green tea were brought forward, of which 1,448 were withdrawn, and 191 packages of fancy tea were offered.

### RUBBER TREES.

#### SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF PRODUCTION.

In that part of Mexico which is penetrated by the Tehuantepec Railroad a somewhat remarkable experiment is being made in producing rubber for market. American capitalists, who have incorporated as the Tehuantepec Rubber Culture Company, have purchased a tract of 5,000 acres on the isthmus, which they are planting with young rubber trees raised from the seed in the company's nurseries. At present, says an American paper, more than a million plants are under cultivation. It is estimated that the trees will be ready for the steady production of rubber at the age of ten years. Men in the business say that a rubber tree, after reaching the age of ten years, will produce rubber milk worth between one and two dollars for the next 50 years. The Gulf terminus of the Tehuantepec Railroad is at Coatzacoalcas, at the mouth of the Coatzacoalcas River. The rubber plantation is inland on the banks of the river, about 40 miles distant. Rubber is obtained from the milk of the rubber tree. This milk closely resembles the white fluid which flows from the milk weed, of which the rubber tree is a distant cousin. The fluid comes from the tree's bark, and cannot be called its sap. In the last year the tropics have sent out more than 100,000,000 pounds of rubber, and so great has been the demand for this material, which is used more and more extensively each year, that thousands of trees have been destroyed.

Until recently it has been the accepted practice for the native to chop his tree down, and by slashing the trunk draw off the white fluid. In the effort to get as much milk as possible he often girdles the tree, and thus kills it, even if he does not sever its trunk. In consequence of this ruthless destruction of the sources of rubber supply, efforts are now being made to obtain the milk scientifically by planting trees and obtaining their milk without injuring them, the same as is done in securing sap for maple sugar. The proper way to tap the tree is to cut a series of V-shaped notches about two feet apart, one below the other, the whole length of the trunk. Thus the milk will flow in a white stream into a pail or similar receptacle. The rubber milk is then separated by machinery, much as butter, when churned. At the present time, however, the natives separate rubber from the milk in several crude ways. One



is to warm the milk in an earthen pan and keep stirring it with a stick. By dint of much stirring a ball of rubber will form on the end of the stick, which will often weigh 25 pounds.

Other natives obtain rubber by pouring the milk into a pit, the sides of which have been washed with the juice of the moon plant, called by botanists, *Calonyction*. As soon as these two vegetable fluids mingle the rubber milk becomes a spongy, elastic, chalk-coloured mass or mat. Rubber thus obtained contains pieces of dirt or stone, which the consumer may find and wonder how it got there. The species that produces the best and most abundant milk, and which is planted in the Tehuantepec plantation, is called the *Elastica castillia*, commonly known as the Central America rubber tree. It grows to a circumference of twenty-six inches in six years. At the end of ten years it will yield six pounds of milk, or about three pounds of rubber. The average custom house valuation of rubber is 42 cents per pound, which would make a return of about 1 dol. 25 cents from each tree. When rubber trees are fifteen feet apart, with 222 trees to the acre, this would mean an income to the planter of nearly 300 dols. When first planted, however, the trees are much closer together. They are then thinned out gradually, and rubber is extracted from the smaller plants, which are cut down, so that there is some return on the investment after the fourth or fifth year. At the end of ten years the thinning has been completed, and the orchard, with its rows fifteen feet apart, can then be tapped for the next half century.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, December 31, 1902.

A dull market is reported by local jobbers for all grades of teas, green and black, but the tone of the market holds firm through the entire list. The holiday season in London, which was over on January 1, was observed by there being held no auctions on the market there, which is in nominal shape, but firm both in Indian and Ceylons.

MONTREAL, December 31, 1902.

Jobbers report that an improved demand for teas is noticed on all grades this week, and several good orders from the west have been received. This, they believe, is the result of light stocks. The retail trade in December has been very good and now that there appears but little likelihood of lower prices, buyers are commencing to make purchases more freely. This condition of affairs also extends to Japan teas, in which there is a decided improvement in the demand in spite of the continued high prices. There has been no change of importance on any of the foreign markets, and locally the quotations are about the same as a week ago.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

A Meeting of the General Committee was held on the 20th January, at which there were present: Mr. Lockhart Smith (*Chairman*); Mr. W. Warrington (*Vice-Chairman*); Messrs. R. H. A. Gresson, A. C. Lawrie, T. McMorran, G. Pickford, R. R. Toynbee, and T. Trail.

#### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK.

The Meeting considered letter No. 381, Agri 172R, dated 13th January, 1903, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, on the subject of the continuance of the Government grant for the conduct of research work in connection with the cultivation and manufacture of tea. In this letter it was stated that the Chief Commissioner had provisionally sanctioned a grant of Rs.3,000 a year to the Association, for a period of three years beginning from the date of the expiry of the existing grant. The grant would be subject to reconsideration if it should be determined to provide for such research work out of the cess to be levied on exported tea.

In the proceedings of the Meeting held on 6th January, it was stated that the Committee proposed to address the Hon'ble the

Chief Commissioner with reference to his expression of opinion that the cost of the research work in question might be appropriately charged to the cess fund. This had been done, and the Committee now noted with much satisfaction Mr. Fuller's decision to sanction, provisionally, an increased grant. They hoped that, after reconsidering the manner in the light of the arguments advanced in their letter, the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner would consent to confirm this grant.

A discussion took place as to the possibility of putting into operation the scheme of extended investigations which was described in the proceedings of the Meeting held on 20th May, 1902. The total annual cost of this scheme was estimated at about Rs.27,000. Of this amount the Government of Bengal, and the Administration of Assam, would provide Rs.10,000; and it was thought that the industry would be able to contribute Rs.7,000. For the provision of the remaining Rs.10,000, it was decided to invite the assistance of the Government of India.

#### THE CARRIAGE OF TEA.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that the existing agreement between the Indian Steamer Companies and Tea Estates for the carriage of tea from Assam to Calcutta would expire on the 1st July next. Together with Mr. J. Buckingham, C.I.E., he had recently attended an informal Meeting of the Companies, at which the question of the renewal of the agreement was considered. From what transpired he believed the Companies would be willing to meet the industry very fairly in the matter of rates. He had brought the matter up in order that ample time might be allowed for the consideration of the position. And he suggested that the views of the London Committee should be invited as to the renewal, with special reference to the possibility of the early opening of the Hill Section of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

This suggestion was agreed to by the Committee, and was to be carried out.

### LIFE'S HAPPIEST PERIOD.

When an ancient Greek philosopher was asked which he considered was the happiest time in a man's life, he promptly selected the period between the ages of forty and forty-five. On being pressed for the reasons which induced him to make this selection, the philosopher added: "At forty a man, if he be intelligent, has lost his illusions, and looks upon the world as it is, not as he would like it to be. He is still young enough to partake of the pleasures of youth, yet has sufficient experience never to permit his heart to rule his head; is moderate in all things, and wisely shy of hazardous enterprises." On being further asked which he considered the happiest time in a woman's life, the philosopher paused a long while, and when at last he replied he prefaced his answer by asserting that this was the more difficult question of the two. Finally he said: "When she is too old to be called a girl, and not old enough to be called a woman without the word 'young' prefixed to it. I am unable to be more definite, for the differences among women are greater than the differences among men. The healthy young woman sees only the brightest side of life, and to her vision the future is filled with golden possibilities of which the mental anticipation is delightful."

In this pronouncement it will be noted that the wise old Greek uses the word "healthy" in a qualifying sense. Omit that word and the sentence at once loses more than half its truth. Here is a case which will prove our statement. "From the age of nineteen until I completed my twenty-third year, I did not know what it was to be well for a single day," writes Mrs. R. Huntley, of 65, Ultimo Road, Ultimo, Sydney, N. S. W., under date 19th June, 1902. "But for mother Seigel's Curative Syrup it is doubtful if I should be here to-day to describe my experiences. My ailment was chronic biliousness and dyspepsia. Words are inadequate to convey a conception of my sufferings during that miserable period. I was then a tailor's machinist, employed in that capacity by Messrs. Grodferson & Smith, of the Royal Arcade, Sydney. Ordinary food was poison to me, and I was obliged to exist on soda-water, milk, plain biscuits, and dry toast. Even that fare would sometimes distress me to an intolerable degree. My skin turned sallow, my eyes sank and were surrounded by dark, hollow circles. I slept only by fits and starts, my slumbers being haunted and harassed



by horrible dreams and nightmares. There was a dull continuous pain between my shoulders and in my right side. I grew thinner and thinner, until I was reduced to mere skin and bone, and became so weak that I could hardly walk to my place of business. Often the noise of my sewing-machine, and the close air of the workroom, would bring on a splitting headache that maddened me. Then there were fits of retching and vomiting, which troubled me with great frequency. When there was nothing in the stomach to come up, I would retch and strain until I became exhausted and faint, when my workmates would improvise a couch for me with their cloaks and jackets, and I would lie for hours unable to move. I was treated by three doctors; but I believe the medicines they prescribed irritated my stomach and did me more harm than good. After four years of misery I was persuaded to try what Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup could do for me, and within a few days began to mend at such a rate that everyone who knew me was amazed at the improvement in my condition. The vomiting ceased, the hue of health returned to my cheeks, my eyes brightened, and at the end of two months I was in every respect thoroughly cured."

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of January 16th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—Fair supplies have been brought to the hammer during the week, and with a fair demand no material change in value has occurred. Plantation Ceylon was nearly all bought in, bids being too low for holders' acceptance. Further arrivals of new crop East India did not show any improvement in quality, but the bulk sold at and subsequent to the auctions at about previous prices. Nyassaland was dull of sale even at a decline of 1s to 2s per cwt. Costa Rica, on the whole, was in fair request and desirable qualities maintained the former value. Santos was in good request and high prices were paid for washed. There have been few fluctuations in the market for "futures," and closing quotations show a slight advance for the week owing to "bears" coverings; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 26s 7½d, May at 27s 3d to 27s 6d, July at 28s, and September at 28s 6d per cwt. We quote:—

London	...	Santos	...	March delivery	...	26s 6d.
New York	...	No. 7 Rio	...	...	...	4.40 cents.
Hamburg	...	Santos	...	...	...	27¼ pf.
Havre	...	Santos	...	...	...	32¼ francs.

To-day's auction supplies consisted of 31 half-bales Mocha, 50 bags Nyassaland, 398 bags Costa Rica, 358 bags New Grenada, 139 bags Guatemala, 218 bags Nicaragua, 138 bags Ecuador, 235 bags Columbian, 420 bags Salvador and 16 bags Peruvian. The public sales went off quietly, with prices unchanged.

Brazil futures ruled quiet in all markets, and only a small business passing.

Transactions include: March 26s 6d to 26s 4½d, May 27s 1½d, September 28s 3d to 28s 1½d, December 29s.

Closing quotations:—

	Sellers.	Buyers.
March	26/6	26/3
May	27/1½	26/10½
July	27/9	27/6
September	28/3	28/
December	29/	28/9

Brazil receipts 27,000 bags, against 40,000 and 22,000 the two previous years, and exchange ½ lower at 11½.

Hamburg ¼ lower. Havre ¼ lower. New York opens unchanged.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.
West India	404	368	18	45
Ceylon	175	116	19	...
East India	1,756	1,645	112	30
Mocha	551	377	25	111
Brazil	16,571	6,749	1,402	1,365
Other Foreign	6,173	3,779	624	203
Total tons	25,630	13,034	2,200	1,704

### HOME CONSUMPTION.

### EXPORT.

	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.
West India	6	6	7	18
Ceylon	5	6	2	3
East India	74	170	54	82
Mocha	36	33	3	1
Brazil	88	126	155	145
Other Foreign	280	350	270	86
Total tons	489	691	491	335

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports an increase this year of	496
Home Consumption a decrease of	202
Export an increase of	156
Stock an increase of	12,596

Auctions during the week have passed off as follows:—

CEYLON.—Plantation—Of 40 casks 9 tierces 34 barrels 2 bags offered only 14 packages sold—small 32s to 40s, low middling 55s to 64s 6d, common to fair bold 88s to 106s 6d, peaberry 82s.

EAST INDIA.—1,140 bags, mostly new crop, were offered and the bulk sold, as follows:—Corg, small 37s to 43s 6d, low middling 44s to 47s 6d, common to fair bold 53s to 58s, peaberry 47s 6d to 59s; Neilgherry, small 42s, good bold 64s; old crop Travancore, common bold 51s 6d to 56s.

MOCHA.—103 packages bought in.

JAVA.—Of 216 bags Liberian only a few lots of damages sold.

COSTA RICA.—2,516 bags nearly all sold, small 34s to 48s, low middling to middling 46s 6d to 59s 6d, good middling blue 63s, common bold 57s to 61s 6d, fair to good bold 64s 6d to 77s, fine blue bold 80s to 84s, peaberry 49s to 80s.

VERA PAZ.—100 bags sold—small 25s, good ordinary to low middling 38s 6d to 45s, peaberry 40s.

COLOMBIAN.—809 bags sold—small 28s 6d to 37s 6d, ordinary pale brownish 28s 6d, low middling to middling 40s to 48s 6d, bold 50s to 53s 6d, peaberry 39s to 47s 6d.

GUATEMALA.—140 bags about half sold—small 31s, low middling to middling 46s 6d to 51s, peaberry 50s.

NICARAGUA.—Of 103 bags offered 35 bags sold, good ordinary 35s 6d, low middling 43s, bold 50s.

MEXICAN.—179 bags offered and 98 bags sold, peaberry 35s 6d.

BRAZIL.—54 bags washed Dumont Maragogipe sold at 55s to 59s, peaberry 60s 6d. Of 1,634 bags washed Dumont Santos 1,020 bags sold, small 27s to 32s, medium 32s 6d to 41s, bold to extra bold 35s to 51s, peaberry 36s to 50s 6d; 262 bags unwashed sold, small 28s, medium 31s, bold to extra bold 33s to 38s, peaberry 28s 6d to 35s 6d. 505 bags washed Santos and 413 bags Santos were bought in.

### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3. Bags.	1901-2. Bags.	1900-01. Bags.	1899-00. Bags.
Since July 1—				
Rio	2,658,000	3,624,000	1,733,000	2,223,000
Santos	5,901,000	7,309,000	5,650,000	4,815,000
Total	8,559,000	10,933,000	7,383,000	7,038,000
Crop	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11½d, previous day 11¼d.

HAVRE, January 15.—Good average Santos January opened quiet at 32½f and closed quiet at 32½f, March opened at 32½f and closed at 32½f, May opened at 33½f and closed at 33½f, September opened at 34½f and closed at 34½f, December opened at 35f and closed at 35f.

HAMBURG, January 15.—Good average Santos January opened steady at 26½pf and closed steady at 26½pf, March opened at 27½pf and closed at 27½pf, May opened at 27½pf and closed at 27½pf, September opened at 28½pf and closed at 28½pf, December opened at 29½pf and closed at 29½pf.

NEW YORK, January 15.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.
Jan. 15	4.30	4.30	4.40	4.50	4.55
Jan. 14	4.30	4.30	4.40	4.50	4.60



## TEA.

INDIA. — Public auctions included 41,200 packages, compared with 36,000 in the week before and 51,600 for the same period of 1902.

The market for common and medium descriptions, especially leaf, has been somewhat irregular, and a good deal of tea was taken out of sale at offers which, in several instances, showed a decline. On the other hand, the smallest improvement in quality was quickly recognised and fully paid for, a strong demand being experienced for the best in all grades.

Latest private cablegrams advise that the Calcutta export to date shows a shortage of 6 million lbs. for the season compared with the foregoing year. Ceylon also advises a marked falling off in the outturn owing to extremely unfavourable weather, the estimate for the current month being reduced to eight million lbs. In the face of these facts, and if statistics of supply are to be considered of any value at all in respect of influencing the worth of an article, the level of price on which tea generally now rests is untrue. The possibility of a reduction in duty, to an extent, bars progress, but once the trade feels the shorter supply this would take second place, as purchases made on the current prompt need not be cleared for Spring and early Summer requirements before the question is settled.

The situation seems to call for patience on the part of importers; they have already gained much, especially in the advance which has taken place under 6d per lb., by not forcing sales on an irresponsive market, and a steady adherence to this policy appears to be under the circumstances the only course open. It may be remembered that in spite of figures for a long while previously having indicated the position, the rise caused by an inadequate supply in the 1898 crop did not really show itself until February, 1899.

The supply of Calcutta and Colombo bought tea which was available in appreciable quantity ex-ship and quay while good profits were forthcoming is now checked, as shipments of higher cost are coming to hand which holders are scarcely likely to quit at a loss considering the outlook; this should have a beneficial effect.

GREEN TEA.—In view of the increased quantity being manufactured both in India and Ceylon, it is satisfactory to be able to report that dealers here find the new style of "faced" tea suitable to the Home trade, and that it is being introduced in place of China sorts. This market should therefore be able to absorb a fair proportion of the kind referred to, and an additional outlet will thus be provided to the advantage of growers.

For 32,400 packages on Estate Account 7½d per lb. was realised, against 7¾d per lb. for 36,700 and 6¾d for 48,800 in the two preceding seasons.

CEYLON.—Catalogues comprised 26,500 packages opposed to 26,100 on the 6th instant, and 32,100 at the corresponding time a year ago.

There was less spirit in the bidding. Buyers were not so anxious to secure low-priced Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs as at the previous sale, and these, in most cases, were ¼d per lb. easier. The better grades of leaf teas, went at about former rates, and good liquoring Broken Pekoes passed steadily. Many invoices now coming to hand show a falling off in quality, and for them prices ruled irregularly, and generally against importers. Finest lines also scarcely attracted so much attention for the like reason.

The average is rather over 7½d per lb. On the 8th instant it was 7¾d per lb., and 7¾d per lb. in 1902.

JAVA.—About 1,600 packages were submitted. Demand was not so brisk, and common went with a lower tendency.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From January 1 to 13, 1903	...	8,571,951 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	11,682,050 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

		Sold. Pkgs.	Withdrawn. Pkgs.	Total offered. Pkgs.
India	...	29,205	11,988	41,193
Ceylon	...	20,510	5,683	26,193
Java	...	1,047	558	1,605
Total	...	50,762	18,229	68,991

Also 50 packages from second hands.

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated January 16th, 1903, says :—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903 ... ..	969,274	719,372	47,002
1901-1902 ... ..	998,920	726,594	43,576

41,533 pkgs. INDIAN  
26,598 " CEYLON  
1,605 " JAVA

} Total 69,736 packages were offered in public auction this week.

Since the recent advance the market has shown extreme sensitiveness whenever auctions have exceeded buyers' immediate necessities. Hence the comparatively heavy sales of this week, coming before the new year's business had fully opened, resulted in generally slacker bidding and consequent large withdrawals. At the same time the considerable quantity now offering in Calcutta tends to reduce competition in London by giving purchasers the opportunity of supplying their wants in that market, a course which they have largely adopted during this season with results very satisfactory to themselves.

TRANSHIPMENTS OF INDIAN TEA.

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Transshipments to N. America ...	3,719,566	1,001,174	1,628,644
To other Countries ... ..	994,370	437,345	1,144,201

TRANSHIPMENTS OF CEYLON TEA.

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Transshipments to N. America ...	3,650,800	2,159,275	1,303,477
To other Countries ... ..	228,022	378,348	1,260,615

Stock of all Tea in U K. on 31st December, 1902, 107,780,000 lbs.; 1901, 115,685,000 lbs.; 1900, 119,430,000 lbs. INDIAN.—The comparatively heavy auction somewhat depressed the market, especially for teas under 6d. per lb.; where sales were effected, however, prices did not change much owing to the firmness of importers, who, generally speaking, withdrew those teas for which they could not obtain full valuations. Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 32,744 pkgs., av. 7.68d. 1902, 36,225 pkgs., av. 7.39d. New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 721,296 pkgs., av. 7.28d. 1901-2, 751,221 pkgs., av. 7.97d. CEYLON.—The weight of tea brought forward this week, including the above mentioned Indian sales, proved somewhat heavy and resulted in a weaker tone among buyers, all grades up to about 9d per lb. occasionally showing a decline of about ¼d, although many teas were withdrawn for higher prices. Average for week 7.55d, against 7.35d in 1902. Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 48,573 pkgs., av. 7.68d. 1902, 53,153 pkgs., av. 7.42d. JAVA.—The sale passed off with a somewhat quiet tone, many parcels being withdrawn for higher limits.

COCOA. There was a little or no change in prices at the auctions on Tuesday, when 4,416 bags were offered and about 2,000 bags sold. A steady demand was experienced for the 1,480 bags Trinidad catalogued, and 970 bags sold at 68s for very fine red, 61s to 65s for good to fine, and 58s to 60s for ordinary to middling, being valuations. 51 bags Grenada brought 53s 6d to 57s 6d for fair to good, and 5 bags St. Lucia 52s 6d, whilst 28 bags Dominica realised 52s 6d to 53s 6d. Of 192 bags Jamaica a few lots found buyers at 52s 6d to 53s. 128 bags Esmeraldas sold at 60s to 61s 6d. Of 66 bags Guayaquil only the damages sold. Of 2,185 bags Ceylon offered, 750 bags were placed at prices 1s to 3s in favour of buyers—60s to 70s for middling to good bold and medium, 52s 6d to 58s 6d for ordinary ditto, and 41s to 51s per cwt. for common to good small. Bought-in growths comprised 25 bags Colombian, 98 bags Costa Rica, 50 bags Puerto Cabello, and 107 bags African. Privately sales embrace 400 bags Trinidad at auction rates, 300 bags Grenada at 56s to 57s 6d for good red, and 100 bags Guayaquil at 70s per cwt. for fine Caraquez. PEPPER.

BLACK.—The market has been dull in tone, but the close is steadier. For arrival 100 tons Singapore have been sold, including January-March and March-May shipment at 6½d down to 6¾d. On the spot fair sales at 6½d to 6¾d for fair greyish to fair. At auction on the 14th instant 100 bags Singapore bought in at 6¼d, also 90 bags Aleppy at 6½d, 153 bags Wynaad at 6¾d, and 127 bags Lampong at 6d per lb. WHITE—is steady. Sales of Singapore on the spot at 9¾d for fair, and at 9¾d for fair Penang. For arrival the only business reported is a sale of 20 tons Singapore near at hand at 9¾d per lb. At public sale on Wednesday 243 bags Singapore passed the hammer unsold at 9¾d to 10d, together with 77 bags Siam at 9¾d, and 222 bags Penang at 9¾d to 9½d, except 11 bags in odd lots of the last named description which sold at 9½d. Of 13 bags Ceylon 4 bags realised 11½d for fine, and 10½d per lb. for good. To-day quiet, and offered at a shade less money, but sales unimportant. GINGER. COCHIN.—The quantity of fine A cut available is getting very small, and holders of the little offering require very full rates, say 90s per cwt.; demand, however, for this, as for other grades, is of the most meagre description and bids are difficult to get. Catalogues on Wednesday comprised 63 cases 280 bags, all of which retired unsold at 85s to 90s for cut A's, 75s for ditto medium, 42s for washed rough, and 39s per cwt. for small hard dark rough. AFRICAN.—61 bags good bright were bought in at 42s 6d per cwt. JAMAICA.—40 barrels common washed sold at 37s 6d to 38s per cwt. CINCHONA.

The opening auctions of the year, held on Tuesday last, offered the insignificant quantity of 624 bales, which contrasted with 895

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Purveyors to  
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[w. 1-10-98—t.f.o.]



bales at the previous auctions, and 954 bales at the corresponding sales last year. Demand was brisk, and the bulk of the offerings sold at very full rates, the unit average being  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, against  $1\frac{1}{8}$ d to  $1\frac{3}{8}$ d obtained at the last Amsterdam auctions, and  $1\frac{5}{8}$ d in the London sales of January, 1902.

342 bales *South American* sold—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya quill 5d to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d, broken quill and chips  $4\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

*Ceylon* was not represented.

224 packages *East India Cinchona* practically all sold, viz., *Officinalis*, chips 3d to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d, ditto renewed 3d to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d, branch 3d; *Succirubra*, mossy quill  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d, root  $3\frac{7}{8}$ d per lb.

58 bales *Java Cinchona* were placed at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d for *Ledgeriana* stem and branch and  $4\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb. for root.

The shipments of *Java* for the first half of January were 227,000 Amsterdam lbs., contrasted with 570,000 Amsterdam lbs. in the corresponding period last year, and 610,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901.

Only 627 packages were offered in auction on January 13. They consisted mainly of cultivated Calisaya and East Indian barks. The bulk was sold, two piles only of Madras quillings of Loxa character being bought in, the limit ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.) apparently being too high. The prices were generally firmer, the average unit being  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, or  $\frac{1}{8}$ d higher than the parity at the last Amsterdam sales.

The following shows the number of packages offered and sold:—

	Offered.	Sold.
South American cinchona (Calisaya) ...	342	342
East Indian cinchona ...	227	151
Java cinchona ...	58	58

The approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers is thus shown:—

	lbs.
The Zimmer and Frankfort factories ...	21,981
The American factory ...	20,020
Messrs. Howards & Sons ...	14,163
Druggists, etc. ...	10,802
The Brunswick factory ...	7,275

Total quantity sold ...	74,241
Bought in... ..	18,900

Total quantity sold ... 93,141

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7'68d., JANUARY 16TH.)

The prices paid included the following:—

**SOUTH AMERICAN.**—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya, fair quill, 5d to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.; broken quill and chips,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**EAST INDIAN.**—*Succirubra*, bold mossy quill,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.; fair quill,  $3\frac{7}{8}$ d. *Officinalis*, good quilly chips, 5d to  $5\frac{7}{8}$ d; stem chips, 3d to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d; branch, 3d; renewed stem chips, 3d to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d.

**JAVA.**—*Ledgeriana* root,  $4\frac{3}{8}$ d; crushed stem and branches,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

No Ceylon cinchona was offered.

## QUININE.

Sulphate of quinine has met a much better demand this week on the short shipments of Bark for the first half of the month, and value has advanced to 1s per oz. for B&S or H B spot, 1s  $0\frac{1}{4}$ d for March and 1s  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d for May delivery—an advance of  $\frac{3}{8}$ d per oz. About 80,000 ozs. have been placed.

### OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS.

	in tins.	in 1-oz. vials.
Howards & Sons ...	1s 2d @ 0s 0d	1s 4 d for 1,000 ozs.
Thomas Whiffen ...	1s $1\frac{1}{2}$ d ,, 0s 0d	1s $3\frac{1}{2}$ d @ 0s 0d nom.
Brunswick ...	1s $1\frac{1}{2}$ d ,, 0s 0d	
Mannheim ...	1s $1\frac{1}{2}$ d ,, 0s 0d	
Auerbach ...	1s 1d ,, 0s 0d	
Zimmer ...	1s $1\frac{1}{2}$ d ,, 0s 0d	
Milan ...	0s 0d ,, 0s 0d	
Tailandier ...	1s 3d ,, 0s 0d nominal	
Amsterdam ...	1s $1\frac{1}{2}$ d ,, 0s 0d nominal	
Pelletier's ...	1s 8d ,, 1s 9d	

## INDIA-RUBBER.

The market has been quieter for fine Pará, but prices are steady. Sales of hard fine forward delivery at 3s 11d to 3s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, soft ditto at 3s 9d spot and near delivery. Hard entrefine, considerable sales forward at 3s 9d, soft ditto forward at 3s 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, and spot 3s 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; negroheads, scrappy sales at 3s 2d to 3s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Cameta in good demand, and fair business doing near delivery at 2s 7d. Island negroheads at 2s 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2s 6d. Peruvian, small sales of ball at 3s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and further sellers at this price. Medium kinds continue scarce and in good demand. There were no auctions here to-day.

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Hope ...	177 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	60 p	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ +9	65	6 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	40	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Travancore ...	946	6'44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherian Mallay ...	78 p	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	35	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	+6	22	+4 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	+4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fairfield ...	65	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	44	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glenmary ...	170	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	75	+5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	50	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	+5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	20	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kanan Dev Hil P ...	213	7	52	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	+8 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	+6	...	...	31 p	5 +6 $\frac{3}{4}$
STT Co Venture ...	105 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	56	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	+7 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	+5
TTE Co Bon Ami ...	195	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7	83	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	77	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Mount ...	120	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	16	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	34	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	17	6
Wynaad ...	280	6'92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pootoomulla ...	196 p	7	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	78	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	74	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Wynaad T Co Pe ..	84 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	29	+6 $\frac{1}{4}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	+7 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	18	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...

## INDIAN GREEN TEA.

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Young Hyson.		Hyson No. 1.		Hyson No. 2.		Gunpowder.		Dust.	
	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.
Ind. T Co. Rose ...	81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6	...	...	...	...	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	...
N W C T Co Kurk ...	73 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	4 $\frac{3}{4}$

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1903.

[No. 7.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 20th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*February 9th.—Weather—*Strong East winds, very drying. *Crop—*Mostly gathered, one or two backward places still gathering. *Crop prospects—*Coffee is wintering nicely, and a fine spike is appearing, if favourable rains come about the beginning of March next year's crop should be good. *Works—*Weeding, gathering, pruning. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Abundant.

#### Kotagiri.

*10th February.—Weather—*has been bright and fine with rather cold nights, except on 5th and 6th on which days from 10 to 45 cents rain fell on different Estates down the Ghaut. *Coffee—*is improving in appearance on most places, but, on the whole, coming crops will be a long way below average; spike is very forward, and the next decent shower will bring out a fair blossom, but it is to be hoped rain will not come yet awhile. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Plentiful. *Crop—*Stripping is going on steadily on lower elevations, but crop is still coming in on the Upper Estates. The continued fall in prices is causing grave anxiety throughout the District, and even the reduced expenditure on coffee under Leeming's System is heavy enough to reduce profits to a minimum with present prices.

### COFFEE IN COORG.

It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the depression in Coffee has exercised a great influence upon the Report of the Administration of Coorg for the year 1901-02. The expressions "low price of coffee," "depression in coffee," and similar phrases catch the eye all too frequently; and, unfortunately, there is never a word to point to the presence of a silver lining within the cloud that has overshadowed the

Province. It is remarked in one place that an examination of the land revenue holdings during the year shows a slight increase in the extent held on the coffee tenure (acres 101,711); but this does not mean that there had been an extension of coffee-cultivation. On the contrary, the extent of land recorded as actually cultivated with coffee fell from 68,596 acres to 65,732 acres, the decrease being due to the relinquishment of ruined coffee gardens held by natives. The area under European coffee was not materially altered, but there was a slight extension of planting operations in the Kaggatnad taluk. It is remarked that in comparing the actual cultivation of coffee with the total extent held under the coffee revenue, *viz.* 101,711 acres, it must be remembered that that figure includes considerable areas wholly or partially devoid of coffee. In the first place, there is an area, estimated at 11,663 acres, consisting of what are locally known as "coffee-assessed cardamom *malés*." These number 101, and the coffee upon them have almost entirely died out, the cultivation of cardamoms having taken its place. Then, there is an area of 678 acres also held under the coffee tenure, but actually cultivated with cardamoms. If deductions be made on account of these two items, the coffee-assessed area is reduced to 89,370 acres, of which 23,638 acres consists of abandoned coffee and unplanted jungle, while the balance of 65,732 acres represents the area actually under coffee, including 7,339 acres of immature plants.

Even thus there are about 58,000 acres of land nominally under mature coffee; but we may fairly say that the total crop compared with any such area would show an average yield per acre that would be appalling in its smallness. The report states that the assessment leviable under the coffee tenure is ordinarily Rs.2 per acre, but that since the summary settlement a higher rate (Rs.2½ per acre) has been charged on excellent coffee grown on *báne* land, while *per contra* large areas are held free of assessment or at favourable rates in consideration of a variety of circumstances. The following are enumerated as amongst the most important of these circumstances:—(a) the free allowance of 10 acres granted in respect of the authorized cultivation of *báne* land with coffee; (b) the favourable rates allowed during the opening up of new estates; (c) reductions on account of the deterioration of the coffee growth or its eradication for purposes of pasturage, and (d) the concession allowed in the case of the coffee-assessed cardamom *malés*. From the statistics before us we



judge that, roughly speaking, the assessment averages on the total area held by

Natives	(69,781 acres)	...	...	Rs.1-4 per acre.
Europeans	(31,930 " )	...	...	" 1-12 "

Under normal conditions these cannot be regarded as high assessments; but when crop statistics are taken into consideration as well as the depression in prices, it is easy to understand that even a light assessment acts as a heavy burden to a debilitated industry. In the year under reference coffee suffered severely from unusually early blossoming showers "as also from the reaction after the abnormally heavy crop of the previous year." The combined effect of these causes was an outturn roughly estimated at 2,250 tons, or little more than half the normal crop. Official figures are not always readily adaptable to commercial calculations; but we estimate the land assessment referred to above as equivalent (in 1901-02) to about Rs.62 per ton of coffee placed on the market; assuming, of course, that only coffee was grown on these lands. Even though this was not actually the case it is sufficiently obvious that Rs.1-12 per acre is a serious matter to a planter who can only raise, say, 3 cwt. of coffee from each acre of land actually under mature coffee.

Reference is made in the report to the gradual decline in the interest taken in coffee-planting. The phrase is not a very happy one. There was probably no decline of interest, but there was unquestionably a decline in the old readiness to go on hoping against hope and raising coffee only to find that far more money had been expended than the crop raised would realise. Since 1901-02 the position has scarcely improved. Crops may be more promising, but prices have fallen. What this means to Coorg is apparent from the official statement that Coffee is extensively produced in Coorg, its cultivation forms the chief industry of the Province, every one, European and native, being more or less interested therein. During the past decade, it is added, low prices combined with the ravages of leaf-disease and borer have materially affected the industry, with the result that many estates have been altogether abandoned and the majority hardly pay their way. These words give, in reality, but an outline of what the depression in Coffee means to Coorg, and more particularly to the planting population of that Province.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**The Evolution of Coffee.**—At a recent Meeting of the Botanical Society of Washington, Mr. O. F. Cook discussed "Evolution in Coffee; its mutations described and causes suggested." Coffee, he said, is the most important crop grown from seed for the seeds. Although it has been in cultivation about a thousand years the selection of varieties has not been practised. Nevertheless, he finds, sports or mutations are rather frequent. Where several such varieties from other parts of the world have been tested in the plantations of Guatemala, the new sorts present great diversity in other respects, but agree in being less fertile than the parent stock in actual amount of weight of seeds. It is reasonable to associate this relative or complete sterility with the fact that coffee has been unintentionally inbred, new regions having usually been stocked from single trees. And it is further to be noted that reproductive debility is a general characteristic of other inbred domestic plants and of the so-

called sports or mutations which appear among them. It is suggested that both the sterility and the mutations may be due to the same cause, namely, to the absence of normal cross fertilization. This interpretation accords with what may be called a kinetic theory of evolution, under which evolution is viewed as a physiological as well as a morphological process.

\* \* \*

**Leading Importers of Brazil Coffee in New York.**—Messrs. Williams, Russell & Co., of New York, report the following 34 leading importers of Brazil coffee in New York City during 1902:—

IMPORTED BY				BAGS
W. H. Crossman & Bro.	...	...	...	1,487,910
Arbuckle Bros	...	...	...	1,011,837
Lewisohn Bros.	...	...	...	459,824
Hard & Rand	...	...	...	305,765
W. F. McLaughlin & Co.	...	...	...	246,126
S. Matherson, Jr., & Co.	...	...	...	168,128
J. W. Doane & Co.	...	...	...	150,797
Hills Bros. Co.	...	...	...	119,527
Wm. Bayne & Co.	...	...	...	79,278
J. L. Phipps & Co.	...	...	...	60,437
W. G. Crenshaw, Jr.	...	...	...	57,150
Dannemillers & Co.	...	...	...	54,518
G. O. Gordon	...	...	...	41,439
Chase & Sanborn	...	...	...	38,750
C. Wessels & Bro.	...	...	...	37,141
Steinwender, Stoffregen & Co.	...	...	...	35,118
J. H. Labaree Co.	...	...	...	34,212
T. G. Lurman & Co.	...	...	...	29,920
S. Gruner & Co.	...	...	...	25,981
Bayne & Davison	...	...	...	23,413
Durand & Kasper Co.	...	...	...	22,350
E. H. & W. J. Peck	...	...	...	21,941
Shinkle, Wilson & Kreis Co.	...	...	...	19,977
Thos. Roberts & Co.	...	...	...	15,162
Lawrence, Brown & Co.	...	...	...	14,987
W. J. Buttfeld	...	...	...	14,500
Seggermann Bros.	...	...	...	12,000
C. G. Bullard & Co.	...	...	...	11,500
Lee Wolff	...	...	...	11,075
Hewlett & Lee	...	...	...	11,009
August Stumpp	...	...	...	10,831
B. Fischer & Co.	...	...	...	10,633
J. H. Conrad & Co.	...	...	...	10,000
Sundries	...	...	...	183,067
				4,836,303

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Jan. 14. Trading in actual coffee is more active but prices have not advanced on that account; rather they are slightly weaker and are shaded to purchasers of large quantities. Coffee is really cheap and traders are seemingly awaking to their opportunities. Keen judges predict that at last the market is under natural precipitous forces and prices must quickly sink to their lowest level yet, as warranted by the statistical position of coffee, but the prophecy has been heard a long time, and even should it be finally fulfilled it cannot sink so low as to put present prices out of countenance.

\* \* \*

**Guatemala Crop Estimated.**—C. E. Bickford, of San Francisco, writes as follows regarding the coffee situation in Guatemala:—

"Important estates near the volcano are known to be permanently ruined. Others, more distant, will occupy a season or seasons in recuperating. As the distance increases, the damage lessens and many who felt themselves ruined at first will now partly or largely save their crops. As the distance increases the damage lessens and many who felt themselves ruined at first will now partly or largely save



their crops. As a rough hazard we would put the shortage of this crop at 250,000 quintals, say, 185,000 bags.

"New crop coffees have begun to arrive in small quantities, but no business has transpired in these, and none in old crop worth mentioning. The market has been very dull here during the past month, and is likely to continue dormant until the turn of the year."

C. G. Cambron, a San Francisco coffee broker, says that the Guatemala situation will stimulate prices of mild coffees for some time to come. The receipts this season will be greatly curtailed, he declares, and if any coffee is received at all it will be two months late, arriving in February instead of December. The Guatemalan coffee usually arrives at San Francisco first, and is followed in order by the coffees from Salvador and Porto Rico. The shortage will be a temporary advantage to the market in spot stocks.

San Francisco is one cent per pound away from other stocks of the same grades of coffee. There is nearly one cent differential in cost between California and the Eastern States.

Castle Bros., who usually carry a stock of 6,000 bags of high-grade coffee, have bought all the stock in sight. This has strengthened the market materially. This firm is supposed to have a stock of about 13,000 bags at present.

Karl Krische & Co. estimate the receipts of coffee at Rio during January at 275,000 bags and at Santos 525,000 bags.

**Coffee in the U. S.**—Of the imports of coffee into the United States in 1902 Brazil furnished 82.3 per cent. of the total, other American States, 15 per cent., East India and other countries, 2.7 per cent., included in which were Mocha and Java, which are thought to have a large sale but evidently not—the genuine. Besides, it should be remarked that "Java" coffee is included under the head of "East India." The quantity of British Indian coffee imported into the States is extremely small.

The *American Grocer* of 7th ultimo reports:—This market continues dull and weak, and 1-16c. lower on Brazil sorts. Cheap coffee is a sure thing during this year. The total supply is exceedingly large—big enough to take care of nearly two years' wants. Mild sorts are quiet and steady. Good Cucuta, 8½c. The market closed weak.

**Two Birds with One Stone.**—The *Financial Times* remarks:—A Committee recently appointed by the Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Society of San Paulo, in Brazil, to inquire into the causes of the fall in the price of coffee has just issued its report, in which a number of measures for reducing the output so as to establish an even balance between production and consumption are proposed. In consequence of this report the Brazilian Government now contemplates placing a duty of 20 per cent. on all exports of coffee, which is to be exacted in kind. The berries thus taken in taxation will be "denaturised" and sold to the planters as manure. By this means exports will, it is estimated, be reduced by one-fifth, and values will rise accordingly. That the theory will work out so smoothly in practice is another matter. But certainly as a fiscal expedient the proposal is ingenious.

Milwaukee capital is interested in a coffee and vanilla plantation in Mexico. The officers of the new corporation, which will be capitalized at \$150,000, will be Milwaukee men who will take all the stock issued. E. A. Sims, Deputy County Treasurer, who has been conducting the negotiations, and who has recently returned from Mexico, where he has been representing the interests of the Milwaukee investors, states that the plantation embraces about 1,000 acres, planted to coffee trees, sugarcane, and vanilla plants.

The consumption of coffee in the United States in 1902 was 11.04 pounds per capita against 10.60 pounds in 1901 and 9.81 pounds in 1900.

Imports of Brazil coffee into New York during 1902 were 4,836,303 bags against 5,602,860 bags in 1901 and 3,748,624 bags in 1900.

Since December 1st considerable comment has been raised in Philadelphia by a circular letter, issued by a local house. The particular paragraph that has excited so much comment reads as follows: "Arabian Mocha 16.25c. roasted, etc., etc." This offering was not confined to roasted Mocha, as sales have been made of one of the above marks, which is supposed to be the highest standard of Mocha, at 13.25c. green; one bale of which was sent to the importer for analysis, who promptly reported to the sender that the coffee was not genuine and that the seller would be prosecuted for substitution, etc. Later on the Mocha house changed its opinion, saying that a mistake had been made and that the sample bale submitted was found upon second examination to be genuine.

Total stock in United States January 1, 2,600,426 bags against 2,148,270 bags January 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States January 10, in store and afloat, 2,632,946 bags against 2,441,557 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 242,037 bags, against 258,372 bags last last year.

Brazil coffee in New York January 10, 2,084,854. Stock in New York in other coffees January 1, 212,749, in San Francisco, 25,057 bags and in New Orleans, 4,231 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, January 1, 13,212,775 bags.

Reports from Guatemala verify reports of damage done, and that the loss is almost entirely in the soft coffees. The market in San Francisco has now advanced fully one cent on all washed Central American coffee.

**Coffee and Chicory in the U. K.**—The consumption of coffee has been a little better than stationary. Apparently it has decreased by 1,928 tons, or 11 per cent.; but that is not the case. In 1901 there was a good deal exported in a roasted state to the Cape; owing to the termination of the war the volume of that trade has been much reduced; indeed, of all kinds of coffee we exported 18,287 tons only, compared with 33,830 tons in 1901. It is to be noted, however, that the quantity of chicory sent into consumption has been increased by 125 tons; mixtures of the two therefore contained more chicory and less coffee; the latter is seven times as expensive as the former.

As regards the coffee outlook, Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co., in their weekly report on the coffee market, state that the speculative markets have been exceedingly dull and uninteresting during the week, with but moderate price movements. Receipts at Santos have continued on a full scale again, and this has checked fresh buying, but the crop movement is being closely watched for signs of diminution, for many are waiting for that moment to buy coffee, which is now at a very low price. On Wednesday a little breeze sprang up in Havre on vague rumours from Brazil via Paris of Government measures for checking the over-production of coffee in that country. One report was to the effect that an Act had been passed decreeing the destruction of 20 per cent. of the coffee trees, but chopping down trees will hardly get to the root of the mischief. There is only one way to cure the over-production, and that is for the planter to feel the pinch of low prices. Whether that point has been reached with a currency price of 4\$000 in Santos many are dubious about, and point to the large increase in production since 1900. In regard to the current season's crop, Messrs. W. H. Crossman & Brothers, New York, cabled on Wednesday last that,



according to the best and most reliable authorities, the present Rio and Santos crops together are estimated at  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to 12 million bags, and next season's crops at 14 million bags. Presumably these estimates are from the same authorities that Messrs. Crossman & Brothers referred to in their circular of June 2, 1902, when they wrote: "Regarding the next crop, we have received from the same source an intimation that the total outturn may not be much smaller than the present one (1901-1902, 15,496,000 bags), certainly in excess of all records, excepting the crop of 1901-1902." The drought in 1901, ignored in the above intimation, evidently did great damage, and now from "not much smaller than the  $15\frac{1}{2}$  millions of 1901-1902" there is a reduction to, say,  $11\frac{3}{4}$  million bags, a climb down of over 3 million bags, whilst in this reduced total about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million bags from previous crops is already counted. Deduct this  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million from  $11\frac{3}{4}$  millions, and there is  $10\frac{1}{4}$  millions growth for the present season, or considerably less than in season 1900-1901 of 10,900,000 bags, and till then a record. The drought damage was ignored, and it is quite possible that the damage by the severe frost in Santos in August last may have also been ignored in the above estimate of 14 million bags for next season, and in due course give rise to a levelling down of as many millions a few months hence.

### TEA NOTES.

In early tea-drinking days, when fragrant Bohea was sold for from twelve to twenty shillings and more a pound, poor folk, who could not afford such a luxury, endeavoured to content themselves with decoctions from less expensive leaves. A great favourite of old was sage tea, which was regarded not only as a pleasant, but a particularly wholesome drink. John Wesley, who was a determined opponent of the Chinese leaf, strongly recommended sage as well as mint and pennyroyal, as an excellent substitute; while another enemy of the cup that cheers ventured to prophesy about the middle of the 18th century that the pernicious foreign leaves would quickly become cheaper, wherein he was right, and that tea would then go out of fashion and be replaced by sage, wherein he was hopelessly wrong.

\* \* \*

Tea ought to be gently treated, says the *Merchants' Review*. It is a delicately organized plant and requires delicate treatment from packer, grocer, and cook. Yet the insides of some teapots would "gar you" (as the Scotchman says) think differently. They are not so bad as the condition of the average shepherd's teapot in the Australian bush, which utensil often goes without cleaning from season to season, and often a long time without the exhausted leaves being removed, the new tea being laid upon the old, until the huge tin kettle becomes so full that there is no room for the water. Then, at last, the acrid, partly fermented mass of old tea leaves is thrown out, and a new start is made. The most careless housekeeper does not go quite so far, but how often are the crevices in the teapot's interior scraped? A little dirt in the wrong place may do much harm, and it is surprising how much the flavour of tea suffers if the utensil in which the leaf is infused is not scrupulously clean. Keep the teapot clean. Infuse the tea from five to ten minutes and then pour the liquor into another pot if it is not to be drunk at once. The water should be freshly boiled. If these rules are impressed upon the customer, the grocer's sales of tea will be better than they otherwise would be.

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It is said that the removal of the tax on tea will restore to the American people "a free breakfast table." Do the

American people make their breakfast on tea? How about sugar to put in it? is the inquiry of the *New Bedford Standard*.

\* \* \*

**Dutch Tea-planters becoming Modern.**—Dutch planters of tea in Java are beginning to take to the modern methods of Ceylon planters in the manufacture of their tea. They have adopted a great many things in manufacture which they scorned not four years ago. They used to sun-dry their teas, whereas they now go in for withering. They are also more modern in their methods of fermentation than they used to be.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—*Jan. 14.* Activity in tea has revived sooner than expected and is such now that traders could not well be busier. While some large transactions were reported, most dealings have been in small lots, as expected, from that end of the market that abstained from buying on the belief that tea would weaken in price after the first cries for tea were satisfied and the 85,000,000 pound stock was found to look too large. This stock has evidently disappeared from the market, and belated buyers are having a hard time to find any stock at all, even at the firmest of the firm rates that prevail. In a word, the market, rather than weaker, is stronger than ever.

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**Cochin-China Tea.**—A Singapore correspondent at Hanoi Exposition writes that the exports from Cochin-China and Tonquin have greatly increased in recent years, and in proof he gives the following comparative figures:—

		1897.	1901.
Rice	...	775,154 tons.	911,754 tons.
Pepper	...	1,324 "	2,647 "
Tea	...	10 "	149 "

\* \* \*

**Tea Stocks in London.**—On February 1, stocks of tea in London were as follows:—

Ceylon	...	19,800,000 lbs.
Indian	...	70,100,000 "

At the same time last year Ceylon tea stood at 21,600,000, while Indian stood at 73,800,000 lbs.

\* \* \*

**Disputed Biddings at the Tea Sales.**—Friction has been experienced for some time past at the tea sales owing to uncertainty as to whether bids of  $\frac{1}{8}$  d. per lb. are to be allowed. The present rule is, says the *Grocer*, to advance by farthings. Competition, however, for the lower grades of leaf tea is generally very keen, it being the desire of every buyer to get his bid accepted by the auctioneer, and in the shouting that always occurs with active markets, everyone yelling out at the same time, it is difficult for auctioneers to do justice to all bidders, which naturally causes great dissatisfaction. On these occasions a buyer is often prompted to offer  $\frac{1}{8}$  d. per lb. more. Many breaks are divided into two lines, and the buyer then offers a  $\frac{1}{8}$  d. more and "drop"; or if the break is in only one line suggests that it should be divided, and he will give a farthing advance and drop which works out the increased equivalent of  $\frac{1}{8}$  d. per lb. This innovation is resisted by some brokers for reasons of their own, and objected to by others on the ground that it is irregular, whilst there are auctioneers who refuse these  $\frac{1}{8}$  s. at the public sales, but accept them privately. At the Indian auctions last Wednesday a definite ruling was asked upon the subject by more than one buyer, but only the usual stereotyped answer was forthcoming, which means that the matter remains as it did before. It is a great pity that brokers cannot come to a decision among themselves, as the uncertainty engenders a good deal of vexation and irritation between buyers, besides often rendering the sale-room the scene of most disorderly proceedings. But those auctioneers



who present a firm front and back their own decisions invariably command attention; it is the vacillators who fail to keep order.

\* \* \*

**Tea in the United Kingdom.**—During the year 1902 we consumed 6 lbs. of tea per head of population. This is an increase of over  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per head in 10 years, and of nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. in 20 years. As the average value of tea as imported was 6'2d., the duty 6d., and the cost of handling probably 3d. per lb., the amount spent per head last year was 7s. 7d., as compared with 7s. 6d. for a smaller quantity in 1892, and 8s. in 1882 for three-fourths of last year's consumption. We are, therefore, spending some 5 per cent. less and consuming 30 per cent. more than we did 20 years ago.

In the past twelve months there was a decrease of £36,000 in the amount of duty paid, corresponding to a falling away of 640 tons in the quantity of tea consumed compared with 1901. There has been so much speculation at Budget time of late years, it is probable that the decrease is more apparent than real. To the public demand for 113,600 tons China and other countries contributed 9,005 tons, or less than one-twelfth; 10 years ago their share was over one-quarter, and 20 years ago 70 per cent. For the first time during the past few years China succeeded in increasing her sale of tea to us, but the quantity, 760 tons, is small relatively; our imports from that country decreased by 1,300 tons in 1902; her increased sale to us was effected, therefore, from the stock in bond in this country. This stock has not been as low for four years as it is now; it is less by 3,500 tons than it was a year ago owing to clearances of China tea. Our exports of tea were 20,300 tons, an increase, for which Canada was mainly responsible, of 940 tons.

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Mr. Renton's Report for 1902 contains an interesting record of quiet progress in various countries. The writer states that he has adhered to the lines he has previously worked on, and continued to make a feature of Advertisements and "Demonstrations." He still believes the best way to make our teas known is through the retailer, by getting him to advertise and by helping him to do so. The great objection to Ceylon tea on the Continent is that it is too "bitter," and to get over this, in some places spoons were supplied made with perforated holders which contained two grammes of dry tea. With these in use the stewing of tea can be easily avoided. The spoon is placed in the cup or glass and boiling water poured on, the spoon being removed when the tea is strong enough for the customer's taste.

The consumption of tea in Germany is increasing, but so far the increase in Ceylons is not so great as in China and Java sorts. With the temperance movement growing and the duty coming down from 6d. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., Mr. Renton looks for a considerable increase in the consumption of tea in Germany in the near future. Trade there and also in France has been bad, and in France there has been the competition of Annam tea to meet, as Mr. Renton mentioned on his last visit to this country. Though the falling off in direct imports to France is disappointing, the Commissioner says that nearly all those who are working Ceylon tea in that country agree that the taste for it is spreading. In Austria the work is making progress, and the Customs Returns to the end of November denote a slight increase in imports. In Scandinavia the increase is quite satisfactory.

In Russia the Princess Shouvaloff arranged to take over the crockery, etc., procured for the Exhibition, and open a tea room, but owing to the death of her husband there has been delay. In Italy and Spain a start has been made, and in Switzerland, though there has been no grant, importers continue to push the tea.

### NOTES.

#### Rubber in Ecuador.

The planting and growing of rubber trees is considered one of the best investments in Ecuador; but very few trees have been planted, on account of the large supply of wild rubber and the fear that some artificial matter might be discovered to take its place.

#### Calcutta Tea Sales.

At the tea auctions on Monday 25,862 packages were put up. There was generally good enquiry for tea at  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. and upwards at

fractionally dearer rates. Broken Pekoes were a little irregular, not always reaching the limits really desirable. Assams were selling well.

#### Cocoa in the U. K.

The demand for cocoa and chocolate continues to grow. Of the raw article 20,376 tons were worked up by British manufacturers during 1902; this is an increase of 1,470 tons; and of the prepared kinds grocers and confectioners imported 3,626 tons, which was 190 tons more than in the preceding year.

#### Java Quinine.

The exports of quinine from Java during November amounted to 46 cases, of which 32 cases were shipped to Japan, 12 cases to New York, and 2 cases to Singapore. From January 1 to November 30 the shipments have been

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Cases ..	1,409	2,038	1,855	1,600	1,072

#### Indian Tea Shipments.

The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association: Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the second half of January, 1903, Calcutta, 5,214,271 lbs., Chittagong *nil*. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year:—Calcutta, 5,830,153 lbs., Chittagong *nil*. Total from 1st April, 1902, to 31st January, 1903, Calcutta, 120,882,436 lbs., Chittagong 19,050,600 lbs. Total 139,933,036 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1901, to 31st January, 1902, 146,890,361 lbs.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 5th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes as well as the market for common and Broken Pekoes is also steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souching is 6d. (the same as last week) and the average  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down). The average for the same period last year was 7d. Reuter reports that fine qualities of Ceylon tea are firm. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. up) and the average for the week is  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down). 23,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 19,000 disposed of; while of the 30,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 25,000 were sold at an average of  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down).

#### Cacao in Ecuador.

The chief industry of Ecuador is cacao growing, which is extremely profitable. The world's supply of cacao amounts to some 90,000 tons, and of this Ecuador produces 27,000 tons, or nearly one-third of the total. Land can be obtained at about \$1 per acre. It requires about five years to bring a cacao estate into bearing, at a cost of 15 to 20 cents per tree. The trees yield on an average 1 pound each. For a plantation of 100,000 trees, it costs to bring into bearing, say, \$17,500. At the end of five years it is worth \$50,000; at seven years \$75,000, etc. The production of 100,000 trees would be 100,000 pounds, worth \$11,000 at present prices. The cost of putting this quantity on the market, including labour, etc., would be \$4,000, leaving a net profit of \$7,000. Estates are easily sold at the above figures, and if a capitalist can wait for results for five years, he is sure of a good income. In the meantime, "catch crops," such as rice or corn, can be grown on the same ground, which is so fertile that for the



growing of rice, etc., it is never necessary to plow; a hole is simply made with a machete and the seeds put in, and good returns are obtained.

#### Planting on the Anamalais.

The *Ceylon Observer* writes:—We were pleased to learn to-day from Messrs. Martin and Bannatine, how well the new planting district—fostered by Sir Arthur Havelock when Governor of Madras—is developing. Out of 15,000 acres taken up, about 3,000 have been opened in tea and coffee with cardamoms, cinchona, and some rubber. The plantations run from 3,000 feet upwards. A cart road is already right into the district. Calicut is the port; but Madras will have to be utilised for the S.-W. monsoon part of the year. The railway is coming nearer. Mr. Martin's tea of good jât has made splendid growth and a factory is now being built. Not a few still believe in coffee, if only prices would keep up. Cardamoms do well, but get a wintering; and produce expected to be all sold locally. Cinchona trees (from 15 p. c. Jara seed) are growing well; and Pará rubber in the flats has made growth equal to 6 feet in six months. Altogether therefore, Mr. Martin has reason to be satisfied with the inspection from which he has returned;—nor are the eight Anamalai planters afraid about a labour supply.

#### Bee-Keeping.

In the way of what the French call *la petite culture*, bee-keeping probably ranks best in importance to poultry-keeping, and it is gratifying to find the number of votaries of this small but interesting pursuit are rapidly increasing. There is a large demand for genuine honey in this country which is likely to increase as the supply gains regularity both in quality and quantity. It should be remembered that the profit on bee-keeping does not lie entirely in the honey or any product of the industrious colony which make the hive their home, for, especially in a fruit country or garden land, they fertilize the blooms of the fruit trees, and so increase and improve the crop. There are two main reasons that go far to check the keeping of bees. One is that many are apt to think that the art is a mysterious one, and beyond the comprehension of ordinary individuals; the other, and perhaps the more weighty reason, is that the stings are greatly feared. Now, the first has no foundation whatever to rest upon, and the second but very little. A sufficient knowledge of the habits and requirements of bees to enable one to make a good profit out of the keeping may be quickly gained by any person of ordinary intelligence. And, for the second, when bees are handled in a proper manner they sting very rarely.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### AMERICAN COFFEE TRUST PROPOSED.

WASHINGTON, December 29th.—An international trust to control the output of coffee of the world, established by a treaty signed by the United States and the Central and South American countries, is the startling and novel recommendation of the International Coffee Congress, which met in New York City in October. This recommendation President Roosevelt transmitted to Congress just before it adjourned for the holiday recess. His message and the recommendation, however, have not yet been printed, as is the usual custom with such communications, although no explanation is forthcoming for the delay.

There were thirteen countries represented in the recent Coffee Congress, including the United States and Porto Rico. The United States was the only country represented which was strictly a consuming and not a producing country. The only countries left out of the Conference were the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Chili, Colombia, Cuba, Hayti, and Paraguay.

When the Congress began its deliberations it was on the announced premise that there was a crisis in the coffee industry. This crisis, however, was more serious to the producer than to the consumer, and, as the producer was in the ascendancy at the Congress, the views of this side prevailed in the conclusions. The most important of these views is embodied in the suggestion that a treaty be formulated as speedily as possible for the purpose of controlling the output of coffee, to the end that the producer may be assured of a profitable price. This recommendation is declared by the Congress to be "unique." It reads:—

As a unique measure, capable of modifying favourably and with all possible celerity the price at which producers sell their coffee—the elimination from the sale and exportation of such a quantity of the universal production that may reduce the supply to the just, reasonable limits of consumption, besides a balance of not more than 3,000,000 sacks of 132 pounds each, having in the beginning for this balance the tolerance which the unrepresented quantity of the present visible stock might demand.

In other words, the treaty which the Coffee Congress resolved should be entered into at once would prevent the importation of coffee to the market "beyond the just demand," never allowing a surplus of more than three million sacks. In order that this treaty may not be delayed, the Congress further resolved that Brazil be requested to call a second Coffee Congress at once, inviting all the coffee, producing countries to take part, and at which the treaty suggested should be drafted and made operative. Other suggestions were made at the Congress intended to increase the demand for coffee and minimize the supply. These included the raising of only the best coffee; the prevention of the shipment of poor or adulterated coffee; the enactment of legislation preventing the sale of adulterated coffee, and substitutes sold under the name of coffee, and the recommendation that coffee be made a part of the army ration of every country interested.

The United States was represented at the Congress by Percy B. O'Sullivan, President of the New York Coffee Exchange, and Thomas R. Dawley, Jr., of New York. Porto Rico was represented by Antonio Mariani.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

### INDIAN AND CEYLON TEA SHARE VALUES.

#### IMPROVEMENT MAINTAINED.

From the following figures, compiled by Mr. George Seton, of the Indian Tea Share Exchange, it will be seen, says the *Financial Times*, that the market value of the forty-five representative companies registered in the United Kingdom, which had recently risen considerably, remains virtually the same. There have been a good many moderate rises in value, but these have been counteracted by reductions in value, in a few cases, of considerable extent. In a few cases, however, dividends have been deducted since the figures were last computed:—

Face value of 45 companies	...	£ 9,500,000
Market value July 1, 1897 (highest point)	...	12,000,000
" Jan. 1, 1902	...	7,000,000
" July 1, 1902	...	6,225,000
" Sep. 1, 1902 (lowest point)	...	6,050,000
" Oct. 1, 1902	...	6,150,000
" Nov. 1, 1902	...	6,300,000
" Dec. 1, 1902	...	6,600,000
" Jan. 1, 1903	...	6,600,000

As the total share and debenture capital of the one hundred and seventy companies altogether registered in the United Kingdom amount to nearly £19,000,000, the fluctuations of the entire volume, based on the above figures, may be thus estimated:—

Face value of (about) 170 English companies	...	£19,000,000
Highest market value, July 1, 1897	...	24,000,000
Lowest market value, September 1, 1902	...	12,100,000
Present market value, Jan. 1, 1903, say	...	13,250,000

This shows a depreciation of, altogether £10,750,000, or of nearly 45 per cent. from top point. Even these augmented figures, it may



be observed, take no account of the many private-owned estates, nor of the Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Colombo companies, registered with rupee capitals—the total amount of which it is difficult to compute, but in which the depreciation has doubtless been at least as great.

Mr. Seton adds that it appears probable that the advance, amounting to about 10 per cent., which has taken place since September, is now likely to stop there for a little, until it can be estimated, with some degree of accuracy, how the results of working for the year 1902 are likely to pan out, which can scarcely be sooner than the end of February in the case of the Ceylon companies, and March or April for the Indian companies.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, January 8, 1903.

The local situation is practically featureless, though it is said local stocks are pretty well absorbed. The demand for Ceylons and Japans is picking up slightly. The market is up in London, the auction there having gone at slightly higher rates yesterday. The Calcutta market closed on Monday. From now until Summer there is likely to be a strong market for teas. Ceylon greens manufactured by special machinery to imitate China young hysons are being offered this week at prices which will favourably compete with the figures ruling for China greens. The cup quality is excellent.

MONTREAL, January 8, 1903.

The holiday weeks were, as was expected, very quiet. And yet, in spite of this, a better movement was noted than previously, due, in a measure, to the requirements of a good part of the trade for immediate deliveries, their stocks having become very light. In the Ceylon and Indian markets no marked change has been reported during the past week or so, and in these teas conditions on the local markets are entirely unchanged. Japans on this market have developed no new phase, and it is yet early for any effect to be felt from the abrogation of the United States duty. Speaking of the oft-heard statements regarding the falling-off in imports of Japan teas, a large importer said to us: "One reason for there being no increase in importations into Canada is that the Association has been trying to do away with siftings on this market. They have succeeded to the extent that in 1901, 1,000,000 lbs. of siftings were imported; last year only 80,000 lbs. were brought in. It is likely that most of the siftings have been shipped to Russia, in the form of bricks, where they meet with a ready sale."

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

It is somewhat curious to notice the way in which fads are ministered to by public caterers. A correspondent informs us that on visiting one of the co-operative stores he noticed on the menu that tea could be had at 2d. per cup. This, he presumed, was ordinary Indian and Ceylon tea. China tea could also be had, but this being an article likely to be asked for by faddists, was marked at 3d. Our correspondent asked the distinction between the two, and was told that the China tea was a special scented sort, and very delicate in flavour. This need not frighten producers of Indian tea any more than the advice given by the late Sir Andrew Clark to his lady friends to drink only China tea. For the present day economic reasons prevent the majority of people from indulging in drinks that cost 50 per cent. more than they have been accustomed to pay. It is only right, however, that those who call for special brands should be prepared to pay something extra for the gratification of their tastes.

With reference to the letter we quoted last week from the *Westminster Gazette* on the subject of green tea, we notice that Mr. A. Bethune, the London correspondent of the *Times* of Ceylon, replies to it. He says: "Several statements made by your correspondent, 'Anti-Green Tea,' are open to question, but I purpose to refer only to what he says of Ceylon green tea. During the past ten years about £100,000 has been spent in the U. S. A. and Canada in endeavouring to spread the sale of Ceylon black tea,

but, in the U. S. A. at any rate, the progress made has been slow and disappointing. Seeing this, our commissioner, Mr. William McKenzie, has been urging for years that we should turn our attention to 'greens.' The market in these is a large one, the Americans consuming about forty million pounds of Japan green tea, to say nothing of China sorts. The new Ceylon green tea is much liked across the water. Nearly three million pounds were made in Ceylon in 1902, and it is expected that 1903 will see an export of eight to ten million pounds, all or nearly all of it pure uncoloured tea. Indian may also send some five million pounds. It must not be supposed that Ceylon planters are deserting black tea from any love for green. It is simply that there is too much black tea; prices have fallen in many cases below the cost of production, and the new movement has been started to relieve the black tea market. Under these circumstances supporters of the 'Tea Cess' cannot admit that the bonus on green tea—a purely temporary expedient—is a 'bounty paid by one class of planters to another.' Nor is it intended, as your correspondent appears to think, to attempt to reintroduce green tea into this country. We have given England black tea because England likes it. We now propose to give America green tea because America likes it."

There may be, as Mr. Bethune points out, no present intention of attempting to revive the demand for green tea in the British isles, but all the same that demand may arise. If once the prejudice occasioned by stories of its adulteration were removed a brisk demand for green tea would probably spring up. There is a hankering after it in many quarters, for the imagination of modern tea-drinkers has been stirred by grandmotherly stories of the good old days of green tea, and the present generation would like to have an opportunity of testing the truth of its reputed excellence, especially if they were assured that it was as free from any form of adulteration as black tea.

The *Grocers' Gazette*, commenting on the position of tea with especial reference to the next Budget, says: "The future position of tea 'gives furiously to think,' as our neighbours across the water would say. Quantities are accumulating rapidly, and some of the tea has been in for several months. Unlike wine, tea does not improve with keeping. Much of it, of course, is too common to be affected by these considerations, and we are not now speaking of the make-weight article. Better class teas, too, are apt to lose flavour, and it is astonishing how different even a hard Assam, manufactured on the best principles, will taste after being kept, say, three months. At present the market is far from satisfactory; it is, more or less, a case of 'pull devil, pull baker.' Everything now depends upon the importers continuing to play a strong hand, and the slightest weakness on the part of the holders of tea would be hailed as a glorious victory by that faction whose sole aim is to establish a reign of topsy-turvydom. The present is a fight to the finish—a fitting wind-up to a year pregnant with conspiracies, manipulated markets, and an openly vaunted hostility to everything and everybody connected with the tea industry from the producer's point of view. A large section of the buyers do not as yet quite realise (or, perhaps, affect not to) that there is little prospect of a return to the midsummer rates, which were spelling prosperity to the distributors and ruin to the man who supplies them with the article from which they have made their money and their fame. The regenerators of the tea trade are driven almost to a state of frenzy because their usual tactics have not on the present occasion have been successful in breaking up the market, and according to individual temperament they oscillate between assumed jocularly and bilious misery. Cheerily as some of them carry it off, there is an increasingly noticeable undercurrent of sadness—perhaps almost a surreptitious wish that they could throw off their superior attitude and come into the market and buy tea like ordinary everyday men. But this would never do. One must live up to one's reputations, and having once determined to be something special, it would never do to become ordinary. There will probably by the end of January be a large apparent falling-off in deliveries—that is, as against last January (1902). This feature can, however, safely be ignored, as owing to the duty scare last year the deliveries for the month of all kinds of tea were about 10,000,000 lbs. above normal. For the same reason, but in a lesser degree, February and March were also heavy months. Then, of course, the fear was that duty might be put on. Now, just the opposite conditions obtain, and quite naturally buyers are



avoiding paying duty, except for present requirements. This policy, so far as it goes, is all right, but they surely ought to protect themselves by holding bonded stock. Let us suppose that 2d. per lb. should be taken off in April—it may not look probable, but it is quite within the bounds of possibility—all tea not duty-paid would go up with a bound, particularly as there will be no stock at the end of the season for possible contingencies, even should there be enough tea to go round. How, then, would sold forward contracts look?”

A new use has been found for tea according to the British Consul at Bordeaux, who reports that he is informed that tea is largely used to colour brandy, the tannin giving the brown appearance like that produced by long storage in oak casks.—*H. and C. Mail.*

## CALCUTTA TEA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The sixteenth annual General Meeting of the Members of the Calcutta Tea Traders' Association was held at the rooms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, at noon, on the 27th January. Mr. Lockhart Smith (Messrs. Williamson, Magor & Co.) in the Chair.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—I have the pleasure to present to you the Report and Accounts of the Tea Traders' Association for the past year. There has been some unforeseen delay in the printing of the Report and it was, I find, only issued yesterday; but as the Report of your Committee is of a brief nature I have no doubt you have all had an opportunity of perusing it ere this. The “masterly inactivity” displayed by your Committee during the year under review is a very satisfactory feature seeing that one of the main objects of this Association is the adjudication of any claims and disputes that may arise between buyers and sellers. It is also satisfactory to find that notwithstanding the fact that claims on a lower limit of value have been admitted since March last, 17 claims only were submitted to the Association, and, of this number, eight were settled without waiting for the decision of the Committee. The improvement in this respect of recent years is undoubtedly due to more care being given to packing at the factory and to a better class of box being used. Your Association continues to impress the importance of these points on the producers and I trust we shall in time find claims for short weight become merely nominal. From the Report you will observe that we have had some correspondence with the Port Commissioners regarding the facilities, or to speak more correctly, the want of facilities at the Tea Warehouse, and although they have endeavoured to meet our complaints, it is, I think, generally admitted that the existing Warehouse arrangements are not quite satisfactory. It is probably generally known that the Port Commissioners have had a comprehensive scheme of warehousing under consideration for some time past, but before committing themselves definitely they are desirous of having the assurance of all concerned that the scheme, when carried through, will be supported. I have been favoured with a plan giving an idea of the relative position of the proposed new Tea Warehouse to the Docks, Railway and River, which is on the table for the information of those present.

The general outlines of the Port Commissioners' proposal are that a large Warehouse be built at the 80 ft. entrance to the tidal basin of the Kidderpore Docks which will be readily accessible to the Railway and River, and the Steamer Companies will discharge their cargo on to a pontoon which will be close to and in direct communication with the Warehouse. It is suggested that the building be divided off into sections in sizes suitable for the requirements of each firm and rents charged sufficient to cover interest, depreciation, etc., on the land and buildings. The Tea Garden Agents sections would be at the north end nearest the river, the Tea Brokers' sections in the middle and those of the buyers nearest the Docks. Teas for sale in Calcutta could thus be placed by the Steamer Companies straight into the Brokers' sections from the inland vessels, while teas for direct shipment to London could in the same manner go into the Garden Agent's section, where the invoices could be completed and the chests examined

while awaiting shipment by ocean steamers. The Port Commissioners would undertake the transshipment of the tea from the warehouse to the ocean steamer at rates covering only the actual outlay, and in order to further minimise the handling of the tea chests the Port Commissioners have under consideration the adoption of the most approved modern appliances for transshipping cargo of such a nature. In this connection it has been proposed that conveyors should be used between the inland steamers and the sections of the Garden Agents and Brokers, and that the tea be transported from the warehouse to the ocean steamers in trollies which could be so constructed as to allow of the upper part containing the tea chests being deposited bodily into the holds by the ships' slings and thus make it possible to transfer tea chests from the warehouse into the ships' holds without any intermediate handlings. It is estimated that a very considerable saving in the annual cost of transshipping and handling teas while in Calcutta would under the proposed plan, be effected, while the risks of damage to tea chests and loss from thefts would be reduced to a minimum. The Port Commissioners have, I understand, taken the necessary steps for acquiring suitable land for the warehouse between the Docks and the River, and the necessary funds have already been voted towards the cost of the building, and, if the scheme has the general approval of the Meeting, a sub-committee might be formed of representatives of the Garden Agents, Brokers, Buyers, and Steamer Companies to meet the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners and discuss details.

Mr. J. D. West proposed:—“That a sub-Committee be appointed to consider the question of the proposed removal of the Tea Warehouse to the Kidderpore Dock, and that the following gentlemen be appointed to the sub-Committee: Messrs. Lockhart Smith (Williamson, Magor & Co.); H. S. Ashton (Shaw, Wallace Co.); H. G. Begg (Begg, Dunlop & Co.); W. T. Carter (W. S. Cresswell & Co.); G. Binyon Paris (Finlay, Muir & Co.), and J. D. West (J. Thomas & Co.).”

This was seconded by Mr. R. H. A. Gresson, and, on being put to the Meeting, was carried unanimously.

No further remarks having been made the Chairman then proposed:—

“That the Report, as presented be received and adopted, and that the audited accounts to 31st December, 1902, be passed as correct.”

This was seconded by Mr. A. C. S. Holmes, and, on being put to the Meeting, was carried unanimously.

### NEW COMMITTEE.

The result of voting for the Committee for 1903 was then declared to be as follows:—

Sellers.—Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co., Williamson, Magor & Co., and Begg, Dunlop & Co.

Buyers.—Messrs. Barlow & Co, Finlay, Muir & Co., and Balmer, Lawrie & Co.

Brokers.—Messrs. J. Thomas & Co. and Carritt, Moran & Co.

The Chairman remarked that the rules provided for the election of three firms to represent brokers. As only two firms had been elected he thought it would be in order if he proposed that Messrs. W. S. Cresswell & Co. be invited to accept to accept the vacancy.

Mr. J. D. West, having seconded the proposal it was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed with the customary vote of thanks to the Chair.

## THE SUGGESTED STANDARD FOR COFFEE AND CHICORY MIXTURES.

On 14th January, at the Meeting of Camberwell Borough Council, the Public Health Committee reported that a communication had been received from the Secretary of the Metropolitan Grocers', Provision Dealers', and Oilmen's Association, upon the subject of the letter recently addressed to the Local Government Board by the Battersea Borough Council, pointing out that there is nothing in the Food and Drugs Acts regulating the preparation of the constituents of articles sold as mixtures, and suggesting that steps should be taken to enforce, by legal enactment, the recognition of such limits as the Board may see fit to determine. The Association submitted that the proposal in question is not a practicable one,



and that no good purpose could be served by a Government standard for coffee and chicory. The following report from Dr. Teed, the public analyst, was submitted, when the question of food and drugs mixtures was considered by Camberwell Council, and it was decided to take no action in the matter:—

With regard to mixtures. The remedy seems to me to lie with the purchaser. If the purchaser asks for a sample and gets a "mixture" he has only himself to blame if the "mixture" he gets is not the "mixture" he wanted but failed to ask for. If the purchaser asked for a mixture of equal parts of coffee, and chicory, and received a mixture containing 70 per cent of chicory, he would be prejudiced and the present law would be sufficient to meet his case. In the old case of *Liddiard v. Reece*, a conviction followed, although the coffee demanded was labelled as a mixture of chicory and coffee, on the ground that the price charged was the price for pure coffee, and, therefore, the purchaser was prejudiced. It is impossible to comment on the "prosecution recently instituted at Chesterfield," as the letter of the town clerk of the Battersea Borough Council does not put us in possession of the facts. We are not informed whether "coffee," "coffee and chicory," or "chicory and coffee," was demanded whether the purchase was labelled, and if so whether the purchaser was orally informed of the composition, and what price was paid for the mixture. All these points must have been before the magistrates who dismissed the summons, and in the absence of this information it would be a gratuitous piece of impertinence on my part to assume that the learned magistrates were wrong in their decision. If the Chesterfield authorities considered the decision of the magistrates wrong, it was their duty to ask for a case, and, in the event of its being refused, to have applied for a mandamus to compel the magistrates to state a case. As it is not reported that they took any such steps it is to be assumed that on reviewing the whole facts of the case they considered the magistrates had some substantial reason for their decision.

A motion was adopted that the Association be informed that the Council had already resolved not to take action in support of Battersea.

## NEW YORK COFFEE EXCHANGE.

The annual Meeting of the Coffee Exchange of the City of New York was held Thursday, January 8, and was presided over by President Percy B. O'Sullivan. The first business was the reading of the report of Treasurer James H. Kirby, which showed receipts of \$32,033.54 and disbursements of \$18,519.10, leaving cash on hand, December 31, 1902, of \$13,314.44. The property account of the Exchange is \$462,598.03 less a mortgage of \$280,000, and the total assets over liabilities are \$203,905.18. The gross rentals of the building were \$49,177.15 and the operating expenses \$23,993.11, leaving a balance in excess of the interest on the mortgage.

The report of the Board of Managers was next listened to. It mentions that the total transactions during 1902 reached 10,662,250 bags, which is the fourth largest volume of business recorded, while the deliveries of coffees on transferable notices so far exceed any previous figures.

Deliveries on contract were as follows:

	Bags.		Bags.
January ...	40,000	July ...	115,250
February ...	8,250	August ...	164,500
March ...	80,000	September ...	358,250
April ...	4,000	October ...	37,250
May ...	82,000	November ...	46,250
June ...	39,750	December ...	164,750
Total ...	...		1,139,250

The deposit of margins was moderate in amount in proportion to the volume of trading, the total sum being \$7,336,600, as compared with \$4,487,592 last year.

In response to widespread demand, arrangements were made at an annual expense of about \$1,000 to receive by daily cable the Santos interior receipts.

Additional warehouse licenses were issued during the year and several new depositories for margins have been designated.

Two important changes in the by-laws were made: The first was the adoption of the new forms of contract for "coffee to arrive in store" and "coffee on cost and freight terms." The second was an amendment to Section 41, by which the initiation fee for membership was raised from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The Board feels that the Exchange is to be congratulated that eleven newly-elected members exercised their privilege of buying certificates directly at \$1,000 before the right to sell them at that price had been abrogated.

The report adds that for some years past it has been necessary to borrow money when the period for the payment of taxes came around. The sum of \$11,000 added to the assets by the sale of these certificates has done away with this necessity, and makes available either for a partial payment on the mortgage indebtedness, or for use in any unexpected contingency, a cash surplus, which, in view of the dignity and importance of the Exchange, cannot be considered excessive.

The new edition of the by-laws and rules, which was ratified by the members on November 26, has been printed and is ready for distribution. The funds of the Exchange have been expended with the usual care and economy. The expenses, as shown in the treasurer's report, are approximately the same as last year, though they include a payment of \$1,099.39 for legal services.

Mr. H. M. Humphrey resigned his position as superintendent in April, and Mr. C. B. Stroud, who had been many years in the service of the Exchange succeeded him. To him, the report concludes, and his subordinates, for the faithful discharge of their duties, the thanks of the Exchange are due and rendered.

The Meeting then adjourned.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

The new coffee that accumulated during the holidays has soon been disposed of, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of January 17, 1903, and the auctions have not been well supplied. The demand has shown a decided improvement, especially from the Continent, and dearer prices were paid at the early part of the week, but since then there has been some reaction,.....a few lots are reported to have been re-sold on the market at 3s. to 4s. profit. The quality of the new East India continues very unsatisfactory and to effect sales low prices have had to be taken. Larger quantities of Columbian have come to hand, and as merchants have shown a desire to sell they have been easily disposed of. In the terminal market a much larger business has been transacted than for some time past, but prices have fluctuated within narrow limits, and at the close there is little change from last week.

## TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The market has developed an easier tendency for some grades, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of January 17, but no actual fall in prices can be recorded. The teas most affected are those from 6½d. downwards, but owing to the firmness of holders the bids in most cases were refused, and consequently an increased quantity failed to pass the hammer. This easier feeling is not due to any statistical change in the position, which remains on a much sounder basis than for several seasons past, but to a certain section of the trade holding aloof from the market with the view of buying on more favourable terms later on. The returns for the next month or two will in all probability compare unfavourably with a similar period of the past two or three years, when the duty payments were considerable owing to anticipations of an increased duty. There is no prospect of a repetition of this in the forthcoming Budget, and as the trade will only clear tea to meet their immediate requirements there will doubtless be an accumulation in the bonded stock. This is already apparent in the clearances this month, which are 3,000,000 lbs. smaller than for the same time in January, 1902. The available supply of tea, however, is 8,000,000 lbs. smaller than at this period last year, and, although there may be fluctuations in values accompanied with temporary declines, there is every reason to expect that the present level of prices will on the whole be maintained, as the consumption bids fair to be quite equal to the supply. The more remunerative results of the past few months for the lower grades should not be an inducement to owners of gardens to resort to coarse plucking, which has invariably been the case in former seasons, but they should estimate as nearly as possible the probable consumption. There has been, and more particularly in the past year, an increasing demand for Indian tea for other markets, with every prospect of a further development in this direction, but it is not likely for some time to come to be of sufficient importance to relieve this market of any large surplus imports. There is a matter that has been often referred to, but little or no attention has been given to it, viz., the



condition of the packages which contain small tea. It is surely the business and to the interest of those who are responsible for the packing to see that the packages are in such a state as to retain the contents intact in transit. This might be secured by the introduction and use of veneer packages, which are eminently suitable for small and dust teas. As the matter stands now, carriers refuse to accept delivery where there is even a suspicion of leakage, unless the packages are canvassed—a charge hitherto borne by the trade, but which ought to be the importers' responsibility, as each package is supposed to be inspected and returned in sound condition, unless otherwise described on the weight notes. Of the 41,300 packages submitted to public auction 13,000 were withdrawn, a good proportion of these having been since disposed of at an improvement on the prices bid at the sale.

**CEYLON TEAS**—Good supplies were brought forward at the auctions on Tuesday, but a quieter tone was noticeable, with a slightly easier tendency, although the teas, for the most part, showed a falling-off in quality. The lowest grades of Whole Leaf were unchanged, very little being knocked down under 5½d., as, although lower bids were occasionally made, the lots were withdrawn, merchants refusing to sell at the reduction. Some of the medium Pekoes, however, ruled less firm, and in many cases sold in favour of buyers. Broken Pekoes have maintained recent values, and only a small quantity could be bought under 7½d. per lb. The public sales comprised 26,600 packages, of which about 5,500 were withdrawn.

**CONGOU TEA**—There have been no public sales this week, and consequently business has been limited. A few transactions have been reported privately, at prices fully equal to those previously ruling. There has been a limited enquiry for fine Monings, but most of the business done has been in the lower descriptions.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS**—In consequence of the easier tone in the Green market a better business has been transacted during the past week. Good Gunpowders are now obtainable in the neighbourhood of 1s., and a considerable quantity has changed hands. The demand for Young Hyson remains quiet, and a further slight decline was noticeable at Thursday's auctions. The market is particularly bare of Oolong under 1s., except the common sorts, and Capers remain unchanged. The following are the public sale figures for the week:—1,689 packages of Green Tea were brought forward, of which about 300 were withdrawn.

### COFFEE IN 1902.

#### AN AMERICAN VIEW.

With the world's production largely in excess of requirements, prices have sagged throughout the year, with the average cost of the article the lowest on record.

During the crop year ending June 30, 1902, the total receipts were 15,439,000 bags at the Brazil ports of Rio and Santos, in itself enough to meet annual requirements. When to the yield in Brazil is added that of the East Indies, Mexico, Central America, United States of Columbia, Venezuela, West Indies, there rolls up an aggregate production of over 19,000,000 bags. This in itself is sufficient to account for an increase in the world's visible supply of 4,393,704 bags in a single trade year. On January 1, 1903, the visible supply was 13,212,775 bags, against 10,870,930 bags January 1, 1902.

The imports of coffee for the trade year ending June 30, 1902, were the largest on record, exceeding one billion pounds. The United States Bureau of Statistics reports as follows:

Year ending June 30, 1902.	Pounds.	Value.
Imports	1,091,004,252	\$70,982,155
Exports	34,462,615	2,867,582
Net Imports	1,056,541,637	68,114,573
Net Imports, 1901	809,036,029	58,681,620
Net Imports, 1900	748,800,771	48,777,126

	Pounds.
Total, three years	2,614,378,437
Average per year, 1900-1902	871,459,479

The per capita consumption based on imports is little above 11 pounds, against 10.60 pounds in 1901, 9.81 pounds in 1900, an annual average of 10.47 pounds.

Brazil furnished 82.3 per cent. of the total supply of the United States; other countries on the western continent other than Brazil

15 per cent.; the East Indies and all other countries, 2.7 per cent., and yet Mocha and Java coffee is sold (?) all over the United States, while the imports do not amount to 2 per cent.

The imports for the 11 months of 1902, ending November 30, were 872,491,437 pounds; exports, 41,702,446, leaving net imports of 830,788,991 pounds. Estimating January, it is probable the year's imports will fall below those of 1901.

The year opened with coffee subject to speculative manipulation, with the result that prices were forced to the highest of the year. The bears, however, came out triumphant and have steadily forced prices down, closing on a basis of 5½c. for No. 7 Rio, with the January option \$4.35@4.40. The quality of the 1901-02 crop averaged better than usual, so that the higher grade of Rio and Santos coffee is relatively cheaper than the lower grades. The following table is eloquent of the course of the market and the influence of oversupply to demand.

The following table shows the average monthly and average annual spot cost of coffee:

	No. 7 Rio. Cents.	Maracaibo. Cents.	Padang. Cents.
January	6.31	8.33 @ 8.83	19.25 @ 20.00
February	5.71	7.75 " 8.25	19.25 " 20.00
March	5.68	7.75 " 8.25	19.25 " 20.00
April	5.53	7.62 " 8.25	19.25 " 20.00
May	5.46	7.50 " 8.50	19.25 " 20.00
June	5.25	7.50 " 8.50	18.50 " 19.00
July	5.33	7.58 " 8.65	18.50 " 19.00
August	5.54	7.21 " 8.21	18.00 " 18.50
September	5.46	8.00 " 9.00	18.00 " 18.50
October	5.42	8.62 " 9.00	17.00 " 17.50
November	5.25	8.00 " 8.75	17.00 " 17.50
December	5.25	7.87 " 8.30	17.00 " 17.50
Average, 1902	5.52	7.81 " 8.54	18.35 " 18.96
" 1901	6.42	7.72 " 8.14	18.08 " 19.49
" 1900	8.24	9.74 " 10.39	21.90 " 23.16
" 1899	6.18	7.74 " 8.57	24.50 " 25.59
" 1898	6.30	8.37 " 9.14	24.04 " 24.99
" 1897	7.73	12.92 " 13.45	23.59 " 24.71
" 1896	15.00	13.88 " 19.30	23.68 " 24.41

—American Grocer.

### TEA IN 1902.

#### AN AMERICAN VIEW.

The year closed with stocks in warehouses nearly equal to a year's consumption. During November imports were 16,667,151 pounds, and withdrawals light, as importers were waiting until after January 1 to withdraw stock in order to have it entered duty free. The following statement shows the movement to October 31, 1902.

	Pounds.
In warehouses January 1, 1902	47,606,789
Imports ten months ending October 30	75,603,734
Total supply ten months	123,210,523
Less exports ten months	823,214
Net supply ten months	122,387,309
Less Stocks warehouses October 31	64,126,785
Deliveries ten months	58,260,524
Imports November	16,667,151

The consumption is about 80,000,000 to 85,000,000 pounds, and as withdrawals were below this quantity, it is certain stocks in first and second hands and in retailers' stocks were never as low as on January 1, 1903.

The Chinese Empire furnished 54.2 per cent. of the total imports; Japan, 33.7 per cent.; all other countries, 12.1 per cent.

	Japan. Good to Medium. Cents.	Formosa. Superior. Cents.
Average, 1902	22.04 @ 31.33	25.12 @ 26.04
" 1901	26.17 " 27.65	25.83 " 26.83
" 1900	26.24 " 27.37	26.08 " 27.54
" 1899	26.50 " 27.50	26.75 " 28.58
" 1898	21.47 " 22.63	24.89 " 25.97
" 1897	17.71 " 18.83	20.42 " 21.47
" 1896	14.62 " 19.62	19.62 " 20.50

—American Grocer.



## THE INDIAN TEA CESS BILL.

## CONTEMPORARY OPINION.

As our readers know we have never been in favour of a compulsory Tea Cess, says *Capital*, but as it has been decided to legislate on the subject and as the Indian Tea Cess Bill has been introduced in the Council of the Governor-General, it falls to our lot to criticise it, and we must say that a more unsatisfactory shadowy skeleton of a Bill has rarely come under our notice. It will be observed that virtually all the powers of the Bill are contained in Section VII, which empowers the Governor-General in Council to make rules to carry out its purposes.

Now if there is one thing more than another against which the Chamber of Commerce has taken a stand, it is against the pernicious practice of empowering Government to make rules under its Acts. As Sir Patrick Playfair rightly observed at a Meeting held at the Royal Exchange on the 12th of February, 1900, to protest against the proposed Mines Act: "Legislation by rule is an undesirable method. The imperial legislation was created not only to frame the law of the land, but also to prescribe the obligations devolving upon individuals and to define the extent of executive interference and control." His views were entirely supported by the Meeting. We cannot congratulate Sir Montagu Turner on his maiden attempt at legislation.

The speech made at the last Friday's meeting of the Viceregal Council by the Hon'ble Sir Montague Turner, in introducing this measure, does not seem to represent accurately the scope of the cess proposed to be levied. We are not as yet aware that the original plan and purpose of the Tea-Expansion Committee, at whose instance this curious and novel measure is proposed to be passed by the legislature, have in any way been modified. The main objective of that plan was known to be the expansion of the tea-market in India itself. Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., the agents of the Tea-Expansion Committee, have, for the last two years, or so, been steadily working towards this end; and it is to help this work, primarily, we believe, that the original proposal to levy a cess on all exported tea, was made. Sir Montague Turner, however, has left this out altogether. He said that the tax would be "devoted to pushing the sale and increasing the consumption of Indian tea in foreign countries." He said, further on, in his speech, that the justification for it is *the necessity for extending the consuming markets of tea, grown in British India*, and did not refer at all to "foreign markets" alone. The whole thing thus seems to have been presented in a somewhat hazy, indefinite, and in view of what had been proposed before and what is already being done, in a very suspicious way. This makes it difficult for us to consider the Bill in one of its most important aspects. If the object of the tea-expansion movement be to capture "foreign" markets only, as the Hon'ble Sir Montague Turner said it was, then we have little or nothing to say against the proposed measure, so far as the *principle* of the cess is concerned, though even then it is questionable whether the administration of the cess could be left so absolutely in the hands of a non-official and independent Committee, as the present Bill proposes to do. But, we cannot as yet be fully assured that the money raised by this cess will not be devoted to the expansion of the tea-market in India. And our suspicions on this point are due not only to the previous declarations of the Indian Tea Association on this subject but equally also to the fact that there is very little room for any large expansion of the markets for Indian tea, outside India itself. The United Kingdom is the largest consumer of Indian tea, and it is notorious that there is really no further room for the expansion of our tea-market in the British Isles. Is there any possibility of increasing to any material extent the consumption of Indian tea on the continent of Europe? This also does not appear to be very likely; for, on the Continent, they are already developing a taste for China tea. America consumes very little tea, their preference being for cocoa and coffee, and there is but little hope of a large and immediate demand being created for Indian teas in the American market. These considerations point to Asia, and pre-eminently to India, as the best field of exploitation by the Indian tea-growers. And it is well-known that Lord Curzon, on being acquainted with the present difficulties of the Indian tea-industry, threw out the hint that an attempt should be made to induce the tea-habit in the Indian people. This, as we all know, is the

genesis of this movement, and considering all these, it is impossible to accept Sir Montague Turner's statement that the cess will be used to create new markets and expand the existing markets for Indian tea only in foreign lands as absolutely accurate. Indeed, it will be almost impossible for the Government, and it would be absolutely unjustifiable also, to limit the powers of the Tea-Cess Committee in regard to the countries where they will have to push the sale of their article, with the money raised by this new cess. In spite of Sir Montague Turner's statement, therefore, we are compelled to take it that the object of the cess is to induce the tea-habit in the Indian people, and, therefore, we feel bound to enter our most emphatic protest against this novel measure. On the face of it, this new Bill appears, no doubt, to make for State-socialism and we know that some of our prominent economic thinkers believe that the economic salvation of a people situated as those of India, must and can only be worked out by some sort of State-socialism. We ourselves believe in this doctrine. Having no organised capital in the country, and lacking also the capacities for industrial or commercial organisation, our only chance, strictly speaking, lies, perhaps, in the co-operation of the State with the people, in the development of the natural wealth of the country. In the absence of organised capital in our own hands, and of State-socialism on the other hand, the only way to develop the resources of the country can and must be by means of foreign capital. This, however, is exploitation and not development, and exploitation spells economic serfdom, and not economic progress, which can only be attained through economic freedom. So, on principle, we are for some healthy programme of State-socialism in India. But State-socialism is good only when the interests of the State are absolutely identified with those of the people. This, however, is not the case, in truth, with us in this country. The State in India, as represented by the British Government, is a very curious and complex organisation and has to look to and provide for other interests than those of the Indian people. The State in India has two aspects. On the one side, it is the representative of the ruling country and nation, and has, therefore, to always look to the interests of the ruling race, both commercial and otherwise. Nay, it has to do more: it has to give necessarily preference to those interests over the interests of the Indian people, in all cases where there is conflict and competition between these. On the other hand, the State in India is also a representative of the Indian people, the protector of their interests and the promoter of their well-being. And this curious composition of the Indian Government differentiates it from all other civilised Governments in the world, and, therefore, State-socialism, though it may be accepted as good in theory, cannot, necessarily, work well in practice, in this country at the present time. It would, practically, mean the promotion of the economic interests of the ruling people and the British capitalists, at the expense of those of the children of the soil. This is what the proposed Tea-cess evidently aims to do—namely to create a market for Indian tea, grown by British capitalists in India, with a view to help them to earn their usual dividend on their capital outlay in the tea-gardens in India. We are, therefore, compelled to protest against this measure.—*Bengalee*, Feb. 5.

To return to Sir Montague Turner's Bill, we find it beyond our capacity, we confess, to discover any justification for it, in the long speech with which he introduced it before the Viceregal Council, on Friday last. Indeed, Sir Montague himself seems to be conscious of the weakness of his cause and the only grounds on which he found it possible to support it are practically four. The first of these grounds is that the tea-industry is in a bad plight just now; second that it is really a sound industry and, therefore, deserves sympathy and help; third, that the proposed cess is really of the nature of a voluntary assessment; and fourth that a precedence for it exists in the practice of the Government in Ceylon, who levy a similar cess on all exported teas of 30 cents per 100 lbs. And we feel bound to say that none of these seem to us to justify the strange and unprecedented proposal presented by the Indian Tea Association and accepted by the Government of Lord Curzon with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India of which the present Bill is the direct practical outcome. As regards the first of these pleas that the tea-industry is in a bad plight, little need be said except what we have more than once pointed out in these columns, that these difficulties are the creation of the planters them-



selves. These are due to absolutely preventible causes. The planters ought to have regulated the outturn of their article by the demand that existed for it. This is the right and the universal economic method. That supply should be regulated by demand is a universal law in economics. The planters violated this law, and naturally have to suffer for their cupidity and their unwisdom. They took more lands, especially in Assam, than were needed actually by the necessities of their business and they expanded the cultivation of tea, when such expansion was not only needless but absolutely unjustifiable. There have been Indian tea-planters who never committed this mistake. The Bernerpara Tea Estate, for instance, owned by the Cachar Native Joint Stock Company, as soon as it saw that there was a downward tendency in the tea-market, at once stopped further extension of tea; but to make up for the loss caused by the declining prices, and to find employment for its existing labour force, it at once turned its attention to the cultivation of jute and rice and other agricultural products which could command large and fairly profitable markets in the country. This was a wise method; and if the other tea gardens had adopted it, they could have easily tided over their present difficulties, and really added to the economic strength of the country, by bringing fresh land under rice and other agricultural products, for which an almost unlimited market exists in the world. This they failed to do, and this lack of foresight and a proper appreciation of the real situation in regard even to their own article of trade is entirely responsible for their present difficult and deplorable condition. But because these difficulties are of their own creation, and are the consequences of their ignorance or their unwisdom, or their cupidity, there is no reason why they should not deserve our sympathy or help. This a rue, no doubt; but our sympathies should not be wasted, and our help must be productive of some tangible and real good. In anticipation of this question, evidently, Sir Montague Turner declared that "*the tea industry is quite a sound one.*" Indeed, it is on its soundness alone that he bases its claim to the sympathetic consideration of the Government. But the Hon'ble Member did not attempt to prove his thesis at all, or if any proof be brought forward at all, it was simply the fact that the Government had consented to help it, for such help could be justified only on the ground of the industry being essentially a sound one. Here, however, Sir Montague simply argues in a circle. The tea-industry is sound because the Government of India is willing to help it. The Government of India has been willing to help the tea-industry, because it is essentially a sound industry. This is the plain and simple analysis of Sir Montague's position and statement in regard to this matter. Indeed, the thing seems evidently so plain to the Hon'ble Member that he takes no pains whatever to support his statement by any fact or argument. But men with less faith than Sir Montague will want, naturally, to know how is it, if the tea-industry is really so sound, that it has found itself in such a mess at present. Perplexities are not, we believe, a sign of financial health in any business, nor is decline of prices, and, above all, when this decline is due to the excess of outturn over demand, a proof of the soundness of an industry. The very fact that more tea is produced year after year than is needed by the consumers, proves rather the unsoundness of the whole thing. Nor can it be said that this excess is due to any temporary cause, such as famine or scarcity, or war, or pestilence, in the land of the consumers, which may, for the time being, upset the normal conditions of even the soundest industry. The South African War, with the resulting tea-duty, might have contributed slightly to the difficulties of the Indian tea-growers, but their perplexities commenced much earlier, and are much larger than is covered by this extraordinary cause. It is, as Sir Montague himself admits, and as has been pointed out by Mr. O'Connor, due entirely to over-production. Prices first began to fall—and that was long before the tea-duty was imposed,—in consequence of over-production. And when prices fell, because tea was produced in excess, the fall induced the directors of the different tea-companies to endeavour by further increasing the production to continue dividends to shareholders; and this endeavour to increase quantity was inevitably attended by a reduction in quality, the combination of the two bringing about a further fall in the prices. This is Mr. O'Connor's diagnosis of the present difficulties of the Indian tea-industry. In face of this diagnosis how could the Hon'ble Member say that the tea-industry was a sound one? No industry

is regarded as sound by any rational system of economy which is not in perfect harmony with the actual demands that exist for it. Superfluity in economics is an unerring sign of unsoundness. The Indian tea-industry is unsound for this cause. So, strictly speaking, the only ground on which Sir Montague Turner's plea might be accepted as valid fails to support itself either by the actual facts of the case or by any accepted principles of economics. We must defer a consideration of the other two pleas set up by Sir Montague to a future issue. In the meantime, we may say that we are somewhat surprised and disappointed to find so little attention being paid to this measure by our Press and public men so far. We realise the delicacy with which many people view this question, and the natural hesitancy they feel to oppose a measure which apparently does not seem to affect the general public in any way. The cess is wanted by those who will pay it: what reason then have others to say "nay" to it. This is apparently the feeling in the counters. This was our own feeling at first. But when we examine it closely we find that this Bill is not such a simple thing as it appears on the surface to be. It involves important principles. It creates a dangerous precedent, and as such we have felt it our duty to raise our voice against it, and we hope a mere sense of delicacy will not see the lips of our public men, in regard to the real and inner bearings of this Tea-cess Bill — *Benigalee*, Feb. 6.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### SHEVAROY.

Extract from Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the S. P. A. held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, at 1 p.m., on Monday, the 9th February, 1903. PRESENT:—Mr. W. I. Lechler, Rev. T. M. Kempff, Mr. J. C. Large, Mr. W. Rahm, Rev. M. Andersen, Mr. R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. Notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.

2. Read Secretary's Circular No. 2/03.

*Resolved*, that this Meeting agrees with the Chairman that steps should be taken to get Indian coffee represented at the St. Louis Exhibition in April 1904, but thinks the matter should be brought up at the next Conference of the U. P. A. S. I.

3. Read correspondence with the Collector about passes for cutting bamboos in Reserved Forests.

*Resolved*, that the Collector's reply to Honorary Secretary's letter, No. 184, of 5th instant, be awaited.

4. The new Labour Act, as amended by the Select Committee, was read and discussed.

It was unanimously resolved that in the opinion of this Meeting Act XIII of 1859 was better suited to this District than the present Act and that the Honorary Secretary be requested to urge upon the Planting Member the necessity of obtaining the insertion of a distinct clause, when the Act comes on for discussion in the Legislative Council, that the new Act will not be introduced in any District which may submit its objections to it to Government through the U. P. A. S. I.

Also that the Honorary Secretary be requested to ask the Planting Member to obtain a distinct promise from Government that Act XIII shall not be repealed in Districts which do not desire the introduction of the new Act.

The following letters were read and recorded:—

1. Secretary's Circular No. 3/03, dated 20th January, 1903, in which Government decline to remove duty from seeds.

2. Letter of 20th January from Mr. G. L. Acworth who will do all he can to get the new Labour Act made applicable only to those Districts that wish it, but doubts his ability to secure the retention of Act XIII.

3. Secretary's Circular No. 5/03, dated 26th January, 1903, giving criticisms of proposed new Labour Bill from Nelliampathy, N. Mysore, and Neilgherries.

4. Post card, dated 24th January, 1903, from Mr. W. C. Cobbe in reply to ours of 22nd January, 1903 *re* Police constables.

5. Letter of 23rd January from Mr. R. B. Clegg who will reply to Honorary Secretary's letters about Forest Passes in due course.



6. Secretary's Circular No. 6/03, dated 27th January, 1903, in which Coorg proposes further amendments in proposed new Labour Bill.

7. Letter of 30th January from Mr. E. G. Windle proposing that the voluntary Coffee Cess should be abandoned.

8. Secretary's Circular No. 7/03, dated 31st January, 1903, forwarding part of proposed Labour Bill as amended by Select Committee. Planting Member says he has been assured that its application to any District will be optional.

9. Letter from Inspector of Police, Salem, dated 1st February acknowledging complaint that the special constables had not visited Mr. Cobbe's estate and promising to see to it.

10. Secretary's Circular No. 8/03, dated 8th February, 1903, stating that Mr. Acworth has asked Secretary to Government to send twelve copies of the Labour Bill as amended in Committee for distribution to District Associations.

11. A number of books and papers received during the month were laid on the table.

(Signed) ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.

### WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club on February 4th, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. Abbott, Armstrong, Atzenwiler, Behr, Day, Mackinlay, J. R. Malcolm, Nicolls, S. H. Powell, Jr., Romilly, Taylor, Trollope, Waddington, and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*. Mr. Abbott in the Chair.

1. **Proceedings of last Meeting.**—Taken as read.

Resolved *nem. con.*—That the Resolution passed under the heading of "Tea Cess" and referring to the nomination of a planter on the proposed Tea Cess Committee be brought up again at the next Meeting of this Association for reconsideration.

2. **Finance.**—A discussion took place *re* the financial affairs of the Association; and it was decided that the matter be brought up at the next Meeting for decision.

3. **Pepper disease.**—Read letter of 16th January to Mr. Barber and his reply of same date.—*Recorded.*

Read Mr. Barber's letter of January 23rd—covering his preliminary report. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to reply.

4. **Money Orders and Postal.**—Read letter of January 22nd to Postmaster-General *re* late arrival and delivery of Mails at Vayitri; and his reply of 28th idem stating the affair would be looked into.—*Recorded.*

Read letter of January 22nd to Superintendent of Post Offices, Calicut *re* the deficiency of 2-anna bits. Read his reply stating letter had been forwarded to Treasury Deputy Collector, Calicut, for his remarks and to Postmaster, Vayitri, for his explanation.—*Recorded.*

5. **Police Commission.**—Read Honorary Secretary's replies to the list of questions.—*Recorded.*

6. **U. P. A. S. I.**—(a) *Labour Law.*—Read Mr. Romilly's (Chairman of Special Committee) letter to Hon'ble Mr. Acworth *re* the Draft Labour Bill.

Read Circulars 1, 5, 6, and 7 of 1903.

Resolved, that a Meeting of the Special Committee of this Association be called immediately on receipt of the report and amendments of the Select Committee to consider them.

(b) *Sale of Tea in S. India.*—Read letter of January 22nd to Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

(c) *Tea Cess.*—Read letter of January 22nd to Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

Also read Circular 2/03, St. Louis Exhibition, and Circular 3/03, Import duty on seeds for agricultural purposes.

*Papers on Table*—

Planting Opinion; Indian Planting and Gardening; Commercial Circular 3/02, Rubber; I. T. A. Circulars; Proceedings of Nelliampathy Planters' Association, January 7/03; Proceedings of Shevaroy Planters' Association, January 12/03.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) C. E. ABBOTT,  
Chairman.

( " ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
Honorary Secretary.

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of January 23rd, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The *London Commercial Record* says:—Supplies at auction during the week have been very moderate, and no material change in the position has occurred. Small quantities of new crop East India have been sold but barely on the basis of previous transactions, whilst fine Costa Rica has fully maintained its value, and Santos went off readily at full rates. Other descriptions are unaltered. A dull tone has prevailed in the market for "futures," and prices show some reduction for the week, owing to large receipts at the shipping ports; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 26s 3d to 26s 1½d, May at 26s 10½d, July at 27s 6d to 27s 3d, September at 28s to 27s 10½d, and December at 28s 6d.

London .. .. Santos ..	March delivery ...	26s 3d.
New York .. .. No. 7 Rio...	" ..	4.30 cents.
Hamburg... .. Santos ..	" ..	26¾ pf.
Havre ... .. Santos ..	" ..	32 francs.

Catalogues to-day embraced 313 bags East India, 38 bales Mocha, 173 bags Nyassaland, 50 bags 62 barrels Jamaica, 1,257 bags Costa Rica, 44 bags New Granada, 194 bags Vera Paz, 238 bags Guatemala, 116 bags Columbian and 366 bags Bahia. A quiet market and no change in prices.

Brazil futures opened firmer on smaller receipts and better Continental advices, and a fair business has been passing, including March at 26s 4½d to 26s 3d, May 27s to 26s 10½d, July 27s 9d to 27s 6d, September 28s 1½d to 28s, December 28s 10½d to 29s.

Closing quotations:—		Sellers.	Buyers.
March .. ..	...	26/6	26/3
May .. ..	...	27/	26/10½
July .. ..	...	27/6	27/4½
September ..	...	28/3	28/1½
December ..	...	29/	28/9

Brazil receipts 28,000 bags, against 39,000 and 22,000 the two previous seasons, and exchange ½ higher at 11½.

Hamburg unchanged to ¼ up. Havre ¼ up. New York opens unchanged.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	25,886	13,574	3,283	2,745
	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	806	1,021	1,001	456

The preceding figures exhibit—	Tons.
In the Imports an increase this year of	588
Home Consumption a decrease of	215
Export an increase of	545
Stock an increase of	12,312

Auctions this week have gone off as under:—

EAST INDIA.—534 bags partly sold as follows: *Coorg*, smalls 39s, low middling 42s to 45s 6d, common bold 48s 6d to 52s, peaberry 43s 6d to 51s; *Neilgherry*, smalls 43s, middling 47s 6d to 48s, peaberry 57s.

JAMAICA.—112 bags sold, ordinary to good ordinary palish 30s to 32s 6d, fine to fine fine ordinary greenish 36s to 42s 6d, peaberry 38s.

COSTA RICA.—999 bags sold—smalls 31s to 48s, low middling to middling 44s to 52s, good middling blue 54s to 65s 6d, fair bold 64s to 68s, good to fine blue bold 72s to 81s, very fine 87s, peaberry 55s 6d to 79s.

GUATEMALA.—Of 370 bags offered 70 bags sold—ordinary foxy greenish 30s.

NICARAGUA.—20 bags sold—bold bright pale 40s.

MEXICAN.—82 bags sold—smalls 34s 6d, middling 50s, bold 54s, peaberry 46s.

COLOMBIAN.—Of 1,316 bags damaged offered 850 bags sold—smalls 29s, good ordinary 30s to 31s, fine ordinary to low middling 38s to 43s 6d, bold 42s 6d to 48s 6d.

ST. DOMINGO.—24 bags bought in.



SALVADOR.—55 bags withdrawn.

ECUADOR.—275 bags, country damaged bulked; sold at 25s to 25s 6d for bold palish.

BRAZIL.—Of 1,927 bags Washed Santos Dumont 1,650 bags sold—small 28s to 31s 6d, medium 32s to 41s 6d, bold to extra bold 35s to 51s, peaberry 36s 6d to 51s; of 375 bags Unwashed, quay terms, 200 bags sold—bold bright greenish foxy 37s, peaberry 32s. 500 bags Santos were bought in.

#### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio ...	2,720,000	3,701,000	1,775,000	2,297,000
Santos ...	6,030,000	7,466,000	5,774,000	4,887,000
Total ...	8,750,000	11,167,000	7,549,000	7,184,000
Crop ...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, previous day—d.

HAVRE, January 22.—Good average Santos January opened barely steady at 32f. and closed quiet at 32f., March opened at 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ f., May opened at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., September opened at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., December opened at 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ f. and closed at 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ f.

HAMBURG, January 22.—Good average Santos January opened steady at 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. and closed steady at 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf., March opened at 27pf. and closed at 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf., May opened at 27pf. and closed at 27pf., September opened at 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. and closed at 28pf., December opened at 29pf. and closed at 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf.

NEW YORK, January 22.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Jan	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.
Jan. 22 ...	4.25	4.25	4.30	4.40	4.50
Jan. 21 ...	4.25	4.25	4.35	4.45	4.55

#### TEA.

INDIAN.—Catalogues comprised only 33,100 packages. At the date of our former circular they totalled 41,200 and 47,700 a year ago.

For the time being business passing seems to have relapsed into one of a hand-to-mouth nature, and the moderate offerings for the week proved sufficient for current requirements.

The market ran on much the same lines as last week, improved quality selling freely at a fully proportionate advance, while common and ordinary descriptions were unsteady; sellers were, however, generally firm, and in cases where previous values were not forthcoming, the hammer did not fall. Undesirable common leaf met with offers at from 5d to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, the sweeter kinds bringing 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. Fannings and dusts from 5d to 7d show a distinctly easier level of value than a short time back.

The remarks in our last issue on the general situation hold good. According to private cables the period since elapsed accounts for a further shrinkage of 1,003,000 lbs. in the Calcutta export to the United Kingdom, making a deficit to date of 7,000,000 lbs. compared with last year, and of 16,000,000 lbs. contrasted with shipments to 15th instant in 1901. The quantity remaining to be sold in Calcutta after this week is estimated at some 20,000 packages, against 30,000 in 1902.

For 26,700 packages on estate account 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. was obtained, opposed to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for 42,200 and 7d for 45,000 in the two foregoing season.

CEYLON.—Public auctions included the reduced amount of 21,600 packages contrasted with 26,500 on the 13th instant, and 24,800 twelve months since.

Competition was fairly good, but partly due to the less attractive flavour possessed by most of the arrivals prices showed some irregularity, and often ruled slightly in favour of buyers. Importers, however, inclined to firmness, and with a brighter tone towards the close many lots withdrawn owing to unsatisfactory bids were placed at an advance on offers made in the room. Quotations for common to medium leaf were generally  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. weaker than those for slightly better teas last week, though where quality was maintained not much change was apparent. Broken Pekoes and Broken Orange Pekoes also did not do so well except in the case of the few really stand-out lots. The average is 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. On the 15th instant it was rather over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d in 1902.

JAVA.—Only 313 packages of direct import were submitted, and met a steady demand, on the whole to the advantage of importers.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From January 1 to 20, 1903	12,871,387 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	18,887,912 ..

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India ...	22,248	10,829	33,077
Ceylon ...	15,673	5,926	21,599
Java ...	242	71	313
Total ...	38,163	16,826	54,989

Also 51 packages from second hands.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated January 23rd, 1903, says:—

#### QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	1,002,920	741,083	47,315
1901-1902 ...	1,048,587	751,558	47,051
33,646 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 55,670 packages were offered in public auction			
21,711 " CEYLON } this week.			
313 " JAVA }			

Since the 1st June there has been an increase in duty payments of nearly ten million pounds compared with the same period last season.

As it is natural that duty-paid stocks will be reduced to a minimum in view of the coming Budget, it is satisfactory to note that clearances are continuing fully up to normal quantities. This shows that the stocks of tea held in the country out of bond are even now exceptionally small.

It also points to the fact that demand for actual consumption is in close touch with present offerings; consequently any reduction in supplies should be immediately felt.

INDIAN.—The market has not recovered from last week's heavy sale, bidding lacking animation with a tendency to easier prices for all except good medium and better liquoring teas, for which there was a fairly good demand.

The official wire give exports to U. K. for the first half of January as 4,300,000 lbs., against 5,480,000 lbs. for same period last year, making the total exported to U. K. from 1st April to the middle of January 134,690,000 lbs., against 140,961,800 lbs. last season.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 26,666 pkgs., av. 7.70d. 1902, 41,807 pkgs., av. 7.52d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 747,962 pkgs., av. 7.29d. 1901-2, 793,028 pkgs., av. 7.94d.

CEYLON.—Although the sale was somewhat lighter, bidding continued slack, and teas under 6d per lb. were, generally speaking, about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. cheaper, but for such kinds as possessed distinctive point prices ruled fairly steady. For next week only 16,895 packages are advertised.

Private advices from Ceylon give shipments to U. K. for 1st half of January as 3,500,000 lbs., against 4,200,000 lbs. last year. Average for week 7.45d, against 7.49d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 67,948 pkgs., av. 7.59d. 1902, 78,695 pkgs., av. 7.44d.

JAVA.—Only 313 packages were catalogued, of which 108 "Goalpara" averaged 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 14 $\frac{5}{16}$ . Colombo 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

#### COCOA.

Public sales on Tuesday offered 4,037 bags, the bulk of which was Ceylon, this growth experiencing a good demand at an advance on good and fine, whilst other descriptions, were quiet. Trinidad was represented by 529 bags, of which 255 bags sold at 61s to 64s 6d for good to fine, and 58s to 60s for ordinary to middling, being about previous value. No Grenada catalogued. 40 bags good fermented Dominica realised 56s—a steady price. 191 bags Jamaica and 50 bags Jeremie were bought in. 30 bags Cuba were placed at 53s to 55s. Guayaquil slow of sale, and of



458 bags catalogued only about 100 bags found buyers at 63s for ordinary Caraquez. 25 bags Brazil retired unsold, as did 36 bags African. There was an active enquiry for good and fine grades of Ceylon at 2s to 3s per cwt. advance, but other qualities hung fire somewhat, without, however, being any cheaper; 2,678 bags offered and 1,175 bags sold—fine to very fine bold and medium red 77s to 83s, fair to good ditto 67s 6d to 74s, fair medium 60s to 63s, ordinary medium and small 53s to 58s, common to good small 42s to 52s 6d, collected 53s to 56s, and pickings 33s to 40s per cwt.

Private sales include some fine Trinidad at 66s, 160 bags ordinary Jamaica at 52s, some good red Costa Rica at 55s, Samana at 54s, and small lots of fair to fine red Caraquez Guayaquil at 64s to 70s per cwt.

### PEPPER.

**BLACK.**—The market is lower for arrival and the close is very quiet. About 150 tons Singapore have changed hands since our last, including January-March shipment at  $6\frac{1}{16}$ d down to  $5\frac{1}{16}$ d. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at  $6\frac{1}{16}$ d, being steady.

At auction on Wednesday 332 bags Penang bought in at  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6d, 40 bags Tellicherry at  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d, and 30 bags Aleppy at  $6\frac{1}{16}$ d.

The shipments of Black Pepper for the first half of January compare as follows:—

	1903.	1902.
U. K.—Singapore	40 } 40	10 } 20
„ Penang	nil }	10 }
Continent	20	40
U. S.	30	220
Total tons	90	280

**WHITE.**—quiet. For arrival there are sellers of Singapore January-March shipment at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d. On the spot a limited business has been done at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d for fair Singapore and at  $9\frac{3}{16}$ d for fair Penang.

At public sale on the 21st instant of 272 bags Singapore catalogued only 45 bags sold—good fair  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d. 20 bags Siam retired at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d, and 206 bags Penang at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $9\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

The shipments of White Pepper for the first half of January compare as follows:—

	1903.	1902.
U. K.—Singapore	90 } 130	220 } 340
„ Penang	40 }	120 }
Continent	30	nil
U. S.	nil	nil
Total tons	160	340

### GINGER.

**COCHIN.**—is very quiet. 48 cases 217 bags were offered, but bids being low nothing sold; 85s was the buying-in price of good bold cut, 60s of medium and small cut, and 36s per cwt. of common rough.

**JAMAICA.**—41 barrels common hard lean dark sold at 37s 6d to 38s 6d per cwt.

### QUININE.

Quinine has been very quiet pending the result of the Amsterdam cinchona auctions. A few small sales have been made at  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d to 1s per oz. spot, for German sulphate, the market closing on Wednesday with further buyers at the lower figure.

### CARDAMOMS.

Cardamoms sold at irregular but about 1d per lb. lower rates. Ceylon-Mysore, good bold pale bright, were bought in, but 2s 8d was afterwards accepted privately; medium and bold pale sold at 2s 4d; bold medium pale, 1s 8d to 1s 10d; small and medium pale, 1s 1d to 1s 2d; very small pale, 11d; brown splits and pickings, 10d to 1s; bold pale splits, 1s 7d, and medium splits, 1s 2d to 1s 3d. Decorticated seeds were rather easier, small selling in quantity at from 1s 3d to 1s 4d, but for fine 1s 5d is wanted.

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Conditions of Men”

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Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat,  
Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Tooth-  
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Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all  
bodily aches and pains,

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SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price  $1\frac{1}{2}$  &  $2\frac{1}{6}$ .

# CONQUERS PAIN





## MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1ST JUNE TO 31ST DECEMBER AS SHOWN BY CUSTOM HOUSE RETURNS.

	IMPORTS.			DUTY PAYMENTS.			EXPORTS.*		
	1902.	1901.	1900.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian ..	115,718,949	115,884,201	117,207,626	80,298,124	71,518,963	64,857,818	8,218,739	7,025,155	6,590,901
Ceylon ..	60,669,357	57,125,862	63,927,704	50,818,503	50,336,035	53,433,857	10,775,971	10,753,308	8,526,957
China ..	12,939,698	17,267,769	16,893,045	5,847,184	5,329,319	5,964,725	8,573,999	6,008,040	8,359,248
Other Countries ..	5,592,587	5,896,667	5,297,506	4,620,454	4,755,342	3,627,469	845,885	537,400	554,314
Total lbs. ...	194,920,591	196,174,499	203,325,881	141,584,265	131,939,659	127,883,869	28,414,594	24,323,903	24,031,420

	INDIAN.			CEYLON.		
	1902.	1901.	1900.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Countries in Europe ..	4,209,393	4,054,069	4,142,081	5,381,400	5,989,732	5,293,212
United States ..	984,849	533,012	365,179	1,259,074	1,514,168	551,641
British North America ..	1,022,699	490,567	777,586	1,758,396	1,185,219	1,119,614
Newfoundland ..	63,520	84,090	73,379	218,151	252,896	220,446
Other Countries ..	1,938,278	1,862,817	1,232,676	2,158,950	1,811,293	1,337,044
Total lbs. ...	8,218,739	7,025,155	6,590,901	10,775,971	10,753,308	8,526,957

	CHINA.			OTHER COUNTRIES.		
	1902.	1901.	1900.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Countries in Europe ..	4,276,000	3,112,613	5,005,261	702,067	471,745	420,696
United States ..	594,899	228,106	174,382	25,055	6,412	14,901
British North America ..	300,536	146,037	223,120	26,156	10,738	23,837
Newfoundland ..	50,601	34,625	148,804	5,098	5,796	2,101
Other Countries ..	3,351,963	2,486,659	2,807,681	87,509	42,709	92,779
Total lbs. ...	8,573,999	6,008,040	8,359,248	845,885	537,400	554,314

\* Analysis of above export of tea from U. K. during the last three years (not including transhipments).

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·70d., JANUARY 23RD.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ..	60	6½	...	...	60	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kodanaad ..	1144	6·53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore ..	12	5½	...	...	...	...	5	6½	6	5½	...	...	1	1
Isfield T Co Isfi ..	200 p	6½	81 p	+6½ 7½	74	+6	...	...	27	5½	...	...	18½c	5
Kan Dev H Co N ..	329 p	7	112 p	+7½ 8½	94	+6½	110	7½ 7½	45	5½	...	...	28 p	5½ 6
TTE Co Bon Ami ..	127	6½	48	6½ 7	34	6	45	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Kolie Kaanum.	133	6	44	6½ 9½	58	+5½	...	...	13	5½	...	...	18	5½
„ Mount ..	99	6½	8	7	27	6	23	7	5	5½	5	6½	21	6½
„ Pambanar ..	112	6½	69	6½ 7½	26	6	...	...	11	5½	...	...	6	+5½
Vembenard ..	132 p	6½	58	+6½ +7½	38	5½	...	...	...	...	...	...	36½c	7
Wynaad ..	318	6·00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Askern ..	36	6½	14	6½ 7½	8	6	...	...	10	5½	2	5½	2	5½
Chulika ..	79 p	7½	30½c	9	28	6½	13½c	7½	8	6	...	...	...	...
Kanambyle & C ..	38 p	7½	...	...	...	...	38 p	7½ 7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tanga Mulla ..	165	5½	24	5½	26	5½	22	6½	25	5	...	...	68	4½ 5½

## INDIAN GREEN TEA.

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Young Hyson.		Hyson No. 1.		Hyson No. 2.		Fannings and Dust.	
	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.
Baroora T Co ..	...	...	186½c	7	116½c	+7	60½c	+7	10½c	+6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1903.

[No. 8.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 27th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*February 16th.—Weather—*East wind and hot sun. Nights rather close. *Crop prospects—*Spike budding nicely, next year should be an average one. *Works—*Gleaning, pruning, weeding, manure. *Plant diseases—*Borer will be above the average. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Scarcer.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 17th February.—Weather—*Fine with some East wind. All signs of rain have fortunately passed away. Rain now would be premature owing to the backwardness of the bud. *Crop—*Stripping is finished in many cases, and gleaning has been started. Pruning is also making good progress. Manures are being got on to roads for applying to trees.

#### Kotagiri.

*19th February.—Weather—*has been gradually clouding up, and 1 inch 40 cents fell last night. This will bring out a blossom, but not nearly such a good one as would have come had the rain held off for two or three weeks more, as a lot of the spike is not forward enough. *Work—*Stripping is in full swing on most places, and where Leeming's system has not been adopted, pruning is being taken in hand. *Labour—*Plentiful. *Health—*Good, all round.

### THE BRITISH TEA DUTY.

THE text of the memorial lately presented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of tea-producers and traders is now available. We give the memorial on another page and would at once say that, while it makes some good points, we regard it as defective in at least one important particular. Dealing with the subject of the British Import Duty on

Tea, the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association (Calcutta), say that "they have always held very strongly that the gradual reduction and ultimate abolition of the duty is one of the objects for which tea-producers should steadily and consistently work." They have observed with much satisfaction that the Ceylon Planters' Association and the U. P. A. S. I. are in substantial accord with this opinion. The Indian Tea Association, London, are, they remark, of the same mind. Yet in the memorial we do not find a word said about the *gradual* reduction of the duty or its eventual abolition! That memorial is signed on behalf of the Indian Tea Association (London), the Ceylon Association in London, the Tea Buyers' Association, and the Tea Brokers' Association. All it asks for is the early removal of the 2d. a pound additional tax levied for the purpose of raising the British Revenue during the continuance of the War in South Africa. It may be that reference to further reductions has been omitted deliberately, with some idea that this is a more tactful course, or that too much should not be asked at once. To us, however, this course savours of either cowardice or a want of straightforwardness. Not for a moment would we have had asked for more than the reduction of the present import by 2d.; but we would certainly have liked to see a clear statement that the eventual aim of the tea-trade and tea-producers is to get the whole tax abolished. There would then have been something on record that would probably prove very valuable in the future.

Our contention is, simply, that the memorial does not go far enough. The present tax is 6d. per lb. A reduction by 2d. would be useful, a further reduction to the same amount would be just as useful; but far more valuable would be the removal of the final 2d. for whenever this comes about the tea-trade of London will be set free from many trammels that seriously hamper progress at present. There is more at stake than the mere removal of the duty; what is needed is, not only reduction of the cost of tea to the producer by admitting it into the United Kingdom free of duty, but the abolition of various burdens that it now has to bear in the form of excessive warehouse charges and other restrictive measures or influences. As far as it goes, the memorial is a good one. It shows, for instance, that the total value of tea imported into the United Kingdom from India and Ceylon last year amounted to £7,300,000, while taxation paid on the same was over £6,000,000, more than 80 per cent. of the



value. This, the signatories point out, is the heaviest burden imposed on any industry, save those engaged in the supply of alcoholic liquors and tobacco. What they do not point out is, that it is a burden that is supplemented by another of about equal magnitude brought about by the artificial inflation of the rupee. Another point is made in regard to the hardship the tax lays on the poorer classes in Ireland, where tea is almost a necessary of daily life. The memorialists draw attention to the state of things in Canada, Australia, the United States, and Germany, where tea is either, as in the case of the first two countries, on the free list altogether, or, as in the latter case, about to be considerably reduced. The last argument for the desired reduction of taxation relates to the immense benefit the tea industry has been to the parts of the Empire where it has been introduced. As a London writer remarks, "an industry which has brought prosperity to countless native labourers, and has caused wide districts of waste land to be brought into cultivation, beside developing communication and providing a healthy outlet for capital deserves encouragement, and ought not to be kept back or harassed by the overwhelming burden of excessive taxation."

All this is good. The opinion seems to be held that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will think so, and that something beneficial to the tea industry will result. But much must depend upon the state of Imperial finances, when Budget estimates are coupled. Our own view is that the memorial should be strenuously pushed. If once we put aside the argument that abolition of duty might help China even more than India or Ceylon, we must press our case. Nothing should be left to chance. The clearest possible arguments should be placed before Members of Parliament as well as before Government. There is scarcely a chance that the idea of a preferential tariff, bearing more lightly on British-grown than on foreign teas would be entertained. But we should certainly let the Government and Parliament know what the tea industry of India and China really is, its importance, its difficulties, and the advantages that would accrue to those interested in it—and through them to various parts of the Empire—if the duty were abolished; and, in a minor degree, if it were reduced. As regards a reduction, the strongest argument available is that the extra 2d. was levied for a specific purpose, and that when once this exists no longer the 2d. should disappear also.

#### INDIAN COFFEE IN LONDON.

To judge from brokers' reports, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the quality of Indian Coffee offered in London early this year showed marked deterioration from the standards of a few years ago. It is not as if these reports stood unsupported—though even then there would be no reason to question the good faith of brokers. What they have said finds all too much support in the record of prices realised. Among some of the early sales Nilgiri Coffee actually fetched better prices than well-known brands from Coorg and Mysore; but the average of all sorts was poor, and the highest level reached was below that of some South American offerings. Costa Ricas are also said to show a falling off from the level of last year's quality, but Indians exhibit even greater deterioration, if price be a fair gauge.

In the first fifteen days of the year the top price realised for E. I. Coffee was

64s. ("Adderley", 'A').

For Peaberry nothing higher than 59s. was reached, so we may judge that large berries are still in favour. Chisholm's "Banargalle" and "El Dorado" sold at 59s. Some Peaberry of good marks sold as low as 47s. 6d., and "A" as low as 51s. Yet we gather from various London reports that it is doubtful if even these rates are not too high, when compared with current prices of Brazil descriptions, the supply of which appears to be inexhaustible. There is every reason to believe that Indian Coffee would stand a much better chance in the London market if all "C" and "T" were sold in India. This would raise the average standard of the E. I. coffees placed on the Home market, and would probably go far towards the recovery of lost prestige. This is a point to which we would invite all coffee-planters to give special attention. Good crops will not entirely compensate men for poor prices. It is worth noting, too, that reports of deterioration always seem to gain strength when crops are large. The suggestion has been made to us that this may be due to over-hasty curing, conducted by firms upon whom the pressure of work is very heavy. This is a matter that seems to call for investigation.

#### MR. YULE ON TEA MATTERS.

Presiding at the half-yearly Meeting of the Bank of Calcutta on the 9th instant Mr. David Yule said he could not help wishing that the energy put into the extension of the tea bush, had been available for jute as well. Since 1885 the acreage under tea has increased by 241,030 acres or 85 per cent., while the quantity of tea brought to market is larger by 167 per cent. Keeping in view the even more extraordinary increase in the crop of Ceylon, he thought it beyond question that the Indian tea industry has faced its difficulties with remarkable success. Not only have planters battled against the depression which the enormous annual increase in production was bound to create in the consuming markets, but they have had to bear the strain of high rates of interest and other heavy indirect charges on production brought about by the closing of the mints. There is indeed hope in smoother waters for an industry, which has kept its head above that sea of trouble for so long, and he was glad to say planters were having more time at their disposal for the congenial task of finding new markets for their production.

Mr Yule then said:—

From what has been done in the past in this direction, it is evident that private enterprise has been very much to the fore, and I am inclined to think that the proposed Tea Cess will be more a source of irritation than of advantage to those engaged in distributing tea in foreign markets. Until a very few years ago, London buyers alone attended the Calcutta Auction Rooms, but now there are many representatives of other markets, and this past season sellers welcomed the presence of direct buyers from Russia. There is no doubt that direct purchases for foreign markets will increase rapidly, and if these markets are to be properly served, there must be an end to the conservatism which prompts owners to pass this market at their doors in favour of London, where the shipments create a glut and consequent decline in prices in other markets. The existence of the Cess cannot but create the impression that we have still more tea than we know how to deal with, and I am sorry to say that in many other ways growers help to decry and depreciate the position and value of their own produce. If the men who are yearly responsible for the circulation of exaggerated crop estimates and who frighten buyers



with schemes for destroying millions of pounds of tea, confined their attention to the disposal of their own teas, the industry here would be relieved of an infliction which is much more troublesome and dangerous than red spider and green fly. The tea industry wants peace and freedom from the interference of those whose hysterical fears show how little faith and less knowledge they have of its strength. The Tea Cess Bill now before the Legislative Council is, in my opinion, an indication of the decay of commercial independence in Bengal, and of the power which representative men used to possess of whipping into the fold the willing and the unwilling, when any scheme for the benefit of trade had to be carried through. No one, so far as I am aware, has made any attempt to discover the views of those who are against the Cess, but to save this trouble the Council is called upon to use the machinery of the State to crush out dissent. Legislation of this kind is truly termed novel, but it is also mischievous and dangerous.

### COFFEE NOTES.

The Arabian coffee-maker, having prepared his fire of charcoal and placed it near a huge pot containing water, takes a few handfuls of green coffee berries, carefully culls out all imperfect berries and foreign substances, and then places the best of the berries in an iron ladle held over the fire, says an unknown exchange. The berries are permitted to roast until they begin to smoke and are then, while still uncharred, placed in a small mortar and carefully brayed with a pestle closely fitting the cup of the mortar. The berries are not, however, reduced to a dust. While this process has been going on, a small pot has been half-filled with tepid water from the large pot and placed over the fire. When the water in the small pot has begun to boil, the broken coffee berries are thrown in, and the boiling is permitted to go on for a short time, the decoction being stirred with a spoon when it shows signs of boiling over. The coffee is then served in small cups without cream or sugar.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market continues quiet and for the most part dull, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of the 21st ultimo. Except for a fairly satisfactory business in the distributing line there is no marked activity and none seems in sight. It had been hoped that the post holiday season would shake off the sloth that usually deadens business at the end of the year but it is not coming to pass. Except for some manœuvre on the part of the speculators there is no reason why now a brisk trade should eventuate, as nothing has happened or is happening to alter the unfavourable statistical position of coffee. Perhaps more would be doing if prices were permitted to reach the level the vast supplies on hand dictate, but that is an old story. Speculatively the market is especially quiet with the leading bull interest buying for distant delivery. There is also not a little transferring of March contracts to September at a difference of about 47½ points. Receipts at Santos still continue heavy for this period of the year. The spot market for invoices close at 5¼c. for Rio No. 7, 6c. for Rio No. 4, and 6¼c. for Santos No. 4. In Milds prices are firm but business for the most part slow. There is plenty of coffee at the ports of Venezuela, but the blockade in force prevents it from assisting the diminished supplies here. Holders are not indulgent of offerings and at the prices ruling sales effected are few. At Maracaibo Cucutás are again being received. East Indias are quiet.

The *Brazilian Review*, commenting upon the recent Coffee Congress says that São Paulo has made up its mind to drive

all other competitors from the field. "In ten years," says the *Review*, "if things go on as they are, São Paulo will practically have coffee all to itself."

**U. S. Coffee Market Review.**—Mr. W. H. Bennett writes in the *Spice Mill*:—

The coffee market for the past month has been rather quiet. This is no more than could be expected for the past two weeks as the coffee buyers from the first to the last of the year will not buy without there are some inducements and as this is stock-taking time there has been nothing to tempt them.

Rio No. 7 has been quoted at 5¼ cents for the past six months and at this price it seems to hold firm.

Good roasting coffees, when you come to search the market, are hard to find, especially so in No. 6 and No. 7 Rios and No. 5, No. 6, and No. 7 Santos.

The price of 6 to 6½ cents which has been quoted for No. 5 Santos is deceiving, as they are very scarce and most of them are poor roasters.

Maracaibo coffees have advanced a half cent per pound within the last week and are firmly held on account of the scarcity of good roasters. The war in Venezuela doesn't seem to have any effect on them whatever.

Java coffees have fallen some and are attracting attention on account of the decline.

The spice market for the past month in a jobbing way has been quiet. Singapore pepper on account of its scarcity has held its price very firmly but I believe that those who are looking for any great advance in this article will be disappointed. The other grades of pepper have remained about unchanged. This is also true of Cassia. Zanzibar cloves are a shade higher.

### A FEW RECEIPTS.

**To Make Coffee the Good Old American Way.**—Take a teacupful of finely ground coffee for every five persons, varied according to the strength desired. Break into it an egg with shell, and mix thoroughly. Add a teacupful of cold water and mix again. Pour on a quart of boiling water and boil for ten minutes. Pour in a teacupful of cold water and let it stand three minutes to settle. Decant into a warm urn and serve immediately in warm cups. Use cream, condensed milk, or boiling milk. Have all the utensils used perfectly clean.

**Café Noir—Black Coffee.**—For one ordinary cup take two tablespoonfuls of coffee. Put in strainer, pressing down slightly. Pour on boiling hot water, put on cover, and leave the water to filter through for about eight minutes. If too strong, dilute with hot water to suit taste.

**Vienna Coffee.**—Use one heaping tablespoonful of coffee for ordinary sized cup. Prepare the same *Café Noir*. When serving to two parts of coffee and one part of hot milk add a tablespoonful of whipped cream which will float on top of the coffee. This will give a charming effect and add a delightful confection to the coffee.

Great is coffee and liberal is its profit! Liberal, but not so much in the actual margin as in the contingent advantages that come from the sale of a good blend.—*Merchants' Review*.

Black coffee is supplied by the *Cassia occidentalis* (a shrub belonging to the Leguminaceæ family), growing in the warm regions of Asia, America, and Africa, and emitting a very disagreeable odour. According to M. Bélanger, black coffee figured very prominently at the Universal Exhibition of 1855 in a number of products from Guadeloupe, and in the notice sent to the exhibition with these products the following interesting statement by Dr. Desbonne occurs:—"These nuts are collected and roasted, and, after having been reduced to powder, a very agreeable infusion can be prepared from them very similar to coffee." In the course of Dr. Desbonne's eulogy of this product he maintains that this infusion would



answer admirably as a coffee substitute, being, far preferable to coffee and chicory. In spite, however, of all this authority had to say with regard to this substance, its employment has always been very limited—principally, perhaps, owing to its high price.

In some parts of the West bogus representatives of New York coffee and tea houses, trading on the high reputation of the city in the tea and coffee lines, are finding a great many victims.

**U. S. Coffee Deliveries and Arrivals.**—Deliveries of coffee in New York during December were 378,171 bags Brazil and 82,267 bags other, against arrivals of 141,074 bags Rio, 121,347 bags Santos; 7,800 bags Victoria, 12,147 bags Bahia, and 83,384 bags other. New Orleans, 9,618 bags Brazil and 1,882 bags of other kinds, against arrivals of 82,237 Brazil, and 3,539 other kinds. San Francisco, 11,212 bags deliveries, against arrivals of 19,698 bags.

Total deliveries in the United States of all kinds, 493,649 bags, against arrivals of 471,226 bags.

### TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of January 21 reports:—The tea market is strong all along the line and especially in Formosas, Japans, and Greens, where advances from one-half cent to one cent have taken place. The continued hardening of the market is encouraging to the optimists of the trade, who point with satisfaction to their predictions as heretofore made and now justified by events. They look for still higher prices. As certain teas, like Formosas, Japans, and Greens, are scarcer than ever, with no hope of adding to the limited supplies from any source anywhere before the next season's teas can arrive some six months hence, their further prediction of still another advance in the market must be accepted with no little credence. A factor in the market for higher prices is the export demand for teas for England. If it continues as large in volume as it has been in the last month the market here will become fancy indeed, and traders will scarcely know what to do for teas. Although the quantity of tea in the United States is estimated at more than 85,000,000 pounds it is the general belief that eight-tenths of this total has been sold, leaving two-tenths in first hands with which to do a business still six months long. That makes a very small quantity of tea to get along with, and the fact ought to indicate in a manner the market during that period.

All of the important tea merchants of Yokohama have formed a syndicate under the name of the Japan Tea Exporters' Union. Mr. Komada, of that city, is now in America, bringing the syndicate in touch with the American market.

The *Interstate Grocer* says:—The tea situation in this country is peculiar. It is a fact that we get tea from China, Japan, and India that the poorest labourer in England would turn up his nose at. We do not know what good tea is, because we have never tried it. The consumption of tea in this country for this very reason is one-tenth what it is in Great Britain.

The American people would, observes the *Merchants' Review*, soon become water-logged if they tried to equal the British consumption of tea without cutting out the coffee-drinking. It is because our people prefer coffee that tea is not more commonly drunk here. As regards quality, the tea inspection act excludes very low-grade teas from this country—teas

that would be admitted in Great Britain. The grocers here are not so ignorant as the article of *Interstate Grocer* implies. They know what good tea is, and they offer it for sale at from 50c. to \$1.00 a pound.

The appearance of samples of tea marked 30c. and 40c. in windows where the lowest grades quoted last year were at 40c. and 50c. is, says a New York paper, a sign that the consumer will reap in cash the full benefit of the removal of the duty, at least in the large New York stores, such as we refer to above. In many of the smaller stores the consumers will probably get half the saving in cash and half in improved quality. The exposure of tea in the show-window should be done with discretion, for the strength and flavour suffer when the tea is long uncovered, and when contaminating odours are allowed in the window the exposed leaf suffers doubly, losing its own subtle excellences and gaining foreign flavours that make but poor substitutes.

A Philadelphia young man visits Chinatown of that city regularly, and drinks the special tea which is brewed there at twenty-five cents a bowl. He will put away, in an evening, fifteen or twenty bowls, becoming finally as boisterous and silly as though he had put away as many cocktails, though he will not stagger. He says he remembers nothing after the ninth or tenth bowl of tea, and that on the day after one of his sprees he has a wretched headache and a sore, parched mouth.

According to official report received by *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, the tea transactions at the port of Boston during December, 1902, were as follows:—

Balance in warehouse December 1, 2,708,095 lbs.  
Amount entered during December, 1,352,537 lbs.  
Amount withdrawn during December, 105,186 lbs.  
Balance in warehouse December 31, 1902, 3,955,446 lbs.

**Tea in San Francisco, January 1.**—Tea movement at the port of San Francisco during December, 1902:

		Pounds.
Amount in warehouse November 31, 1902 ...		5,389,327
Imported—China ...	275,140	
Japan ...	431,296	
British East Indies ...	15,143	
	721,579	
Rewareh'sed from Chicago ...	21,181	
Added by liquidation ...	8,549	
	751,309	
Exported... ..	2,947	6,140,636
Transported ... ..	82,500	
Consumption ... ..	29,543	
	114,990	
Amount in warehouse December 31, 1902		6,025,646

**Total Export of Tea from all China.**—(*Siemssen & Co.'s Market Report*: Hongkong, January 30.)

	1902-1903.	1901-1902.
	lbs.	lbs.
To England ... ..	16,316,414	18,666,730
„ The Continent ... ..	6,825,541	6,584,664
„ Russia ... ..	25,638,813	30,052,347
„ America ... ..	57,373,145	36,002,180
„ Australia ... ..	1,138,697	2,036,969
„ South Africa ... ..	1,016,423	1,741,639
Total lbs... ..	108,309,033	95,084,529

**Caterpillar Pest.**—Mr. J. T. Withers writes from Neboda—Should you have room for the following details of the tea pest known as the *Stauropus Altermus* (Lobster Caterpillar), I would feel much



obliged if you would through your valuable columns, show to those that are interested, the danger there is, in not taking it in hand the instant that it is seen, or found on the tea-bush. The caterpillar is a very handsome beast, and is much like the Pussy Caterpillar that one used to hunt for, in the mother-country when collecting all sorts of butterflies and moths. The first that I heard of it was on the 5th of January, 1903, when a neighbour brought a few specimens to show me, telling me, that there were a great number on his field, which adjoins this estate, so I naturally was keen to see what it had done, and also to do my best to stop the poochies from spreading over my side, but alas! they had, on inspection already spread over an area of about two acres of my tea. I set to work at once, and had the patch that was attacked carefully gone over, and all the caterpillars cleaned off, as far as one was able to see, but to my astonishment, in the course of about sixteen days, the same kind of poochie appears again, not in hundreds as previously, but in dense masses on each tree.

The field referred to on the next door estate (24 acres) is eaten up, and merely the skeleton of the tree left, and other fields in the near proximity, are also full of the pest. Picking off is out of the question now, so I am pruning the whole of the 24-acre field, and burning the prunings, so as, if possible, to prevent the insect going through its natural course of life, and turning into the chrysalis, and afterwards into the moth which lays its myriads, (as the case may be) of eggs.

I might say that I am supervising the work on the adjoining estate now, and that it is a very serious affair, and I hope that some of your readers will let me know if they have experienced heretofore such trouble with the same insect and what their remedy was. Several of my neighbours and planters of the district have come over at my request, to see the barbaric work and devastation that there is going on.

Our local Chairman has also seen, and now knows that it is, what it is (serious), and a letter has been sent to Mr. Green to ask him to make a special visit to the district, to see the extent of damage that has been done, and also to give his advice about the matter.

Now while writing this I have a note from my conductor saying that he has found the poochie on another field. Those that have seen the fields attacked were not only surprised at the numbers, but at the rate that the tea was disappearing before their eyes, actually being able to hear the tea leaves being ripped off the bush by these impetuous insects.

## NOTES.

### The St. Louis Exposition.

We give some details elsewhere of the arrangements in regard to exhibits of tea, coffee, etc., at the St. Louis Exposition, and would call special attention to the statement that *free* space will be granted to exhibitors.

### Java Cinchona.

The shipments from Java for the first half of January were 227,000 Amsterdam lbs., and second half 360,000 Amsterdam lbs., total 587,000 Amsterdam lbs.; which compares with 975,000 Amsterdam lbs., in January, 1902, 1,000,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901, and 603,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1900.

### The Preservation of Wood.

According to the *I. P. G.*, Mr. T. H. Blower, an experienced Darjeeling tea planter, has discovered a solution which will preserve wood from the ravages of insects, especially the "Borer," so well known to planters. Mr. Blower claims that his remedy will make timber, of any kind, proof against insects of all kinds, both internally and externally. It will, moreover, prevent the growth of Fungi, which he asserts, give to tea the peculiar cheesy flavour

sometimes complained of, and, in addition, will harden the wood and make it practically damp proof.

### Coffee as an Investment.

In explaining a call of the stockholders of the Enterprise Coffee Co., of Baltimore, to double the capital stock of the company, Henry V. Casey, the President, said: "The market to-day on the Coffee Exchange is about two cents a pound lower than this time a year ago. The market was considered low a year ago, and no one would care to sell it short but the professional speculator. At the present low level of prices I consider coffee the best commercial investment to be had, and deem it a most opportune time to extend the business of the company."

### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 19 (31 Janvier 1902):* Le casse-noix "Paraguay" (Av. fig.).—La coca au Pérou.—Lettre d'Abyssinie.—Essences de Citrus.—Beurre de coco.—Canne à sucre (Rendements).—Articles et notes agricoles intéressant l'élevage, le café, le manioc, le caoutchouc, les fibres d'Agave et de Sansevieria, la gutta-percha, le macoya, le palmier à huile, le coquito de aceite, la ramie, l'arachide, l'ananas, l'orange, la vigne, etc. Informations et études commerciales concernant le caoutchouc, le thé, le mate, le café, le cacao, la banane, le kapok.—Contributions inédites de MM. F. Main, J. Poisson, Dr. Laveran, H. Neuville, Hecht frères & Cie (Paris), Ch. Rivière, E. Dazey (Alger), A. Savouré (Addis-Ababa), L. Gilbert (Tonkin), C.-A. Guigon (Marseille), O. Warburg (Berlin), H. Hamel Smith (Londres), P. Cibot (Rio-Beni), G. Le Testu (Dahomey), Lopezy Parra (Mexico), A. Cardozo (Mozambique).—Bibliographie.

### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 12th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally shows a fractional advance and that the market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady; while the market for teas for price is dearer. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6d. (the same as last week) and the average 7½d. (¼d. up). The average for the same period last year was 7d. Reuter reports that common qualities of Ceylon tea show a slight advance, and good to fine qualities of Broken Pekoe are in demand at full rates. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 5¾d. (¼d. up) and the average for the week is 7½d. (¼d. up). 18,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 16,000 disposed of; while of the 29,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 25,000 were sold at an average of 7½d. (½d. up). Calcutta advices dated 17th instant state that at the London sale on the 16th instant there were 26,419 packages. The market continues to gain strength. Very little clean leaf is purchasable even at sixpence. Pekoe kinds just above common are also moving.

### New Tea Warehouse for Calcutta.

The Calcutta Port Commissioners have had a comprehensive scheme of warehousing under consideration for some time past. The general outlines are that a large Warehouse be built at the 80 ft. entrance to the Tidal Basin of the Kidderpore Docks, which will be readily accessible to the Railway and River, and the Steamer Companies will discharge their cargo on to a pontoon which will be close to and in direct communication with the Warehouse. It is suggested that the building be divided off into sections, in



sizes suitable for the requirements of each firm and rents charged sufficient to cover interest, depreciation, etc., on the land and buildings. The Tea Garden Agents' sections would be at the north end nearest the river, the Tea Brokers' sections in the middle, and those of the Buyers' nearest the Docks. Teas for sale in Calcutta could thus be placed by the Steamer Companies straight into the Brokers' section from the inland vessels, while teas for direct shipment to London could in the same manner go into the Garden Agents' section where the invoices could be completed and the chests examined while awaiting shipment by ocean steamers. The Port Commissioners would undertake the transshipment of the tea from the Warehouse to the ocean steamer at rates covering only the actual outlay. It is estimated that a very considerable saving in the annual cost of transshipping and handling teas while in Calcutta would, under the proposed plan, be effected, while the risks of damage to tea chests and loss from thefts would be reduced to a minimum. The Port Commissioners have, it is understood, taken the necessary step for acquiring suitable land for the Warehouse between the Docks and the River, and the necessary funds have already been voted towards the cost of the buildings.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Hopes are entertained in some quarters that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will reduce taxation. Mr. Ritchie was playfully vague on the subject on Wednesday when speaking at the Crystal Palace. He said that South Africa would entail upon us a great expenditure, perhaps more than most people imagined; but he did not want them to believe that, considering all this, he should feel himself in a position to be unable when the Budget came on to reduce taxation. On the contrary, he believed he would, but the reduction would not be so great as most people seemed to imagine. Income tax payers and tea-growers are amongst those who hope for some relief, but it is unwise to form great expectations where Chancellors of the Exchequer are concerned.

The New York correspondent of the *Grocer*, referring to the demand for coffee and tea in the United States, says: "During the trade year ending June 30, 1902, the net imports of coffee were over a thousand million pounds. The *per capita* consumption is now about 11 lbs. Of the total supply Brazil furnished 82.3 per cent. The deliveries for the calendar year 1902, as officially reported by the New York Coffee Exchange, were 6,463,999 bags of 132 lbs. each; in Europe, 8,580,780 bags, making a total for the two countries of 15,044,779 bags, which is a fair statement of the average annual requirements of Europe and the United States. This is a beer and coffee consuming country. The use of tea seems to fall off rather than increase. On January 1, 1902, there were 47,606,789 lbs. of tea held in warehouse; on December 1, 1902, the quantity had reached 78,772,930 lbs., and probably on January 1, 1903, was over 85,000,000 lbs. The imports for eleven months of 1902 were 92,270,885 lbs.; exports, 866,749 lbs., leaving net imports of 91,404,136 lbs. The average annual consumption for three years ending June 30, 1902, is officially reported by the United States Bureau of Statistics at 80,501,993 lbs., or just about 1 lb. *per capita*. From 1892 to 1897 the average was 1.4 lb. *per capita*; that of coffee 9.2 lbs. The use of tea has declined four-tenths of a pound *per capita*; that of coffee increased one and eight-tenths pounds. This is surprising in view of the increase in population and the great prosperity of the country. Of the total imports of 92,270,885 lbs., the Chinese Empire furnished 49,565,928 lbs., or 54.3 per cent.; Japan, 30,843,714 lbs., or 33.7 per cent. The balance came from the United Kingdom, British North America, and the East Indies. If we call it all British-grown teas it would amount

to 12 per cent. of the total imports. We have no doubt that the judicious expenditure of at least £100,000 annually for the next five years would place British-grown tea in the second place, and if kept up another five years in the first rank. Is the game worth trying for?" asks the correspondent, and we imagine that producers will answer "Yes."

As will be gathered from letters we have printed from the *Westminster Gazette* on the subject, the respective merits of green and black tea have been discussed in the columns of that paper. The following additional correspondence has appeared:—"A Producer of Black Tea" writes: "I am pleased to see you admit the letter of 'Anti-Green Tea' on the subject of the hardship of an export tax in India and Ceylon on black tea in order to give a bounty to green, which without the bounty could not be profitably made, and thus taxing high estates for the benefit of the low. The tax, however, falls heaviest on estates, not quite the lowest in altitude, producing black tea just on or just below the paying point, as is, unfortunately, a Ceylon estate of mine. The export tax being per lb. falls most heavily on teas of lowest value. Your correspondent says that 'the consumption of black Ceylon tea is increasing by leaps and bounds; advertising has done its work, and it can now go alone.' He is certainly right, except as to advertising, if he means that paid for by the export tax. The countries where the 'leaps and bounds' have been greatest are just those where no public money has been spent—e.g., Great Britain, consuming 50 per cent. more of Ceylon tea than all countries, and Australia, or Russia, where little has been spent. The Ceylon export tax has existed now since 1893, when it was raised to provide funds for one year for the Chicago Exhibition, and then continued in order to advertise Ceylon tea. Prices since its imposition have steadily fallen from 9d. to 6½d. This fall has brought ruin to some, misery to many; but it has with the excellence of the tea itself increased consumption by 'leaps and bounds' in countries where none of the proceeds of the export tax has been spent. It is yet, after nine or ten years' experience, to be shown that the tax has benefited Ceylon planters one iota, and it is certainly wrong to continue it (for the benefit of growers of green tea."

To this another producer of black tea writes: "With reference to the letter appearing in to-day's issue, signed 'A Producer of Black Tea,' I beg the indulgence of space in your columns to invite a reply to this conundrum. What would have been the price of the 'producers of black tea' to-day but for the encouragement by means of the bounty given to producers of green tea in Ceylon? The writer must know that nearly four million pounds of black tea was taken off the market last year by being converted into 'greens' for the American and Canadian markets, and he may be unaware of the fact that this year the quantity is estimated to be increased to ten million pounds, thus making a corresponding decrease in shipments of black tea to this and other markets. The export tax or cess is at present 3 cent per pound in Ceylon currency (or 30 cents per 100 lbs.), and, considering the average price of Ceylon tea is at least 1d. per pound higher than it would have been but for the bounty offered to producers of green tea, I think your correspondent is hardly justified in grumbling at being taxed for his own benefit. With the continuance of the bounty the export of green tea will before long increase to twenty million pounds, and the result can only be to reduce the supplies of black tea to an extent that will bring production and consumption into line; and as the former is practically stationary, while the latter is progressing by leaps and bounds, it will be interesting to see how long the game now being played by the 'Combination of Buyers' to depress prices is likely to last."

There is every prospect, we learn, that the Clearing House will accommodate itself to circumstances and be reconstituted on wider lines. The recent dispute bids fair to have solved one or two knotty points, and as a friendly spirit now animates all concerned some useful result is hoped for.

A Consular report just issued (!) in reference to Mexico states that the amount of coffee exported in 1901 was 308,453 cwt., valued at £679,503, as against 431,361 cwt., with a value of £1,049,972 in 1900, showing that there was a decrease not only in quantity, but



also in amount. This was due to the failure in the crops in several of the plantations, the export representing what was over after the Home demand for consumption. The best-known coffee-growing districts are in the States of Vera Cruz, Michoacan, Oaxaca, and Colima, but many of the plantations started by American Agricultural Companies on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec are now commencing to bear fruit, "so that it may fully be expected," says the report, "that under normal conditions the exports for the present year (1902) will be greater."—*H. & C. Mail.*

## THE BRITISH TEA DUTY.

### THE JOINT LONDON MEMORIAL.

The following is the memorial, receipt of which has been acknowledged by the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

To the Right Honourable CHARLES T. RITCHIE, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Associations, representing the producers of tea in India and Ceylon, and the buyers and brokers engaged in the importation, sale and distribution of tea in London, have the honour to address you on the subject of the import duty on tea.

In February last, when it was feared that the tea duty might be increased, a deputation from these Associations was received by your predecessor in office, and had the honour of placing before him considerations against such an increase. The deputation did not press for a reduction in the duty, bearing in mind that the additional 2d. per lb. imposed in 1900 was admittedly a war tax, and that heavy war expenditure was still going on.

Now, however, that peace has happily been restored, we venture to approach you on the subject, and to submit for your favourable consideration our appeal for a reduction of the duty to the rate at which it stood before the outbreak of the war, *viz.*, 4d. per lb. In March next the extra duty will have been in force for three years, and we most respectfully beg to urge that the time has now come when we are justified in asking that the industry may be relieved from the additional burden put upon it.

We have no hesitation in saying that, contrary, we believe, to the wish and intention of the Government, at least half the extra 2d. per lb. imposed in 1900 has been borne by the producers. The consumer, whom the increase in the duty was intended to reach, has, owing to various causes, so far partially escaped the burden.

As was pointed out to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in February last, the tea planting industry has been suffering under severe depression for a considerable time, and the past three years have seen a serious reduction, and in many cases an entire disappearance of profit, resulting in great hardship and distress to the large body of investors in tea estates in India and Ceylon.

The following figures relating to the working of 45 Indian Tea Companies in the last ten years bear out these statements:—

Result of the working of 45 representative Indian Tea Companies registered in London—

Average Div.,	1892	7 %	Average Div.,	1897	5 %
Do.	1893	6½ %	Do.	1898	5½ %
Do.	1894	9 %	Do.	1899	5 %
Do.	1895	8 %	Do.	1900	3 90 %
Do.	1896	7½ %	Do.	1901	2 72 %

Depreciation in value of the capital of the above Companies—

Face value of 45 Companies	...	...	£9,500,000
Market value 1st July, 1897	...	...	£12,000,000
Do. 1st January, 1902	...	...	£7,000,000
Do. 1st December, 1902	...	...	£6,600,000

The figures relating to Ceylon Companies also show a very serious depreciation.

We do not contend that the results shown above are altogether due to the extra duty placed on tea in 1900, but we put them forward as evidence of the existing depression, which we submit is partly traceable to the heavy duty.

So far we have only dealt with the question as it affects producers. When we point out that the value of the tea imported into England from India and Ceylon last year amounted to £7,300,000, while the duty paid on it was over £6,000,000, or more than 80 per cent. of the value, we think you will realize how heavy the burden is on the consumer also. Excepting the trades engaged in the supply of

alcoholic liquor and tobacco, no industry, we venture to say, has such a heavy tax laid on it.

It is not our part to speak for any but those directly interested in the production and distribution of tea, but we think it is not out of place to refer to the hardship which the heavy duty on what may be termed a necessary of life, imposes on the poorer classes, especially in Ireland, where tea forms such an important item of daily consumption.

We would further urge that in all other English-speaking countries, the tendency is to recognise the importance of encouraging the consumption of a beneficial and wholesome beverage such as tea, and with that view the duty on tea is being generally reduced or abolished. In Canada tea is duty free, and we would refer you to the recent decision of the Australian Commonwealth to put it on the free list there also. In the United States of America the duty (put on as a war tax) was removed at the end of last year. We understand that in Germany a substantial reduction is to take effect almost immediately.

From the Government point of view, we would respectfully point out that the Tea Industry has been of very material benefit to India and Ceylon. Large Tracts of unhealthy waste land have been brought under cultivation, contributing substantially to the land revenue of the Empire. Hundreds of thousands of native labourers have been removed from the congested districts and are now employed on tea estates, or comfortably settled down in villages in hitherto unexplored jungle land. It has been the means of opening out railway communication in both countries, and is by far the most important industry in the Province of Assam and in the Island of Ceylon. The public revenue of the abovementioned Province is dependent in a great measure on the prosperity of tea, while in Ceylon the revenue derived from the Tea Industry is the back-bone of the treasury receipts.

We have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servants,

Representing—

GEO. HENDERSON.	}	The Indian Tea Association (London).
C. C. McLEOD.		
HENRY BOIS.	}	The Ceylon Association in London.
HENRY KEER RUTHERFORD.		
THOS. C. TANNER.	}	The Tea Buyers' Association.
J. INNES ROGERS.		
S. H. CHESHIRE.	}	The Tea Brokers' Association.
W. TRAFFORD WILSON.		

LONDON, 6th January, 1903.

## IMAGINATION AND THE TEA TRADE.

### A CHAT WITH THE VILLAGE GROCER.

I live in our village because it is so quiet. Only when Dobson, the crazy man who lives by doing anything from obligingly slaughtering the home-fed pig of a too tender-hearted inhabitant to cleaning the windows of the one inn, makes a night of it is there any stir in the place. For I don't call it a stir when Mrs. Twifley accuses Mrs. Scrutton of tale-bearing, such accusations being as common as beautiful sunsets.

Our village grocer is named Baxter. I know he is a grocer by reason of his sign-board, which runs, "Family Baxter Grocer." Punctuation and difference of lettering were alike foreign to the good fellow who created the sign. The windows of Baxter's shop suggest nothing of the grocer proper, who scorns to sell pickled herrings and picture postcards. But Baxter is not so fastidious: he will sell anything on which there is a profit. I know for a fact that he will, although he raises both hands and holds them towards you palm outwards as if for your personal inspection when the mere word "profit" is insinuated, however adroitly, in the course of conversation.

A *Man of Parts*.—Well, a little while ago Baxter imported a wonderful poster from town. The weird thing referred to tea in no hesitating manner. Nearly two-thirds of its loud surface was taken up with a most fanciful figure of a juvenile Chinese lady. The remainder of the space bore the words, "New Century Tea." There, I thought, was inspiration. Just think of coming out with "New Century Tea" in the third year of the century. But such reflection only proved my ignorance, for later Baxter informed me that tea of the quality he dispenses requires time to mature. Think of it—tea and wine should be put down to mature. Take care that your butler sees to the tea next time you put down wine. Don't



take any excuse, since Baxter's word on tea is worth something. He wouldn't be the superintendent of our Sunday-school if he were not a man of parts, as the rector is not everybody's money. He once had five Sunday-school superintendents in eighteen months.

"Granted that good tea must mature," I said "we may safely conclude that this particular tea which the poster proclaims is four years old."

"I should say it is at least that," replied Baxter with over-ready tongue.

"Then it isn't this century's tea at all," I snapped.

"You can't pick the tea trade up like that," came complacently from Baxter. "I've been in the trade for forty-two years, and I'll warrant I have something to learn about it yet."

"I'll be bound you have," was my reply, inwardly realising that with every pushing youngster who has imagination and who is brought up in the tea trade fresh surprises will come.

*Thicker than Water.*—Baxter handed me a small booklet bearing on tea, and as I glanced at page 6 I read: "Our one-and-six is excellent. It is full-bodied, rich in the cup, and of finely-defined flavour. Give it a trial, and you will be delighted."

I looked at the words again, and to make sure that I was not dreaming and in bed I put forth my hand and touched the old cracked counter behind which the faithful Baxter has patiently stood so many years. From the booklet I looked up at Baxter. There he stood clad in dusty black and wearing an apron that, like the tea, must have matured.

"What does 'full-bodied' mean?" I asked of Baxter as he stood as if awaiting further challenge.

"It means that you can tell you are drinking tea; that it is thicker than water; that it will bear comparison with what you can get at Duntown market for 1s 10d. 'Full-bodied' is a term well known to all tea experts. The tea world is big enough to have its own expressions, and 'full-bodied' exactly describes what it is intended to lead the customer to expect when our one-and-six is ordered."

From this definition I easily gathered that I had hit upon Baxter's inborn subject. It is a theory of mine that every man has his inborn subject. There is, for instance, a dean of my acquaintance whose inborn subject is shell-fish. Baxter's, as it fortunately happens, is tea. His inborn subject made a grocer of him, while the dean's relatives put him into the Church because an uncle of the lad's was a bishop. Therefore Baxter is a self-made man and the dean is not.

*Sticking to Facts.*—"But," I ventured to say to Baxter, "I should scarcely have imagined that the term full-bodied was delicate enough to apply to your one-and-six. It is a term that savours of brute strength and a high stomach, or a stiff neck. Now if you had been selling shrimps, or even poultry, I could have fallen into your odd way of putting things. Why don't you say of it that it produces a thick fluid, or that it is so strong that it will support an erect spoon without any assistance from the sides of the cup?"

"Ah, you're joking," said Baxter with a tolerant half-smile. "We in the tea world don't let our imaginations run away with us; we stick to facts, and that's why we do the trade we do. Besides, people are not taken in with advertisements as they used to be."

"Are they not?" was my rejoinder. "Then you think they believe your words when you tell them that your one-and-six is full-bodied, rich in the cup, and of finely-defined flavour?"

"Of course they do—they as understands it," said Baxter, making his first noticeable grammatical slip.

"Some folk don't quite follow your phrases, you suggest?" I hazarded. "Now I should have thought that you would have had some grand but simple terms for a tea that it is manifestly everybody's advantage to buy. Why not make out some such title for it as 'grateful and comforting'?" I am told that that title has sold some hundreds of tons of cocoa."

"That's only a catchy description used by members of the cocoa world. The tea world is quite different; you see. We are here for ever, whereas the cocoa and the coffee and the liquid beef purveyors are here to-day and gone to-morrow. It's tea we fly to when we feel we need what other drinks have not got to offer us. Any one who has reached middle age and who speaks the truth will tell you that for solid comfort and for solid ground for gratitude there is nothing to beat a good cup of tea."

*Art and Mystery.*—"What about the aroma of your one-and-six?" said I, feeling positive that I had put a spoke in Baxter's wheel at last.

"There again you betray what you might have known had your application been turned to the tea trade," came from Baxter as pat as pat. "We don't label our teas under 2s. with any hint of 'aroma.' 'Aroma' belongs to teas of another class, a higher class, you understand. A draper doesn't stick a ticket with the words 'quite new' on calico, however new it may be, does he? In the same way we keep 'aroma' for 2s. and upwards as the draper keeps 'quite new' for muslins and silks. I only give that as an illustration, as there's no real comparison between the tea trade and the drapery trade."

"There are mysteries in both, eh?" I ejaculated. "Say what you please, but I don't know of any mysteries in the tea world," answered Baxter, as if from honest conviction. "Art is one thing and mystery is another. What tea-blending is to the tea trade, colour-producing is to the artist. Your great artist would be impatient if asked how he mastered the mysteries of his craft, but speak to him of his art and he will talk till your pen wears out."

"You talk me down, Baxter, upon my word you do," I said. "I'm no match for you to-day, though one fine afternoon I shall run round and ask what you mean by saying that in addition to being full-bodied your one-and-six is rich in the cup and of finely-defined flavour, and that if one gives it a trial one will be delighted. Really, if you tea men are not imaginative, I don't know who is."

And I left him just as he was about to hold up both his hands palm outwards at me.—C. C. in the *Daily Mail*.

## THE TEA OUTLOOK AT HOME.

VIEWS OF MR. SMITHETT.

Mr. Smithett, the senior partner of Messrs. Wilson, Smithett & Co., the well-known London tea brokers, says the *Times of Ceylon*, is on a voyage round the world and is at present at the G. O. H. waiting for the *Valetta* by which he will proceed to Japan.

He has often been to Ceylon before, and is well-known to planters and others. A representative of the *Times of Ceylon* this morning asked him for his views as regards the prospects for tea at Home this year, and, in reply, he said that though the senior partner of his Firm, he was not directly connected with the tea branch of the business, though, of course, constantly brought into contact with it. "Our opinion," he said, "is that the market will maintain its own if the production and sale more or less fit in, production not being so large as it was, but present prices as far as they are established must not be very much exceeded, or China will have to be taken into account."

In explanation of this, Mr. Smithett went on to say "The Chinese are not an exporting nation at all. If you go to them with your dollars and say 'here are dollars, give me tea' they will give you tea, otherwise they would not trust you; but if the houses there can get a rise to a fair average price, you will find that they will at once put their teas into England."

With regard to the likelihood of the tax being taken off tea, Mr. Smithett says there is not the remotest chance. "The Chancellor," he said, "speaking the other day to his constituents said most distinctly that he had very little money to deal with and he has to arrange the question of African finance, and then in addition there is the income-tax at 1s. 3d., which must be reduced first."

## THE U. S. TEA MARKET, 1902.

Mr. A. R. Robertson writes in the *Spice Mill*:—

To review the tea market from beginning of the season until this date, is something of an easier matter than usual, as prices have been in the ascendancy since then, and almost anyone could buy tea, put it away and make money, without any remarkable smartness or skill.

The Chinaman is the gentleman who proves himself the successful manipulator, and although the black tea market opened with phenomenally low figures, the result of importing for the last year or two had been such that few cared to venture; some of the largest houses bought well, but immediately this buying began, prices in the East advanced.

For a long time a great many hesitated, with the expectancy that values must recede, and that any inrush for buying in large numbers would simply uphold to strengthen the market. Several



commercial journals took the matter up and advocated buying sparingly, waiting for later developments.

At this time of writing the warehouses and shipping depôts are blocked with tea, everyone using strong efforts to get the tea distributed throughout the country, but in the natural course of things, this must take a little time, and until the jobber and grocer has received supplies which he bought for January delivery, it is impossible to say what the outcome of this season may be. At present it looks as if tea would be good all season, buyers will carry more in stock, and the hand-to-mouth supplies will be a thing of the past.

There are some good trades in tea, especially Congous, which might be put away to advantage. Formosas are not likely to be any cheaper, and green teas have every prospect of going higher.

The sale of Indias and Ceylons increases quietly, and there is no doubt but that these teas are steadily making their way into the markets of the United States. Since the making of green tea has been pursued in these countries, that is, teas to take the place of China Green and Japans, they promise to be an item of consumption.

### THE TEA CESS BILL.

The tea industry like ancient Gaul may be said to be divided into three parts, says *Capital*, the growers of the tea, the purchasers of the tea in Calcutta for sale in London, and the blenders and distributors.

The tea growers, who have agitated for a cess are one of those little bands of philanthropists, who desire that a tax should be put on other people.

Virtually all the tea grown in India is sold by auction either in Calcutta or London. A very large proportion is sold in Calcutta, and after it has passed the hammer, the subsequent proceedings interest the producers no more.

Sir Montagu Turner laid stress in introducing this novel form of taxation, on the fact that tea producers representing an area of 416,000 acres out of a total of 520,000 acres, desired that a tax may be imposed upon the persons who purchase their tea for the benefit of the tea industry generally.

We think that before this tax is levied, the views of the buyers of tea should be taken, because presumably they are the people who will have to pay the tax.

If it is intended that the cess shall fall on the producers of tea, it should be legal for the buyers at the auctions in Calcutta to deduct the cess from the amount of their payments, and it should only be levied by the Government on tea shipped direct by the gardens.

We would commend to the Government the remarks of Mr. David Yule at the Bank of Calcutta on Monday. Lord Curzon is always anxious to know why capital does not come to India, he should surely know that capital is one of the most sensitive of things, and that when the machinery of the State is used to crush dissent and legislation of not only a novel but of a mischievous kind is introduced by empirical statesmen, such action is not calculated to induce capital to come freely forward. Capitalists desire to embark their capital in countries where legislation is conducted on reasonable and common sense principles, and when a responsible Government departs therefrom, capital also takes its departure.

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### The Indian Tea Cess Bill.

The following Bill was introduced in the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations on the 30th January, 1903.

No. 2 of 1903.

THE INDIAN TEA CESS BILL, 1903.

#### CONTENTS.

#### Sections.

1. Short title and extent.
2. Definitions.
3. Imposition of duty on exports of Indian tea.

4. Constitution of Tea Cess Committee.
5. Application of proceeds of tea cess.
6. Keeping and auditing of accounts.
7. Power to make rules.
8. Amendment of Act VIII of 1894, section 5.
9. Time during which sections 2 to 7 are to remain in force.
10. Disposal of surplus proceeds of tea cess.

A Bill to provide for the levy of customs duty on Indian tea exported from British India, and to amend section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894:

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended for the promotion of the interests of the tea industry in India by a Committee specially constituted in this behalf;

and whereas for this purpose it is expedient to levy customs duty on Indian tea exported from British India, and to amend section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903; and

(2) It extends to the whole of British India except Aden.

2. In this Act,—

(a) "Collector" means, in reference to tea exported by sea, a Customs-collector as defined in clause (c) of section 3 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, and in reference to tea passing out of British India by land, the Collector of the district;

(b) "Tea Cess" means the customs duty imposed by section 3 of this Act and by section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, as amended by this Act; and

(c) "Tea Cess Committee" means the Committee constituted under section 4.

3. On and from the first day of April, 1903, a customs duty shall be levied and collected on all Indian tea exported from any customs-port to any port beyond the limits of British India or to Aden at the rate of one-quarter of a pie per pound, or at such lower rate as the Governor-General in Council may, on the recommendation of the Tea Cess Committee, prescribe by notification in the Gazette of India.

4. (1) The Governor-General in Council shall constitute a Committee to receive and expend the proceeds of the tea cess.

(2) The Committee shall in the first instance consist of twenty members, who shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the following bodies and authorities, namely:—

(a) three on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce;

(b) seven on the recommendation of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta; and

(c) tea on the recommendation of such respective bodies or authorities interested in the production of Indian tea, and established in British India, as the Governor-General in Council may appoint in this behalf:

Provided that if, within the period prescribed in this behalf by rules made under this Act, any of the said bodies or authorities fails to make any recommendation, or to make the full number of recommendations which it is entitled to make, the Governor-General in Council may appoint the required number of members of the Committee of his own motion without such recommendation.

(3) Whenever any member appointed either on the recommendation of any body or authority referred to in sub-section (2), or in default of such recommendation, dies, resigns, leaves British India or becomes incapable of acting as a member of the Committee, the Governor-General in Council may, in his discretion, on the recommendation of such body or authority, or in default of such recommendation, appoint another person to be a member in his stead.

(4) No act done by the Tea Cess Committee shall be questioned on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Committee.

5. (1) At the close of each month, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, the Collector shall pay the proceeds of the tea cess, after deducting the expenses of collection (if any), to the Tea Cess Committee.

(2) The said proceeds shall be applied by the Committee towards meeting the cost of such measures as the Committee may consider it advisable to take for pushing the sale and increasing the consumption of Indian tea in India and elsewhere.

6. (1) The Tea Cess Committee shall keep accounts of all money received and expended under section 5.



(2) Such accounts shall be examined and audited annually by auditors appointed in this behalf by the Governor-General in Council; and such auditors may disallow any item which has, in their opinion, been expended out of the proceeds of the tea cess otherwise than as directed by or under this Act.

7. (1) The Governor-General in Council may, after previous publication, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) All such rules shall be published in the Gazette of India. 8. In section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for the words "shall be levied at the rates respectively prescribed in the second, third and fourth schedules on goods passing by land out of, and in the fifth schedule on goods passing by land into" the words "at such rates as may be prescribed by or under any law for the time being in force relating to customs duties on imports and exports, respectively, into and from ports, shall be levied on goods passing by land out of or into" shall be substituted.

9. Sections 2 to 7 shall remain in force only until the thirty-first day of March, 1908:

Provided that the Governor-General in Council may, on the recommendation of the Tea Cess Committee, declare, by notification in the Gazette of India, that the said sections shall continue in force for any further period specified in such notification.

10. If any proceeds of the tea cess remain unexpended when sections 2 to 7 cease to be in force, they shall vest in His Majesty.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The object of this Bill is to provide for the levy of a small cess on Indian tea exported from British India, with the object of creating a fund for pushing the sale and increasing the consumption of such tea. It is proposed to entrust the administration of the fund to a special Committee, consisting of members representing the tea interest and recommended by local mercantile bodies. Those interested in the tea industry are practically unanimous in recommending that the proposed legislation should be undertaken.

2. The opportunity afforded by the present Bill has been taken to make an amendment in section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (VIII of 1894), which will have the effect of extending the proposed tea cess to exports to foreign territory by land.

MONTAGU C. TURNER.

The 28th January, 1903.

### THE U. S. COFFEE MOVEMENT.

#### CONSUMPTION.

The deliveries for the first half of the current crop year fall behind the corresponding period in 1901 by 471,884 bags, says the *American Grocer*. The total deliveries were as follows:

	1901.	1902.
	Bags.	Bags.
United States ... ..	3,489,532	3,289,962
Europe ... ..	4,862,486	4,590,172

Total United States and Europe .. 8,532,018 7,880,134

The average semi-annual deliveries for the past three years were 7,717,517 bags, from which it would appear that consumption during the past 6 months had been only normal, in spite of low prices and extensive advertising. As compared with the first half of the trade year 1900-01, deliveries show a gain of 959,735 bags, or 13·8 per cent., but as compared with 1901-02 a loss of 5·7 per cent., so that coffee for the past three years has not increased in use as much as growth of population and low prices warrant. The normal increase is placed at about 8 per cent. annually.

#### VISIBLE SUPPLY.

The world's visible supply compares as follows:

	Bags.
January 1, 1903 ... ..	13,212,775
January 1, 1902 ... ..	10,870,930
January 1, 1901 ... ..	7,560,345
Increase, one year ... ..	2,341,845
Increase, two years ... ..	5,652,430

These figures indicate the tremendous strides made in cultivation, most pronounced in Brazil, where there is still an immense area of uncultivated coffee-bearing land.

#### THE BRAZIL CROP.

The receipts at Rio for the first half of 1902 were 2,555,000 bags; at Santos, 5,670,000 bags; at both ports, 8,225,000 bags, against 10,546,000 bags in 1901-02; 7,060,000 bags in 1900-01. During

three previous semi-annual crop years the receipts for this period averaged 69 per cent. of the total crop. On this basis the total receipts for the year should reach nearly 12,000,000 bags.

#### DECEMBER MOVEMENT.

The following statement shows the December movement in detail:

	Bags.	Bags.
Stocks, December 1, 1902 —		
United States ... ..	2,622,849	
Europe ... ..	6,745,052 —	9,367,901
Receipts during December —		
United States ... ..	471,226	
Europe ... ..	1,112,746 —	1,583,972
Total supply, January 1, 1903 ... ..		10,951,873
Less stocks, January 1, 1903 —		
United States ... ..	2,400,426	
Europe ... ..	7,168,149 —	9,568,575
Deliveries, December, 1902 —		
United States ... ..	493,649	
Europe ... ..	689,649 —	1,183,298
Deliveries, December, 1901 ... ..		1,303,777

Decrease as compared with December, 1901 .. 120,479

Deliveries, July, 1902 ... ..	1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902 ... ..	1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902 ... ..	1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902 ... ..	1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902 ... ..	1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902 ... ..	1,183,298

Total deliveries, six months, 1902 ... ..	7,880,134
Total deliveries, six months 1901 ... ..	8,352,018
Total deliveries, six months 1900 ... ..	6,920,399
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902 ... ..	15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901 ... ..	14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly year, 1901-02 ... ..	1,293,055
Average deliveries, six months, 1902-1903 ... ..	1,313,356

The December sales of options were 725,250 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 4·35 cents for January; the highest, 5·35 cents for October and November.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 398,288 bags were Brazil and 95,361 bags of all other sorts. About 80·5 per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 19·5 per cent. of all other kinds.

The year 1903 opens with prospects of continued low prices and a supply of higher average quality than usual. It is one of the most favourable of years for a retailer to increase his trade in coffee and make a liberal profit.

It is the opinion of Herman Sielcken, the great coffee operator, that "the only remedy for the over-supply of coffee is a price which would curtail the production, but that price has not yet been reached, as the Brazilians, while making a poor mouth and complaining about the hardship of low prices, are constantly increasing their crops, as is shown above.

"It is now generally known," he says, "that the Brazilians have not only been raising large crops, but they have been raising a high quality of coffee as well, and while a certain quality is dealt in as a basis on the Coffee Exchange, the quality that is delivered on contracts costs about two cents more, so that the Brazilians receive over 40 per cent. more than the option basis in New York would show."

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The General Committee, in submitting to the members their Report for the past year, say *inter alia* :—

*American and Foreign Market Fund.*—The subscriptions received during the year for this Fund amounted to Rs.55,564-11-6. A sum of Rs.52,500 has been devoted to the export bounty on green teas. The tea rooms at 48, Faubourg St. Honore, Paris, have been also maintained; and work in Italy, Turkey and other European countries has been pushed on as vigorously as the limited funds at the disposal of the Association would permit. In the early part of the year advertising in America had to be discontinued owing to the uncertainty about funds. The result was that Indian teas lost ground to a certain extent; while Ceylon teas—which have been and are still being actively pushed—made



greater progress even than before. Later in the year it was found possible to renew the advertisements which are at present appearing as formerly. Now that the Cess is practically an accomplished fact, it may be confidently said that much more strenuous and sustained efforts will be made in America than have been made in the past. An excellent opportunity for a good start is afforded by the great International Exhibition which is to be held at St. Louis, U. S. A., in 1904. Recently the Hon. John Barrett, a Commissioner of the United States Government for this Exhibition, gave an instructive address before the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce upon the advantages of Indian industries being well represented at it. At the present moment it is not possible to indicate the extent to which Indian tea will be able to take advantage of the Exhibition. But to the General Committee there would seem to be no reason why a portion of the Cess Funds should not be expended on an exhibit; although this is of course a matter which the Cess Committee will be called upon to decide. At the same time the existence of the Cess affords no reason why Government should not be asked for financial assistance. And doubtless the incoming General Committee will take up the question so far as this aspect of it is concerned.

Another opportunity of pushing Indian tea in what is believed to be a promising market, will be afforded by an Exhibition which is to be held at Cape Town in November, December, January, and February, 1903 and 1904. So far but little has been done in South Africa by Indian tea producers. But during the past year an arrangement was made by the London Association with an agent in Johannesburg to sell a minimum quantity of 1,200 half-chests of suitable tea in consideration of a bonus of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. The tea was to be bought in Calcutta by Messrs. McLeod & Co., who, up to date, have shipped 490 half-chests. No information is of course available at present as to the reception the teas have met with in South Africa. But it is stated that the quality of the tea usually sold in the Transvaal is very inferior and that the price is about four shillings a pound. If this is so, there would seem to be no reason why Indian teas at moderate prices should not find a ready market.

*Compulsory Cess on Indian Tea.*—The Committee are glad to be able to record that the Government of India have consented to levy a Compulsory Cess on all tea exported from India.

A scheme had been generally approved by the different district Associations, before it was submitted to the Government of India. The views of Government upon it, and the final decision of H. E. the Governor-General in Council upon the main question of the Cess, were received about the middle of December. It appeared that no weighty or widely-entertained objections to the impression of the Cess had been lodged. Consequently the Government decided to proceed with the necessary legislation. The proposed scheme of administration was generally approved by Government: and the Bill providing for the imposition of the Cess was introduced into the Imperial Legislative Council by Sir Montagu Turner, Kt., on the 30th January.

*Consumption of Tea in India.*—Throughout the year the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission has vigorously pushed the sale of tea in India.

It has been thought that the work of the Commission has been hampered by the sale in the Calcutta bazaars and elsewhere of tea refuse. Large quantities of this commodity are sent to Calcutta; and although a fair proportion is sold to reputable European firms for the manufacture of caffeine, there is no doubt that much is disposed of for local consumption. At the instance of the Committee, Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. have made enquiries into this trade; but without the co-operation of all producers, there does not appear to be any prospect of its being suppressed.

*Foreign Markets.*—It was stated in the last Annual Report that the Committee were giving attention to the possibility of developing the Russian market. In the absence of funds for advertising purposes, they have since been making enquiries as to the different routes by which Indian tea is carried to Russia. In March they invited the attention of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the question. They asked if the Chamber could take any action which might be calculated to promote the establishment of a direct line of steamers between Calcutta and Russian ports.

More recently the Committee suggested to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that an attempt should be made to persuade the Russian Government to reduce the import duties on tea. The Chamber represented the matter to the Government of India, who

referred it to the Home Government, through the Secretary of State for India. No action in the way of approaching the Russian Government will however be taken, as His Majesty's Ministers think there is no substantial case so long as the duties do not differentiate against Indian tea.

A detailed reference was made in the last Annual Report to the difficulties connected with the development of the tea trade in these countries. No progress appeared to be possible as regards either country. But it occurred to the Committee that advantage might be taken of Sir James Mackay's mission to China, in connection with the revision of the Tientsin Treaty of Commerce, to induce the Chinese authorities to make certain changes in their tariff regulations.

And quite recently the Chamber have been informed by Government that there is a possibility of negotiations being opened with the Chinese Commissioners with a view to the fixing of a tariff on Indian tea imported into Tibet. An expression of opinion was invited by Government as to what would be a reasonable rate of duty having regard to (a) the cost of transit from India to Tibet, and (b) the price at which China tea is sold at Lhasa. The General Committee, to whom the point was referred, expressed the opinion that the duty should not exceed that levied on China tea imported into India.

At this point the question stands at present, at least so far as Tibet is concerned. The Government of India have not yet given any indication as to whether they can take action in regard to Chinese Turkestan.

*British Import Duty on Tea.*—Since the last Annual Report was published it has not been found possible to take any definite steps with the object of obtaining a reduction of this duty. At about the time when that Report was being written it was thought that a further enhancement of the duty might be in contemplation. A vigorous protest was accordingly entered against any enhancement; and H. E. the Viceroy supported this by a telegram to the Secretary of State. No change was, however proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the duty consequently still remains at 6d. per pound. The Committee have so frequently stated their views upon the whole question of the duty as to make repetition here hardly necessary. But it may not be inappropriate to say that they have always held very strongly that the gradual reduction and ultimate abolition of the duty is one of the objects for which tea producers should steadily and consistently work. During the past year they have not unfortunately had an opportunity of giving practical expression to this opinion. They have, however, observed with much satisfaction that the Ceylon Planters' Association and the United Planters' Association of Southern India are in substantial accord with it. The Indian Tea Association, London, are of the same mind, and at the present time are arranging with the Ceylon Association in London for the presentation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of a memorial asking for the reduction of the duty to 4d. per pound.

*Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.*—The Committee referred in their last Report to a representation which they had made to the Government of India upon certain matters relating to this duty. It is unnecessary to recapitulate here the details of the case which the Committee submitted, but it may be said that their main suggestion was of a two-fold nature. Firstly, that the Ceylon Government should be asked to exempt Indian tea from the payment of the import duty of four annas per lb.; and secondly that, if necessary, the Indian Government should similarly exempt Ceylon tea from the payment of the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty levied in this country. Further, the Committee proposed that, if the Ceylon Government decline to make this exemption, the Indian duty should be enhanced to a protective rate.

In June the Government of India intimated that they were not prepared to adopt any of these proposed courses of action. They submitted, at the same time, a statement of the views expressed by the Ceylon Government on the question. From this it appeared that the Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon was unwilling to exempt Indian tea from the payment of import duty. In their representation the Committee had complained of the heavy transshipment charges at Colombo; and had asserted that it was cheaper, in the case of teas destined to Russia for example, to tranship at Singapore. The Ceylon Government denied that the charges were high, but they did not controvert the assertion that transshipment at Singapore was cheaper. They further contended that Indian teas competed on actually level terms with all Ceylon teas which are



sold and exported without being blended, or made into packets. It was recognised in Ceylon that the object of Indian growers was to obtain facilities for blending in Colombo. This was considered both by Ceylon planters and merchants to be undesirable; their object being that pure Ceylon tea only should be exported from the island.

Looking at the question purely from the Ceylon point of view, but little fault can be found with this decision. But the Committee still think it is unfair to Indian growers that Ceylon tea should be freely admitted into India for blending or any other purposes. For if Ceylon will only admit Indian teas under certain restrictions, it is but right that similar restrictions should be enforced in India against the produce of the island. As matters at present stand, however, there is nothing to prevent the sale in India of blended Indian and Ceylon teas; while the sale of such in Ceylon, or their export from Colombo, is debarred. So far the Committee have not re-opened the question with Government, but possibly their successors will consider the advisability of making a further representation.

#### SCIENTIFIC OFFICER.

Throughout the year Mr. Harold H. Mann the Agricultural Chemist employed by the Association, has been principally engaged in the investigation of three questions: (a) the life-history of, and the means to be taken to deal with the mosquito blight of tea; (b) the soils and methods of culture in the Surma Valley, and (c) the changes which take place during the manufacture of tea. By permission of the Committee, and at the request of the Government of India, Mr. Mann has devoted a portion of his time to thoroughly revising Sir George Watt's book on "The Pests and Blights of the Tea Plant." The revised edition of the book is now in the Press, and will be published by Government at an early date, under the united names of Sir George Watt and Mr. Mann.

Mr. Mann's existing agreement with the Association expires in May, 1903. Early in the year the Committee took into consideration the arrangements to be made for the renewal of this agreement. In the first place they invited Mr. Mann to state his views as to what should be done. This he did in a comprehensive memorandum, in which he laid down a scheme for the formation of a scientific department of the Association. The main features of the scheme were: (a) the engagement from England of an assistant qualified in agricultural and organic chemistry; (b) the establishment in the tea districts of a central experiment station; (c) the engagement of a qualified Indian assistant for the Calcutta Laboratory. It was estimated by Mr. Mann that the total cost of the complete scheme would not exceed Rs.27,000 per annum; as compared with Rs.15,000 the cost of the existing establishment. The Committee approved of the scheme, as did also the different Local Associations interested. It is the opinion of the Committee that the cost of the department cannot be legitimately charged to the Cess funds. But even if it could be so charged they do not think that the Local Governments should, for that reason, contemplate the withdrawal of their grants. For the Cess funds are derived, not from the public revenues, but directly from tea producers. And that being so, the existence of such funds is no reason why financial assistance should not be continued by the Governments interested. The Committee have, within the last few weeks, placed this view of the case before both H. H. the Acting Lieutenant-Governor and the Hon the Chief Commissioner. The Committee would like to add that the members of the Assam Branch have expressed their willingness to increase their subscription to Rs.3,000 annually, and that the Terai planters are willing to continue their contribution of Rs.300 annually. It is also proposed by the Surma Valley Branch to make a special effort to contribute; and the Committee hope that the Dooars Planters' Association will continue their contribution of Rs.1,000 annually.

#### GREEN TEA.

It is with much satisfaction that the Committee record a considerable advance in the manufacture of Indian green tea during the past year. At the time the last Annual Report was written the chances of green tea being extensively taken up by producers appeared to be somewhat remote. But the difficulties which were then prominent have been surmounted; and at the moment there is every reason to believe that this particular branch of the Indian industry will quickly attain large proportions.

The steps which have been taken by the Committee during the year may perhaps be summarised with advantage. On the last day of May they notified to the members of the Association that the bounty would be paid at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas per lb. on 400,000 lbs. of green tea. Of this quantity the Baraora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd., had

offered to make half, which offer the London Association had accepted. From enquiries which had been made of the recipients of the bounty paid in 1901, it appeared that teas of the unfaced China type were in the greatest demand. But in view of the fact that during 1901 upwards of a million pounds of Ceylon green tea were exported to America, there seemed to the Committee to be a market for both classes. They accordingly decided to place no restrictions upon the class of tea to be manufactured. By the middle of October the whole of the 400,000 lbs. had been manufactured, half by the Baraora Tea Co., Ltd., and the remaining half by other Companies. In order, still further to encourage producers the Committee then offered a bounty at the rate of 9 pies per lb. on an additional 160,000 lbs. Some time previously the Baraora Company had expressed their willingness to manufacture an additional 160,000 lbs. if the bounty at 9 pies per lb. were paid to them. This offer was accepted. By the middle of December the whole of the first named 160,000 lbs. had been manufactured, and the greater part of that arranged for by the Baraora Co. Before the end of the season, therefore, the bounty will have been paid upon 720,000 lbs. of Indian green tea. When it is remembered that last season the quantity upon which the bounty was paid did not exceed 30,000 lbs., the nature of the advance which has been made will be readily perceived. With the advent of the Cess and the consequent possibility of a bounty on more extended scale the prospects of Indian green tea would appear to be distinctly good.

#### COFFEE IN LONDON.

The *Produce Markets' Review* of January 24, 1903, remarks:—"The auctions have again been of a very limited character, smaller even than last week, and as a result there has been a slight hardening of prices. The very few lots of really good Costa Rica found keen competition, and the bold sizes in particular are from 2s. to 3s. dearer, while the second size is about 1s. above the opening prices. There has not, however, yet been any general buying, and unless there is a very decided improvement in the demand there is no reason why prices should advance when the heavy supplies which usually come towards the end of February are put on the market. For the common grades quotations are a little easier, in sympathy with the Santos terminal quotations. A very small business has, however, been done in the latter market, as the receipts have continued heavy, and in consequence speculation is checked."

#### TEA IN LONDON.

THE CLEARING HOUSE DISPUTE.—The *Produce Markets' Review* of January 24, 1903, says:—"We have not recently mentioned the difficulties that had arisen in the trade, because a prospect happily appeared of their being settled in a friendly spirit, so that it was not an appropriate time to accentuate points of difference. We are pleased to say that there is now every probability of the Clearing House being reconstituted on its proper basis and on broader lines. There is further a hope that it will serve as a neutral meeting-place for the various sections of the producing and distributing trade, to meet from time to time and to discuss the various reforms so urgently wanted in connection with tea."

INDIAN TEA.—Prices are less firm and in some cases lower, importers having shown more disposition to meet the market, although a large quantity was withdrawn from the public sales. The easier position is most pronounced in teas from 7d. downwards, but up to the present buyers have not responded freely to the lower rates, and consequently the demand does not show much improvement. A good deal will depend on the quantity brought forward at the auctions; if the offerings are in excess of requirements, a further concession in values is practically certain; on the other hand, with moderate supplies present rates will probably be maintained. The deliveries of duty-paid tea this month, as was to be expected, are upwards of 6,000,000 lbs. smaller than for the same period last year, but the actual stocks held by the trade are no doubt smaller to this extent, and, therefore, the statistical position is unchanged. At the public sales, 33,100 packages were brought forward, of which 22,248 packages were sold, and only a moderate quantity of the withdrawals has since been disposed of at sale rates. For the finer sorts there was a good demand, especially for those with useful autumnal flavour, at improved rates, while the medium teas were irregular in value with a drooping tendency. A larger proportion



of the lower descriptions was obtainable under 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and the market closed weak at the decline.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—A smaller quantity was brought forward at the auctions on Tuesday, but a quiet tone again prevailed, and a great proportion of the lower grades was withdrawn. Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. downwards showed the most weakness, the bidding being about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. under last week's rates; but the merchants would not meet the market, and most of the offers were declined. In Broken Pekoes, the medium kinds were also slightly easier, more particularly between 8d. to 10d. per lb., and these descriptions now show exceptionally good value. The lower sorts, however, under 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., remain scarce and dear, only a very small quantity being obtainable. At the public sales 21,600 packages were brought forward, of which about 4,800 were withdrawn.

**CONGOU TEA.**—Business has again been extremely quiet for all descriptions. At the public auctions, held on Wednesday, some 778 packages were offered, and sold fairly well, previous prices being obtained where sales were effected.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—There was a steady demand for all descriptions at the sale held on Thursday, and there is no alteration to quote. A considerable quantity of Indian and Ceylon green tea was brought forward, and the bidding for these kinds was very animated. There has been a somewhat better enquiry for Caper, and a fair business has been transacted privately; only about 900 packages were offered for public auction on Wednesday. 1,385 packages of green tea were catalogued for Thursday's sale, of which about 430 were withdrawn.

### A POOR YEAR FOR COFFEE.

Mr. Hermann Sielcken writes in the *Spice Mill*:—

The year 1902 has been very unsatisfactory to the dealers in coffee. On December 31, 1901, the January option was \$6.80 bid and the December option of 1902 was \$7.80. The December just closed shows a decline against the bid price of a year ago of 340 points, which is about \$4.50 on each bag of coffee. The spot month is 240 points lower, which, with carrying charges added, will show for the year a decline of \$4 a bag.

While these losses have occurred in the United States and in Europe, the entire benefit has accrued to Brazil. The low prices prevented actual short sales, the sellers being the importers who paid Brazil a price in proportion to the one at which they sold.

The only reason for the decline has been the unexpected large outturn of the second half of the 1901-02 crop and the large receipts of the present crop, entirely contrary to the predictions made from Brazil. The Brazilians are not so much to blame for the biased and incorrect estimates as dealers and speculators in consuming countries were for believing them, considering the experience in this line during the last six years.

To what extent the community of interest between the holders of coffee in consuming markets and the producers in producing countries exists, is best shown by the International Coffee Conference, held last fall in New York, at which representatives from the different coffee-growing countries advanced propositions to raise the price. Suppose the cotton-growers in the South should ask for a Conference in Manchester of all the European countries interested in cotton in order to raise the price of cotton. The proposition is identically the same. New York is the largest consuming market for coffee, just the same as Manchester is the largest consuming market for cotton.

Since 1895 the price has gone down steadily, with an occasional reaction, based, in every instance, on false crop news. The low prices ruling in late years have induced a new speculation of a formidable nature. But neither capital nor future crop alarms can keep up the price when the enormous production is rolling up supplies to an extent that nearly enough stocks are now in sight for one year's average consumption. The abolition of slavery in Brazil in 1888 has had the same effect upon the increase in production as did the abolition of slavery in the United States on cotton.

The crops in Rio and Santos from 1891 to 1896 averaged 6,000,000 bags; from 1896 to 1901, about 9,500,000; from 1901 to 1903, about 13,500,000. The minimum prospect for the 1903-04 crop is 14,000,000 bags, with the possibility of reaching even 16,000,000 or more.

The only remedy is a price which would curtail the production, but that has not yet been reached, as the Brazilians, while making

a poor mouth and complaining about the hardship of low prices are constantly increasing their crops, as is shown above.

It is not generally known that the Brazilians have not only been raising large crops, but they have been raising a high quality of coffee as well, and while a certain quality is dealt in as a basis on the Coffee Exchange, the quality that is delivered on contracts costs about two cents more, so that the Brazilians receive over 40 per cent. more than the option basis in New York would show.

A large proportion of the intelligent Brazilians are aiming to teach the farmers to raise their crops at as low an expense as possible and to increase the production so as completely to outdo all other producing countries, even if this should involve still lower prices for some time. If this is carried out and we continue to have large crops, then the outlook is not favourable to the large holders of to-day, who, in Europe, and this country as well, have suffered enormous losses in the last six years.

The United States, as a whole, is naturally the gainer by the low prices. Figuring on a consumption of 6,000,000 bags a year and the difference between the present value and the prices ruling from 1891 to 1896, the country is saving from \$61,000,000 to \$70,000,000 a year from the low prices of coffee.

The amount of coffee raised in Java for importation to this country has shrunk to such small proportions that not even 1 per cent. of the total imported here is genuine Java. Of the Mocha, there is no doubt that a large quantity comes from Brazil, where the Mocha tree has been transplanted, and the consumer cannot detect the difference in the taste of the Mocha as grown in Arabia and the Mocha as grown in Brazil.

It is certain that not more than 5 per cent. of the coffee sold as Mocha and Java has ever seen Arabia and Java, and if the public desires to be deceived and buys coffee simply by the description of Java and Mocha, paying an exorbitant price for it, the fault lies at its own door.

While the country at large gains by the reduction in the price paid to a foreign country, the trade itself has learned by necessity to be very careful. With the present outlook and the large actual, as well as prospective, supplies, something unforeseen has to occur in the year 1903 to change the present gloomy aspect; and unless the unexpected happens the coffee trade in the United States is likely to continue in the cautious ways it has adopted during the year 1902.

Speculation may again try to resist a further decline, but the law of supply and demand rules supreme in a staple, where the low price cannot create a new field of consumption as it does with corn, cotton, and other staples.

### TEA IN AUSTRALASIA.

SYDNEY, January 17.

**TEA.**—Values for this commodity although distinctly better than when last reporting, have failed to respond in any appreciable way to the higher costs ruling at both Colombo and Calcutta. During the past week or 10 days prices obtained for Ceylons, both privately and under the hammer, have been considerably in advance of those current at the close of last year. Stocks are light, and supplies coming to hand show an advance of fully 2d. per lb. on those paid for old supplies. Importers are fully seized with the position of the market at producing and export centres, and are reluctant to quit unless at something near covering rates.

MELBOURNE, January 19.

**TEA.**—High cost and quiet demand with fair prices about describes the tea market for the month. Importers evince a disposition to hold stocks rather than quit at a loss. The demand for Indians is pretty good, and prices have been decidedly higher than last month; in fact, from 6d. to 9d. has been about the usual thing. A consignment of good liquoring Indians came to hand by the "Fortunatus," and although only a small quantity has been offered, yet from 10d. to 1s. was secured. The market for Ceylons is quiet, and the quality rather poor for late arrivals. Very little has been sold, owing to high cost at producing centres. All old season Chinas will be sold before the new season's can come to hand.

ADELAIDE, January 17.

TEAS also have seen a lot of business, and all desirable sorts offered have been quickly taken up. The various blends packed by proprietary teamen almost monopolise the trade.—*Australasian Grocer.*



## THE ST. LOUIS FAIR.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TEA, COFFEE, AND SPICE TRADE EXHIBITS.

The tea, coffee, and spice trade is to be well housed at the Universal Exposition of St. Louis in 1904. The revised classification of exhibits to be made in the department of Agriculture and Horticulture show that free space and power are to be afforded all who wish to exhibit tea, coffee, and cocoa plants and their products in the agricultural palace.

Under the classification of sugar and confectionery, equipment, processes and products, there will be installed in the agricultural palace displays as follows:

*Sugar and Confectionery—Condiments and Relishes:*—Sugar, glucose, confectionery, chocolate, brandied fruits, preserves, jellies, substitutes for coffee, coffee, tea and aromatic drinks, maté, chicory and sweet acorns, vinegar, table salt, spices and extracts: pepper, cinnamon, allspice, etc.; flavouring extracts, mixed condiments and relishes: mustard, curries, sauces, etc.

*Equipment and Methods of Preparation.*—Sugar manufactories and refineries, manufacture of chocolate and confectioneries, preparation of ices and sherberts, preparation and roasting of coffee, and vinegar works.

There will be no charge for space occupied by exhibits, and a limited amount of power for the operation of mechanical devices to illustrate processes of special interest will be furnished to exhibitors without charge.

## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, January 15, 1903.

Locally the condition in teas is unchanged. It is almost impossible to get low-priced Japan teas and young hysons are none too plentiful. There has been a little activity in flavoring teas. The outside markets retain their strength, and at the tea market held in London on Tuesday last, the first since the holidays, an advance of  $\frac{3}{4}$  penny on flavory Ceylons was reported. Deliveries for consumption at that date were larger than importations. With the Calcutta market closed there is little room to expect lower prices until next fall, when the weight of the new crop of tea then coming forward will determine the position.

MONTREAL, January 15, 1903.

The market is dull this week and what demand there is chiefly for small lots for immediate requirements. Ceylon teas have not altered their position to any extent, and no quotable change is reported either locally or on the primary markets. While the general view of Japan teas is that the situation is unchanged and the prices are still firm, one buyer considers the market for low-grades somewhat easier. He states that he was offered some low-grade teas at 16c., which in December were held at 18c. On the higher qualities, however, we hear of no change, the market seemingly retaining all its firmness.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending December 26th, were  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d.— $11\frac{7}{8}$ d. for 90 d/s Bank paper and  $11\frac{3}{8}$ d.— $11\frac{5}{8}$ d. for private.

The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at  $11\frac{5}{8}$ d., the corresponding sight rate being  $11\frac{7}{8}$ d. against  $11\frac{3}{8}$ d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday at  $11\frac{3}{8}$ d. fell to  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. on Friday at which closed this evening with the Banco da Republica giving  $11\frac{3}{8}$ d. for the market.

The weakening tendency was accentuated during the week by reports of dissensions at the Bank of the Republic and final resignation of Dr. Castro Maia. On Saturday, however, matters improved a bit on a good deal of repassed paper making its appearance and rates closed firm at  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. for bank and  $11\frac{5}{8}$ d. at the Bank of the Republic for the market.

*Embarques* during the past week produced £439,000 as against £346,000 the previous week and £523,000 last year. Declared sales were 171,000 as against 174,000 the previous week and 207,000 last year. The export value for the crop on 26th instant was £3,924,945 less than last year.

**Coffee.**—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 26th December fell off a little being 43,678 bags, less than the previous week's, partly in consequence of the 25th being a holiday, but were only 11,618 bags less than the corresponding week's last year of which they represent 94.1 %. The falling off compared with the previous week was entirely at Santos entries here showing, as was expected, an increase of 9,273 bags and were positively 6,251 more than the corresponding week's last year.

Up to the 26th instant crop entries here and at Santos are 2,456,254 bags less than last year of which they represented 76.7 %. Should the same percentage be maintained to the close of the crop, as seems not unlikely, the total will be nearer twelve than eleven million bags exclusive of Victoria and Bahia. *Embarques* for the week ended December 26th were very large again being 79,496 bags over the previous week's and 40,819 more than the corresponding week's last year. Declared sales were only 3,000 bags smaller than the previous week's but 36,000 less than last year. Currency prices were lower, the average for the week for No. 7 New York type being 4\$289 as against 4\$357 the previous week and 5\$400 last year. There was no alteration in New York spot average which was maintained at an average of 5.25 as against 6.97 last year.

The owner of a plantation of Santa Clara in the district of Santa Cruz do Rio Pardo (S. Paulo) with 2,000 *alqueires* of land, 240.00 coffee trees, a comfortable dwelling house, a saw mill, a grist mill, coffee machinery and other improvements, some years ago, before the machinery was put up, rejected an offer of 300,000\$. Recently it went to auction at a valuation of 128,230\$. On this valuation and on successive reductions no bids were made and the plantation was finally knocked down to the highest bidder for 30,500\$.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING.

The following is from an Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on February 6, when there were present: Mr. Lockhart Smith (*Chairman*), Mr. W. Warrington (*Vice-Chairman*), Messrs. A. C. Lawrie, G. Pickford, T. Traill, and R. R. Toynbee.

Letters dated 9th and 16th January, from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration and disposal after previous circulation. The chief matters dealt with in these letters were:—

(a) *The British import duty.*—It was stated in the proceedings of the Meeting held on the 26th January, that a joint memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon this question was being prepared by the Indian and Ceylon Associations in London. The memorial asked for the removal of the twopence per pound, which was added to the duty on account of the South African War. Mr. Tye now informed the Committee in his letter dated 16th January, that the memorial had been presented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The question of the most effective manner in which the memorial might be supported in India was discussed by the Committee. At the Meeting on the 16th January, they had decided to make enquiries from the Ceylon Planters' Association, as to whether the Ceylon Government had been invited to move in the matter. A reply, dated 20th January, had been received, in which it was stated that a Resolution adopted by the Planters' Association had been placed before the Ceylon Government, by whom it had been transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. H. E. the Governor had since intimated that the Resolution had been forwarded, by the Secretary of State, to the Treasury for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It seemed to the Committee that the time had now arrived when the Government of India should be invited to adopt a line of action similar to that followed by the Ceylon Government. They accordingly decided to address a letter to the Finance and Commerce Department, referring to the memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and suggesting that H. E. the Governor-General in Council should accord to it the weight of his powerful influence and support.

The Committee thoroughly discussed the Bill to legalise the Tea Cess, which was introduced into the Council of H. E. the Governor-



General on the 30th January. It appeared to them that certain clauses required to be somewhat modified; and with reference to these the Chairman agreed to interview Sir Montagu Turner, Kt., who was in charge of the Bill.

Towards the end of December, the Committee asked the Director-General of Statistics for statements showing: (a) the imports of tea direct from China, Java, and Japan into each province of British India for the last three years; and (b) the re-exports by sea of foreign tea from Bombay and other provinces for the same period. These statements were required in connection with the question of the Ceylon import duty of 4 annas per lb., and the proposal to enhance the Indian duty to a protective rate. A letter, dated 26th January, from the Director-General of Statistics was now discussed. From it and from statistics previously obtained the Committee gathered that so far as Bombay is concerned the particulars for the three years 1899-1900, 1900-1901, and 1901-1902 were as follows:—

		1899-1900.		lbs.
Imports from China	...	...	...	1,918,958
" " Japan	...	...	...	2,108
" " Java	...	...	...	203,099
" " Ceylon	...	...	...	429,183
Total				2,553,348
Re-exports from Bombay	...	...	...	1,342,706
Left in Bombay				1,210,642

		1900-1901.		lbs.
Imports from China	...	...	...	2,528,762
" " Japan	...	...	...	60
" " Java	...	...	...	431,456
" " Ceylon	...	...	...	1,293,064
Total				4,253,342
Re-exports from Bombay	...	...	...	1,883,711
Left in Bombay				2,369,631

		1901-1902.		lbs.
Imports from China	...	...	...	1,717,226
" " Japan	...	...	...	18
" " Java	...	...	...	150,660
" " Ceylon	...	...	...	617,264
Total				2,485,168
Re-exports from Bombay	...	...	...	1,246,922
Left in Bombay				1,238,246

The Committee had no information before them as to whether the quantity not re-exported is consumed in India, or whether the bulk of it goes to Central Asia. But they were inclined to think that a fair proportion of it is consumed in the Bombay Presidency. In either event they were of opinion that some action to prevent the importation of foreign tea in such large quantities was desirable, in order to conserve the Indian and Central Asian markets for the Indian product. At the same time they recognized that the bulk of the imports came from China; and they understood that the duty on tea imported into China through the treaty ports was not more than 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. That being so, there would, they feared, be but little chance of the Government of India consenting to enhance the Indian duty as against China tea. So far as Ceylon tea was concerned, the Committee observed that the imports were not large, and were not apparently increasing. And seeing that Government had already definitely declined to enhance the duty as against Ceylon tea, they thought that it would be useless to take action at present.

In the proceedings of the Meeting held on the 16th December, reference was made to a letter, dated 5th December, from the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, Peermad, Travancore, with reference to the importation of Ceylon tea waste into India. Mr. Acworth asked if all tea consigned for Persia *via* Bombay could be inspected at that Port. If this were impossible, he thought the Ceylon Association might be approached with a view to inspection in Colombo of all teas shipped for India or Persia.

The Committee had delayed answering this letter, pending certain enquiries into the extent of the trade. They now considered Mr. Acworth's proposal; and came to the conclusion that it was not feasible. Mr. Acworth was to be informed accordingly.

Considered a letter, dated 24th January, from Mr. H. H. Mann, the Agricultural Chemist employed by the Association, stating that he proposed to go on tour on the 9th February, in connection with his experiments against Mosquito blight. Mr. Mann also asked the Committee to decide whether, on the completion of this tour, he should work up the soils of the Dooars and Darjeeling Districts, or whether he should continue his work on manufacture.

The point was carefully discussed by the Committee, who were of opinion that the investigations into manufacture were the more urgent, and should take precedence over the soils of the two Districts named.

In the proceedings of the Meeting held on the 6th January, it was stated that the Committee were making enquiries as to the quantity of tea exported by rail from Calcutta to Bombay. The result of these enquiries showed that during the year 1902 the quantity of tea so carried was 1,007,468 lbs. This information was to be conveyed to the London Committee, and to Messrs. Gow, Wilson, & Stanton, by whom the point had been raised.

Arrangements had also been made by the Committee for statements of the exports in question to be supplied to the Association monthly. The figures so obtained were to be included in the Export circular issued by the Association, on or about the 15th of each month.

### CENTRAL TRAVANCORE.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Penshurst Bungalow, on Saturday, 7th February, 1903. PRESENT:—Mr. F. M. Parker (*Chairman*), Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, Messrs. H. M. Knight, B. Laurie, F. Bissett, D. McArthur, W. K. H. Leahy, Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham, and E. Latter (*Honorary Secretary*).

The notice calling the Meeting having been read and the minutes of the last Meeting taken as read, the Chairman proceeded to address the Meeting as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—Another year has passed away, a bad year, a year of disappointment and low prices. May it rest in peace. A new year has been born, better, brighter, and more hopeful than 1902. May it fulfil the promise of its youth. Prices have improved, and from the strength of the statistical position ought to advance still higher, and there is a prospect of the Duty in England being reduced in the near future. We may congratulate ourselves on the Tea Cess being adopted by the Indian Government. It is a step in the right direction, but to my mind does not go far enough. A cess of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a pie per lb. is calculated to yield about £20,000, which is but a small sum with which to ensure successful attacks on new markets. Still, it is a beginning, and, the principle of the scheme once accepted by Government, there would probably be no difficulty in our being permitted to tax ourselves more heavily, should such a course seem desirable.

The Labour Law has been introduced, but on this topic I will say nothing, as our Planting Member will give us all the necessary information. All I will say is this, that the whole of us, planters of Southern India, owe the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth a deep debt of gratitude for the enormous amount of work and trouble he has devoted to the subject.

Thanks to the energy of Mr. H. M. Knight our section of the scheme for the exploitation of tea in Southern India has been fairly started. I will ask Mr. Knight to let us know presently what progress has been made.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I thank you all heartily for the support you have given me during the past year, and it only remains to wish you all happiness and prosperity in the new one.

### Honorary Secretary's Annual Report.

U. P. A. S. I.—The most important matters discussed at the Annual Meeting were—Tea Cess, Labour Bill, and Sale of Tea in South India.

Tea Cess.—This the Government of India have decided to legislate on and impose from 1st April, 1903, at the rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  pie per lb. on all tea exported from India. The proceeds to be paid over to and administered by a Committee of 20 composed of

3 members nominated by Bengal Chamber of Commerce,	
7 " " " I. T. A.,	
10 " " " Associations or local bodies inter-	

ested in tea, of these last 2 are to be from South India,



*The Labour Bill* has been read in the Madras Legislative Council and published, so that all members are no doubt acquainted with its contents; a select Committee has been appointed, of which the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth is a member, and it is to be hoped clauses will be inserted to meet our requirements.

*Sale of Tea in South India.*—Messrs. Parry & Co., Madras, have commenced operations—100 chests of tea from this district have been forwarded to Madras and subscriptions of 3 annas per acre from all members of this Association and Ladrum Estate have been paid. Subscriptions have also been received from South Travancore and several merchant firms on the Coast. A Sirocco has been bought for repacking purposes in Madras.

*Harbour on the West Coast.*—H. E. the Governor of Madras on his recent tour visited Cochin and although he seemed in favour of the construction of a harbour at that port, I understand, nothing definite has so far been settled.

*Roads and Bridges.*—During the last year very little progress was made with the Periyar Bridge, and it is to be hoped the work will be pushed forward this year. Some of the wooden bridges on the district roads, to which the Executive Engineer's attention has been drawn, are still in a very dangerous condition. The main road from Kottayam is in a fairly good state of repair.

Several bad slips occurred on the Kumili Ghaut Road during November and considerable difficulty was experienced in getting rice carts up. The Madura Local Fund Board have executed temporary repairs and intend spending a large amount on thorough repairs.

*Membership.*—17 estates are on the rolls of the Association, representing 6,299 acres in cultivation.

*Finances.*—In addition to 4 annas per acre voted as subscription for the year it was found necessary to call for another  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna per acre. The total expenditure for the year was Rs.1,825-3-1 which includes the subsidy paid to the Government Medical Officer. The balance to be carried forward is Rs.121-7-6.

*Quarterly Meetings* were discontinued as many members were absent in England. There is a Resolution on the agenda paper that this be resumed.

*Paris Exhibition, 1900.*—The Diploma for the Honourable mention obtained has been received and is upon the table.

*Post Office.*—To our request for a Post Office at the Periyar Crossing, the Postmaster-General replied that the subject had his best attention, but I have heard no more.

Mails have been very irregularly delivered at times, the local Superintendent has been instructed by Postmaster-General to take all steps possible to prevent delays.

Mr. McArthur was Honorary Secretary till the latter part of October.

I now tender my resignation.

(Signed) E. LATTER,  
Honorary Secretary.

A vote of thanks was passed to both Honorary Secretaries for their services.

The Report was adopted and accounts passed.

*Subscription* for the year was fixed at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  annas per acre, and members reminded that same is now due.

*Land Tax.*—Proposed by Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth and seconded by Mr. H. M. Knight, "That H. H.'s Government be requested for the convenience of all concerned to separate the Peermaad plateau and Cardamom Hills area, from the jurisdiction of the Kottayan Dewan Peishkar for all revenue purposes and place them under that of the Cardamom Hill Department."—Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Acworth said that he moved the Resolution on account of the inconvenience of the present system and also the evident inaccuracy it entailed in the keeping of accounts. A short time since he was startled by a demand made on him by the Tahsildar of Meenachel for some Rs.2,000 odd alleged arrears and some hundreds of rupees for current year's tax. He replied these had all been paid and he held the Dewan's receipts for them. A week or two later the Tahsildar sent



**FOR  
OLD & YOUNG**

the vigour and buoyancy of health are secured by the timely and regular use of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup—a natural tonic and blood purifier compounded of fruits, roots and herbs. It tones the liver, regulates the bowels, promotes the thorough digestion of food and thus sustains and nourishes both brain and body with an abundant flow of pure rich blood.

**SEIGEL'S  
SYRUP**

"Six years ago," says Mr. T. Martin, of 91, Brougham St., Sydney, N.S.W., "I began to suffer from quite a complication of complaints. I was both bilious and dyspeptic, and suffered excruciating agony in my back. One doctor told me I was suffering from dyspepsia and enlargement of the liver, but his treatment failed to cure me, and not until I used Mother Seigel's Syrup and Plasters did I find permanent relief. I continued with the remedies for nine weeks, by which time I was permanently restored to good health."

Made of  
**Fruits, Roots & Herbs.**



up two of his office clerks with a second demand, but of a reduced amount. To these men were shown the Dewan's original letters and receipts, but the only answer Mr. Acworth could get was, that the money was owing and must be paid. On his refusal to pay, the clerks served him with warrants, ordering him to pay within a certain date, and shortly afterwards he received a notice from the Tahsildar, giving him warning that, unless payment was made within ten days, his moveables would be distrained and sold by auction. Mr. Acworth, who had previously been in communication with the Dewan, at once wired him informing him of the situation and the Dewan immediately wired the Tahsildar to stay all proceedings. The Dewan further reprimanded the Tahsildar and issued a general order, that no Tahsildar was in future to threaten Europeans with such action as had the Tahsildar of Meenachel, without previous reference to himself. Mr. Acworth wished to emphasise the consideration and courtesy shown him by the Dewan—still the present system of tax collection was annoying and vexatious, and moreover liable to lead to friction with the authorities. He thought that were the method suggested in the Resolution adopted, it would prove more convenient both to the land-owner and H. H.'s Government.

Mr. Knight, in seconding the Resolution, said he had paid certain taxes on 11th August, 1902, and held a receipt from the Assistant to Cardamom Superintendent, yet on 3rd February, 1903, he had received a demand notice in Malayalam and a letter from the Tahsildar of Meenachel demanding payment of some disputed taxes, together with the amount paid on 11th August, 1902.

Mr. Laurie also supported the Resolution and said he had suffered great inconvenience from the erratic ways of the Revenue Officials. Last July the Tahsildar of Changanacherry sent a peremptory demand for Rs.90-0-10 for taxes said to be due from Glenmary Estate, which was paid under protest and a request made for an explanation as to what taxes these were, seeing the usual taxes had all been paid. No answer has been received, though seven months have elapsed; the Dewan has been twice addressed urgently on the subject, and the only reply obtained is that a *reminder* has been sent to the Tahsildar of Changanacherry. Another case happened this month, the Tahsildar of Meenachel wrote and demanded payment for Land Tax on Leg of Mutton Shola

for M. E. 1077... Rs.25 7 0  
 " 1076... " 25 4 8

both of which amounts had been paid and for which Mr. Laurie held receipts. To stop these vexatious and unjust demands, entailed a visit to the local Magistrate to explain and complain.

**Meetings.**—Proposed by Mr. F. Bissett and seconded by Mr. H. M. Knight, that "This Association again hold its Meetings quarterly."—Carried *nem. con.*

**Agenda Paper.**—Proposed by Mr. F. Bissett and seconded by Mr. F. M. Parker, that "In future the agenda paper shall contain detailed information regarding the subjects to be brought forward."—Carried *nem. con.*

**Medical.**—Messrs. H. M. Knight, B. Laurie and D. McArthur were appointed as a Select Committee to interview the Durbar Physician.

**Labour Bill.**—Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth briefly explained the Bill as amended and the Association expressed their complete satisfaction with it.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth for all the time and trouble he has devoted to the subject.

**Election of Officers.**—The ballot resulted as follows:—

Mr. F. M. Parker, *Chairman*.  
 Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, *Vice-Chairman*.  
 Mr. E. Latter, *Honorary Secretary*.  
 Mr. H. M. Knight, } *Committee*.  
 Mr. B. Laurie. }

Mr. Parker thanked the members for the compliment paid him in re-electing him Chairman.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting ended.

Papers laid on the table—

Travancore Government Gazette.  
 Planting Opinion.  
 Indian Gardening and Planting.  
 Proceedings of District Associations.

Examined and found in order,

(Signed) E. LATTER,  
*Honorary Secretary*.

(Signed) FRANK BISSETT.

17th January, 1903.

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of January 30th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

*The London Commercial Record* says:—Supplies during the week have been rather more extensive than of late, but a fair demand has prevailed, and the tone of the market has been stronger for all desirable descriptions. There has been more East India of the new crop on offer, and with the comparatively easy prices ruling previously, it has commanded a little more attention, the lower grades selling at previous rates, and home trade qualities showing an improvement of 1s to 2s per cwt. Jamaica quiet and rather in favour of buyers. Colory lots of Costa Rica sold at extreme rates, and there was a steady demand for fair as well as for other descriptions of Central American at about former prices. Santos sold at 1s advance on washed. There have been few fluctuations in the market for futures, and the latest quotations show a slight advance; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 26s 3d to 26s 6d, May at 27s, July at 27s 9d, September at 28s 1½d to 28s 3d, and December at 28s 10½d to 29s per cwt.

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery ...	26s 6d.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio...	" ...	4'30 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	" ...	27 pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	" ...	32½ francs.

Auction supplies to-day embraced 121 barrels 61 bags Jamaica, 19 bags Nyassaland, 86 bags Nicaragua, 23 bags Peruvian, 303 Vera Paz, 988 bags Costa Rica, 81 bags New Granada, 56 bags Guatemala, 302 bags Colombian, 31 bags Salvador, 13 bags Mexican, 150 bags Rio, and 68 bags Santos. Tho sales passed off with a fair demand, with prices unaltered.

Brazil "futures" opened steadily, but eased during the day, although Continental markets remained unchanged, and receipts were lighter. Transactions include—March at 26s 6d to 26s 3d, May at 27s 1½d to 26s 10½d, September at 28s 1½d to 28s, December at 28s 10½d to 28s 9d.

Closing quotations:—

	Sellers.	Buyers.
March ..	26/6	26/3
May ...	27/	26/9
July ...	27/6	27/4½
September ...	28/1½	28/
December ...	28/10½	28/7½

Brazil receipts 23,000 bags, against 47,000 and 23,000 the two previous seasons, and exchange, 11½ being ¾ lower.

At the Dutch Trading Co.'s sale, held in Rotterdam on Tuesday, 26,040 bags Java sold; good ordinary realised 29 cents, against 31½ cents valuation, and 35 cents obtained at the last sales held in Amsterdam. The following are some of the particulars:—

No.	Bags.	Valued at.	Result.
		Cents.	Cents.
1 ...	2,519	32	31 @ 31½
2 ...	474	32	30¾ " 31
3 ...	1,067	31½	28½ " 29
4 ...	734	32	28 " 28½
7 ...	296	8	8½ " ...
8 ...	204	8	8½ " ...
9 ...	1,000	33	29½ " 30
10 ...	1,000	34	30½ " 30¾
11 ...	1,600	33	28 " 28½
12 ...	1,037	30	26½ " 26¾

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	26,300	13,840	4,435	3,434

	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	1,152	1,291	1,392	609

The preceding figures exhibit—

In the Imports an increase this year of	1,001
Home Consumption a decrease of	139
Export an increase of	783
Stock an increase of	12,460

Auctions this week have gone off as under:—

CEYLON:—9 packages retired unsold.

EAST INDIA.—1,225 bags mostly sold as follows:—*Mysore*, smalls 40s, middling 52s to 52s 6d, bold 66s 6d, peaberry 46s to 60s; *Coorg*,



small 4ls, low middling to middling 43s to 50s 6d, common to fair bold 49s 6d to 58s, good bold 63s 6d, peaberry 47s to 60s; *Wynad*, small 37s 6d to 38s 6d, middling 45s to 46s, bold 52s, peaberry 37s 6d; *Neilgherry*, small 43s 6d, middling 50s to 50s 6d, good bold 59s 6d to 62s, peaberry 56s 6d to 58s (old crop, bold 49s to 55s).

**JAMAICA.**—Of 230 barrels 93 bags offered 91 barrels 98 bags sold, good to fine ordinary greenish 33s 6d to 37s, low middling to middling colory 45s 6d to 52s, good bold 64s, peaberry 60s.

**MOCHA.**—27 half-bales bought in.

**COSTA RICA.**—Of 2,333 bags catalogued 2,300 bags sold, small 32s to 51s 6d, low middling to middling 46s 6d to 58s 6d, good middling blue 59s 6d to 61s 6d, common to fair bold 57s to 68s, good to fine blue bold 71s to 83s, very fine 88s 6d to 93s 6d, peaberry 48s 6d to 100s.

**GUATEMALA.**—658 bags about half sold, small 36s 6d, low middling to middling 46s 6d to 48s, peaberry 43s to 57s.

**SALVADOR.**—Of 509 bags catalogued, 400 bags sold, small 33s to 39s, middling 47s to 48s, peaberry 52s to 60s.

**COLOMBIAN.**—987 bags damaged nearly all sold, small 27s 6d, ordinary to good ordinary 26s to 30s, low middling 39s to 42s 6d, middling 43s 6d to 46s, bold 44s 6d to 47s 6d, fine blue bold 70s 6d, peaberry 40s to 43s 6d.

**PERUVIAN.**—Of 547 bags offered 383 bags sold—small 35s, middling 48s to 48s 6d, bold 53s to 54s 6d, peaberry 57s 6d.

**VENEZUELAN.**—49 bags sold, small 36s 6d, middling 48s 6d, bold 57s, peaberry 55s.

**BRAZIL.**—Of 1,554 bags washed Dumont Santos offered 1,450 bags sold, small 29s to 33s, medium 32s 6d to 42s 6d, bold 40s to 53s 6d, peaberry 37s to 54s. 500 bags unwashed, quay terms, sold, small 22s, medium 31s 6d to 32s, bold 36s 6d, peaberry 25s to 35s 6d. 250 bags Rio were bought in.

#### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio ...	2,774,000	3,813,000	1,818,000	2,363,000
Santos ...	6,164,000	7,610,000	5,887,000	4,934,000
Total ...	8,938,000	11,423,000	7,705,000	7,297,000
Crop ...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, previous day 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**HAVRE, January 29.**—Good average Santos January opened barely steady at 32f. and closed quiet at 32f., March opened at 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ f., May opened at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f. and closed at 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., September opened at 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ f., December opened at 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ f. and closed at 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ f.

**HAMBURG, January 29.**—Good average Santos February opened steady at 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf. and closed steady at 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf., March opened at 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf. and closed at 27pf., May opened at 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. and closed at 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf., September opened at 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. and closed at 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf., December opened at 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf. and closed at 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf.

**NEW YORK, January 29.**—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.
Jan. 29 ...	4.15	4.15	4.30	4.35	4.45
Jan. 28 ...	4.20	4.15	4.30	4.35	4.45

#### TEA.

**INDIAN.**—Public auctions included 31,200 packages against 33,100 in the week before, and 48,700 at this time last year.

The position and market remain practically unaltered, the strength of the former not yet having declared itself in the prices paid; if anything values under 8d, especially for leaf, are again cheaper. Improved quality, when met with, has continued to attract brisk competition at firm to dearer rates.

Purchases as made are quickly taken up, and deliveries are satisfactory considering that there is no inducement in duty possibilities for clearing a pound of tea unless for actual and immediate requirements, consequently the indications here are good.

Sellers are firm, and, wisely for the time being, assimilate offerings to the present hand-to-mouth business; any endeavour at this juncture to force an unwilling trade to go into stock would only be to court a lower market.

Meanwhile, the consumer continues to drink tea uninfluenced by what may be termed the side issues, such as duty, etc., which may temporarily affect Mincing-lane, and eventually the inexorable

law of "supply and demand" must, if experience has taught aright, assert itself. The balance is once again in the growers' favour, and in this connection the following movements of Indian tea for the 12 months ending December 31st last, compared with the two previous years, are interesting:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports ..	153,266,379	160,446,304	152,334,701
Deliveries ..	158,347,924	157,615,467	144,704,803

There is little more to sell in Calcutta, and the closing offerings are, as usual, mostly undesirable for general purposes, being red and mixed.

The average for the London weekly sales has recently been comparing favourably with that for a similar period in the former season; this, however, is a more apparent than real advantage owing to the Autumn crop now offering being infinitely superior to last year, and the smaller proportion of common tea being dealt with consequent on the condition of the market.

For 25,800 packages on estate account 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. was obtained, opposed to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for 42,400 and 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb. for 50,000 in the two foregoing seasons.

Printed for importers for January:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
141,570 pkgs.	225,200 pkgs.	239,400 pkgs.	
making 910,700 packages of the 1902 crop offered, against 1,009,000 packages in the same portion of 1901-02. On this showing, and taking into account the shortage in our imports, it would appear that in spite of the smaller quantity recently brought forward, it is doubtful if the total remaining to be dealt with appreciably exceeds that at this time last year.			

**CEYLON.**—Sales totalled 16,500 packages contrasted with 21,600 on the 20th instant, and 26,800 twelve months ago.

There was a fairly good inquiry, though some irregularity was observable in the biddings. Finest grades received more attention, and as a rule sold well. Medium to fine sorts passed unevenly, but without material change in value. Common and ordinary descriptions were in moderate request, though here and there, in sympathy with other growths, quotations showed signs of weakness. The average is the same as on the 22nd instant, when it stood at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. In 1902 it was 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

Submitted during the month:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
90,700 pkgs.	115,300 pkgs.	146,000 pkgs.	
(Avge. 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb.)	(Avge. 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb.)	(Avge. 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb.)	
<b>JAVA.</b> —Rather over 2,200 packages passed the hammer, previous values being upheld.			

Offered in January:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
6,500 pkgs.	10,500 pkgs.	8,800 pkgs.)	
(Avge. 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ d per lb.)	(Avge. 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb.)	(Avge. 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb.)	

**Deliveries.**—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz:—

From January 1 to 27, 1903	...	17,184,944 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	24,146,832 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India ...	21,208	9,987	31,195
Ceylon ...	14,248	2,220	16,468
Java ...	1,636	596	2,232
Totals ...	37,092	12,803	49,895

Also 100 packages from second hands.

**Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated January 30th, 1903, says:—**

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	1,034,957	757,978	49,547
1901-1902 ...	1,098,407	778,798	44,724
32,037 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 51,164 packages were offered in public auction			
16,895 " CEYLON } this week.			
2,232 " JAVA }			

Buyers continue to operate with extreme caution, and with business generally quiet in the country, they have not much



immediate inducement to add to their stocks. Consequently the market has shown a rather dragging tendency during the week, although no actual change has taken place in quotations.

The distribution of the total tea exports from Ceylon for the past twelve months is shown below, and marks a good increase to the Russian market, for which probably much of the tea sent to China was also destined. The larger quantity of green tea exported is encouraging.

Distribution of Tea Exports from Ceylon from 1st January to end of December.

		1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Austria ..	..	58,592	50,958	24,633	8,231
Belgium ..	..	93,076	17,781	22,954	14,424
France ..	..	233,220	317,866	326,800	98,952
Germany ..	..	661,818	586,104	402,717	346,959
Holland ..	..	5,064	19,041	2,000	30,211
Italy ..	..	20,307	13,924	8,332	13,521
Russia ..	{ Black	11,599,953	9,609,734	8,917,185	3,949,740
	{ Green	127,115	44,162		
Spain ..	..	3,293	250	17,730	18,700
Sweden ..	..	90,107	65,104	71,300	78,088
Turkey ..	..	40,663	40,978	47,009	18,733
India ..	{ Black	870,140	1,122,989	1,144,013	567,616
	{ Green	29,210	16,124		
Australia ..	{ Black	18,718,794	20,638,238	17,606,912	15,606,833
	{ Green		2,976		
America ..	{ Black	5,041,576	3,704,335	3,980,680	3,080,002
	{ Green	1,978,456	797,796		
Africa ..	{ Black	564,278	3,057,030	280,699	288,239
	{ Green	1,200			
China ..	{ Black	4,663,008	2,682,334	1,262,463	1,384,490
	{ Green	26,420	12,485		
Singapore ..	..	218,163	147,560	119,178	83,913
Mauritius ..	..	72,659	55,376	17,323	100,248
Malta ..	..	333,636	312,633	419,518	257,232
Outside	{ Black	43,298,400	39,690,905	34,671,446	25,946,032
U. K. ..	{ Green	2,162,401	873,543		
U. K. ..	{ Black	102,899,489	105,497,339	113,760,193	103,948,124
	{ Green	644,443	237,231		
Total lbs. ..		149,004,733	146,299,018	148,431,639	129,894,156

INDIAN.—The auction was light for the time of year, but demand was somewhat quiet and consequently bidding showed much irregularity, although owing to the firmness of merchants, prices were practically unchanged, many teas being withdrawn when offers were too low.

Revised Customs figures showing the Imports of Indian and Ceylon Tea from 1st June to end of October.

Bengal Presidency (including Calcutta and Chittagong) ...	71,058,950	1902. lbs.	67,765,724	1901. lbs.
Madras Presidency (including Travancore) ...	2,025,472	73,785,561	1,556,952	69,896,793
Bombay Presidency	701,139		574,117	
Ceylon Tea		47,203,577		41,340,428

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 26,028 pkgs., av. 7.55d. 1902, +2,371 pkgs., av. 7.40d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 773,990 pkgs., av. 7.30d. 1901-2, 835,399 pkgs., av. 7.92d.

CEYLON.—Very little change was noticeable in the market, teas generally selling up to about late quotations, better liquoring kinds attracting most attention. The quality, as often happens at this time of year, is now showing some falling off.

Average for week 7.47d, against 7.25d in 1902.


Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 83,163 pkgs., av. 7.56d. 1902, 103,587 pkgs., av. 7.39d.

JAVA.—The teas brought forward were all of direct import and met with fair competition. Quality showed a slight falling off, which may partly account for the rather lower prices offered. 216 packages from "Goalpara" averaged 9¾d per lb.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub>. Colombo 1/4<sup>11</sup>/<sub>32</sub>.

COCOA.

A good demand prevailed at the auctions on Tuesday, and of the 10,611 bags catalogued, about 6,500 bags sold at about valuations.



# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/11 & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



Of 2,401 bags Trinidad offered, about 1,000 bags found buyers at 67s 6d for very fine red, 61s to 64s for good to fine, and 58s to 60s for ordinary to middling red, being occasionally 1s down. Of the large supply of 4,961 bags Grenada, 4,450 bags were placed at somewhat irregular, but generally steady, rates—good to fine at 56s to 58s 6d, common to fair 52s to 55s 6d. Of 576 bags Jamaica, 90 bags ordinary quality sold at 50s. Of 98 bags Dominica, only one lot sold at 54s. 2 bags St. Vincent brought 50s. 17 bags Demerara and 2 bags Montserrat were bought in. 91 bags Esmeraldas realised 60s for defective grey. Of 93 bags Costa Rica, 20 bags fair sold at 53s. Of 37 bags Colombian, a few bags sold at 53s 6d for greyish defective. 55 bags Java garbling sold privately. 77 bags African retired. Ceylon quiet, but unchanged in value; of 2,156 bags catalogued, 520 bags sold—fine bold red at 77s 6d, fair to good bold and medium at 65s 6d to 73s 6d, ordinary to middling ditto 58s 6d to 62s, fair to good small 48s to 57s 6d, and picking 20s to 48s per cwt. Privately sales include 400 bags Guayaquil at 64s for fair Caraquez, and 77s 6d to 78s per cwt. for Summer Arriba.

### PEPPER.

**BLACK.**—The market has been dull in tone and value easier, but it is steadier at the close. On the spot a limited business has been done in fair Singapore at 6d to 6½d, and for arrival 100 tons are reported sold, *viz.*, January-March shipment at 6d down to 5½d, closing at 6½d, and March-May at 6½d down to 6d, closing at 6½d.

100 bags Singapore were offered at auction on Wednesday and sold "without reserve" at 6d to 6½d per lb for fair.

**WHITE.**—The market is very quiet and for arrival no business is mentioned. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at 9½d and of fair Penang at 9½d per lb.

At public sale on the 28th instant 178 bags good Singapore retired at 10d to 10½d, also 21 bags Penang at 9½d per lb. (9d bid and refused).

### GINGER.

**COCHIN.**—was not represented at auction. Value of good medium and small washed rough is 40s per cwt. The new crop is arriving lean and unsatisfactory generally.

**JAPAN.**—Reports of a very heavy crop—amounting, it is said, to 40,000 piculs, have depressed the market. Spot value is in the neighbourhood of 32s, and at auction on Wednesday 30s was bid in vain for 54 bags of fair limed, 32s 6d per cwt. being the buying-in price.

### QUININE.

In spite of the 3 per cent. advance in the Amsterdam bark-sale last week, the market has remained extremely quiet, and speculators are now waiting the figures relating to the cinchona-shipments for the month, which were not known up to Wednesday. Business was done at close of last week at 11½d spot, but there are few sellers, and 1s is the spot-price to-day (Wednesday).

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7'55d., JANUARY 30TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore ...	1118	6.82												
Kanan Dev Hil M ...	225 p	7½	79 p	7½ 8½	48	6½	32	†8½	31	6½	...	...	35½c	5½ 6½
" Nullatanni...	248 p	7	120	6½ 7½	60	6½	33	8	18	5½	...	...	17½c	5
" Periaurrai...	5½c	5½									...	...	5½c	4½ 6½
" Sevenmally.	355 p	6½	99 p	†7 8½	86	†6½	87	†7½	42	†5½	...	...	41½c	5 6
TTE Co Kolie K ...	99	6½	41	6½ 8½	30	6	...	...	10	5½ 5½	...	...	18	6½
" Pambanar ...	90	6½	47	6½ 8	28	5½	...	...	15	5½	...	...	...	...
Vembenard ...	96 p	6½	32	†6½	33	5½	...	...	...	...	...	...	31½c	6½
Wynaad ...	199	5.85									...	...	...	...
Erramacullah ...	82 p	6½	25½c	6½	14	6	25½c	7½	10	6	4½c	5½	4½c	6½
Tanga Mulla ...	117	5½	13	6½	25	†5	12	6½	24	†5	...	...	43	5 5½

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

**CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S LTD.**

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to

His Majesty  
The King.

**CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.**



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1903.

[No. 9.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 6th proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*February 24th.—Weather—*East wind. Hot days. Cold nights. There has been a little thunder, so rain may be soon expected. *Works—*Finishing up of crop, pounding coffee, weeding and pruning. *Crop prospects—*The trees are now ready for rain, and, if it falls within ten days, a very average crop may be expected. *Coffee diseases—*Leaf-disease hardly anything. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Abundant.

#### THE MÖCKERN EXPERIMENT STATION.

APROPOS of our remarks at various times about the need of Scientific Aid for Agriculture in India and of the establishment of an Agricultural Department upon a broad foundation, we propose to give a general review of the work done on an Experiment station in Germany. We do not single out the Möckern station as the best of its kind, or the one that has done the greatest service to agriculture. We select it because it was the first of its kind in the world, and because it marks the beginning of the Experiment Station as a public institution. The particulars we give are taken from the *Experiment Station Record*, Washington, which makes due acknowledgment of the Möckern station as a pioneer and observes that the history of its establishment is of unusual interest. That history, which was recently summarised in an address delivered by the present director of the station, shows that LAWES and GILBERT in England and BOUSSINGAULT in France had, for several years, carried on systematic and continuous field experiments, supplemented by laboratory work. LIEBIG had, through his field and laboratory studies and his generalizations in science, aroused interest in the fundamental principles underlying plant and animal intuition. A first step towards the establishment of an Experiment station in Saxony was the providing by the Saxon Gov-

ernment of a chair of agricultural chemistry in the Forestry and Agricultural Academy at Tharand, in 1847. Subsequently, plans were laid for the establishment of a station, to be located on the farm of the Leipsic Economic Society at Möckern. It is of special interest to us, in India, to note that the Saxon Government committed itself to the undertaking and promised an appropriation for its maintenance. It eventually carried out this promise, and on December 28, 1852, an institution was definitely established, after being provided for during a period of some eighteen months by private means.

The purpose of the station was defined as follows: "to extend the knowledge of the practice of agriculture and the industries connected with it by means of scientific investigation, closely associated with practical experiments of various kinds, and to disseminate the useful results thus obtained." Though the programme laid out in the Act of its establishment covered the whole field of agricultural experiments, it was naturally found necessary to confine the operations of the station within a comparatively restricted field. Since 1867 the Möckern station has been primarily a station for investigation in animal physiology, yet it now embraces four additional divisions, each presided over by a separate officer: one for the analysis of fertilizers, one for the examination of food-stuffs, agricultural products, water, etc.; a third for soil studies, for judging of the quality of sorts, their cultural relations, laying out of estates, etc.; and a fourth for vegetation experiments, to study the fertilizer-requirements of Saxony soils. In its early days this station was the guiding star of the experiment station movement. Now we may say of it:—It has shown what an experiment station may accomplish for both the science and the practice of agriculture. It has commanded the respect of the farmer and the scientist alike. Its example has led directly to the establishment of a large number of other stations, and the sphere of its influence has extended far beyond the confines of the country in which it is situated. Had the first station of its kind failed, what would have been the probable result? Indefinite delay in the spread of the movement whose beginning it marks. We may now regard other stations as more important, as doing better and more varied work; but it is to the day of small things inaugurated in Saxony that we must trace that brighter day of greater things that dawned long ago in the United States.



It has been observed that the fifty years that have elapsed since the Möckern station entered upon its work, almost hesitatingly and tentatively, have witnessed the establishment of a system of stations as State or Government institutions in practically every civilized country. Is India, then, not a civilized country? There are so-called Experiment stations or farms here; but there is still not one of them of which it can be said, as has been long said of Möckern in words quoted above, it has commanded the respect of the farmer and the scientist alike. An occasional scientist who has read annual reports may regard some one farm or more with respect; but there is not one worthy of comparison with the American stations, there is not one that can be truly said to have commanded the respect of the farmer. In other countries experiment stations have steadily grown in strength, in importance, and in useful influence; they are ranked as permanent institutions; they have become necessities. In India they are still regarded by Government as luxuries, and by the people they are virtually ignored. From a financial or commercial point of view, no class of institutions makes a better return for money invested; none reaches with more directness a large proportion of the people in whose interest such stations are labouring. The agricultural population of India is, in proportion to the total population, enormous; yet here, where the work of such stations should give greater scope than in almost any other country, experiment stations are not valued, perhaps because no good system has ever been adopted in regard to their establishment and management. We urge that this be altered. To say that the time has arrived would be to utter a platitude and to prove oneself behind the times. The day came many years ago; but never yet has there been any well-organized attempt to establish stations of the kind needed, or any general exhortation to the Government to cease to neglect one of the most vital necessities of the country. The day of reformation may be at hand, for the Madras Government have at last determined to appoint an Agricultural Chemist, but we presume that this officer will have to work under non-scientific officials. If so, his efforts at progress will be greatly impeded.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

At yesterday's Meeting of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George the Hon'ble Mr. G. Stokes was to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Planters' Labour Bill, 1902, and move that the Bill and Report be taken into consideration at once.

Notice had been given of amendments which occupy about 15 printed pages of foolscap.

#### A MATTER OF DEFINITION.

The *Madras Mail* states that Mr. F. Hannington, I.C.S., Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate of the Nilgiris, has called the attention of the Government of Madras in the Legislative Department to the fact that the definition of the word "employer" in the Bill is defective inasmuch as it does not include a person in charge placed as the head of the estate by the owner or manager. As an illustration of the point he means to convey, he mentions the Oucherlony Valley estates in South-East Wynaad, where one planter or manager has charge of no less than eleven estates which are directly looked after by overseers. These latter do all the contracting for labour, the manager merely supplying the funds. He thinks that unless the definition of "employer" is amended to in-

clude this class of contracting parties, difficulties in enforcing contracts in these cases will arise.

He also asks that coolies coming to work in the Wynaad from Mysore, Coimbatore, and Malabar, in the height of the South-West monsoon should undergo some sort of a medical examination as to their fitness for work. This is what he has to say in support of his proposal:—The coolies to work on coffee estates are generally imported from Mysore Province, Coimbatore, and Malabar Districts. The time when work on coffee estates begins is the height of the South-West monsoon. Being ill-clad and sickly on their arrival they soon fall ill and are then sent to the Gudalur hospital for treatment. When discharged from hospital, these people are unable to work through weakness. They start begging in Gudalur, the result being that they are sometimes picked up by the Police half-dead and sent to the hospital where they die soon after. In September 1900 several people had to be sent away from Gudalur to their native places at the expense of Government.

To remedy this, provision might be made in the Act to have the coolies examined by the Medical officer of the District from which they are imported to ascertain whether they are fit for service in the Wynaad or other Districts to which they are to be imported. The maistries must produce the certificates granted by the Medical officers to the employers on the estate. In default, the services of the coolies should not be accepted on pain of a fine.

#### THE POLICE COMMISSION.

Mr. Bernard Malcolm, Planter and Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, in his written evidence before the Police Commission stated that his opinion in regard to the manner in which the police generally discharged their duties was that so far as superior officers were concerned, generally speaking, he considered their energies misdirected. Constables and Head Constables were as good as could be expected, seeing the opportunities they had for accepting bribes and the very small amount of European supervision they got. It seemed evident, judging from the fact of this Commission having had to be formed, that the heads of the Police Department had not the proper training and knowledge that should be theirs to enable them to organise an effective force. Were they selected men who had had a thorough training, as boys in a Military college, and as young men in the Police force, it seemed to him that a large number of the questions put to witnesses would never have arisen. He was of opinion that the number of Assistant Superintendents was not sufficient to secure adequate supervision over the subordinate police. He would increase their number and insist on greater activity in inspection work and less office work. He was not in favour of employing natives of India in the superior ranks of the police. The Inspector-General ought to be ordinarily an officer of the Police Department. The man who had been through the mill should be the best qualified to organise and reform. The best system in his District did not appear to be effective, nor did he think it was possible it could be. The daily beat over certain fixed areas might be dispensed with in favour of a weekly or bi-weekly beat, and constables be instructed by the Station-house Officer to go and examine special areas and routes at irregular and unknown intervals. At present, it seemed to be the custom that beat books might be signed by any irresponsible person a constable chose to ask. Only responsible persons of a certain position should be allowed to sign. He had known of the beat book being signed by estate maistries and such like persons of no authority at all. In the District it had been very generally found that, regarding coffee-stealing, the detection of this depended entirely on the energy of the Superintendent of Police. In Mr. Fawcett's time, theft of coffee had been almost entirely stamped out, and it was generally conceded that the police in the District were altogether more alert and efficient owing to



the fact that they were never aware when they would be subject to a sudden and unexpected visit from this energetic officer. His arrangements for the detection and prevention of coffee-stealing were such as met with general approval, and if his methods were followed, the stealing of coffee, pepper, and tea, would become rare. Judging from general report blackmail was a regular institution, and only closer European supervision would keep it in check. In reply to the question whether there was a sufficient European element in the classes below that of Assistant Superintendent, witness said that for reasons that were obvious from his previous replies, he would suggest that all Inspectors should be Europeans. They could be recruited admirably from Army reservists.

COFFEE NOTES.

**Aroma of French Coffee.**—"The delicious flavour which all travellers in France discover in the coffee of that country is got, it is said, by the addition of a little butter and sugar during the roasting process," says *Harper's Bazaar*. "To every three pounds of roasting berries a tablespoonful each of butter and powdered sugar is added. These, in melting, spread over the beans in a thin coating, which holds the aroma and contributes a caramel flavour that is delicious and distinctive."

There is a new coffee roasting concern in New York, located at 71, Watts street. This is the Coruba Plantation and Trading Company, the incorporators of which are well-known business men. They represent direct coffee importing interests, and the name Coruba is derived from coffee, rubber, and bananas. A complete plant of machinery is being put in the new factory for work on green and roasted coffee, beginning at coffee hulling and ending with a system of storage bins for finished goods, having outlets both in the packing room and on the shipping floor. The latest Burns 7-ft. open cylinder roasters will be used and all details of the plant will be of the most approved sort.

**Making Coffee.**—Coffee is a good bean which ought to be more popular in this country, but there is a lot of leeway to be made up before British cooks and housewives know how to make it decently. On an American can of coffee appears the following recipe :—

**DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING A PERFECT CUP OF COFFEE:**—In judging the quality of coffee a great deal depends upon the way it is made. People sometimes think they have secured inferior coffee, when the fault lies wholly with themselves in the preparation of the article. For this reason we give below directions for making a perfect cup of coffee. *First.*—The coffee pot must be thoroughly scalded before being used. *Second.*—The coffee must always be ground fine, as it is impossible for water to percolate through the coffee bean, and if this is not done much of the nutritive qualities will be lost. *Third.*—The water must be boiling before it is poured on the coffee. *Fourth.*—If you do not use a vessel specially adapted for making fine coffee an egg should be used for settling. *Fifth.*—Use a full tablespoonful of ground coffee to each half-pint of boiling water, and be sure to always measure; do not GUESS. *Sixth.*—Set aside to simmer, not boil. If these directions are carried out an excellent cup of coffee will be the result.

"Never monkey with bad coffee" is the expressive and wise advice our American contemporary offers to the trade with the above. The retailer's object should be to gain a reputation for coffee that his customers like so well that they

talk about it. One or two letters in the current issue suggest that the question of roasting on up-to-date methods might be usefully discussed just now.

Visible Supply of Coffee					
on February 1st,					
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets	440,850	340,750	238,000	235,550	226,400
to { afloat — Brazil ...	32,020	33,360	22,700	20,190	15,540
Europe { loading — do. ...	2,470	3,180	760	...	...
{ afloat — the East ..	1,680	1,870	2,550	2,960	1,030
{ do. — U. S. A. ...	1,820	880	1,470	1,530	650
Stocks U. S. of North-America	478,840	380,040	265,480	260,230	243,620
to { afloat — Brazil ...	147,060	128,470	46,880	53,410	56,940
U. S. A. { loading — do. ..	24,120	27,120	23,350	37,230	34,180
{ afloat — the East ..	1,230	3,060	3,530	...	...
	1,120	1,180	1,290	1,880	1,120
Stocks in Rio ...	652,370	539,870	340,530	352,750	335,860
Do. Santos ...	31,000	32,940	15,820	8,470	15,940
Do. Bahia ...	71,880	72,240	70,410	28,650	36,470
	1,470	2,650	3,000	1,700	1,590
Total ..	756,720	647,700	429,760	391,570	389,860
On January 1st...	774,330	639,010	447,810	417,720	386,860

**Coffee in London.**—The advance of last week has somewhat checked the demand which, particularly, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of January 31, 1903, from the Home trade, has shown a very decided falling-off from the earlier part of the month. Notwithstanding this the market has remained firm, due possibly to a curtailment in the supplies, and also, as far as Costa Rica is concerned, to some improvement in the quality. What advance there has been is mostly in the finest of the bold sizes, but the medium and lower grades have sold steadily at the recent values. The few lots of East Indian, though slightly better than the first shipments, are still most disappointing in quality, and unless there is a marked improvement later the Home trade will have to rely more than ever upon Costa Rica. In the terminal market quotations have hardly fluctuated, though the tone has been a little steadier and the closing quotations are about the same as last week.

**The Making of Coffee.**—Unless the coffee pot is kept sweet and clean, says a receipt, the best coffee will lose its delicate aroma. Take a knife and pass it around in the crevice about the bottom of the pot. If you find that stale sediment has collected there you will understand why your coffee seems to have lost its delicious freshness. Clean this crack out thoroughly. Then take sandsoap and scour the pot. Lastly, pour in boiling water and scald it three or four times, until not the least odour of coffee remains. See that you do this every time you use the pot.

A company is being formed at Rockland, Me., which will push a coffee precipitate to clarify and settle coffee, invented by a Rockland man.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon observe in their Monthly Market-Report dated Rotterdam, January 31st, 1903.—Business has been slow during the month under review, purchasers being restricted to actual requirements. Importers were free sellers, but the trade has been quite able to cope with supplies, without affecting values to an appreciable extent. The sales chiefly consisted of Plantation Java, main part consisting of faded and undesirable qualities, between 24 and 28cts., which occasionally sold 1ct. lower, whilst fine colory grades sold at fully previous rates. Liberian almost unchanged.

The Dutch Trading Company's first this year's sale was advertised for January 27th. to contain 26,040 bags. The 12,121 bags stored at Amsterdam, were ultimately withdrawn, on account of the strikes and will be put up for sale again after those will have



ended. Consequently only 13,881 bags passed the hammer, nearly all good ordinary descriptions. It was evident that previous values could not be maintained, since private imports have been selling at declining rates ever since October last. Valuations were made at the basis of 32 cts., the result being about 3 cts. lower, Malang selling at 31 cts., other good ordinary descriptions at 28 to 29 cts., Madioen even at 26½ cts.

Next sale to be held March 17th.

Second hand dealings chiefly consisted of Santos, at previous values, the better descriptions are not abundant and rather dearer.

Arrivals were moderate, from Santos 97,200 bags, deliveries amounting to 100,400 bags, leaving our stock at 897,900 bags, against 901,100 bags last month.

Terme business was languid, dealings 103,500 bags. Values slowly receded and are ½ ct. cheaper for the month. March 16 cts., May 16½ cts., September 16½ cts., and December 17 cts. Sellers predominated.

The general position is unchanged; the invisible supply being much reduced, there is more enquiry, which ultimately will not fail to sustain the market. The situation chiefly depends on daily receipts, which tend to decrease. Very likely there will be a marked falling-off during the next months to come, contrasting favourably with last year. Stocks in Santos continue to diminish, which accounts for the firm tendency of Brazilian holders.

Next Santos crop has undoubtedly suffered from frost and falling-off of fruit, estimates vary from 6 to 8 million bags, but we see no reason to modify our last month's estimate of 7½ million bags. There are no estimates current concerning the Rio crop, which leads to the belief that it will be a full one, taking into account the extension of cultivation in the State of Minas, where new trees are now coming into full bearing.

The *Salvador* crop is estimated at 600,000 quintals.

European stocks show another increase of 25,350 tons last month, but visible supply was 9,030 tons less, at any rate a diminution, however small it may be.

#### FIRST HAND SALES.

DUTCH TRADING COMPANY

in public Sale at Rotterdam on January 27th, 1903.

1,600 bags Java, Panaroekan palish ..	..	28	28½	cts.
2,000 " " Probolingo, green ..	..	29½	30½	"
5,091 " " Passaroeang, greenish to green	..	28	31½	"
728 " " Banjoewangie palish ..	..	25	25½	"
1,258 " " Madioen greenish ..	..	26½	27½	"
147 " " Kadoe ..	..	28	..	"
2,515 " " Liberian ..	..	19	22½	"
500 " " Blacks and broken ..	..	8½	..	"
42 " " Seadamaged ..	..	..	..	"

Total 13,881 bags.

In their February report Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon state:—Values decline in proportion to the improvement of figures and so quotations receded another 1 ct. This state of things is only attributable to a total want of interest. Business was confined to the execution of small orders, at the close however, there is a better feeling with more enquiry at ½ ct. advance and an upward tendency. Last month we had to report a moderate crop from Singapore and a small one in Tellicherry, this time, Java mentions disease of the trees in some estates, which is likely more or less to curtail production.

In the terme market the difference between near and distant positions is getting narrower, without any other reason but selling short in the absence of speculative buying. Dealings amounted to 12,600 bags and quotations are ¾ ct. cheaper for the month, viz.: 30 cts. per February-April, 30½ cts. per May-August, 30½ cts. per September-November, and 30½ cts. per December. January sales and tenders 3,000 bags.

Stocks of all kinds on the principal markets of Europe.

	January 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.
		Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Netherlands ..	..	46,800	52,700	76,100
London ..	..	46,900	79,200	119,300
Hamburg ..	..	5,400	4,500	12,900
Håvre ..	..	60,800	80,200	70,200
Bordeaux ..	..	3,600	2,300	2,600
Marseilles ..	..	7,500	5,200	6,400
Trieste ..	..	10,000	13,600	17,500
Total ..	..	181,000	237,700	305,000
On December 1st, 1902 ..	..	185,400	1901 252,100	1900 314,300

The U. S. Senate Committee on Porto Rico and the Pacific Islands finds much reason for encouragement in respect to the coffee industry in Hawaii, and recommends a bounty of four cents a pound on coffee for 10 years.

\* \* \*

"There is only one way for coffee to go, in the long run," says Willett & Gray's Statistical. Hasn't it always been the case that coffee goes down? All consumers send it that way.

\* \* \*

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet—why not "Mocha" and "Java" coffee? Why not cease using these empty, meaningless terms? Brazil coffee is sold as Mocha that would make the old-time Mochas look like thirty cents in counterfeits of rankest character, and even the fabled virtues of interior Padang, aye, even the merits of Java "fancies" might well grow dim and pale before the fine aroma and flavor of the very choicest Santos or other South American coffee. Call your best coffee "No. One" or "The Gem," or "The Superba," anything except the eternal (and infernal) "Mocha and Java," and it will sell as well—perhaps a great deal better. People intelligent enough to appreciate the finer coffees are generally well enough informed to know that "Java" and "Mocha" are but ghosts of their former glory.

#### TEA NOTES.

The position of tea in the United States is, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, so strong and the consequent activity so intense that there is probably no other line of business endeavour in the land in a condition so satisfactory to itself. Certainly, no one hears of anyone going out of the tea business, as in coffee, for instance, according to rumour, and the envy of the coffee men is often heard. A "slump" by this time has often been prognosticated, but with  $\frac{8}{10}$ ths of the stock sold, leaving only  $\frac{2}{10}$ ths to do a half year's business in this seems improbable. The tea men have disposed in the main of their stock and it is up to the consumer to pay the bill. Here he should not grumble very much, if at all, for on effecting the purchase of his favourite leaf he will find it cheaper even though only a little. Thus he will not feel he should stint himself in tea drinking and the largely increased stock of tea in the land should find its way into the tea pot making room for the 1903 chops. An oddity and at the same time a somewhat portentous sign is the presence of England in our own market a purchaser of tea. The Englishmen even outbid us in our fancy bidding and the fear is that they will leave us no tea of the kind so much like here—the greens. The market is certainly being complicated and into unusual strength, and that too from a source that has been a fretful complainant of a plethora of tea of Colonial growth. Surely this world is one of strange and unexpected compensations and if the consumer does not object too hard, why, as they say, "let her go Gallagher."

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**A Question of Import.**—An appeal of Catton, Bell & Co., San Francisco importers of tea, is before the Secretary of the Treasury for action. In 1898 the firm imported 350 cases of tea which the customs officials adjudged of inferior quality and deported to Honolulu. There the tea remained in storage until recently, when another effort was made to bring it through the San Francisco custom house and again it was ordered back.

It is the contention of the importers that as Hawaii has been annexed to the United States the tea is already in this country, consequently it is simply a question of transporting it from one part of the country to another, and not an import question at all.



The strength of the tea market ever since last fall would, says the *Merchants' Review* (New York), be more encouraging to the members of the tea trade if the strength were spread over all grades instead of being most conspicuous on the cheaper qualities. Will the time ever come when a great deal of the tea supplied to the public ceases to be bought "for price" and is selected for its intrinsic merits? It is most devoutly to be hoped that the advancing tea market will not induce a greater preference for the commoner kinds, but judging by the past it may have no other effect. When dealers are accustomed to say: "I want a 20c. tea," instead of saying: "I want a tea with certain characteristics," an upward movement of prices may have serious effects in consumptive channels.

\* \* \*

Tea should be used in the proportion of a tea-spoonful to a half-pint of water, or a half-teacupful to a quart of water. The water must be boiling.

\* \* \*

The domestic South Carolina teas are more nearly related to some of the Indias and Ceylons than to Chinas and Japans, but they will probably never closely approach either kind, owing to climatic differences.—*Merchants' Review*.

\* \* \*

**Pruning of Tea.**—Messrs. Geo. Steuart & Co., of Colombo, offer a prize of Rs.500 for the best essay on the Pruning of Tea in Ceylon. They say:—"We should like the essays to embrace the questions of manuring and plucking for a certain period, both before and after pruning, so far as these works may be said to be regulated by the time and style of pruning, root development, and the effect of various methods of pruning on food supply should also be touched upon as well as the burying of prunings. We should like the Judges not to attach undue importance to literary merit, so that none may be deterred from competing by a feeling that they cannot give ready expression to their views, but reasons should as far as possible be given for conclusions arrived at. The copyright of the winning essay might be considered the property of the writer should he so desire." The Planters' Association of Ceylon has taken the matter in hand, and all essays are to be submitted for the Secretary, under a *nom-de-plume* by the 31st March, 1903.

\* \* \*

**Tea in Uganda.**—In a report on Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda, Mr. J. Mahon states that Tea grows with but moderate rapidity. The rainfall is not great enough. During a period of rains it flushes nicely, but its cultivations on even a moderate scale would necessitate resort to irrigation. Mr. Scott Elliot, the naturalist and traveller, seemed satisfied from his exploration in the Ruwenzori country that large areas there offered a fine field for cultivating tea on a large scale.

\* \* \*

The *Journal of Commerce*, interviewing the wholesalers, finds that last month was the most active January in the history of the trade. We quote from the *Journal*:

Mr. Thomas W. Ormiston, of the firm of Austin, Nichols & Co.: "We have had a very active and steady business since the first of the year, consisting mostly of spot business, which has been general rather than in any particular lines. In fact, trade has been unusually good for this time of the year. The Spring buying season has hardly opened yet, and it is a little too early for very much business in futures. There has been a big trade in tea, both spot and

in orders placed earlier in the season for delivery of teas in bond after January 1. The stocks of tea throughout the country in the hands of retailers were very low, and as soon as the duty of 10 cents a pound was taken off, everyone wanted tea at once. Some delay, naturally, has been experienced in getting the tea from the warehouses, but the bulk of it has now been moved, although we still have some to be delivered yet. The outlook is bright for a very good season."

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**A Visitor from Japan.**—Mr. H. R. Barnard, of Yokohama, representing the well-known firm of Barnard & Co., Japan tea merchants, has been in Montreal for the past few days calling on the tea trade in connection with next season's business. Mr. Barnard says that the present position of teas in the United States will undoubtedly cause higher prices at the opening of the season, but more reasonable values will be looked for later on. As the quality of the crop is likely to be improved, unless affected by unforeseen weather conditions a material increase in the Japan tea business with Canada in the ensuing season may be expected.—*Canadian Grocer*.

## NOTES.

### The British Tea Duty.

The Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, has sent a memorial asking the Viceroy to state that a reduction of the British Tea Duty would be approved by him.

### Proposed Experimental Farm.

Mr. H. Mann has made some interesting suggestions in regard to the proposed establishment of an Experimental Tea Farm in Assam. Pressure on our space debar us from giving particulars to-day.

### M. de Nicéville's Successor.

It is understood that Mr. Lefroy, a distinguished Cambridge biologist, who has been for some time engaged in investigations connected with the insect pests of the West Indies, has been appointed Agricultural Entomologist to the Government of India.

### Land Exports of Indian Tea.

The exports of tea by land from British India continue below those of the previous year. The latest figures to hand are for the seven months ending with October, giving as exported 1,715,392 lbs. The quantity of Indian tea crossing the Frontier causes the deficit. The exports of foreign tea is exhibiting an increase showing nearly 100,000 lbs. This is an increase of tea in bulk transported to Kashmir, Kabul, and Ladakh. Kabul has shown the greatest preference for foreign teas.

### An American Version.

People who really believe that grocers charge excessive prices for coffee should, says the *Merchants' Review*, hie themselves to any of the Roulston stores in Brooklyn Borough, where they would find roasted coffee, whole or ground, offering at 20c. a pound, with 3½ pounds of granulated sugar thrown in. The same quantity of sugar is given with every pound of new crop tea at 35c. a pound. The margin on the tea is apparently wide enough to admit of a present of 3½ pounds of sugar with it, but the coffee offer gives a flat contradiction to some newspaper slanders of recent date.

### A U.S. Pepper Combine.

A New York paper writes:—The large pepper stock of Charles Nordhaus & Co., the well-known East India firm in New York



City, has been attached by certain banks and reports are current that it is the plan of the bankers to control the pepper market of the United States for the present. The creditors of the firm found that they could form a syndicate that could dispose of 18,000 out of 29,000 bags of pepper in the United States, and so make not a little profit. They agreed to combine and have placed the pepper in the hands of a prominent commercial banking house which will strive to dispose of the stock so as to realize the expectations of the pepper's new owners.

#### Indian Tea Shipments.

Exports of tea by land from British India still continue below those of the previous year, though greater than in 1900-01. The latest accounts to hand are for the seven months ending with October, 1902, and give the quantity exported as 1,715,392 lbs. as compared with 1,966,384 lbs. in the same period of 1901. The quantity of Indian tea crossing the frontier is the cause of the deficit, exports of foreign tea exhibiting an increase. Indian tea fell from 1,706,544 to 1,383,200 lbs., and foreign tea rose from 259,840 lbs. to 332,192 lbs. The bulk of the Indian tea was transported to Kashmir; Kabul and Ladakh taking the next largest supplies. Kabul also has shown the greatest preference for foreign tea.

#### Java Cinchona Bark.

The shipments from Java for the month of January which were cabled as 587,000 Amsterdam lbs., were corrected to 828,000 Amsterdam lbs., which compares with 975,000 Amsterdam lbs. in January, 1902, 1,000,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901, and 603,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1900, but subsequently it was stated that the original figures were the correct ones. The exports from Java during January of the following years were as under :—

	Amst. lbs.		Amst. lbs.
1903..	... 828,000	1897..	... 390,000
1902..	... 970,000	1896..	... 970,000
1901..	... 1,000,000	1895..	... 657,000
1900..	... 615,000	1894..	... 893,000
1899..	... 509,800	1893..	... 900,000
1898..	... 956,000		

#### Ceylon and S. I. Labour.

The Committee appointed to give effect to Mr. Westland's resolution *re* labour, have decided as follows :—

(1) That two Commissioners be sent over to the recruiting district of Southern India to report on the possibilities of securing labour for Ceylon Estates.

(2) The salary to be allowed the Commissioners is fixed at Rs.500 per mensem each, and all expenses.

It is probable that the trip will extend from six weeks to two months.

(3) The Commissioners on their return will lay their report before the Committee of the Planters' Association and their recommendations will then be fully discussed.

(4) To enable the Commissioners to take advantage of any labour that may immediately offer and also to test the practical working of recruiting without the aid of Kanganies, it is considered advisable to empower the Commissioners to engage labour up to a limited point. It is, therefore, suggested that the first twenty applicants, who are prepared to risk, say, Rs.600 each, do send in their names to the Secretary of the Planters' Association accompanied by a cheque for Rs.400 and 40 tin tickets.

The coolies are to cost not more than Rs.10 per head landed at Tataparai (and will be delivered there by the Commissioners or their Agents), and should therefore not average more than about Rs.15 per head landed on the estate, including cost of tin tickets.

(5) To cover the cost of sending over the two Commissioners it is proposed to ask all Estates to subscribe Rs.10 each, and Secretaries of all District Associations are asked to circulate lists in their Districts asking for subscriptions and to return the same with as little delay as possible to the Secretary of the Planters' Association.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 19th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally shows a fractional advance and that the market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes as well as for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes also shows a fractional advance. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (½d. up) and the average 7¾d. (½d. up). The average for the same period last year was 6¾d. Reuter reports that fine qualities of Ceylon tea are rather dearer and common ¼d. to ½d. up. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 6d. (¼d. up) and the average for the week is 7¾d. (½d. up). 21,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 19,000 disposed of; while of the 29,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 25,000 were sold at an average of 8½d. (¼d. up). An *Englishman* special cable states :—Messrs. Ewart, McCaughey & Co. state that at the auctions on the 23rd instant 31,551 packages were offered, and a further advance was recorded. The most satisfactory feature was a strong inquiry not only for common but for every grade. Tea for price was ¼d. to ½d. dearer, and comparatively little went under 6½d. per lb.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

That the Chinese growers lost rather than "gave up" the supremacy they once held in the tea markets of the world is a fact too well established to admit of much argument. The struggle which Indian growers entered upon some twenty-five years ago, before the days when Ceylon had advanced beyond the experimental stage in tea planting, will be remembered by all who took part in it. China began to lose its hold of the market here so soon as the consumer learned to appreciate the value and strength of Indian tea, and the victory became a rout when Ceylon planters joined forces with the Indian growers in supplying the market with teas which consumers recognised could be relied upon for strength and purity. Chinese growers and importers made a feeble attempt to hold their lost market, but it was futile, and as since then they appear to have recognised that they were hopelessly beaten in the struggle, they have contented themselves with a few spasmodic but unsuccessful efforts to regain some of their lost trade, although they have done little or nothing to improve their methods of manufacture. We frequently hear that they are about to achieve great things by making further vigorous attempts to rehabilitate their tea trade, but there is not much chance of any considerable reaction, now that the consumer here is accustomed to British-grown tea, and is quite indifferent to the stories told him about the palmy days of the China tea trade. But the slight movement in favour of Chinese tea should not be entirely lost sight of. In certain exclusive circles a limited demand for these teas may be found, partly because some medical men have favoured it, partly because there is a fashion in these things, and also because the tradition is still current amongst the few who claim to "really know" that they are so very superior in flavour to those "coarse" teas from India and Ceylon. In those select circles which claim to be exclusive even in the matter of tea, there is a certain affectation on the subject, and it is regarded as evidence not only of profound dietetic wisdom to decry India and Ceylon teas, but it is considered proof of superior knowledge on all points to insist with lofty emphasis that of course "we," who are amongst the initiate of the earth, "never dream of drinking anything but Chinese tea." "We know the best of it goes to Russia, but yet we contrive by paying a good price and knowing where to go to get something very delicate and fine," etc. This talk finds imitators, and the vogue in a small way is in this manner established.



A correspondent who has had an opportunity of observing the development of this slight movement in favour of China tea which has extended from the Westend to the suburbs, and is almost accepted as a domestic creed by a few of the second-hand devotees of fashion, mentions an incident which recently came under his notice. One of these champions of China tea recently offered her cook some choice tea from the Flowery Land as an especial treat. It was the real thing, and too exquisite for ordinary consumption, but as it was the cook's birthday the occasion was considered a suitable one for astonishing the kitchen by a display of taste, and some of the "real tea" from China was presented amidst a flutter of excitement. Never doubting that a sensation had been created, the donor in due time asked her servant how she liked the delicacy, expecting a reply indicative of the enthusiasm she had sought to arouse. But in the kitchen the taste runs on something with a fuller flavour. The humble recipient of the gift, instead of becoming ecstatic over it, had to confess that in the kitchen they could not drink the delicacy because its flavour suggested "smoked hay." This was both ungracious and unappreciative, for doubtless the tea was of a delicate and subtle flavour, but it serves to show some of the difficulties attending the regaining of a lost trade, and it is also evidence that the present generation of tea-drinkers are oblivious of the past fame of China teas, and are content with the teas which the gods in the form of the blenders send them. It may be very dreadful from the point of view of the self-styled epicure, but it is clear that before China tea again finds favour with the masses the consumer will have to acquire a taste for it, and so long as the blenders continue to exercise their skill and succeed in pleasing the majority there is not likely to be any feverish desire on the part of the consumer to take his China tea neat except at a few ladies' clubs or gatherings where they possess profound knowledge and taste, or imagine that they do.

The hopeful feeling of planters that the prospects of tea are decidedly brighter all round is shared in the "Lane." A correspondent of a contemporary, who signs himself "Mincing Lane," writes: "I see in a daily contemporary of yours an allusion to the present very interesting position of the tea trade, and the important part being played by the blending houses in the struggle between importer and buyer. Whatever the rights of this question may be, it is a fact that the present position of the market is unusually interesting, and sufficiently so for each one to look well into it for themselves. It is now apparent that for this season the supplies of Indian tea will be considerably less than the consumption. The shipments for the season from Calcutta are 6½ million pounds less than last year up to the middle of January, and there is good reason to believe that on the total crop this shortage will be between 8 and 10 millions. Last season was also a short one, the total imports being then 6¼ millions less than they were in the previous year. Deliveries, on the other hand, for the first seven months of the new season (June 1 to December 31) are 10 million pounds in excess of last year, but the figures for the next three months (January to March) are likely to be misleading because large quantities were taken out of bond last year in expectation of a rise in duty. Exactly the reverse is probable this year, and only actual requirements are being cleared, and therefore the stocks of tea in bond will be no real indication of the actual position. All that it is safe to conclude is that the stocks of tea are very considerably more reduced from those of last year than is indicated by the Custom House figures. How much? is the question. Some tea circulars express the opinion that in view of these circumstances there is room for a rise in values during the next few months. They apparently have in consideration that while prices are above the lowest level of recent years they are much below those of four years ago, when the conditions closely resembled those of the present time. Under these circumstances the far-seeing man would probably take care not to run his stocks too low, for it is evident if the above is correct a further sharp rise in prices is likely to occur directly the shortage becomes more felt."

From Paris we learn that the Customs Commission on Tuesday last approved the Bill authorising the Government to issue a decree provisionally applying the minimum tariffs to foodstuffs the products of the countries or their colonies which shall before the 24th instant have concluded agreements with France providing for

the granting of such minimum rates. This provisional arrangement will enable such minimum rates to be applied pending the ratification of these agreements where ratification is necessary. The States with which agreements have already been concluded are Nicaragua, Honduras, and Holland. An agreement has also been concluded with Great Britain as regards the Seychelles and Jamaica, and negotiations regarding British India, Ceylon, and Mauritius are approaching a satisfactory conclusion.—*H. & C. Mail.*

TEA IN CANADA.

The Canadian Grocer reports:—

TORONTO, January 22, 1903.

There is an increasing inquiry from jobbers for Indian and Ceylon greens, with considerable buying. The demand is caused by the improvement in prices in Calcutta and Colombo. The London market continues very strong for all blacks. China greens and Japans are scarce. Flavoring Ceylons are difficult to obtain and command high prices in London in comparison with two months ago. Some large orders have been sent to Ceylon for faced-green Ceylon teas to take the place of Japans. The latter are so high as to be practicably unavailable for sale at 25c. retail. We quote:

Congou—half-chests, Kaisow, Moning, Paking ..	..	0 12	0 60
caddies, Paking, Kaisow ..	..	0 19	0 50
Indian—Darjeelings ..	..	0 35	0 55
Assam Pekoes ..	..	0 20	0 40
Pekoe Souchongs ..	..	0 19	0 25
Ceylon—Broken Pekoes ..	..	0 36	0 42
Pekoes ..	..	0 27	0 30
Pekoe Souchong ..	..	0 17	0 35
China Greens—Gunpowder, cases, extra firsts ..	..	0 42	0 50
" half-chests, ordinary firsts ..	..	0 22	0 28
Young Hyson, cases, sifted, extra firsts ..	..	0 42	0 50
" cases, small leaf, firsts ..	..	0 35	0 40
" half-chests, ordinary firsts ..	..	0 28	0 38
" " seconds ..	..	..	0 23
" " thirds ..	..	0 16	0 18
" " common ..	..	..	0 15
Pingsueys—Young Hyson, half-chests, firsts ..	..	0 28	0 32
" " seconds ..	..	0 18	0 19
" half-boxes, firsts ..	..	0 28	0 32
Japan—half-chests, finests May pickings ..	..	0 38	0 40
Choice ..	..	0 33	0 37
Finest ..	..	0 30	0 32
Fine ..	..	0 27	0 30
Good medium ..	..	0 25	0 28
Medium ..	..	0 21	0 23
Good common ..	..	..	0 20
Common ..	..	..	0 19

MONTREAL, January 22, 1903.

The demand for teas shows little, if any improvement this week. As a rule, January is a good month with wholesalers, but this month trade is disappointing, buyers apparently being determined to hold off as long as possible. A dealer, who has just come from a trip through the West, states that everywhere he found the same complaint. Nothing of importance has happened on the Japan tea market since our last report. Ceylons appear to be firmer, and the lower grades show an upward tendency. Green Ceylons also are firm. Representatives from Japan have been on the local market after orders for the new crop, but not much business was effected.

TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The *Produce Markets' Review* of January 31, 1903, says:—The quantity submitted to public auction has been but moderate, and, although the bidding has been more active, it has been ample to meet requirements. There was a fair selection of the finer kinds, and as the teas were of good useful character they met with a ready sale at improved rates. This more particularly refers to the Autumnal growths, which are superior to those of several seasons past, and, as the supply of these will be comparatively limited, there is every prospect that present prices will be well maintained. The medium sorts have not materially changed in value, but some from the Sylhet Dooar and Travancore gardens, in consequence of improvement in the quality, have brought better prices, but for the less desirable kinds the market has shown an easier tendency, and occasionally lower rates have been established. Importers have pursued the same course for the lower



grades as during the past few weeks. When bids have been made in public sales at a slight reduction in prices, they have refused to meet buyers, and consequently a considerable quantity has failed to pass the hammer. However, unless the demand shows a decided improvement, a lower market seems probable, which would undoubtedly stimulate the inquiry. For the public sales 31,200 packages were printed and 22,000 sold, as compared with 47,000 catalogued last year.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—With smaller supplies on offer, there was more animation at the sales on Tuesday, the bidding being keener, and firm prices generally were realised. The lowest grades of Whole Leaf were in more request at recent rates, and a much smaller quantity was withdrawn than of late, while the medium kinds sold readily at fully previous quotations. Broken Pekoes also met with a ready sale, but showed no change, and the lower sorts are still very scarce, 7½d. being practically the lowest public sale quotation, only a few Colombo bought teas having sold under that figure. The supply of dust and fannings continues very limited, and the finer grades realise extreme rates. At the public auctions 16,890 packages were brought forward, of which about 1,700 were withdrawn.

**CONGOU TEA.**—At the public auctions held on Wednesday, only a small quantity was offered, consisting chiefly of the medium and lower descriptions. These were not wanted except at somewhat lower rates, which holders would not accept, and consequently a large proportion had to be withdrawn. In all cases, however, where sales were effected, fully recent prices were obtained. Of the 702 packages offered at public sale, 577 failed to pass the hammer.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—This market remains quiet, and there is little of interest to report. At the sale of Green Tea held on Thursday the demand for all descriptions was quiet and a considerable quantity was taken out. A rather better business is reported in Formosa Oolongs, and the market for Capers remains steady. The public sale figures for the week are as follows: 938 packages of Green Tea were brought forward, of which about 400 were withdrawn, and 1,173 packages of Fancy Tea were offered, 470 being taken out.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange, 10th January, 1902.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday, 5th instant, at 11½ and closed this evening steady at 11¾d.

The week tendency of the market we referred to in our last number seems to have alarmed importers who during the early part of the week were heavy takers. Rates consequently fell rapidly and speculators making up their mind that the long expected fall had arrived bought all they could obtain. Fortunately money is so tight that no one can afford to hold bills for so long when they disgorged again rates rose even quicker than they fell. Of course the usual twaddle about loans was circulated, this time the *dens ex-machina* being Knowles and Foster with a loan of £1,000,000 to the State of Rio de Janeiro!

It seems a pity whilst they are about it that brokers cannot invent something more probable; it reflects on their imagination.

The economic situation is not yet, we believe, absolutely unfavourable. Imports in November were very large £2,120,000 and exports comparatively small, £3,190,000, but still seem to be sufficient to meet current demand for bills though they cannot be much over. Indeed, we seem at present to be at the turn of the tide when speculation one way or the other becomes decisive. In a month or so it may be otherwise, and unless supplemented by other resources such as would be supplied by the sale of the Sorocabana, it seems quite possible that the supply of bills may fall below the demand and with speculation to help a slump ensue. In fact the only factor that prevents speculators even now from having their way is the tightness of money. The banks all want to draw but are prevented thinking rates too high and shippers who are of the same way of thinking sell only ready bills. There is in fact a regular snag in the speculative market that with the extremely low price of coffee and prospects of lower rates of exchange may last a long time and perhaps after all prevent any slump at all taking place.

With regard to exchange the situation may be summed up in a few words,—a weak economic but strong money position. Which will gain the day?

On 30th November in the branches of the five foreign banks cash decreased since 31st October by 922 contos whilst sight deposits had fallen off 923 contos and fixed deposits 996 contos. The net credit with Head Offices had also fallen 2,061 contos. Percentage of cash to sight deposits fell from 87·7 % to 87·6 %, the conclusion being that to keep up their cash the bank had been obliged to draw an amount equivalent to the deposits withdrawn.

The balance-sheet of the Bank of the Republic (new account) shows a loss of 2,140,000\$ for the year.

Only part of this, we understand, attributable to exchange operations; but if with everything in their favour in 1902 the effort to maintain exchange steady has proved so costly what will it cost in 1903 when all the chances seem against us!

As far as the coffee movement was concerned the week was fairly good, *embarques* having yielded £311,000 as against £401,000 the previous week and £409,000 last year. Declared sales were also very large 180,000 as against 101,000 the previous week and only 96,000 last year, promising a fair supply next week too. Coffee prices fell it is true and are a most disquieting and dangerous feature if the coming crop be as small as is generally expected and is to be marketed at these figures.

From Pernambuco and Bahia bills were freely offered and for the present the feverish taking that characterized the opening has ceased.

**Coffee, January 6.**—Entries at Santos during the week were 11,092 bags more than the previous week, but those at Rio were 1,275 less compared with the corresponding week last year entries at Rio and Santos were 10,306 bags more.

Aggregate entries at Rio and Santos for the current crop to date are 2,443,948 bags less than for the corresponding period of the former crop.

*Embarques* showed a falling off of 13,870 bags compared with the previous week but were 31,245 bags more than during the same week last year.

Declared sales were 20,000 bags smaller than the previous week and 2,000 bags larger than last year.

Stocks fell off 106,024 bags since the previous week.

Both gold and currency prices remained almost the same as last week but were 25 and 20 % lower than last year's, respectively.

Entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 9th January were 33,865 bags less than the previous week's but 9,086 more than the corresponding week's last year of which they represent 104 % the increase being entirely in Rio and Minas entries. Entries for the crop up to 9th instant were 2,436,862 or 22 % less than on the same date last year.

Shipments or *embarques* were 60,870 bags under the previous week's but 7,168 bags more than for corresponding week last year.

Sales were again very large being 39,000 over the previous week's and nearly double, 84,000 more than for the corresponding week last year. Stocks have consequently diminished 77,887.

With regard to stock we desire to point out the great difference between our own and the stocks generally given by other journals and authorities. Commencing in January 1899 with the same stock, at one time our own stood at a figure considerably over others, but have gradually fallen until at the present moment they are 225,308 bags less than the *Journal do Commercio*.

We are unable to say to what the difference is to be attributed as we are not acquainted with the systems by which they are arrived at. But in regard to our own belief that it is impossible to exercise greater care or diligence in obtaining exact details. We are inclined to believe that the difference originates in the transit coffee which perhaps is not taken sufficiently into account by others. In any case a difference of bags would be appreciable at any moment and is specially so now when stocks weigh so heavily on the market.

We understand that a Commission will shortly proceed to verify stocks in this market and the sooner it is done the better.

No estimate has been yet issued by the Rio commissi of the coming Minas and Rio crop. It is to be regretted because such delay is prejudicial and has already given rise to misinterpretations.

**S. PAULO January**—The new year cannot be said to be promising for Paulistis, indeed a more wretched and gloomy prospect would be hard to imagine. For four years or more planters have been struggling with ever increasing difficulties until at last many of them, overwhelmed, have given up the struggle alto-



gether. Paulista planters who for any reason lose their commissario to-day are lost indeed, because not only can they find no one to replace him but at the present moment commissarios are refusing to advance to any one whatsoever except against consignments. There are said to be hundreds of planters in the city of S. Paulo vainly hunting for money for *custeio* or maintenance until next crop. The failure of the bank at São Carlos has completely deprived a large number of planters of Banking facilities, and how they are to get on till next crop Heaven only knows. As most of them are owing to their *colonos* or plantation hands, they will probably come to some arrangement with them to work on shares,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or anything for peace and quietness. The *colonos* in their turn will negotiate their coffee with the local storekeeper who will pass it on to the dealer, and he to the importer until it gradually filters into the Santos market.

But on many plantations frost and bad treatment have this year so reduced the bearing as to make a loss on working almost certain unless prices rise considerably. This the *colonos* understand perfectly well and on such estates they will refuse to work on any except cash terms, and consequently they will be unworked.

The damage done by the frost has been generally underrated. There are very many plantations that have lost a third and in the newer districts, like Jaboticabal, plantations of 6 and 7 years have been literally wiped out. I know of one with 200,000 trees of 6½ years in splendid condition and bearing heavily on which 180,000 trees have been absolutely destroyed. To cut them down to the root and care for them for years until they bear again wants money and courage. Both are exhausted and so the owner throws up the sponge. This instance might be multiplied almost indefinitely, though of course the damage is not general. So far as I have been able to glean the districts that suffered most are Jaboticabal and Araraquara. Speaking generally the next season's crop on the Sorocabana district is expected to be about the same as this year, that on the Mogyana district better, and on the Paulista worse. Some of the districts injured by the frost are the most productive in the State, as for example is Jaboticabal, where the yield in 1901-1902 was nearly 200 arrobas per 1,000 trees!

Besides the terrible want of money and the frost there is another factor that may be expected to seriously affect the volume of the coming crop and that is the lack of labour, immigration being sure to fall off in view of the actual situation and inducements that are being offered by the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange free state. In fact, the only thing that keeps most of them here at all is that the planters are in their debt and many have no remedy but to stay on and try to collect what and how they can. In this they are being assisted by the Italian Government, who, it is said, is bringing diplomatic pressure to bear, a special agent having been sent out from Italy to watch the liquidation of the S. Carlos bank in which Italians are creditors for over 1,200,000\$. These deposits gained 5 to 6 % interest and though the money might have been invested to far greater advantage in the purchase of land or plantations at almost nominal prices, and thus convert the *colono* into a proprietor and make him independent for life the desire to return to the fatherland is too powerful and in their eagerness they too often sacrifice the substance for the shadow. In Argentina it is not so, or at any rate there are always a large number of *colonos* who become proprietors and remain in the country. In other parts of Brazil such as Espirito Santo and Rio Grande they seem happy and contented to settle down. But in S. Paulo they refuse to assimilate and get away as soon as their little pile is enough to start them comfortably in Italy. It is on this account that this kind of immigration is so undesirable, because it keeps the country poor by draining it of a great if not of the greatest part of the fruits of labour, instead of re-investing it in the country itself and thus making it reproductive.

It is often argued that the crisis at S. Paulo will be resolved by the natural process of selection if left to itself and that even if the planter disappear altogether he will be replaced by the *colono* and things will go on just the same or better than ever. No doubt the fittest will survive but unless the Italian can overcome his repugnance to settling in the country it is the fittest of the planters, who by reason of superior energy, capital or other conditions are able to stand the racket whilst most others succumb, that will finally come out on the top. If Italians could be tempted to remain it might be different and the semi-feudal planting system give way entirely to small holdings on which the cultivation of coffee would

be but an accessory and corn, beans, cotton, sugar, and the hundred products of a rich soil and generous climate form the back bone of production. Under such circumstances competition by planters would be impossible and the extension that planting would take would be so enormous and the cost so small that prices might fall to a great deal less than they are at present and still leave a profit. The true evolution would seem to consist in planters adapting themselves to the conditions that characterize their semi-feudal relations with labour, as they did on the abolition of slavery. In Argentina, foreseeing the inevitable, they divided up estates into lots and sold them to the *colonos* in alternate lots at low prices and profited by the increment that accrued to their reserve by the competition for purchase that ensued. Some such scheme should be practicable here, if only the right kind of occupant were found. In Europe there are millions who would be glad of such a chance if only it could be brought home to them.

The volume of the current S. Paulo crop is generally put down at 8,000,000 bags though there are some who stoutly maintain that it cannot exceed 7 or 7¼ million bags at most. On the statistical basis we may expect 8 millions. But against this it is urged that never has money been so tight as this year, which is incontrovertible, or *commissarios* so exacting. In consequence it is maintained coffee has been hurried down in an unprecedented manner until there remains little more to send, probably not over 1,600,000 bags. It is pretty certain that before the end of the crop the interior will be absolutely bare of stocks and that the new crop will commence in that respect with a perfectly clean slate, but whether the anticipation of a total of 7½ or 8 million bags for the current crop be correct is now of secondary importance as it is not a difference of ¾ or even 1 million bags that will influence markets much with the coming crop already in view. What will the 1903-04 crop be? That is the *crux* on which prices will turn perhaps for years to come, because should it really be as large as in some few quarters is predicted prices must fall yet more and even the few planters who have resisted up to the present be compromised whilst the mass would go to the wall altogether. If by any combination of circumstances a monster crop like 1901-1902 were really marketed, it would necessarily be the last of its kind, as prices would fall to a level that could not possibly leave anything for the following year's working expenses.

When we come to figures the difficulties of a fair and impartial estimate of next crop's prospects are enormous. It is admitted that the crop on the trees was in July excellent if not a bumper. Then came the frost and difficulties with labour, money and falling prices at Home and abroad all of which must exercise some untoward influence. How much? That is the question to which it is so difficult and so impossible to reply. In some districts plantations have, as we showed, been literally wiped out; in others damaged severely, and in others been untouched. Every one too has suffered from the lack of credit but some more than others, whilst the terrible fall of prices has hit everyone all round. How appreciate factors like these exactly or reduce them to numbers saying the crop will be so much and no more, or so little and no less? Without a far more thorough organization for the purpose than exists at present it is impossible. Guesses more or less approximate may be made, but in the end the only guide is experience and even that under conditions so changeable is terribly uncertain.

In 1892 there was a frost, that planters say was not nearly as bad as this, which reduced production in S. Paulo from 3,214,000 to 1,719,000 bags, in 1893-94 a shrinkage of nearly 47 %. If the higher yield of 91-92 be taken the shrinkage is 53 %.

Will history repeat itself now? It may be so, indeed it may be worse because there can be no doubt but that in 1893 much greater care was exercised in locating plantations and that with the feverish expansion of the last ten years conditions as regards climatic influences have certainly deteriorated, not only by extending old plantations unsuitably but by locating whole new districts within the first area.

The difficulty of finding any positive grounds to go upon is the reason why estimates vary so immensely. Each one argues from his own knowledge of restricted areas and has no grasp of the problem as a whole.

So far as I have been able to discover the minimum estimate of next seasons S. Paulo crop is now 6,000,000 and the maximum 8,000,000 bags. Supposing that the crop in June really represented a monster, equal to 1901-1902, of 10,000,000 bags, if



the injury caused by the crop were similar to that of the frost of 1892, viz. 47 % the coming one would not be more than 5,300,000 bags and if the maximum injury caused by the frost in 1892 be taken as a basis of comparison, the yield of the coming crop at S. Paulo would not exceed 4,700,000 bags. We do not know on what the estimates of 8,000,000 bags are based. And though reasoning from analogy there seems considerable ground for anticipating a repetition of 1893-94's experience. Conditions we repeat are so altered as to make conclusions extremely risky.

Still we find that Government has acted on their convictions and estimated the revenue from export duties on the basis of only 6,000,000 bags.

As for myself and not being in possession of sufficient duty to work upon I can only chronicle the opinions of others better informed and leave conclusions to our readers. It is generally believed that the coming crop will be early and that a good deal of coffee will be down by May.

Many objections are urged to the law taxing fresh plantations at the rate of 2,000\$ per *alqueire* the chief being that is impracticable. In point of fact so long as planters keep their estates going they have no remedy but to plant as new ground must be broken annually for raising cereals. To cut down forest for the purpose only would not pay, so coffee is planted too. If there is to be no new planting there will be no cereals unless they are planted between the rows of older trees, a process which is like burning the candle both ends because it ruins the trees and ruins the cereals too.

**Coffee Report, SANTOS, 9th January.**—Coffee eased off on the other side in the beginning of the week to 31 $\frac{3}{4}$  francs in Harve, the lowest point for years (the lowest was 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ , September 1899) and in consequence business was done at 3\$900 to 4\$000, Commissarios basis, but since then quotations came higher from Europe and the States and to-day a full 4\$100 basis was paid for good lots. Sales were larger than officially stated and dealers, at a bit higher prices, were offering large blocks.

Receipts during the week showed a small decrease against the previous week. S. Paulo (passagens) to-day only amounted to 16,397, the lowest of the crop to date, the medium estimate of entries being 500,000 for the month. According to Messrs. Duuring & Zoon's statistics the world's visible supply shows a decrease of about 9,000 tons.

Shipments during the week were fair and our stock came down to 1,258,000 bags.

Europe continues still a far better buyer than the States. Good average was executed at 26s. and 20s. 6d., orders for Superiors being 27s. 6d. A few orders are said to have been placed for Lewisohn's order.

Low coffees are out of demand: Good regulars fetched still up to 3\$600. Prices for goods ruled between 3\$900 and 4\$000 and Superiors were paid for between 4\$250 and 4\$400. Primes demand a premium over Superiors of 200 réis to 300 réis. Large bean Primes were sought for at about 5\$200. Peaberry is neglected and their prices practically equal to flat bean coffee. Washed coffees show no demand and for really fine colory washed offers only reached 6\$000, no sellers however at this rate.

Exchange fluctuated between 11 $\frac{2}{3}$ d., and 11 $\frac{1}{3}$ d., but had little effect on the local coffee market.

Outside Messrs. Tromell's estimate of at least 8 million bags for the next crop no further estimate has been published so far and even these gentlemen stated that it is too early yet to form a proper idea about the real size of the next crop. It is reported that the next crop will be early and that the picking will start in April.

**Coffee Journalism.**—A new Journal has been started in S. Paulo called *Uniaodos Lavradores*, which is supposed to advocate the interests of planters. The *Brazilian Review* remarks, it cannot, however, be congratulated on its *debut* on which the useful middlemen are denounced as the cause of all our evils and planters are urged to do everything themselves, from planting to roasting and even retailing direct to consumers. If the new Paulista gospel be right, then division of labour is a mistake and our most cherished principles, must go by the board, and everyone insist on doing everything himself, without the assistance of outsiders and plant, hoe, and harvest his own coffee, carry it on his back and then swim with it to France or the United States, and roast and sell it in the streets, for fear someone else may make a profit out of it. The *Uniaodos Lavradores* tries to show how all the profit on coffee goes into the pockets of third parties without benefit either to producers or consumers.

The taxation of coffee by foreign Governments as also profits of intermediary agents, of course, must raise the cost to consumers, but, only in-so-far as universal prices are affected by the consequent restriction of consumption, are producers affected one way or the other. Were there no taxation and no intermediary profit, prices would be certainly lower for consumers and consumption perhaps be consequent higher, but otherwise we should sell our coffee just the same, and prices be determined then, as now, by the relations of demand and supply.

In North America middlemen have been eliminated in the coffee trade to an extent unknown anywhere else and coffee is bought, shipped, imported, roasted, and sold to the retailer, all by the same firm.

There are, moreover, no import duties to pay and the conditions are as close to the Paulista ideal as it seems possible to get. And the result is that coffee is sold, roasted, and ready for consumption, in New York often cheaper than in Brazil itself, where the price ranges from 500 to 2,000 réis against only 716 to 761, the current rate for *Ariosa* or *Lion* brands in the States.

For Paris the price rules 4 francs or 3\$179 per kilo. But it is the French consumer who loses in the one case and the American who gains in the other, though we ourselves neither gain nor lose by cheapness or dearness except in a very indirect manner. However, we may grumble at the limitations thus imposed on consumption, import duties and other local charges are always in the long run paid by consumers and not by producer, and, if anyone has cause to grumble, it is they, not us.

**Sao Paulo.**—A Meeting was held lately in S. Paulo attended by a large number of planters at which the "indifference" of the Government to the position of the coffee industry was loudly denounced and a Committee appointed to visit the President of the State and agitate for the following measures:

- (a) Reduction of railway tariffs.
- (b) Exemption from taxation of all articles of general consumption and intervention of the State in federal taxation with the aim of reducing the cost of labour.
- (c) Issue of more paper money.

Desperate men demand desperate remedies and are all the more dangerous because they are not only desperate but destructive. Still the situation is grave enough and it behoves Government to be up and doing to counteract in some manner by act or precept ideas that are now simmering but may boil over at any moment.

Dr. Campos Salles with his invariable good sense, when interviewed on the subject, said that in his opinion the State could do little or nothing, the remedy for low prices lying with planters themselves, seeing that by abandoning plantations that don't and cannot pay and giving their attention exclusively to the rest they would produce a better article and reduce the supply in a manner that would ensure improvement. Stocks held abroad by dealers and speculators are so enormous that interested as they are in a rise they are powerless to bring it about so long as supplies continue on the existing scale. Let each separate planter exercise a little selection on his own estate and let non-paying trees go and there will soon be a change in the scene. Anyhow, Dr. Campos Salles added, the remedy lies with themselves and no one else.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

KANAN DEVAN.

Proceedings of Quarterly General Meeting held in Munaar Reading Room, on Saturday, the 14th February, 1903, at 3 P.M. PRESENT:—Messrs. H. L. Pinches, J. M. Bridgeman, C. Bell, W. O. Milne, E. E. Williams, C. E. Hancock, G. H. Danvers Davey, E. R. Howlett, J. C. Swayne, W. D. Martin. Mr. H. S. Holder, *Honorary Secretary*.

VISITORS: Messrs. Gwynne, Pottie, and Redmayne.

(*Proxies from Messrs. Wright, Forbes, and Baron von Rosenberg were handed in too late for the Meeting.*)

Proceedings of last Meeting were taken as read.

Proceedings of Committee Meeting held on the 30th January were read and the Meeting was also informed that Mr. H. L. Pinches had been added to the Committee under Rule No. 8, para. 2. Mr.



Williams proposed that the Committee's proceedings be confirmed in General Meeting. Seconded by Mr. W. D. Martin and carried.

**Bodi Ghaut Road.**—Read Mr. Burley's letter saying that the work of repairing the road would be put in hand as soon as possible.

**Munaar Mettu Road.**—Read Mr. Sealy's letter of the 5th January stating what terms would be allowed for repairs.

Proposed by Mr. Call that the terms of Mr. Sealy's letter be accepted and that Mr. Sealy be written to, to this effect. Seconded by Mr. Pinches and carried.

**Local Labour Rules.**—The Honorary Secretary said that in laying before the Meeting the Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to draft Local Labour Rules, he would point out that rules had been drafted to meet with only three contingencies, but that these were of the most frequent occurrence. It might be possible later on to add rules to those now formulated, but that it was hardly possible to provide for every case of dispute that possibly might and probably would occur in connection with labour.

The Sub-Committee had therefore recommended that a Standing Labour Committee be appointed to which disputes could be referred for settlement, and he thought that by having such a Committee a great deal of good would result and a great deal of ill-feeling be spared, and further that it would be a great pity if every member did not bind himself to abide by such Committee's decision by signing the rules.

The Report of Sub-Committee was then read, each member having a copy.

Proposed by Mr. Pinches—That the Report of the Labour Sub-Committee be adopted and confirmed in General Meeting, as also the Labour rules drafted by them, and their suggestions as to a Standing Labour Committee which he proposed should be elected annually, in the same way as Association office-bearers usually were. Seconded by Mr. W. O. Milne and carried unanimously.

**St. Louis Exhibition, 1904.**—Read Circular No. 2/03 and Baron von Rosenberg's remarks as to the uselessness of pushing Indian coffee where it could not compete with Central American kinds of mild quality, and that it would be far more to the point if any funds available were utilised in pushing it where already to some extent known and appreciated. Messrs. Williams and Davey supported this view and it was resolved to convey this to the U. P. A. as the opinion of this Association.

**Travancore Export Duty on Coffee.**—The Secretary stated that in accordance with instructions, the British Resident had been approached on the subject and copies of correspondence had been sent, he expected a reply very shortly which would be circulated to members chiefly interested.

**Labour Bill.**—Copies of the draft Labour Bill and amendments as prepared by the Select Committee were gone into.

The Meeting considered that the Select Committee appeared to have dealt satisfactorily with most sections of the Bill to which exception had been taken, and that all further comment should be reserved.

Papers laid on the table—

U. P. A. Circulars to date.

T. and A. do.

Letter Book.

H. S. HOLDER,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

## PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

### FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The forty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Planters' Association of Ceylon was held in the Ferguson Hall, Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on February 17th, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. A. C. Kingsford, Chairman, presided.

### CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The CHAIRMAN:—Is it your wish, gentlemen, that I follow the usual procedure of taking the annual Report as read? (Applause.) Before proceeding to moving the adoption of the Report, gentlemen, there are a few remarks I should like to make. The principal work of the year I alluded to at our last Meeting as recently as November

last and will not go over the ground again. The position of tea at the present moment, I think, is stronger than it has been for many years past. Not only are stocks low but we know there is a growing foreign trade and there was a possibility of a larger amount of green tea being manufactured during the current year; but even if our total shipments exceed those of last year we are pretty confident that the shipments for London will be considerably less. Two things, gentlemen, are necessary to strengthen our position; the one is to drive home the advantage we now have by continuing the present careful system of plucking and another is to endeavour by every effort to get as much green tea made as possible. Bearing on this subject is a letter I have received to-day from a leading London buyer which may be of interest. "Ceylon greens are at the present moment very satisfactory, India is also producing some exceedingly good green teas. Between the two should they effect a material diminution in the production of the lower grade black teas during 1903, I feel clear that we shall reach a greatly improved position for all tea, and get back to something like the prosperity of a few years ago." Later on the same letter says "If you can only restrict your yield for 1903 to something not in excess of that for 1902, and India produces correspondingly, I am sure the price of all tea in January, 1904, will average 1d. or 2d. per lb. higher than it does to-day." (Applause.) That is a letter from a gentleman whose name has been once or twice mentioned. He is a large buyer. I think he has interest more as a buyer than a producer and he opposed the motion for the proposed increase of the cess.

\* \* \*

The question of

### THE HOME DUTY

has occupied our attention. At our last Meeting we passed a Resolution asking the home Government to favourably consider the reduction. In times of war we bore with the increase duty. We think now it is very reasonable in times of peace we should get a reduction (Hear, hear). The Resolution passed by your Association has been forwarded by our Government to the Colonial Secretary at home for favourable consideration and it has now reached the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Similar Resolutions have been passed in India and a memorandum has been sent home from those representing all parts of the tea trade of London. We also know there is a very strong representation of the tea trade in the House, so that I think that as soon as the Chancellor of the Exchequer possibly can see his way to give us that reduction we shall get it. It is true that the increase that the duty for the first two years did not show any diminution in the consumption of tea. In fact the tea showed the same normal increase, due no doubt to the fall in prices, but last year there was no increase in consumption. In fact, there is a decrease of one million. That decrease will probably show itself when the prices rise and the extra 2d. on the lb. will certainly begin to make an effect on the consumption.

### THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

When I addressed you last, gentlemen, I stated that it was the hope of the "Thirty Committee" that it would be able to provide some sort of representation for the St. Louis Exhibition. At that time we thought that possibly the expenditure would amount to, say, six or seven thousand pounds; but after meeting the travelling Commissioner, the Hon. John Barrett, and learning from him more fully the scope of the Exhibition and the sum which was to be spent by other exhibitors it seemed to us that it would be more or less unwise to go into any expenditure at all unless we could expend a sum similar to that expended at the Paris Exhibition 14 or 15 thousand pounds. We were assured by His Excellency that we had his sympathy and he promised us his support when we could show him a clear scheme. It would possibly be said, by some that exhibitions do very little good. It is necessary, however, that we should show there not only to give the people an increased knowledge of our products but to maintain the hold we previously gained. And further, in articles like tea which is an article of consumption which you can push in restaurant form, we have more chance of getting success from an expenditure than on dry produce. Mr. Figg, as you all know, was kind enough to go to St. Louis and make a preliminary report and he deserves the thanks of this Association for the trouble and time he has given to forwarding this good work on our behalf. (Applause.) I am glad to be able to report that I had a telegram from Mr. Figg last week to the following effect:—"I have secured space for Ceylon Court (a space 150' by



250 feet) and recommend exhibiting in the main buildings. I have arranged also steps for the sale of tea in cup and packet. I will appoint agents. Leaving on Sunday night." As the time was limited, gentlemen, and I had no opportunity of consulting anybody else, I simply wired to Mr. Figg, thanking him. I see on reference to the plants, the plot of ground selected is about an acre in extent and opposite the biggest building in the Exhibition, the Agricultural building covering 22 acres. I think there is no doubt from what I can see that Mr. Figg has secured us a very desirable site. (Applause.)

The Roll of the Association shows that the.

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS AMOUNTS TO 957.

That is the largest number, gentlemen, we have ever had on the Association (applause), and I think we may take the Association as more representative of the island of Ceylon than it has ever been at any previous period. It is true there are still a few estates on outlying small districts where the number of planters is insufficiently large to have a District Association and I think that during the coming year an attempt should be made to draw them in so that during the coming year, the 50th year of the Association we shall have a roll of thousand members. Finance, gentlemen, we show a balance in hand of Rs.1,100 compared with Rs.5,000 last year. The decrease is due chiefly to expenditure in connection with the Coronation—we presented a casket and an address—but chiefly to the balance having been paid on the cost of this building. But your Committee recognise that the expenditure is larger than it used to be; for not only have heavy rates to be paid but there is the upkeep of this building and the necessary repairs that have to be made; so we consider that some economy must be shown in the future to make both ends meet.

Turning to the work of the "Thirty Committee" the chief expenditure last year has been on green tea. More than half of the money was spent in subsidising and paying bonuses on green tea. The production of green tea increased from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million to 4 millions.

#### THE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR

will depend very much on circumstances, but I may mention that our estimated crop is 154,000 lbs. (Applause.) That seems to me with 14,000,000,—assuming that green tea goes on in the same promising way and there is a bonus—the crop may produce 140,000,000 lbs. black teas. For green tea to date this year certificates have been granted for 1,132,000 lbs. Turning, gentlemen, to the expenditure on green tea we spent £5,000 in America, of that £5,000, £3,000 was spent in general advertising, and the balance in assisting firms which had previously assisted us. In Europe, we spent £4,500. I regret that the result from

#### THE COMMISSIONER IN EUROPE

up to date does not show very satisfactory figures. Still we cannot get over the fact that in a continent like that where there are people who are not tea-drinkers a mere expenditure of £4,000 or £5,000 is not likely to show very much of a result at once; and when we went into the Commission we should have been prepared to tax it for some years. And it will be some years before we shall see any result for that expenditure. A small start was made in Afghanistan by Mr. Foley who was sent out there. As no traders are allowed inside the country he stayed at Quetta and managed to dispose of 17,000 lbs. of tea. (Hear, hear.) He has been handicapped in several ways, but especially in the original invoice having had all grades of tea sent and he could dispose of the first grade; and with others he has had some difficulty. Before I leave the subject of the "Thirty Committee" I will endeavour to dispel

#### A FEW POPULAR DELUSIONS.

I use the word endeavour, advisedly, having in mind the definition once given of a popular delusion. "Nothing is more remarkable for its persistency than a popular delusion. Born of error and bred by ignorance it sneaks into life unnoticed and takes centuries in the killing." Now the first of those delusions, that does indeed seem to take centuries in the killing, is that our Commissioners distribute the money entrusted to them in secret subsidies. What are the actual facts, both our Commissioners' accounts state to whom payments are paid, and the amount paid, those accounts are audited and laid on the table at the Annual Meeting of this Association, are printed in the annual Book of Proceedings, and distributed among all the members of the Committee, about 130 in

number. Copies are also sent to many other gentlemen both at home and in Ceylon interested in the work of the Association, and I think copies will be found in many of the mercantile offices, and in also the newspaper offices in Colombo. Then these

DETAILS ARE NOT PUBLISHED IN THE PUBLIC PRESS, as although the particulars are at the disposal in confidence of any member of this Association, it would in the opinion of the Thirty Committee be bad policy, and hamper the work of our Commissioners, if each recipient was to know exactly what help the other was getting, and would cause needless jealousy. I ask you, gentlemen, would a Colombo firm consider it business to proclaim to the world, exactly on what terms it conducted its business, and who were its clients, or would a newspaper proprietor consider it advisable to tell his subscribers, who were on the free list? (Laughter.) Another popular delusion gentlemen, but one held by few here I venture to hope, is the idea that favouritism is shown in the disbursement of cess funds. Now with our limited funds working in a vast continent like America, and where advertising is so expensive, it would have been simply folly on our Commissioner's part to attempt to help all alike, the sum they would have each received would have been so small, that they would not have been much the better for it, but by materially helping a few strong firms we force others to handle our teas, and by assisting one or more firms to push vigorously in a large city soon.

#### AROUSES THE EMULATION OF MANY OTHERS

and this method has proved most effective. Our methods have been Press advertising, and assisting those who advertise, demonstrate, canvas, issue leaflets, and send out samples. A somewhat smaller matter perhaps, in the recent charge made in the public Press, that the "Thirty Committee" had shown favouritism, in appointing one firm of brokers to pass the green teas for cess bonus. The actual facts of the case are these, the Committee considered it desirable, in case of disputes, that they should have one firm to deal with, rather than a Committee, as likely to facilitate the work and they appointed Messrs. Forbes and Walker, and the reputation of that firm is to us a sufficient guarantee that the work will be effectively carried out, but as it had been appointed out to us, that Messrs. Forbes and Walker got to a certain extent an advertisement by signing the certificates, so it was decided towards the end of 1901, that each broker should be allowed to grant certificates, and sign the same—subject to the teas being first passed by the Committee's Inspector. There was a Committee in Colombo consisting of all the brokers appointed to go into this very question. One of the rules by which they are guided is that any broker may call a Meeting to reconsider the passing or non-passing any invoice of Messrs. Forbes and Walker, and can bring it before the Brokers' Committee, which consists of the whole of the brokers. The charge for a certificate is Rs.5, but of this amount Messrs. Forbes and Walker got only Re.1, when passing teas for the other brokers. I deny the imputation that any favouritism was shown. We considered it advisable to select one firm, in the same way that one firm is selected by Government in other ports of the world to inspect teas. It has been said several times that

#### OUR COMMISSIONERS DRAW LARGE SALARIES

and do very little for the work. I may mention that this is more or less a mistake. Mr. Mackenzie, I think from the first, has never drawn a full salary. I think he has drawn on an average £800 a year, not a very large allowance, seeing that he has to make two trips to America every year; and last year, recognising our position, he drew £600 and Mr. Renton £500, so that shows, I think, that they have their hearts in the work. Another very favourite cry of the anti-cessites, is that the countries where least cess money has been spent show the best results, and Australia and Russia are quoted as cases in point. Now, in the case of Australia, the trade was sufficiently secured when we commenced operations, and when the cess was advocated, great stress was laid by Mr. Renton, the then Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, that no more money should be spent in Australia, where Rs.15,000 of the Tea Fund money had done useful work; they also omitted to point out that Australia had hitherto drawn her supplies of China tea, chiefly from London and that with the change in the trade at home, and with facility for direct shipments from ports so adjacent as Colombo and Odessa, the trade was naturally diverted to those ports and India.



## WITH REGARD TO RUSSIA

a considerable amount of money has been spent there, no less a sum than £9,000 or £10,000, and that this money has been well spent, the following opinion of our statement shows:—"The Thirty Committee has never in my opinion, spent any money to greater advantage than that spent through Mr. Rogivue, who might well claim much of the credit for the present satisfactory consumption of Ceylon tea in Russia." That statement was made by a gentleman whose words have considerable weight with this Association, on his completion of a visit on our behalf to Russia, made in 1897. We are now treating the Russian market in the same way we treated the Australian, considering that the trade is sufficiently established. Another argument has been deduced lately against the further manufacture of green tea: that of the possibility of China tea coming back into England. Now, gentlemen, the whole history of the tea trade has been an expensive one—most of all to China. For every increase China has had to give way, but we have also had to give way in prices. If China tea comes back again, I think it is a good sign, for it proves that we are producing less tea than there is a demand for

## OUR PROGRESSIVE POLICY.

Finally, gentlemen, I would remark that Ceylon planters have prided themselves in the past on their progressive policy, and I think we can justly claim to have been the first to have realised the necessity of pushing our teas, in the future we have not only to endeavour to make further headway, but we shall have to strive, in the face of keener competition to retain the hold we have obtained. India has now obtained its cess, a small beginning perhaps, but the funds at their disposal will considerably strengthen their hands. Japan, it may not be generally known, is making efforts to revive its waning trade, and in spending I believe about £7,000 annually, chiefly in America. China also, you may have recently read, is endeavouring to introduce her tea and other produce into Europe by direct trade, without the aid of European agents, and the new Siberian railway, and this is a new force to contend with. It is stated by some that the cess worked only in the interests of the low-grown teas. Gentlemen, I don't think that is the case, and if you consider the constitution of the Committee you will see that high-grown teas are very fully represented on that Committee, and those gentlemen are of the opinion that it is to the advantage of all to continue the success. A point in this connection that I would like to mention for the consideration of the high-grown buyers is what have we done, but chiefly to push their teas in foreign countries, in America and the continent and where did their best prices come from, but from continental and American demands. Those, gentlemen, are all the remarks I have to make, and with these remarks I move the adoption of the report. (Loud and continued applause.)

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
17TH FEBRUARY, 1903.

Your Committee now herein submits the Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Planters' Association of Ceylon for the year ending 17th February, 1903, and, in doing so, would congratulate members on progress maintained with vigorous prosecution of the varied business that has been presented for consideration and disposal during the period under review. The Register of Estates and Voters stands to-day at 957 being the highest number reached since the establishment of the Association on 17th February, 1854.

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PLANTING PRODUCTS.

## TEA.

The past season has been, on the whole, unfavourable for yield. A drought in the early part and an excessive rainfall during the last three months of the year, account for the crop falling considerably short of the estimate, but total shipments of tea were notwithstanding the largest recorded. Foreign markets however continue to expand, so that shipments to the United Kingdom were 2,000,000 lbs. less than the previous year, and 10,000,000 lbs. less than 1900, when Ceylon and India over-supplied the Home trade to the extent of 20,000,000 lbs. The average price of Ceylon tea sold in London during 1902 was 6½d. per lb., further decline of ¼th of a penny, as compared with previous year, and 1d. per lb. less than 1899, the last season of normal stocks. The quality has been, on the whole, good, and the poor prices obtained can only be attributed to the large stocks carried forward from 1901. The position is now

gradually improving, total stocks at the end of 1902 being 8,000,000 lbs. less than at the beginning of the year.

The most encouraging feature at the present moment is the rapidly increasing manufacture and demand for Ceylon green tea. Commencing slowly in 1898, the manufacture rose to 500,000 lbs. in 1900, 1,500,000 lbs. in 1901, and 4,000,000 lbs., last season. This rate of increase appears likely to continue during the coming year, and will very materially assist in the further reduction of the stocks of black tea.

The new year therefore opens with brighter prospects, but the future depends largely on the present style of careful plucking being maintained, and shipments to London continuing on a moderate scale. The last two years have been unfavourable flushing seasons in both India and Ceylon, there is also a considerably acreage not yet in full bearing, so that the maximum output from either country has not yet been reached. Your Committee do not therefore consider that the pushing of Ceylon teas in new markets can at present be relaxed.

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## Tea distribution from 1st January to 31st December, 1902.

	United Kingdom.	Russia.	Other countries in Europe.	America.	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
Black 1902.	103,017,958	12,423,741	1,531,953	4,364,558	
Green 1902.	638,330	127,115	...	1,963,892	
Black } 1901	106,911,806	9,498,801	1,480,124	3,654,105	
Green }					
	Africa and Mauritius.	Australia.	India.	China and Singapore.	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Black 1902.	710,066	18,907,720	824,826	4,492,304	146,273,126
Green 1902.	2,535	75	35,635	6,340	2,773,922*
Black } 1901	412,225	20,696,995	1,108,043	2,963,967	146,726,066
Green }					

The following show an increase over 1901: Africa, America, Austria, Belgium, China, Germany, Italy, Malta, Mauritius, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey; while Australia, France, Holland, India, and the United Kingdom show a decrease.

## TEA BLIGHTS.

Till lately the tea bushes have been very free of either brown or gray blight. The wet weather of the last three months of 1902, has induced a re-appearance of these blights in some Districts but not of an alarming nature. Helopeltis and shot-hole borer have not been so much observed in 1902 as 1901. It is to be regretted that the Tortrix has been very much in evidence in one or more Districts. Advantage is freely taken by planters of the advice so willingly placed at their disposal by the Scientists at Peradeniya.

## CACAO.

The crop shipped for the year was cwt. 61,476 against cwt. 47,471 in 1901, and is the largest crop yet shipped from Ceylon. It would have been considerably larger but for the very unfavourable weather of the last three months of the year. Continuous rain caused a recrudescence of Canker especially amongst the pods, and the Autumn crop suffered severely in consequence. Canker of the pod is the most serious agricultural difficulty that Cacao planters have to face, and the experiments now being carried out by Government at Gangarooka are of the greatest interest to them. It is to be hoped that a cheap and effective remedy will be found, and if this is done the crops of Ceylon cacao will very largely increase. Dealing with Canker of the trees is now pretty generally understood by planters and the precautions taken, together with the steady substitution of Forastero varieties for the red, have rendered this pest far less dangerous than it was. Prices have improved during the past year and it is satisfactory to note that Ceylon Forastero cacao is now going steadily into consumption in England, whilst the few lots of really pure red which are now put on the market command exceptional prices. The stocks in London are smaller than they have been for several years. Your Association at a General Meeting on the 4th November, 1902, unanimously adopted

\* According to the Thirty Committee returns 1,164,017 lbs. of green tea have been manufactured in addition to these shipments.



a Resolution brought forward by the Chairman of the Matale Planters' Association asking for special legislation for the protection of Cacao crops, by an extension of the Praedial Products Ordinance to cover ripe cacao on the same lines as the protection given to cinchona by the Ordinance No. 22 of 1886, and similar to the protection given to cacao in Grenada and vanilla in Mauritius. The objection to a purely Receivers Ordinance is that both in India and Grenada such Ordinances have been proved failures. It is stated that in India this is due to the difficulty of reaching the owners of small gardens, and this is precisely the difficulty which arises in Ceylon. His Excellency Sir West Ridgeway wishes to appoint a Commission of inquiry. Assuming that this is necessary it is difficult to understand the very considerable delay which has taken place in getting the business in hand.

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## CARDAMOMS.

The cultivation of this product continues to attract the attention of European and native cultivators and has lately been added to the Experimental products in the Government Experiment Station at Peradeniya. It is believed that the total area in Ceylon devoted to Cardamom cultivation is probably 10,000 acres, the larger areas being in Matale and Medamahanuwera, according to Ferguson's Directory which gives 45 of the 52 divisions of Districts as now growing cardamoms, while many of the native gardens have their small patch under this product. The crop shipped during 1902 was 615,922 lbs. and but for the prolonged wet weather during the last quarter, it would, in all probability, have been much larger. The difficulty of curing on the estates in wet weather delayed despatch, and led to large quantities being cured in Colombo. The shipment during the earlier months of 1903 will be heavier and in consequence add considerably to its crop despatch account. Prices have been generally lower than last year, but Cardamom growers who are fully aware of the danger of the supply exceeding the demand, will, it is expected, take steps for making their produce better known throughout the world. The estimate of crop for 1903 is 650,000 lbs.

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## RUBBER.

This product continues to receive increasing attention, particularly in the low-country, where it is being planted in all Estate swamps and ravines. It has not yet been determined what is the highest elevation at which it can be grown to pay, but trees are known to be making strong growth in places at an elevation of over 2,500 feet. Exports of cured rubber are steadily increasing, for the year ending 31st December, 1902, amounts to 189 cwts. The prices realised have been very satisfactory, Pará biscuit having been sold as high as 4s. 4d. per lb. and cured scrap 2s. 8½d. The demand for seed still continues large, orders have been booked both for export and local planting during the coming season.

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## RUSSIAN TEA TRADE—BRITISH EXHIBITION, ST. PETERSBURG.

In connection with the important Russian Tea Trade your Committee learned with regret during the year that the British Exhibition at St. Petersburg would not take place. It is worthy of record that Russia which in the year 1890, according to the Ceylon Customs Return took only 80 lbs. of Ceylon tea in that year imported direct from Colombo during the year ending 31st December 1902, no less than 12,550,856 lbs.

## CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TEA AND OTHER PRODUCTS ENTERING FRANCE FROM COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT ENJOY MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TREATMENT.

The question of Increased Customs Duties on tea and other products entering France from countries which do not enjoy Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment has continued to occupy the attention of your Committee. It will be in your recollection that the French Law of the 24th February, 1900, on the subject was suspended for a year and since then it has been intimated that the French Government has issued a decree extending the application of the Minimum Tariff to Ceylon until 23rd February, 1903. According to the Secretary of States despatch of 19th August, 1902, the position is as follows:—In return for the Grant by the French Government "denrees coloniales de consommation" produced in Ceylon, of the benefits of the minimum general tariff the Government of Ceylon will continue to give to the products of France Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment, provided that the right is fully reserved to make exceptional arrangements in favour of the British

Empire. By a recent cablegram it is indicated that negotiations concerning Ceylon are approaching a satisfactory conclusion.

## TEA TRADE IN JAPAN.

Through the good Offices of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce interesting Reports by the British Consul at Yokohama upon the Japanese Tea Industry and by the British Consul at Amoy on the Formosa Tea Industry were obtained and circulated for the information of members and your thanks are herein recorded to the writers and to the Chamber for valuable information and co-operation in the matter.

## FREIGHT TO AUSTRALIA.

The subject of Freight to Australia and the Southern Colonies has been brought under the notice of your Committee and it would appear that the rate of freight to the Australian Colonies is in excess of what it should reasonably be. It was pointed out that the exports of tea according to the Chamber of Commerce from Colombo to Australia amounted in 1901, 20,638,208 lbs. and that if the rate of freight could be reduced to ½d. per pound the large export is capable of being still further greatly increased, thus increasing the outlet of Ceylon tea very materially. There is no doubt the question of freight charge to Australia is one of material interest to the Planters' Community and should not be lost sight of. The attention of your Committee was also drawn to complaints regarding the indifferent manner in which certain shipments of Ceylon tea were packed and to the fragile nature of the packages used more particularly those of country manufacture. The correspondence was made public and it is hoped that the improvement desiderated has taken place. As regards the existing regulation relating to shipment of tea to Australia your Committee asked the local Agents of the Principal Liners to alter the clause on Bills of Lading limiting their liability to any damage incurred in transit to packages weighing under 100 lbs. nett to from 100 lbs. nett to 130 lbs. gross on tea for Australia. Your Committee regrets to report that the reply was unfavourable and accordingly it was decided that the matter should be brought to notice of the Ceylon Association in London. The result of the representation has been that the Agent of the P. & O. Steamship Company at Colombo is again to be moved in the matter.

## OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF TEA CROP FOR 1903.

Your Committee estimates the Tea Crop for Export during the year 1903 at 154,000,000 lbs. The Returns received are believed to be more full and accurate than in any previous occasion, though some improvement in the form of return may be introduced next year. As regards the distribution of the crop, the following is submitted:—

	lbs.		lbs.
Russia ...	14,000,000	Africa ...	1,000,000
Europe ...	2,000,000	America ...	14,000,000
India ...	1,000,000	United Kingdom ...	96,000,000
Australia ...	21,000,000	Far East ...	5,000,000

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## REDUCTION OF BRITISH TEA DUTY.

It will be remembered that in January, 1901, both by despatch and telegram, His Excellency supported the prayer of the Planters' Association in forwarding the following Resolution to the Secretary of State:—"That this Association would urge on His Majesty's Government a reduction, at as early a date as is compatible with the financial needs of the Empire, of the Import Duty on Tea in Great Britain, which is now equal to nearly 100 per cent. *ad valorem*, whereby consumption is checked and the stability of the tea-planting enterprise in this colony is seriously threatened." At the General Meeting held in November, 1902, the following further Resolution was unanimously passed:—"That in view of the small margin which exists between the average cost of production and selling price of tea involving in many cases an actual loss, the Planters' Association would again urge on His Majesty's Government a reduction at an early date of the Import Duty on Tea. (2) That a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies." It was submitted in forwarding the above Resolution that the financial position of the Empire—owing to peace in South Africa—has materially improved and that it should now be found possible to at least remove the extra 2d. per lb. Imperial War Tax on Tea—put on in March 1900, in the next Budget. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Michael Hicks-Beach) in his Budget Speech on April 15th, 1901 said:—"I turn to tea. Tea has already been taxed up to 75 per cent. of its value. It is



produced mainly in India and Ceylon and it is a product in which our fellow-subjects at Home and abroad are deeply interested, and the trade largely I think owing to over-production is not in a very satisfactory condition. I do not think we ought to increase the duty on tea," and when speaking on the Finance Bill, "if it should ever be my happy lot to be able to reduce taxation I should be disposed to reduce the Duty on Tea rather than on Beer and Spirits." As regards the great interests represented it was pointed out when a deputation waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year that there are 387,000 acres of land under tea cultivation in Ceylon, producing 145,000,000 lbs. of tea, and representing an invested capital of £15,000,000 sterling. That tea is very highly taxed in proportion to its value is officially admitted as a matter which any Chancellor of the Exchequer would be bound to consider, and the Planters' Association therefore confidently relies on early favourable consideration and a reduction of the Tea Duty at an early date by His Majesty's Government. The above representation having been transmitted by His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a despatch has since been received intimating that the communication has been laid before the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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## SPECIAL LEGISLATION RE PLANT SANITATION.

The question of what measures in the nature of Legislation if any should be recommended to Government with a view to preventive steps being taken for the safety of the Tea Industry in reference to the spread of "shot-hole borer" and other insect pests and of the Cacao grower in respect of Cacao disease has received consideration and in the ensuing year the matter will have further attention.

## SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF RUBBER.

During the year the question of the theft of Pará rubber was brought under the notice of your Committee as in the opinion of the Kalutara Association special protection will shortly be required to prevent theft of the products. The matter is one that will not be lost sight of, meantime it is recommended that evidence should be collected showing in what way rubber is liable to deprecations by thieves.

## ORDINANCE NO. 13 OF 1902 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCREASE OF THE EXPORT DUTY ON TEA.

The above-mentioned Ordinance came into operation as from and after the 1st day of June, 1902. It provides for the levy upon all Ceylon tea exported a duty not exceeding 10 cents per 100 lbs. in addition to the levy imposed under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1894. The proceeds of the levy so enacted shall be applied towards the increase of the consumption of Ceylon tea in Foreign lands, in such manner as may from time to time be desired and determined by the joint Committee appointed for the purpose by the Planters' Association of Ceylon on the 17th day of February, 1902, and by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the 7th day of March, 1902, or the successors in office of such Committee, provided that the manner of applications of proceeds of the said levy be subjected for the approval of the Governor in Executive Council.

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## CEYLON IMPORT DUTY ON INDIAN TEAS.

Early in the year Government forwarded a letter from the Government of India with the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, relative to the Duty levied on tea imported into Ceylon and invited an expression of the views of your Association thereon. The proposal which the Indian Committee ventured to advance was first that an attempt should be made to induce the Ceylon Government to exempt Indian tea from the payment of Duty and second that if necessary Ceylon tea should be exempt from the payment of Duty in India, but that the existing duty should be maintained in the case of non-British teas. Your Committee in reply stated that the question had received very full consideration by your Association so far back as 1894 when the following Resolution was passed in August 1895:—"That in reply, it be stated that in the opinion of the Committee it would be highly detrimental to the interests of Ceylon tea that the prayer of the petition from the United Planters' Association of Southern India be granted. That Ceylon has for many years worked hard to introduce her teas into foreign countries and to raise their credit for purity, and now that some success has been achieved, it seems unwise to admit other countries on equal terms to the jeopardy of

Ceylon's interests. That, regarding the question of *blending*, the Committee desires again to draw the attention of Government to the Resolution on the subject transmitted to Government with the Secretary's letter of the 26th January, 1894, which Resolution and connected statement the Committee again fully endorses."

Your Committee added that since 1894 growers of Ceylon tea had expended about 2,000,000 rupees in making known their produce in the markets of the world and that your Association feels that it is more important than ever that no possible mistake or confusion should arise from teas other than Ceylon being shipped from Colombo with an implication of Ceylon growth. Your Association is further of opinion that no hardship exists in the matter of Indian teas being sold in Colombo, as at present except possibly in the case of small invoices and that it would appear therefore as if the object of the request to remove the duty was to facilitate the blending of Indian teas with Ceylon rather than that of merely obtaining a market for Indian teas as such. Your Association fears that with such blending establishments in existence there must be unless stringent precautions are taken, a risk of certain teas other than those grown in the island being shipped as Ceylon teas. From recent proceedings published it appears that the Ceylon Government was averse to the Indian Committee's proposal and that the Government of India was also in agreement with Ceylon hence the Indian Committee in view of the definite and final nature of the reply decided it would be useless to proceed further.

## THE TEA INDUSTRY AND OVER-PRODUCTION.

During the year considerable criticism and discussion have been in evidence as regards the most effective means of combating over-production of your staple tea, and of maintaining prices on remunerative terms. A general reduction of the Import Duties on tea in all principal countries is greatly to be desired not alone as a certain means of relief in the interest of tea-growers generally, but as unquestionably of far reaching benefit to the masses of population which are at present prevented from enjoying a remarkably refreshing and wholesome beverage by the highly enhanced price necessary owing to the rate of Import Duty levied when added to the value per lb. of tea at the point of landing. The matter is one which is worthy of consideration by the responsible Statesmen of all countries for the good of the subject peoples throughout the world.

## CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

In connection with the important question of the British Import Duty on Tea, Warehouse Charges in London, Fire Insurance Premiums, Freight to Australia and other matters the Ceylon Association in London has lent its services while in respect of several other matters there has been consultation and reference with a view to safeguarding the producers' interests.

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## FINANCES.

The Statement of Accounts made up to the close of the financial year 31st January, 1903, and laid on the table to-day in terms of Rules VIII, XII, and XIX of your Association show a credit balance of Rs.3,234.48. Included in this amount however is the sum of Rs.1,585, collected as a special fund towards the cost of the proposed Bust or Statue of our late Sovereign Majesty Queen Victoria to be placed in the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, the balance of the Portrait fund Rs.131.50, also Rs.135 on account of the Ceylon Contingent Monument already referred to herein.

The year will be memorable by three Historic events—the conclusion of Peace at the close of the War in South Africa; the sudden, serious illness, and remarkable restoration to health of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh;—the Royal Coronation Celebration in Westminster Abbey, when Their Majesties the King-Emperor, and Queen Alexandra were crowned. It goes without saying that Ceylon and your Association evinced keen interest in these matters sharing with other Dependencies through the Planters' Contingent of Mounted Infantry in the defence of the British Dominions beyond the seas, and being honoured through His Excellency the Governor at the public pageants and festive functions of 1902. In resigning office your Committee recommends a continuance of the efforts being made to obtain a reduction of the British Duty on Tea in Great Britain, expansion of the Green Tea Industry, avoidance of coarse plucking, control of the London Market, and the further exploitation of Ceylon tea throughout the world with a view to increased demand for and consumption of your staple in all countries.



Mr. Kingsford was re-elected Chairman and Mr. Philip, Secretary.

The Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, for the year ending 17th February, 1904, was then appointed.

#### ELECTION OF THE "THIRTY COMMITTEE."

The names are:—Messrs. A. C. Kingsford, A. Philip, Hon. Mr. J. N. Campbell, Messrs. T. C. Huxley, Wm. Forsythe, Fred Hadden, Hon. Mr. E. Rosling, Messrs. Joseph Fraser, James Westland, E. Turner, R. A. Galton, W. D. Bosanquet, W. D. Gibbon, T. G. Hayes, R. Morison, E. D. Harrison, A. Wardrop, W. R. Tatham, Wm. Gibson, W. Saunders, W. J. Smith, H. O. Hoseason, Frank S. Vowler, W. L. Strachan were elected.

#### EXTRACTS FROM COMMITTEE MEETING.

Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Tuesday, the 17th February, 1903, at 7-30 A.M.

#### PRIZE FOR ESSAY ON PRUNING OF TEA IN CEYLON.

Read letter from Messrs. George Steuart & Co., stating that they desire to offer a prize of Rs.500 for the best essay on the pruning of tea in Ceylon, and that they will be glad if the Planters' Association would take the matter in hand by publishing the same and appointing judges. They add they should like the essays to embrace the question of manuring and plucking for a certain period both before and after pruning, so far as these works may be said to be regulated by the time and style of pruning. Root development and the affect of various methods of pruning on food supply should also be touched upon as well as the burying of prunings. They should like the judges not to attach undue importance to literary merit, so that none may be deterred from competing by a feeling that they cannot give ready expression to their view, but reasons should, as far as possible, be given for conclusions arrived at. The copyright of the winning essay might be considered the property of the writer should he so desire.

*Resolved*:—" (1) That a hearty vote of thanks be recorded to Messrs. George Steuart & Co. for their proposal; (2) that a Special Committee consisting of the Hon. Mr. E. Rosling, Hon. Mr. J. N. Campbell, Messrs. Joseph Fraser, Keith Rollo, the Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, and the Secretary, Planters' Association of Ceylon, be appointed to deal with the essays. All essays should be submitted within six weeks, being forwarded under *nom-de-plume* to the Secretary by the 31st March, 1903; (3) that the letter be published."

#### OSAKA EXHIBITION, JAPAN.

Read letter from Mr. G. W. Woodhouse, Police Magistrate, Galle, mentioning that he proposes to proceed to Japan in March, 1903, and to be present at the Osaka Exhibition, with an enquiry whether he can be of any service to the Planters' Association in that country. *Resolved*:—"That Mr. Woodhouse be thanked for his letter, and that he be invited to obtain any information possible regarding the manufacture of green teas; further that cacao and cardamom growers would wish to furnish him with samples for enquiry regarding the possibility of trade in these products. Any expenses to which Mr. Woodhouse is put in connection therewith the Association will be prepared to pay."

#### TEA PEST—SPREAD OF "SHOT-HOLE BORER."

Read letter from Government, forwarding copy of letter received from the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, together with copy of the letter from the Government Entomologist therein referred to regarding the continuous spread of the "shot-hole borer" pest in tea, and stating that His Excellency the Governor will be glad to be favoured with an expression of the opinion of the Planters' Association on the subject. *Resolved*:—"That the correspondence be published and copies be sent to all the District Associations for observation and report."

Submitted Royal Botanic Garden Circular, Vol. 2, No. 3, January 1903, the Tea Tortrix.

#### BRITISH IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

Read letter from Government, intimating that His Excellency the Governor has received a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies stating that the representation urging a reduction of the Import Duty on Tea in Great Britain had been forwarded to

the Treasury for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Read correspondence with the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the subject.

Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Association in London, enclosing for information copy of memorial from the London Association interested in Indian and Ceylon tea to the Chancellor of Exchequer on the subject of Import Duty on tea.

#### OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF TEA CROP FOR 1903.

Read the following report:—Your Committee estimates the tea crop for export during the year 1903 at 151,000,000 lbs. The returns received are believed to be more full and accurate than in any previous occasion, though some improvement in the form of return may be introduced next year. As regards the distribution of the crop the following is submitted:—

Russia .. ..	14,000,000 lbs.	Africa .. ..	1,000,000 lbs.
Europe .. ..	2,000,000 "	America .. ..	14,000,000 "
India .. ..	1,000,000 "	United Kingdom ..	96,000,000 "
Australia .. ..	21,000,000 "	Far East .. ..	5,000,000 "

*Resolved*:—"That the report be and the same hereby is adopted."

#### WAREHOUSE CHARGES, LONDON: TEA CLEARING HOUSE.

Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Association in London, forwarding copies of the closing letters in correspondence with the Tea Clearing House, giving the decision arrived at by the general meeting of the members of that body on the 22nd December, adding that the understanding is that the present Committee will continue to direct the business of the Clearing House till 30th June, 1903. In the interval it is proposed to amend its constitution in such manner as may be approved by the various sections of the trade interested.

Read letter from Mr. Thornton A. Williams, mentioning that the Tea Clearing House has resolved to rescind Rule 3 so that there will be nothing to prevent importers in sending their tea to any warehouse. *Resolved*:—"That an expression of thanks be conveyed to Mr. Thornton A. Williams for the trouble taken by him in the matter throughout."

#### FINANCES.

Laid on the table statement of accounts for the financial year ending 31st January, 1903.

Read the following report of the Sub-Committee of the Committee appointed to report on the financial position of the Association:—On considering the Chairman's analyses of accounts for the past year, the Sub-Committee is of opinion that the following recommendations are necessary with a view to economy, and the advisability of forming a reserve for the upkeep of the Victoria Commemoration Building: (I.) That the Secretary's remuneration be, hereafter, fixed at Rs.2,500 per annum, this amount to include clerical, peon and cooly allowance, excepting a cooly as night and day watchman to be charged to Victoria Commemoration Buildings upkeep. (II.) That some economies might be shown under the heading advertising meetings, printing book of proceedings, etc. (III.) The Sub-Committee is of opinion that the Thirty Committee should pay Rs.500 per annum under the heading rent. (IV.) As regards water, that it should be laid on the Victoria Commemoration Buildings; and that the question of electric lights be deferred for future consideration. (V.) That the question of Municipal rates and taxes should be again brought under the notice of the authorities with a view to a reasonable adjustment.

#### REPORT OF THE "THIRTY COMMITTEE."

*Report of the "Thirty Committee" appointed to administer the proceeds of the Export Duty on Tea, levied under Ordinance No. 4 of 1894 for increasing the consumption of Ceylon tea in foreign lands for the year 1902.*

#### MEMBERS OF THE "THIRTY COMMITTEE," 1902.

The following is a list of the "Thirty Committee" at 31st December, 1902:

Messrs. James Westland, C. E. Welldon, A. C. Kingsford, Frank S. Vowler, Hon'ble Mr. J. N. Campbell, Messrs. E. Webb, Alex. Wardrop, Edgar Turner, R. A. Galton, H. O. Hoseason, Gordon Pyper, W. D. Bosanquet, T. C. Huxley, Wm. Forsythe, A. Philip, W. J. Smith, Joseph Fraser, W. R. Tatham, R. Morison, Captain H. Gordon, Messrs. W. D. Gibbon, Hon'ble Mr. Edward Rosling,



Messrs. Fred. Hadden, H. V. Masefield, W. Shakspeare, H. J. Scott, J. F. Headrick, G. H. Alston, A. J. Denison, Hon'ble Mr. Stanley Bois.

For part of the year Hon'ble Mr. W. Henry Figg, Messrs. J. B. Coles, Wm. Saunders, J. P. E. Ryan, E. D. Harrison, Oliver Collett, George Hathorn, G. F. Traill, R. S. Templer, Duncan Skrine, served as members.

## FINANCES.

The total collections paid into the Ceylon Tea (New Markets) Fund on account of the Export Duty on tea from 1st January to 31st December, 1902, amounted to Rs.374,450.65. The balance in the Bank, brought forward from 1901 was Rs.22,984.74. The final balance available at 31st December, 1902, was Rs.15,830.02.

The usual interim summary of accounts for the half yearly periods ending 30th June, 1902, and 31st December, 1902, with various connected statements of Charges and Discharges are appended, also statements showing total Receipts and Expenditure as from 1894 to 31st December, 1902.

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Meetings of the "Thirty Committee" have been regularly forwarded to Government for information and guidance after confirmation.

During the year the approval of the Governor in Executive Council was obtained to the following appropriations of the proceeds of the levy as from time to time desired and determined by the "Thirty Committee."

## GOVERNOR IN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

1. *Ceylon Tea on the Continent of Europe.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council per letter dated 11th February, 1902, for advertising Ceylon tea on the Continent of Europe during 1902, £2,500 Sterling at Exchange 1/4 per Rupee .. Rs.37,500.00  
Do. do. letter 18th March, 1902  
£1,000 @ 1/4 .. " 15,000.00  
Rs.52,500.00

2. *Representative in America.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council per letter dated 11th February, 1902, for advertising Ceylon tea in America during 1902, £4,000 @ 1/4 .. Rs.60,000.00  
Do. do. per letter dated 4th June, 1902, £1,000 @ Exchange 1/4 .. " 15,000.00  
75,000.00

3. *Ceylon Green Teas 1901-1902 Grant.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council per letter dated 11th February, 1902, for the purpose of payments under above Grant .. Rs.20,000.00  
Do per letter dated 11th March, 1902 .. 20,000.00  
Do " " 7th April, 1902 .. 20,000.00  
Do " " 17th June, 1902 .. 45,004.01  
Do " " 8th September, 1902 .. 100,000.00  
205,004.01

4. *St. Petersburg Exhibition, 1902.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council per letter dated 7th April, 1902, £2,000 Sterling @ 1/4 .. .. 30,000.00

5. *Ceylon Tea in Afghanistan.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council per letter dated 4th June, 1902, for advertising Ceylon tea in Afghanistan, etc. Rs.6,000.00  
To further amount do do .. .. 2,000.00  
letter dated 29th June, 1902 .. .. 8,000.00

6. *Ceylon Tea to Boer Prisoners of War.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor in Executive Council per letter dated 29th July, 1902, for expenditure in presenting the Boer Prisoners of War who are returning to South Africa with Gifts of Ceylon tea .. .. Rs.5,000.00  
To further amount do do .. .. 4,500.00  
letter dated 2nd December, 1902 .. .. 9,500.00

7. *Ceylon Tea in Honolulu, West Indies, South Africa, or North Africa.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council for advertising Ceylon tea in Honolulu, West Indies, South Africa or North Africa per letter dated 9th September, 1902 .. .. Rs.7,500.00

8. *Appropriations from the Ceylon Tea Fund for 1903.*—Amount appropriated and sanctioned by the Governor in Executive Council for the following: per letter dated 29th November, 1902.

Green Teas (7,000,000 lbs. @ 4 cents)	..	..	Rs.280,000.00
America .. ..	..	..	105,000.00
Continent of Europe .. ..	..	..	75,000.00
Administration Contingencies .. ..	..	..	10,000.00
			Rs.470,000.00

The Grand total of Rs.2,142,492.59 has been levied since 1895 as under.

30th June, 1895	...	Rs.142,874.64
31st Dec., "	...	94,311.13
30th June, 1896	...	112,273.00
31st Dec., "	...	104,091.79
30th June, 1897	...	118,368.52
31st Dec., "	...	112,672.21
30th June, 1898	...	121,965.82
31st Dec., "	...	119,109.04
30th June, 1899	...	120,082.13
31st Dec., "	...	135,611.37
30th June, 1900	...	151,989.33
31st Dec., "	...	142,150.67
30th June, 1901	...	157,091.27
31st Dec., "	...	135,451.02
30th June, 1902	...	146,604.14
31st Dec., "	...	227,846.51
		Rs.2,142,492.59

## REPRESENTATIVE IN AMERICA.

The Remittance made to Mr. Wm. Mackenzie from 1st January, 1902, to 31st December, 1902, were as undernoted.

1902.	£	Rs.	c.
March 19th To Remitted to Mr. Mackenzie	1,000	=	15,011.70
May 8th Do. do.	1,000	=	15,029.35
July 15th Do. do.	1,000	=	15,029.35
August 30th Do. do.	1,000	=	15,029.35
October 4th Do. do.	1,000	=	15,000.00
	£5,000	=	75,099.75

## CEYLON TEA ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

The Remittances made to Mr. J. H. Renton for pushing and making known Ceylon tea on the Continent of Europe from 1st January, to 31st December, 1902, have been as follows:—

1902.	£	Rs.	c.
February 1st To Remitted to Mr. J. H. Renton	1,000	=	14,941.63
May 23rd Do. do.	1,000	=	15,058.82
August 21st Do. do.	1,000	=	15,029.35
Sept. 20th Do. do.	1,000	=	22,500.00
	4,500	=	67,529.80

In addition to the above a sum of Rs.119.80 was debited to Credit Opened on account Continent of Europe for sundry payments made locally, thus bringing up the total expenditure for the year 1902 to Rs.67,649.60 as per Summary at printed page 38.

[37 pages follow of statistical recapitulations of material already published periodical in the Press, chiefly regarding the green tea bonus, and the "Opening of Credits" in connection with the general fund.]

## SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE CEYLON TEA (NEW MARKETS) FUND AS PER AUDITED ABSTRACTS FROM 1894 TO AS ON 1ST JANUARY, 1903.

	Receipts.	Rs.	c.
Ceylon Tea (New Markets) Fund	..	2,142,492	59
Ceylon Tea Fund	..	11,428	93
Interest	..	14,695	92
Ceylon Tea in Russia (Refund)	..	583	11
Coolgardie Exhibition, 1899	..	3,629	46
		Carried Over	2,172,830 01



	Brought Over	Rs.	c.
Coolgardie Suspense a/c (Refund) ..	..	2,172,830	01
Telegrams (Refund) ..	..	790	56
Wm. Mackenzie Representative in America ..	..	186	30
Chicago Exhibition Fund (Voluntary) ..	..	32	19
		4,676	66
		Rs.2,178,515	72
AMERICA.	Expenditure.	Rs.	c.
Wm. Mackenzie, Representative in America ..	..	1,149,523	23
Canada ..	..	7,500	00
Miscellaneous ..	..	8,518	31
Presentation to Admiral Dewey ..	..	1,451	60
Russia ..	..	118,608	83
Germany ..	..	42,376	63
Coolgardie Exhibition ..	..	9,781	01
Coolgardie Suspense a/c ..	..	790	56
Austria and Hungary ..	..	8,412	47
Continent of Europe ..	..	274,265	71
Commissioner on the Continent of Europe ..	..	30,029	41
Belgium and Holland ..	..	4,089	65
Norway ..	..	3,150	84
Sweden ..	..	4,656	85
Switzerland ..	..	3,590	94
Transvaal ..	..	116	59
Boer Prisoners of War ..	..	9,408	50
Honolulu, West Indies, North and South Africa ..	..	7,500	00
St. Louis Exhibition, 1904 ..	..	101	40
Afghanistan ..	..	7,182	31
Agricultural Chemist ..	..	15,000	00
Ceylon Green Teas ..	..	347,549	18
"Times of Ceylon" Art Supplement ..	..	825	00
Bamber's Dietetic Pamphlet ..	..	500	00
Bamber's Report on Ceylon Tea Soils ..	..	800	00
Chicago Exhibition Fund (Voluntary) ..	..	3,342	78
Golden Tips ..	..	750	00
Ferguson's Pure Ceylon Tea Pamphlet ..	..	500	00
Paris International Exhibition, 1900 ..	..	30,000	00
Representative at Paris International Exhibition, 1900 ..	..	7,500	00
Administration Contingencies (Salaries and Sundries) ..	..	64,646	39
National Bank of India, Limited (Balance on 31st December) ..	..	15,830	02
Petty Cash do. do. do. ..	..	217	51

Rs.2,178,515 72

(Initialled) J. D. F.

## CEYLON COMMISSIONER FOR EUROPE.

## REPORT FOR 1902.

## General.

I am glad that it was found possible to considerably augment the original sum placed at my disposal for this year's work on the Continent. Owing to savings effected in the grant for 1901, in salary and in the St. Petersburg Exhibition, an extra £2,000 was made available; and though the total sum did not permit me to do all I should have liked to do, nor to extend the operations of the campaign, yet it has sufficed to keep most of those interested in the work, who received support last year, and to induce them to work even harder.

The lines on which I have worked remain the same as last year, viz., Advertisement and Demonstration. The best method of advertising is through the retailer, by getting him to advertise the tea, and by helping him to do so. If he obtains help to bring a new article before the public, he is bound to interest himself in it, and to push it. But it is also most important that the tea should be presented to the public properly prepared. The great objection to Ceylon tea is, that it is bitter in the cup. We can only overcome this prejudice against the tea by teaching the public how to make it, and hence the necessity of demonstration by every possible means in our power.

I have this year confined the grants to Germany, Austria, France, Russia, and Scandinavia.

## TRAVELLING.

I have made two journeys in France. In the Spring, I visited all the towns where demonstrations have been held during the previous Winter; and in the Autumn, I went to the towns in the east, south, and centre of France, where demonstrations had either been given this year or have been arranged for. In Germany, I have visited the Provinces of Brandenburg, Pommerania, Posen, and Silesia, all the centre and South of Germany, besides making

a second special trip to Stuttgart. I made two special journeys to Russia, to settle the engagements undertaken for the Exhibition, and to arrange for the proposed tea room in St. Petersburg. On my return from St. Petersburg I visited Warsaw, the Austrian Province of Galicia, and Vienna.

## GERMANY.

In Germany trade has been bad this year. The stagnation in the manufacturing and machinery trades still continues. This, combined with the increased prices of provisions, especially of meat, consequent on the excessive restrictions imposed upon imports from America, has affected the spending power of the lower and lower middle classes. In the tea trade, the demand has been mainly for the cheaper qualities. Owing to the reduction in the Chinese export duties, China teas of fair quality have been cheaper, and dealers have met the demand for lower priced teas by supplying larger quantities of China and Java sorts. There can be no question that, owing to their cheapness, combined with improvement in quality, Java teas are steadily growing in favour with the German importers. The same importers complain that Ceylon teas continue to show deterioration in quality, and that they would willingly pay up to 2/6 per lb. for fine flavoury teas if they were available, which they aver is never now the case with Ceylon, and that they are therefore obliged to buy Indian. These fine teas are of course only wanted for blending purposes.

The extensive propaganda made in the interests of Ceylon tea has caused some of these importers to do all they can to discredit it and bring it into disfavour. At the same time, the sale as pure Ceylon tea of blends composed of Ceylon or Indian, and China or Java, is, I consider, also prejudicial to the interests of Ceylon tea. I do not object to blends, provided that the countries of origin are described on the packets; but I have bought as pure Ceylon tea in Berlin stuff which was afterwards described and valued by Messrs. William James and H. Thompson of London as mostly inferior China, value 2d. I am glad to say that all the leading German dealers do describe the composition of their blends on their packets. Notwithstanding this increased opposition and bad trade, our teas continue to make fair progress with the public. Up to end of November the direct export to Germany, including that *via* Holland and Belgium, is 674,810 lbs. against 561,890 lbs., at corresponding date at last year. In 1899 the total direct export was 391,594 lbs. The consumption of tea in Germany is increasing; but so far the increase in Ceylon tea is not equal to that from China and Java. The German Customs returns to end of November are as under. The falling off in the quantity imported this year so far from India and Great Britain is instructive:—

Countries of Origin.	1901.	1902.
Great Britain ..	422,300 kilos.	377,500 kilos.
Holland ..	64,700 "	53,400 "
British India ..	267,400 "	264,500 "
Ceylon ..	196,000 "	220,100 "
China ..	1,750,600 "	1,871,500 "
Java ..	339,900 "	385,700 "
Elsewhere ..	79,200 "	37,000 "
Total ..	3,120,400	3,209,600

The increases are therefore 120,900 kilos. from China, 45,800 kilos. from Java, 23,800 kilos. from Ceylon. The decreases: 44,800 kilos. from Great Britain, 11,300 kilos. from Holland, and 3,000 kilos. from India.

The growing movement in Germany in favour of Temperance, the formation of Temperance Societies, supported by the Medical Faculty, and the Professors in the Universities and High Schools, combined with the fact that the new tariff, whereby the duty will be reduced to 1½d. per lb., instead of 6d., comes into force next year, leads me to hope that the consumption of tea will increase considerably in Germany. I think now is the time to push our teas in Germany, and above all pure self-drinking Ceylons, so that the public may learn to know and appreciate their flavour; and every effort should be made to keep up the quality.

As I was informed in 1900 that the Dusseldorf Exhibition would be confined entirely to exhibit from the Rhine Provinces and Westphalia, and as I expected to be in St. Petersburg at the Exhibition to be held there in the Spring and Summer of this year, I made no effort to obtain space for a demonstration at the Dusseldorf Exhibition. I much regret now that nothing was done. On visiting the Exhibition in May I found that "outside shows" were permitted; and that, had I applied in time, space for a kiosk would have



been willingly granted. I made the next best arrangement I could. I found the Restaurants were being run by the same proprietor who had the Restaurant in the German Pavilion at the Paris Exhibition. I accordingly arranged with him to placard Ceylon tea all over, and to keep and sell only pure Ceylon tea in his buildings. I could come to no arrangement with the cafés. Very little tea was, I fear, sold in the Restaurants, but we obtained an excellent advertisement, the Dusseldorf Exhibition having been a great success, and most extensively visited.

The advertising and general propaganda has this year been carried on by eleven firms, two of them being new allies. While I am somewhat disappointed that a more effective propaganda has not been made in Hamburg, Saxony, Westphalia, and the Rhine Provinces, I am much pleased with the vigorous campaign which has been maintained in Wurttemberg and Bavaria, the great progress made in Berlin, and the good commencement in Pommerania and Silesia.

Our last year's friends in Bremen have succeeded in establishing new agencies in Berlin and Stettin. The Berlin Agency has within the year established 196 depôts in Berlin and the Province of Brandenburg for sale of pure Ceylon tea. In Stettin and the Province of Pommerania, Prussia, and Posen 96 new depôts have been opened. In Silesia the number has been increased from 13 to 46; Schleswig-Holstein from 43 to 159. All these firms work principally through distribution of circulars and show-cards, and through advertisements on behalf of the grocers in the local papers; but in Berlin, big street posters have also been largely used.

The importers in Stuttgart and Munich have worked specially hard this year. Their main propaganda has been by advertisements, and special little articles in the daily and weekly papers appearing in these towns, and in those in Nürnberg, Renensburg, Bregenz, Dresden, and Kufstein. In addition the Stuttgart firm has distributed 1,000 calendars, 2,200 metal sign-boards, 2,000 window canisters, 10,000 Bamber's pamphlets, 30,000 leaflets "How to Make Tea" 3,000 sample tins, and a free supply of tea to the street kiosques in Winter.

From Frankfort the agent of plantations owned by Germans in Ceylon has continued the extensive circulation of their special circular, which was issued as a supplement to 14 weekly and daily papers—some 800,000 of these circulars have been distributed. I still think that the way in which China tea is run down by this circular is too severe. In a country where so little tea is drunk it is a question whether it is a wise policy to make the general public disgusted with any kind of tea. Our aim should be, not to discourage the use of tea of any description, but that of coffee.

The two firms of dealers in Frankfort and Berlin have continued to give Ceylon tea special prominence in their circulars and price lists. The Frankfort firm has opened a branch in Berlin this year, and has given Ceylon an advertisement every alternate week on its donkey cart, which parades Berlin, ostensibly to deliver teas, but mainly for advertising purposes.

#### DEMONSTRATION.

I am glad to be able to report that a commencement has been made in this important part of the work.

A very nice demonstration was made at the Food and Cookery Exhibition held in Stuttgart this Summer. One of the results of this demonstration has been, that it has been found possible to open a small tea room in Stuttgart this Autumn, where Ceylon tea only is served in cup. This establishment commenced work only in November; but already another tea dealer has arranged for a Wine Restaurant to supply tea in cup, both China and Ceylon being obtainable to suit the tastes of the customers. The firm of coffee dealers in Westphalia who last year placed pure Ceylon tea in all their shops throughout Germany have promised to make an attempt to popularise the tea by serving it in cup in some of the principal places, and sixty samovars and teapots have been supplied to them for this purpose; but as the experiment has hardly yet been started, I am not able to report on it.

The most gratifying result of this year's campaign has been the placing of the tea in several of the best cafés and in the refreshment rooms of two of the largest drapery establishments in Berlin. It has taken a great deal of time and work to induce the cafés to take it up. The great complaint against Ceylon tea is, that it is too strong, and gets too bitter when it has stood any time. Busy cooks in cafés will not take the trouble to make it properly. Teapots, cups, saucers, milk jugs, and sugar bowls take up too much

space on the small tables of these cafés. The Berliner café frequenter prefers tea in a glass. So the difficulty of making good tea, and the objection to the numerous dishes, have been met by making teaspoons with perforated holders at one end to contain 2 grammes of dry tea. When tea is ordered, a teaspoonful with dry tea is placed in the glass and boiling water poured on it. The tea is thus served hot and fresh with sugar and lime or milk to each customer, at 30 pfennig per glass. There is no chance of the cook making a second and third brew from the same leaves; and the customers can make the tea any strength they like by withdrawing the spoon when it suits them. The glasses which were presented to the cafés will no doubt disappear in a very short time and commoner ones be supplied; but so long as the spoons are used our object will be attained, and I hope the public will thus be educated to know the difference between pure, mild, self-drinking Ceylon tea and second crop Foochow. A considerable quantity of tea is served in these cafés in the Winter, between the hours of 4 and 7 o'clock and 10 and 12 o'clock P.M., the Kaiser Café alone disposing of 500 to 600 glasses per day.

I saw this year several vacant rooms in Berlin, any of which would have been very suitable for a tea room. But the opinion of those best qualified to judge was, that the enormous rents asked render such an undertaking prohibitive without the guarantee of a big subsidy for at least two years.

Appendix A contains details of the advertising done and of expenditure to date. As I closed my books on 30th November, I have not received final accounts for all the work done this year, and have still £500, promised for Germany. Expenditure, so far, has been £1,995 15s. 11d., of which I have contributed £803 5s. 4d.

#### AUSTRIA.

In Austria the work has this year been carried on by the three firms who have their head-quarters in Vienna. A very active and extensive propaganda has been made, specially by the firm directly connected with Colombo. The advertising done by them benefits the others; and I fear that they themselves have obtained little results for all the time and money they have spent in bringing Ceylon tea before the notice of the Austrian public. There is no doubt that a demand has been created for Ceylon tea; but this demand is supplied, not by the advertisers of the article, but by the regular tea dealers, who all now stock pure Ceylon tea, and some of whom have started their own brands. The opening of a retail establishment in one of the main thoroughfares of the City of Vienna solely for the sale of pure Ceylon tea is a most excellent advertisement for our staple; but whether it will, within a reasonable period, give return to the enterprising proprietor is very doubtful. Our other friends of last year had a very excellent six weeks' demonstration at the Woman's Cookery and Food Exhibition, which was held in the Spring. I was very pleased with the style of the kiosk, and the way in which the tea was prepared and served. This house has increased the number of its depôts for the sale of pure Ceylon tea by 214. It has now 814 throughout the Austrian Empire. The methods adopted by the three firms have been the following:—advertisements in the newspapers, circulars, street posters, photographs in the shop windows, special articles in the Press, and distribution of Bamber's pamphlets.

The Austrian Customs returns to end of November are as under:—

From	1901.	1902.
Germany .. ..	17,400 kilos.	16,600 kilos.
Italy .. ..	200 "	200 "
Roumania .. ..	" "	200 "
Switzerland .. ..	100 "	200 "
France .. ..	600 "	500 "
Great Britain .. ..	21,700 "	24,400 "
Russia .. ..	30,800 "	31,100 "
Turkey .. ..	600 "	800 "
Belgium .. ..	100 "	400 "
Holland .. ..	3,500 "	2,500 "
Free Port Trieste .. ..	200 "	800 "
Japan .. ..	100 "	" "
U. S. of America .. ..	400 "	" "
Brazil .. ..	1,000 "	1,600 "
China .. ..	770,900 "	789,800 "
India, Ceylon .. ..	49,600 "	36,700 "
Java .. ..	200 "	1,600 "
Total ..	897,400 kilos.	907,400 kilos.



I am sorry to see the falling off by 12,900 kilos. in the imports from India and Ceylon, and the increase in China teas of 18,900 kilos. The direct exports from Colombo to Austria at end of November were very slightly in excess of the quantity exported at the corresponding date last year.

From Appendix B it will be seen that the expenditure in Austria was £1,329 3s. 7d., to which I have contributed £544 15s. 6d.

## FRANCE.

In France, this year, as in Germany, there have been great complaints of the badness of trade, and the tea trade seems to have been no exception to the rule. Two small tea importers in Marseilles, both of them supporters of Ceylon tea, have closed their doors and transferred their business to others. I confess that I am much disappointed at the great falling off in the direct exports to France this year. There can be no doubt that returns given on importations in 1900 and 1901 induced importers to lay in extra stocks, especially as they were under the apprehension that an enhanced duty might be imposed in either last or this year. This may be one reason, and the increased import of Annam teas, paying only half the ordinary rate of duty, combined with the bad trade generally, may be another reason for the decrease in the direct Ceylon exports. A decrease in the exports for one year does not, however, necessarily mean a decrease in the consumption. All those who are engaged in the campaign assure me that their sales have increased this year; and I think Ceylon tea is growing in favour. Unfortunately the name of Ceylon is often used, especially in Paris, as a description for all kinds of tea. I myself purchased many samples, some of them evidently packed in France, and submitted them to London brokers, who reported that they doubted if Ceylon tea was contained in any of them. The general opinion is, that the consumption of all tea in France, more especially in Paris, is on the increase. The increase in the number of tea rooms, and in the numbers frequenting these tea rooms, would seem to support this opinion; yet the French returns for 1901, published only in 1902, do not apparently support this view. From the figures given below it will be seen that British India, which includes Ceylon, is the only country that shows an increase in imports over 1899 and 1900. Even the imports from Annam show a falling off, as compared with the previous year. For comparison's sake I give the exports from Colombo, Calcutta, and Great Britain of Ceylon and India teas for the same period.

## IMPORTS INTO FRANCE, PER FRENCH RETURNS.

	1899.	1900.	1901.
	kilos.	kilos.	kilos.
Great Britain .. ..	168,146	197,952	133,314
Belgium .. ..	1,465	2,152	1,262
British India and Ceylon ..	124,698	144,002	152,943
China .. ..	532,064	591,001	456,092
Other Countries .. ..	24,422	27,288	12,352
Japan .. ..	..	..	3,592
Annam .. ..	46,015	130,075	102,008
Other French Colonies ..	116	656	255
	884,926	1,093,326	861,818

## EXPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

	1899.	1900.	1901.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Ceylon .. ..	83,867	133,111	104,298
India .. ..	50,533	88,890	75,381

## DIRECT EXPORTS FROM COLOMBO AND CALCUTTA.

	1899.	1900.	1901.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Ceylon .. ..	98,952	326,800	317,866
India .. ..	17,759	23,983	23,983

In my Report for last year I expressed a doubt as to whether the whole of the export from Annam to France was the actual production of Annam. From the Report of the Meeting of the Joint Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture of Annam, held on 9th January, 1902, it would appear as if some of the producers in Annam shared my doubts. At any rate it is acknowledged that Annam imports 180,000 kilos. of China tea, and that three-fourths of this quantity is of most inferior quality. Although the proposal to raise the duty on China tea imported into Annam from 50 francs to 208 francs per 100 kilos. was negatived, yet the Conseil Supérieur has now imposed a duty of 104 francs, and it is to be hoped that this regulation will ensure that only the actual product of Annam is exported as such.

The question of an arrangement between France and Great Britain, whereby Ceylon and Indian teas shall not have to pay the higher rates of duty, is, I am assured, not yet settled; but good progress is being made, and a settlement is shortly anticipated.

In carrying on the work in France the same lines have been followed as last year. Grants have been given to five firms; and as regards advertising and general propaganda, each of these firms has worked in its own way. The methods adopted have been various; but the most general were advertisements in the Paris and Provincial papers, more especially in the weekly and monthly provincials; special circulars to pensions and families; advertisement in guide books and directories; street placards and posters; distribution of canisters, fancy tins, show-cards, and enlarged photographs to the retailers; and distribution of free samples of tea wherever it was judged advisable.

The demonstration campaign in the Provinces has been carried on with more vigour than ever by the same house which commenced the work last year. The demonstrator has visited 56 towns in the course of the year, given demonstrations on 84 days at 28 places in 16 of these towns, served 23,014 cups of tea, sold 9,772 packets of tea, and secured 71 new clients; 1,245 posters have been put up in the towns, and printed matters to the extent of 3,232,000 copies in the shape of circulars, leaflets, price lists, and cards have been distributed.

As stated above, I have visited nearly all the towns where demonstrations have been held; and all the proprietors of shops were very much pleased with the result of the demonstration. They acknowledged that it was the best advertisement possible for the tea. The clients will now require constant looking up, and looking after. When I visited the North of France in May I was disappointed to find so few of the show-cards and signs that had been so freely distributed in evidence inside the shops or in the windows. Attention was called to the matter, and more durable articles have now been distributed. Three of the special Ceylon tea rooms in Paris continue to be well patronised, and do a good business. I am sorry that the Ceylon planter, the proprietor of the 4th, who opened his tea room in 1900, at the Rue des Pyramides, decided to leave Paris in October. I understand that the room will be carried on by a French gentleman, who advertises that his family own plantations in Ceylon. I have not, however, seen the establishment since the change of proprietorship. Arrangements have been made whereby the Cafe Riche is to supply Ceylon tea, and the Cafe Vogade in Nice is also to supply pure Ceylon instead of China. A new Ceylon tea room has also been opened this Winter in the Casino at Nice; but as I have not yet seen it, I am unable to make any report.

Two special demonstrations were given in Paris at the Exhibitions held in the Cours La Reine and at the Grand Palais in the Summer. The first show only lasted six weeks; but the latter, the Furniture Exhibition, was open till the middle of November, and was well attended. Ceylon secured ample space for a tea room, and obtained an excellent advertisement. Owing, however, to difficulties arising between the administration and the refreshment contractor, who had sublet the space for the tea room to our Paris friends, they had in October to abandon the control; and I cannot say that the service in the last two months was all that could be desired.

Expenditure in France will be found in Appendix C. The total spent on propaganda and demonstration is £3,808 8s. 4d., to which I have contributed £1,265 11s. 1d.

## SCANDINAVIA.

In Scandinavia, operations have been carried on by the same firms as last year, viz., three in Stockholm, one in Christiania, and one in Copenhagen. The principal Stockholm firms has increased the number of its provincial depôts, and has this year spent a large sum on travelling and on free distribution of samples. The second firm has done a good deal of advertising in newspapers, while all the three seem to favour the distribution of canisters and fancy tins to the grocers. The Swedish and Norwegian houses report an increase in the imports in 1902 over 1901 of 35,863 lbs. The Danish house has imported less: it received a large supply in the end of last year, which sufficed for all its wants for the first half of this year. It has continued the propaganda by circulars and newspaper advertisements.

I see that to end of November the exports to Sweden from Colombo are entered as 73,725 lbs., against 56,302 lbs. at same



period of last year. The term Sweden evidently includes Norway and Denmark. I make the figures as follows:—

	lbs.
To Swedish Ports .. .. .	49,255
„ Norwegian „ .. .. .	6,562
„ Danish „ .. .. .	17,908
	73,725 lbs.

As those who receive help for the Ceylon propaganda draw half, or more than half, their supplies of tea from London, and a small quantity from Germany, the increase in direct exports is, I consider, satisfactory. The general consumption of tea in Sweden and Norway does not seem to be increasing. The figures for 1902 are not yet published; but for 1901 the imports for Sweden were less than those in 1900 by 76,000 lbs., and in Norway by 17,967 lbs. From Great Britain the falling off in import of all tea is 15,213 lbs. The London brokers' figures, however, show that the increase in exports of Ceylon tea from great Britain to Sweden and Norway in 1901 over 1900 was 32,782 lbs., and to Denmark 26,074 lbs.

The direct expenditure on propaganda incurred by these firms has amounted to £1,463 3s. 1d.; and if the special expenses on establishing new depôts is included, to £2,015. My contribution to this expenditure amounts to £251 13s. 3d. The details will be found in Appendix D.

#### RUSSIA.

In Russia, arrangements were made with the lady who was the prime mover in organising the Exhibition at St. Petersburg that a well appointed tea room should be opened in St. Petersburg; the furniture and crockery made for the Exhibition tea room to be handed over with a grant of £200, the deposit paid for the space in the Exhibition to be refunded. The death of this lady's husband, and also the death of the proprietor of the rooms selected for the proposed tea room, have unfortunately retarded the opening of the establishment. The necessity of obtaining another site has compelled a postponement of the opening of the rooms till next year.

#### ITALY.

In Italy, only one firm, the one in Naples, has continued an extensive advertising programme. A special delivery van has been ordered for Naples, 30,000 circulars have been issued, and advertisements inserted regularly in four of the daily papers, while special advertisements have been made at Capri and Sorrento. As the accounts for the year were not completed when I closed my accounts, no expenditure is shown as having been incurred on Italy this year. All payments will be included in next year's accounts.

#### SPAIN.

In Spain, one of the German firms in Stuttgart has induced some of their friends to take up the tea in Barcelona, has distributed a large number of placards, show-cards, and circulars, and has made some small shipments direct from Colombo.

#### SWITZERLAND.

In Switzerland, no grant has been paid in this country this year, and I have therefore received no detailed reports; but if the advertising programme has not been as extensive as last year's, most of the firms who received support last year have this year continued the sale with unabated vigour.

BUCKEBURG,  
31st December, 1902.

J. H. RENTON.

#### DETAILS OF PROPAGANDA.

Rent for space for service of tea in the Exhibition at the Grand Palais. Advertisements in 10 weekly and monthly periodicals, posters along the railway lines, illustrated blocks for advertising, street posters, placards, and show-cards.

Advertisements in 9 weekly papers, posters in Paris and country, sample boxes, signs and photographs for grocers, dummy packages and blocks for grocers' windows, and show-cards.

Tea room at the Bon Marché, further expenses in installation and purchase of lease.

Expenses of demonstration in the provinces, crockery, tea, cakes, sugar, milk. Printing and invitations. Salary of traveller and travelling expenses.

Leaflets, newspaper advertisements, show-cards, advertisements in tram-cars.

Circulars and price lists to hotels, families, and pensions.

Special tins and canisters and special show-cards. Advertisements for clients in the provincial papers. Free samples of tea to certain regiments.

#### REMARKS.

These are returns on teas imported in 1901, which did not come forward till the beginning of 1902.

Printing 10,000 copies of translation of Dr. Dorkovitz's pamphlet for free distribution.

#### DETAILS OF PROPAGANDA.

Contributions towards rent, fittings and furniture of a shop in the Kohlmarkt.

50,000 circulars, 2,000 posters in main streets and railway stations, 10,000 Bamber pamphlets.

Advertisements in 34 newspapers all over the Empire, advertisements in the covers of newspapers in 20 cafés, advertisements in calendars, special Christmas articles in 12 newspapers, advertisements on Grand Hotel blotting-pads.

Established a tea room at the Woman's Exhibition held in the Spring in Vienna, posters in the streets, circulars as supplements in the newspapers, newspaper advertisements, photographs as show-cards to principal depôts.

Regular monthly advertisements in 10 Vienna and provincial papers, and occasional special artists.

#### REMARKS.

This firm, through its extensive advertising programme and general propaganda, keeps Ceylon tea before the Austrian and Vienna world.

Number of depôts in Austria for sale of Ceylon tea is now 814.

	lbs.
Imports in 1901 .. .. .	10,410
Do. in 1902 .. .. .	11,225

This was a contribution towards legal expenses to get prohibition removed on teas packed in *lead* packets.

Cost of 1,000 Dr. Dorkovitz's pamphlets.

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Indian Tea Association was held at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, the 17th instant. Mr. Lockhart Smith presided.

The Chairman in presenting the Report for the year ended 31st December, 1902, said:—

GENTLEMEN,—I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Tea Association for the past year.

You will observe that early in our Session we lost the service of Mr. H. S. Ashton and I am sure that all who have had the pleasure of work with that gentleman will cordially re-echo the sentiments expressed in the Resolutions recorded by your Committee.

Well, gentlemen, the one really combined effort of the Industry seems likely to be crowned with success. The Tea Cess Bill has been presented to the Legislative Council and I have every hope the Act will be in force during the coming season. Considering that His Excellency the Viceroy is such an avowed admirer of the doctrine of self-help it was only natural that our memorial for the imposition of a Cess should receive His Excellency's favourable consideration. The distribution of the Cess Funds will be in the hands of a representative Committee who will, no doubt, deal with them wisely and judiciously. The Cess Committee will probably receive many suggestions as to the best means of utilising the funds at their command. But care will have, in my opinion, to be taken to avoid having too many irons on the fire. The funds available will not be sufficiently large to admit with any hope of success of an indiscriminate attack on all possible markets and it will, I venture to think, be much better to concentrate every possible effort on the markets of recognised tea-drinking countries such as America and Russia where there exists large fields for extensive operations. The increase in the consumption of British-grown tea in these countries during the past few years has been very marked especially so in the case of the latter but a glance at the interesting and instructive diagrams showing the world's consumption of tea issued by Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton,—diagrams which, in my opinion, should be kept steadily before the Cess Committee, shows how much there is yet to be done. Everything points to an increasing demand from Russia. Russian buyers have been busy operating in London, Colombo, and Calcutta during the past year and as a taste for our produce has evidently sprung up we have an "open door" there through which I hope to see our produce go in largely increasing quantities.

The manufacture of Green Tea which I understand is to be taken in hand in earnest during the coming year should assist the Cess Committee to work America with more certainty of immediate suc-



cess than has been the case in the past as an article will be offered with which they are familiar and I have every confidence that the merit of our Green Teas will, in time, assert itself as emphatically as our Black Tea has already done on the markets of the world. And I am sure, gentlemen, we will all wish the Cess Committee every success in their efforts to push the sale and increase the consumption of Indian tea.

The teaming millions of India is a common, almost stereotyped, expression and we are not unaccustomed to find suggestions made to utilise Indian labour outside of India. Delegates from South Africa have, I understand, arrived in this country to confer with Government on the subject of labour and I see it reported that there are at present 26,474 people employed on famine relief works. This would all lead one to suppose that there is a superabundant labour supply available in this country. It is therefore suprising to find that the industries of the country are frequently in want of labour and in the case of the 'Tea Industry, the industry, with which we are concerned, the pinch is being distinctly felt. We have now had 19 months' experience of the Assam Labour Emigration Act VI, and although it has in actual working been found undoubtedly defective in many ways, more especially in its restrictive influence on Arkutte recruiting I am not inclined to ascribe the check which emigration has unquestionably received so much to the actual provisions of the Act as to the manner in which it has been administered. Matters will probably right themselves in time; in fact, the tendency is towards smoother working and seeing that the Association has taken up the administration of the Act very fully with Government in September last I can only trust that the suggestions made by it will reserve the sympathetic consideration they deserve.

\* \* \*

The announcement that His Excellency the Viceroy had decided to devote a considerable portion of Mr. Henry Phipps' munificent donation of £20,000 to the formation of a Laboratory for Agricultural Research, and His Excellency's weighty remarks at the Chamber of Commerce dinner on the subject of the Industrial development of the country, were, I am sure, welcomed by all interested in the economic progress of India. We may therefore expect that Agricultural Research work will now be taken up thoroughly and systematically. But when we consider that India is a recognised Agricultural Country with about four-fifths of its population dependent upon the produce of the land for their subsistence it is simply surprising to find that so little has been done and that little quite within recent years. Seeing that the funds which will have called the Agricultural Department into being have come from America, a glance at the splendid system of research work carried out in that country cannot but prove interesting and instructive. From the Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, it will be learned that vegetable, pathological and physiological investigations, botanical investigations and experiments, grass and forage land investigations, pomological investigations, experiments in the production of tea, foreign seeds and plants, etc., are systematically carried out, and that no less than 39 trained Experts are actively employed in the work. Separate reports are submitted by the various Executive Officers and much valuable information afforded. Among these Reports are to be found articles on diseases of fruits, diseases of forest trees, diseases of cotton, plant-life history, plant nutrition, plant breeding, studies on the identification of seeds, cereal investigations, fibre investigations, field work, water pasturage, extermination of noxious grasses, clearing new land, earth roads, insecticides, and unicides, etc.; in fact, the Bureau covers an enormous field of investigation and must be of great assistance to Agri and Horticulturists.

The Tea Industry is quite alive to the importance of Scientific Research and with the assistance of grants-in-aid from the Governments of Bengal and Assam Mr. Harold Mann, a skilled Agricultural Chemist, has for the past three years been employed by the Tea Association in the conduct of scientific investigations and researches into the cultivation and manufacture of tea. From the Report of your Committee you will have learned that Mr. Mann's agreement will expire in May and that in view of a renewal of his agreement Mr. Mann had been asked to state his ideas as to the lines on which the research work should be continued and his proposals based on the experience of his three years' work, are in brief the formation of an organised Scientific Department. The scheme

has been approved by your Committee and the different local Associations interested. The Governments of Bengal and Assam on being approached have sanctioned provisionally increased grants-in-aid and your Committee now propose to lay the scheme before the Government of India. It will hardly, I think, be necessary for me to recapitulate the arguments used by your Committee in replying to the proposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam that the cost of the scheme might appropriately be charged to the proceeds of the Cess. But I cannot refrain from pointing out that the Chief Commissioner seems to have overlooked the fact that the Cess is being instituted for a specific purpose and that the Cess Funds are not likely to prove excessive by any means for the successful exploitation of India and the leading markets of the world. I have every hope that the Government of India will give the application for assistance their favourable consideration. It must, I think, be evident to them that a Scientific Department of the nature proposed must ultimately be for the general good and I look forward to the time when we shall see an experimental farm under trained experts not only in Assam but in each of the Provinces of this country.

Well gentlemen, my remarks have extended to some length but there is another point that I should like to touch on briefly. We had a disorganised market at Home in the fall of the year in consequence of a Warehouse dispute and it may be a coincidence but it is not the first occasion in which the Home market has been upset by a trade dispute to the advantage of our friend the buyer. Were these disputes to occur on this side I would recommend that the producers should settle all conditions relating to the sale of their teas, before the season began and that these conditions should be rigidly adhered to by all concerned throughout the year. It would surely be possible for the producers to arrange, say, at the close of the season a meeting of the trade and discuss any grievance that any section might have to bring forward and to right it if possible. But the rules once settled should be in force for the year and I do not think I am oversanguine in thinking that such an arrangement is within the range of practical politics. (Applause.)

Before proposing the adoption of the report I shall be glad if some of the other gentlemen present will address the Meeting.

In response to this invitation, Mr. T. McMorran said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—One of the most important matters before the Committee during the past year was the completion of the memorial to H. E. the Governor-General in Council requesting—(on behalf of tea-growers representing four-fifths of the area under tea in India) that a cess of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a pie per lb. be levied on all tea exported from British India with the object of creating a fund for pushing the sale and increasing the consumption of Indian tea. No weighty or widely entertained objections to this proposal have been put before Government, and a Bill providing for the imposition of the cess was introduced into the Imperial Legislative Council by Sir Montagu Turner on the 30th January. There seems little doubt that this Bill will in due course become law. Its introduction is a sufficient reply to those who confidently asserted that because of the novelty of the proposal, Government would never consent to legislate in the matter. In certain quarters the legislation referred to is still described as mischievous and dangerous, and we are pointed back to the representative men of a former day who serenely confident in their ability to "whip into the fold the willing and the unwilling," when any scheme for the benefit of trade had to be carried through would have scorned to invoke the aid of Government to make it practical. It is also asserted that no attempt has been made to discover the views of those who are against the cess, and that to save this trouble the machinery of the State is used to crush out dissent. Let us remember that the question has been publicly discussed for about two years, and that in a Resolution of 1st August last those who objected to the proposals were invited by the Government to express their views (before the 1st of December), and it is difficult to reconcile the complaint with the facts. The objections submitted to Government were only three in number, and were neither weighty nor widely entertained. In these circumstances and with a majority of four to one in favour of the measure, it is surely extravagance of language to speak of the machinery of the State being used to crush out dissent.

It has also, I understand, been objected to the Cess Bill that power is retained by Government to make rules, to carry out the purposes of the Act. It is argued that it is dangerous to confide



to Government the making of rules and that it would be sounder in principle to have these included in the Bill itself. There is something to be said in favour of such a view where legislation is imposed by Government of its own initiative, and where the rules it retains power to frame may impinge on the rights of those concerned. But the Cess Bill is an entirely different category, because, in the first place, it is introduced at the request of the tea-growers themselves; and, in the second place, its purpose is clearly defined. That purpose is to collect certain funds, to return them to certain persons, to further certain objects. The collection is defined, so is the returning, so are the persons, so are the subjects. Everything essential in principle has been included, and there need be no fear of interference from Government in giving effect to the clearly defined purpose of the Act. In the working of a new Act, moreover, there may arise need for alteration in the rules. It is desirable alike in the interests of despatch and freedom of working that in this event the rules should be modified without restoring to the elaborate procedure of an amending Act. If and when there is need for alternation, we may feel confident that the Government of India will be willing to regard the recommendations of the Committee appointed under the Act, and that power to make rules will not be used in an arbitrary or harmful way. Then again some candid critics have expressed doubt as to the ability of the Tea Association to manage the Fund. This criticism is ineffectual, however, except to reveal ignorance as to the provisions of the Bill. The Cess Funds will not be administered by the Tea Association but by a Committee of twenty appointed by the Governor-General in Council, three on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, seven on the recommendation of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and ten on the recommendation of such respective bodies or authorities interested in the production of Indian tea and established in British India as the Governor-General in Council may appoint. It is not our province to control the policy of the Cess Committee. It will be for the members of that Committee when they meet to consider the means at their disposal, and the way in which these can most effectively be employed in promoting the objects for which the Cess Fund has been formed. No doubt they will welcome helpful suggestions, and one can only wish for their labour the same measure of success that has attended the work of the Thirty Committee in administering the Tea Cess raised in Ceylon. In 1899, 29 per cent. of the Ceylon tea crop went to foreign markets. In 1902 the proportion rose to 42 per cent. In the same period the quantity of Indian tea sent to foreign markets increased from 16 per cent. to 21 per cent. only. These facts speak for themselves, and show how greatly the cess legislation is needed by the Indian Tea Industry. (Applause.)

The proceedings of the General Committee during the past year were confirmed, the Report adopted, and the Accounts, as audited, passed as correct.

The rate of subscription for the current year from each garden belonging to the Association was fixed at one anna per acre under tea cultivation.

The Chairman reported that the election for the General Committee of the Association for the year 1903, held under Rule 5 of the Rules of the Association had resulted as follows:

Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co., Begg Dunlop & Co., Duncan Bros. & Co., Finlay, Muir & Co., Jardine Skinner & Co., Kilburn & Co., Shaw Wallace & Co., Octavius Steel & Co., and Williamson Magor & Co.

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of February 6th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—No changes of importance can be noted in this market during the week. Supplies at auction have been moderate, but recent arrivals, which have been partly offered and will be further put forward in the course of the next few days, have made buyers cautious in their operations, and, with the exception of really fine qualities which are fully firm, the general tendency is to rather easier prices for nearly all descriptions. There have been further sales of new crop East India, but samples still show evident signs of unfavourable weather, and until supplies of really fine quality are obtained prices will probably maintain only a low range. Santos brought a slight advance. In the

market for "futures" there was scarcely any alteration till the last day or two, when some reduction in the receipts, reports of a further prospective falling off, and an estimated decline of 17,000 tons in the world's visible supplies imparted firmness, and closing rates are rather higher. Yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 27s, May at 27s 6d to 27s 7½d, July at 28s 3d, September at 28s 9d, and December 29s 6d. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery ...	27s 0d.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio...	" ...	4.45 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	" ...	27¼ pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	" ...	33¼ francs.

To-day's auction supplies comprised: 1,079 bags East India, 766 bags Costa Rica, 201 bags Salvador, 32 bags Guatemala, 18 bags New Granada, and 13 bags Santos. A quiet market and prices unchanged.

Brazil futures opened steadily, gradually firmed up on a scarcity of sellers and better Continental advices, but subsequently gave way slightly on Continental advice coming easier. Transactions include March at 27s, May 27s 6d, September 28s 7½d and 28s 9d, December 29s 3d and 29s 4½d.

Closing quotations:—		Sellers.	Buyers.
March ..	...	27/1½	26/10½
May ..	...	27/7½	27/6
July ...	...	28/3	28/
September	...	28/9	28/6
December	...	29/6	29/3

Brazil receipts 24,000 bags, against 45,000 and 37,000 the two previous seasons, and exchange ⅓ higher at 11¼.

Hamburg unchanged on the day. Havre ¼ lower on the day. New York opened unchanged.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

	STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	27,097	14,142	5,975	4,129
	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons ...	1,483	1,560	1,661	733
The preceding figures exhibit—				Tons.
In the Imports an increase this year of				1,846
Home Consumption a decrease of				77
Export an increase of				928
Stock an increase of				12,955

Auctions this week have passed off as under:—

CEYLON.—Plantation—6 casks 4 barrels sold—small 36s, low medium to bold 50s to 52s, peaberry 40s.

EAST INDIA.—1,734 bags mostly sold as follows:—Mysore, small 36s to 45s 6d, low middling 45s 6d to 50s, middling 52s to 56s, common bold 51s to 60s 6d, fair to good bold 62s to 74s, peaberry 49s 6d to 74s; Coorg, small 36s to 43s, low middling 45s 6d to 51s, common to fair bold 53s to 62s, peaberry 54s 6d to 60d.

MOCHA.—17 half-frazils bought in.

JAMAICA.—Of 149 barrels 61 bags offered, 165 packages sold—ordinary to good ordinary 29s to 35s, fine to fine fine ordinary grayish 41s to 43s 6d, low middling 43s 6d to 50s 6d, bold colory 63s, peaberry 40s to 50s 6d.

COSTA RICA.—2,181 bags sold—small 38s to 48s, low middling to middling 47s to 59s, common bold 57s 6d to 62s, good to fine blue bold 67s to 78s 6d, very fine 82s 6d to 83s, peaberry 56s 6d to 78s 6d.

VERA PAZ.—104 bags sold—low middling to middling 51s 6d to 58s.

GUATEMALA.—135 bags mostly sold—small 35s to 36s, low middling to middling 48s to 52s, bold 55s to 63s, peaberry 55s 6d to 59s 6d.

ECUADOR.—412 bags bought in.

SALVADOR.—299 bags mostly sold—middling dull colory 47s 6d to 48s, bold 53s, peaberry 56s.

COLOMBIAN.—Of 130 bags damaged offered, 100 bags sold—middling greyish 40s 6d to 42s, bold 46s 6d to 47s.

BRAZIL.—Of 768 bags Washed Dumont Santos, 660 bags sold—small 29s to 32s, medium 33s to 40s 6d, bold 36s to 51s, peaberry 38s to 50s 6d; of 1,750 bags Unwashed Dumont Santos on quay terms, 1,120 bags sold—small 27s to 30s 6d, medium 31s 6d to 33s 6d, bold 33s to 39s 6d, peaberry 32s 6d to 35s.



## Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Since July 1—				
Rio ...	2,817,000	3,905,000	1,880,000	2,430,000
Santos ...	6,261,000	7,788,000	6,003,000	4,978,000
Total ...	9,078,000	11,693,000	7,883,000	7,408,000
Crop ...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11<sup>2</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d, previous day 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d.

HAVRE, February 5.—Good average Santos February opened firm at 33f. and closed quiet at 33f., March opened at 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>f. and closed at 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>f., May opened at 33<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>f. and closed at 33<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>f., September opened at 34<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>f. and closed at 34<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>f., December opened at 35<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f. and closed at 35<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f.

HAMBURG, February 5.—Good average Santos February opened steady at 27pf. and closed steady at 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf., March opened at 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf. and closed at 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf., May opened at 27<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf. and closed at 27<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf., September opened at 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf. and closed at 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf., December opened at 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf. and closed at 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>pf.

NEW YORK, February 5.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.
Feb. 5 ...	4.35	4.45	4.50	4.60	4.70
Feb. 4 ...	4.35	4.45	4.55	4.65	4.75

## TEA.

INDIAN.—Catalogues comprised 30,100 packages, against 31,200 previously, and 51,900 at the corresponding time a year since.

The week's business has presented no new feature, and the character of the market remains as before. Common and ordinary descriptions met with a ready demand on the lower basis lately established, while fine to high grade tea, especially when of Autumn flavour, made good prices.

In spite of January deliveries having been practically governed by immediate requirements for consumption and showing a contraction of some 6 million lbs. contrasted with last year, when a Duty scare prevailed, it is noteworthy to find the stock reduced by 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> millions, owing to the shrinkage in imports. The smallness of the trade holdings, not shown in the published figures, compared with a year ago, is difficult to estimate; suffice it to say that this is not the least satisfactory feature in the position. Clearances from the London Bonded Warehouses during the month were at the rate of 171 millions per annum. The exports from Calcutta are now some 7 millions under last year, the total for the season then being 152 millions.

For 25,500 packages on Estate account 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d per lb. was obtained, opposed to 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d for 46,700 and 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d for 49,900 in the two foregoing seasons.

The following are the monthly figures issued by the Tea Brokers' Association:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Imports ...	* 16,220,000	21,101,000	23,122,000
Deliveries ...	* 14,269,000	20,349,000	18,256,000
Stock, 31st January	70,163,000	73,776,000	74,789,000

CEYLON.—Public sales have aggregated 22 500 packages. On the 27th ultimo 16,506 were submitted, and at this period twelve months ago 28,100 packages.

There was a good enquiry for fine and finest kinds which attracted strong bidding and mostly sold at firm to dearer rates. On the other hand, common to medium were in less request, and when any falling off in flavour was noticeable quotations were barely maintained. The average is 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d per lb. contrasted with 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d at the date of our last, and 7d per lb. in 1902.

Monthly statistics are as under:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Imports ...	+ 7,938,000	11,109,000	13,099,000
Deliveries ...	+ 8,073,000	9,182,000	10,065,000
Stock, 31st January	19,796,000	21,638,000	27,895,000

\* These figures include 602,459 lbs. landed and delivered "ex quay," but not hitherto taken into warehouse returns.

† These figures include 29,128 lbs. landed and delivered "ex quay," but not hitherto taken into warehouse returns.

JAVA.—Rather over 3,100 packages passed the hammer, and nearly all were sold in the room at steady rates.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From January 1 to 31, 1903	...	19,885,694 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	27,299,121 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India ...	22,588	7,536	30,124
Ceylon ...	17,658	4,887	22,545
Java ...	3,029	112	3,141
Total ...	43,275	12,535	55,810

Also 181 packages from second hands.

Arrivals of Tea:—	From Calcutta.	From Colombo.
	lbs.	lbs.
Ex Orontes ...	...	235,000
" Peninsular ...	295,000	36,000
" Magician ...	805,000	276,000
" Collegium ...	582,000	199,000
" City of Sparta ...	1,075,000	100,000
Total ...	2,757,000	846,000

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated February 6th, 1903, says:—

## QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	1,065,262	780,665	52,688
1901-1902 ...	1,150,888	807,249	52,405

30,305 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 56,133 packages were offered in public auction  
22,687 " CEYLON } this week.  
3,141 " JAVA }

The figures at foot show the position of tea to be a strong one; imports of all tea from the commencement of the season are 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> millions below the same period last year, and 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> less than during the previous season, while the bonded stock of all tea in London at the end of January was 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> millions less than at the same time last year, and 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> than the previous year. These figures seem to indicate that present prices are on too low a level, especially when the reduced stocks of duty-paid tea in the country are taken into consideration.

INDIAN.—Offerings continue small. Demand was rather better than last week, and competition more general, better class teas specially meeting with attention. A few "last of the season" invoices are already in print, while an autumnal character is becoming generally more noticeable. The official wire gives exports to U. K. for second half of January as 5,210,000 lbs., against 5,830,000 lbs. same period 1902; making total from 1st April to 31st January 139,900,000 lbs., against 146,791,800 lbs. last year.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 25,609 pkgs., av. 7.38d. 1902, 46,555 pkgs., av. 7.23d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 799,599 pkgs., av. 7.30d. 1901-2, 881,954 pkgs., av. 7.88d.

CEYLON.—No actual change can be quoted in the market, but there seemed more disposition to buy, with slightly more animation in the bidding, last week's prices, as a rule, being easily obtainable. Teas with special point were well competed for. The official telegram gives exports to U. K. during January as 8,000,000 lbs., against 9,250,000 lbs. same month 1902, and estimates the quantity for February as 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 8 millions.

Average for week 7.33d, against 7.00d. in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 103,731 pkgs., av. 7.51d. 1902, 128,711 pkgs., av. 7.31d.



JAVA.—A comparatively large quantity was brought to auction, comprising a varied selection in which 16 Estates were represented. The teas sold with good competition at steady to improving prices, very little being withdrawn from sale.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—  
Calcutta  $1\frac{5}{16}$ . Colombo  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{2}$ .

### COCOA.

Tuesday's auctions offered 8,929 bags which experienced a fair demand at considerable irregularity in prices. Of 1,668 bags Trinidad brought forward about 800 bags found buyers at barely valuations—67s for very fine red, 61s to 64s for good to fine, and 58s to 60s for ordinary to middling. 2,181 bags Granada practically all sold at a slight decline for the good qualities, but at fairly firm prices for other grades; good to fine realised 56s to 58s, and common to fair 53s to 55s. 124 bags Jamaica mostly sold at 52s for fair, being steady. Of 987 bags Dominica catalogued 500 bags were quitted at a decline of 1s to 2s per cwt., fair to fine selling at 52s to 54s, and ordinary at 50s. Of 76 bags St. Lucia 50 bags found buyers at 56s for fine and 50s for common. 38 bags Esmeralda sold at 60s to 60s 6d for defective. 38 bags good African sold at 54s. Good and fine qualities of Ceylon were well competed for and realised an advance of 2s to 3s, but there was not much competition for less desirable grades though they brought steady rates, with the exception of Native collected, which was cheaper; 3,798 bags were offered and 1,500 bags sold—fine bold and medium red at 74s 6d to 75s, fair to good at 60s to 72s 6d, ordinary medium and small 53s 6d to 55s 6d, common to good small 40s to 50s, pickings 31s to 39s, and fair collected 52s per cwt. Private sales include 300 bags Trinidad and 400 bags Dominica at auction rates, and 100 bags good to fine Caraquez Guayaquil at 66s to 70s per cwt.

### PEPPER.

BLACK.—A dull market and prices lower. About 100 tons Singapore have been sold during the week at  $6\frac{1}{16}$ d down to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d January-

March and March-May shipment; on the spot sales reported at  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d down to  $6\frac{1}{16}$ d.

At auction on Wednesday 200 bags Lampong retired at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d, 155 bags good Wynaad at  $6\frac{3}{4}$ d, and 401 bags Acheen at  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The shipments of Black Pepper for the month of January compare as follows:—

	1ST-HALF.		2ND-HALF.	
	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.
U.K.—Singapore	40 } 40	10 } 20	210 } 210	20 } 20
„ Penang ...	nil }	10 }	nil }	nil }
Continent ...	20	40	570	140
United States ...	30	220	170	160
Total tons ...	90	280	950	320

WHITE—is lower. On the spot small sales of Singapore have been made at  $9\frac{1}{16}$ d down to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d, and fair Penang at  $9\frac{1}{8}$ d. For arrival no business reported. Singapore January-March shipment has sellers at  $9\frac{1}{16}$ d, and Penang January-March at  $9\frac{1}{8}$ d.

At public sale on the 4th instant of 247 bags Singapore catalogued 70 bags sold “without reserve” at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $9\frac{5}{8}$ d for fully fair, 237 bags Penang were bought in at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

The shipments of White Pepper for the month of January compare as follows:—

	1ST-HALF.		2ND-HALF.	
	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.
U.K.—Singapore	90 } 130	220 } 340	60 } 120	110 } 110
„ Penang ...	40 }	120 }	60 }	nil }
Continent ...	30	nil	40	nil
United States ...	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total tons ...	160	340	160	110

“All Sorts and  Conditions of Men”

USE

# ST. JACOBS OIL

**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price  $1\frac{1}{2}$  &  $2\frac{1}{6}$ .

# CONQUERS PAIN





## GINGER.

COCHIN—quiet but steady. 52 cases 190 bags were offered, of which only 10 bags bright rough D's sold at 33s. Medium and bold cut retired at 80s, medium and small at 55s, and washed rough at 42s per cwt.

JAMAICA.—57 barrels offered and sold at 41s for low middling washed, 37s to 37s 6d for good ordinary of 1899 import, and 37s per cwt. for lean and shrivelled, part dark, new crop.

## CINCHONA.

In auction, 10 serons good bright Loxa quill were sold at 11½d per lb. Fourteen bales of good bright Calisaya quill and chips sold at 7d, and dull and dark quill at 5½d to 5½d per lb.

## QUININE.

The announcement of the small Java shipments of cinchona for January strengthened this market at the close of last week, a fair

business being done on the spot at 1s to 1s 0½d per oz., and May delivery 1s 0½d for good German sulphate. With the correction of the shipments, however (see Cinchona paragraph), by which 300,000 Amsterdam lbs. have been added to the original figures, an easier feeling has prevailed this week, small spot-sales being reported on Wednesday at 1s. and to-day there are further buyers at 1s, but no sellers under 1s 0½d.

## CARDAMOMS.

Cardamoms were slow of sale at irregular but lower prices generally, especially as regards small and splits. The following prices were paid:—Ceylon-Mysore. medium and bold pale, 2s 7d; extra bold pale, but partly open, 2s 6d; bold medium pale, 1s 7d to 1s 11d; medium pale, 1s 5d; small pale, 1s to 1s 1d; splits and pickings, 11d to 1s; decorticated seed, 1s 2d to 1s 3d per lb. Good bold Malabar, 1s 10d per lb.

## MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING JANUARY FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

## IMPORTS.

## DELIVERIES.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian ...	16,220,268	21,101,238	23,122,061	14,268,626	20,349,119	18,256,267
Ceylon ...	7,987,621	11,109,332	13,099,032	8,072,883	9,181,560	10,065,454
Java ...	553,070	854,210	574,910	440,440	573,300	330,540
China, etc. ...	1,725,215	2,947,153	1,576,925	2,083,804	2,487,652	2,011,750
Total lbs. ..	26,486,174	36,011,933	38,372,928	24,865,753	32,591,631	30,664,011

## FROM 1ST JUNE TO 31ST JANUARY.

## IMPORTS.

## DELIVERIES.

## STOCK.

	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Indian ...	125,844,082	132,946,171	136,195,895	99,837,908	98,059,980	88,426,059	70,163,244	73,775,766	74,788,604
Ceylon ...	65,873,094	65,618,732	75,587,351	68,381,624	69,723,896	72,942,633	19,795,774	21,638,393	27,894,562
Java ...	3,398,360	3,682,350	3,093,230	3,857,560	3,873,030	3,111,220	861,420	1,030,680	988,610
China, etc. ...	16,806,427	21,163,932	20,617,295	16,674,832	13,889,636	16,877,987	14,384,836	18,392,111	16,175,389
Total lbs. ...	211,921,963	223,411,185	235,493,771	188,751,924	185,546,542	181,357,899	105,205,274	114,836,950	119,847,165

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-38d., FEBRUARY 6TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaforth	79	6½	15	8	22	6½	10	7	32	5½	...	...	...	...
Travancore	1595	6-28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arnakal	225	7	69	7 8½	94	6½	62	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atchencoil	43 p	6½	...	...	11	6	15	6½	8	5½	...	...	9½c	5½
Carady Goody	95	6½	30	6½	30	5½	35	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fairfield	61	6½	15	6½	31	6	15	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glenmary	165	6	...	...	75	6	40	7	25	†5	...	...	25	†5½
Halashana	21½c	7½	...	...	11½c	†6½	10½c	8½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lockhart	72½c	6½	41½c	6½ 8½	...	...	31½c	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merchiston	129 p	6½	57	6½ 7½	50	5½ †5½	...	...	...	...	10	5½	12½c	4½
Penshurst	98	6½	20	7½	63	5½ 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	7
Riviera	47	4½	...	...	35	4½	12	5½	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	50 p	4½	...	...	35	†4½	12	5½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stagbrook	153 p	6½	101½c	6½ 7½	44	6	...	...	...	...	1	4	2½c	4½
ST T Co Venture	128 p	6	...	...	58	5½ 6	36	7	25	5½	...	6	...	...
Surianalle	132½c	6	61½c	6 6½	29½c	6	...	...	19½c	5½	6½c	4	17½c	4½ 5½
T T E Co Kolie K	77	6	18	6½	23	6	...	...	13	5½	...	...	23	6
" Pambanar	99	6½	51	6½ 7½	34	5½	...	...	7	5½	...	...	7	5½
Wynaad	216	6-64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kanambyle & Co	56 p	8½	8	1/4	25	6½	23 p	7½ 8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tanga Mulla	80 p	5½	...	...	24	5½	...	...	28	5	...	...	28½c	5½
Wynaad T Co Pe	80 p	6½	...	...	27	†6½	32½c	7½ 9	21	5½	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1903.

[No. 10.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 13th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 4th March.—Weather*—It is still keeping very fine and there is a little East wind at times and it is very hot during the day. *Crop.*—The present crop is dragging its slow course along. Owing to rain, during picking, a lot of gleanings are coming in. Coffee is coming very well out of the pruning and prospects for next season are very fair. Pruning is being pushed on with. *Labour*—Plentiful. *General health*—Fair.

#### CARDAMOMS AND ORANGES IN COORG.

IN THE Report on the Administration of Coorg during the year 1901-02 there are many references to the cultivation of Cardamoms and Oranges. These references are of a "scrappy" or disjointed order, but they are far from uninteresting. For instance, it is stated that cardamoms and oranges have taken the place of coffee over an area estimated at some 12,000 acres. Yet in the year under reference the cultivation of cardamoms enjoyed no more favourable conditions than coffee. The outturn was normal, but prices continued at the low figure which has for years past practically ruined the industry, "nor were the numerous reductions and remissions of assessment continued from previous years efficacious in reviving the prosperity of the cardamom-growers, whose operations extend over an aggregate area of upwards of sixty thousand acres, of which, however, only a portion is actually cultivated." To a considerable section of the population, the cultivation of cardamoms was formerly second in importance only to that of rice. During the last twenty years, however, the price of cardamoms has fallen to such an extent that it now scarcely pays to collect the berries, and many well-to-do families, who depended chiefly upon their cardamom matès

for the purchase of articles required to supplement the produce of their rice fields, have been greatly impoverished. In these circumstances it is not easy to understand the recent extension of cardamom cultivation; and it would be interesting to know to what extent, if at all, European planters have helped in the carrying out of a policy of over-production. It is obvious from the remarks of the Commissioner that cardamom cultivation in Coorg is largely in native hands. Seeing how the same product is being pushed in other places, such, for instance, as Mysore and Ceylon, there is not much prospect of a rise in the price of a commodity, the consumption of which is strictly limited.

In Coorg, cardamoms are cultivated in the matès, as the forest hills on and below the Ghâts are termed. Small clearings are made in the evergreen forest, in which the trees are felled, but no plot is allowed to be longer than one-sixth of an acre. Cardamom matès are taken upon a lease for periods varying from three to twenty-one years, but owing to the low prices of the produce, the industry has fallen into decay. We do not profess to reconcile the contradictory statements in the report under notice—such as those about extensions of cardamom cultivation and its falling into decay. We pass on to a statement that the principal exports from the province are coffee, cardamoms, rice, oranges, timber, sandalwood, and hides. It is distinctly stated that the statistics of export, which are for the most part compiled from the information supplied by keepers of toll-gates, cannot be regarded as trustworthy. Nevertheless, after the above allusion to the "principal exports" it is interesting to turn to the figures, specially noting the order in which certain products are mentioned above, and that in which they stand when the value of exports are compared. The figures are:

Coffee ...	...	...	Rs.12,00,000
Grain and pulse ...	...	...	3,00,000
Sandalwood ...	...	...	90,500
Cardamoms and spices ...	...	...	50,000
Wood ...	...	...	50,000
Hides and horns ...	...	...	25,000
Fruits ...	...	...	10,000

It is scarcely necessary to comment, beyond pointing out that pepper, the cultivation of which has increased, doubtless helps to swell the figures relating to "cardamoms and spices."

We have, however, yet to deal with Oranges. The increased attention devoted to orange-growing is referred to as among the



agricultural features of the year that call for notice. Oranges are also referred to as among the "principal exports." It is remarked that the Coorg oranges are celebrated, and in South Coorg are as abundant as the plantain. Yet the total exports are put at Rs.10,000! A couple of years or so ago, it scarcely paid, in many places in Coorg, to pick oranges: they were allowed to fall and to rot! We should be glad if some of our planting readers in the province would inform us if it is true that increased attention has lately been devoted to orange-growing, and what the results have been. That "Rs.10,000" is an incredibly small figure. Coorg oranges are well known in markets as far off as Madras; and if business is properly pushed there must be great scope for increased trade. Perhaps the reference to oranges as one of the principal exports is merely prophetic. We are inclined to believe that there really is a great future before this industry, but only if it is taken up in an enterprising way; and we should be glad to know what, if anything, is being done towards its development. Is there any "cultivation" or is Nature left to herself; what is the average value of crop; what are the facilities for sale; what are the transport facilities, packing arrangements, and so on? It is well known that Coorg oranges are conveyed in railway-truck-loads, and in cart-loads, no attention being paid to packing; but are there any exceptions to this, which appears to be the general rule? No matter what the present position of the industry may be, its future must depend largely upon the manner in which growers lay themselves out to develop markets; and there cannot be a doubt that there is a demand that would readily account for exports of a much higher value than that which is referred to above.

### THE TEA DUTY AND THE BUDGET.

The following correspondence has passed between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Lough, M.P.:—

"71, EASTCHEAP, E.C., *January 30, 1903.*—DEAR SIR,—The somewhat exaggerated feeling (as I think) that considerable reduction of taxation will be possible in your coming Budget, and that the tea duty may be lowered to the former figure of 4d., is leading buyers of tea all over the country to reduce their stocks to an inconveniently low point, and producing great stagnation of business. The extent to which this reluctance to operate has proceeded may be gathered from the fact that in the first twenty-six days of January, 1902, 23,520,776 lbs. were removed from bond, against 16,527,556 lbs. this year, showing a diminution of 6,993,220 lbs. I believe that it is in accordance with precedent, and in the interests of the Exchequer, that, if any reduction should take place, some time should elapse after the Budget before the new duty comes into force. But, as the recent imposition of the higher duty was made suddenly, and was accompanied by some changes connected with the bonded warehouses, there is a feeling of uncertainty as to whether this course will be followed by you. May I ask, therefore, whether you can see your way to state that, in the event of a reduction of the tea duty, reasonable notice will be given? I believe that if you can give such a promise it will have a reassuring effect on business.—Believe me, etc., THOS. LOUGH; The Right Hon. C. T. RITCHIE, M.P."

"TREASURY CHAMBERS, WHITEHALL, S.W., *February 3, 1903.*—DEAR SIR,—I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in further reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, to say that he has no hesitation in giving the assurance which you desire, that, in the event of any reduction of the tea duty, reasonable notice would be given, so as to prevent as far as possible any inconvenience to the trade. It will, of course, be understood that this assurance must not be interpreted as any indication of the intentions of the Government as regards the Budget.—I am, etc., J. A. LONGLEY. THOMAS LOUGH, Esq., M.P."

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

#### First Day.

A Meeting of the Madras Legislative Council was held on the 27th ultimo, in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, with H. E. Lord Amthill, President, in the chair.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT said:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN,—You will, I am sure, be anxious to know the probable course of business in the Council and I therefore take this opportunity of making such a forecast as is possible in the present circumstances. I hope that the Council will pass the Planters' Labour Bill either to-day or to-morrow. The list of amendments is a long one, but many of them are identical, and as regards the more important ones the Government hope speedily to arrive at a satisfactory compromise.

#### THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. STOKES presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Planters' Labour Bill, 1902, and moved that the Bill and Report be taken into consideration at once.

In doing so, the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes pointed out that he desired to explain some of the recommendations which the Select Committee had made. The Bill did not at all profess or desire to regulate the relations between the planter and the labourer in every possible respect. The object of the Bill was mainly to put a stop to fraudulent breaches of contract which it was impossible to reach under the existing law. Opportunity had been taken to bring home to the cooly his obligations towards his employer, and also to impress upon the planter his obligations towards his labourer. While the Bill largely dealt with fraudulent breaches of contract, it was proposed to take certain general powers which might be used to compel the planters to treat their labourers properly in certain matters. The Select Committee had not in any way extended the scope of the Bill, but they confined themselves to merely amending some of its provisions, and even those amendments were not numerous, though they were in some respects important. The old Bill contained the words that Act XIII of 1859 should be repealed from and after the date upon which that Bill came into operation. What was really intended was that the two Acts should not have concurrent application; but it was never intended that it should never apply to contracts entered into before the coming into force of the present Bill. If Act XIII of 1859 did not apply to contracts made before the issue of the notification extending the present Bill to certain local areas, then no Act would apply to them, and the planter would be entirely deprived of any means of recovering large sums of money advanced by him on the faith of Act XIII. The next amendment that was made by the Select Committee was in regard to the Section 7, which related to local labour. The principle of the Bill was that the contracts entered into by the cooly should be explained to him, so that he might not be misled by misrepresentation, or deceived in any way as to the conditions under which he would have to work, and it was absolutely necessary that he should understand the exact terms of the contract, and it was therefore laid down that the terms should be explained to him by certain officers specified. But the Select Committee desired to exempt from the necessity of having that explanation made in regard to contracts which extended only for two months. There could be no doubt whatever that if every local labourer entering to a short contract should be taken before a Magistrate so that the terms of the contract might be explained to him, it would cause a great deal of trouble and much waste of time. So the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, proposed to exempt local labour from the necessity of having the terms of the contract explained. Section 26 of the Bill, as it was referred to the Select Committee, had been taken verbatim from Act I of 1882. In the new Assam Act the corresponding section had been considerably modified. Section 26 as amended by the Select Committee, met their wants much better than the



more modern section in the Assam Act, which had been probably framed to suit the conditions of labour in Assam. One of the main principles of the present Bill was not to punish the cooly but to get him to do the work which he had contracted to do. If a cooly chose to sit at home he must pay As. 4 a day, and there was no use imprisoning him. Therefore, the proviso that he should forfeit As. 4 a day which had been included in that section seemed entirely suited to their conditions of labour. The next section which had been amended was Section 35. The Committee had made an attempt to add an explanation to that section to make it more clear. Their intention would be better carried out by adopting verbatim the section of the Assam Act which related to that matter. From the Agenda paper Honourable Members would see that he proposed to take the section verbatim from the Assam Act. That was a more satisfactory solution of the problem. Another important amendment was in regard to Section 44, which authorized the Government to appoint certain officers to make enquiries under the Act; and power had been taken to make rules for their guidance.

#### SIR GEORGE ARBUTHNOT'S SPEECH.

The Hon'ble Sir GEORGE ARBUTHNOT said :—

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I beg to second the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes, and would ask for permission to state very briefly any reasons for doing so before we proceed to the consideration of the various amendments of which notice has been given. It has been suggested to me that I may not be technically quite in order in doing this, but I venture to hope that Your Excellency will not so rule, for it seems to me only reasonable that when an important Bill is returned to this Council after lengthy consideration and material modification by a Select Committee, it is only reasonable that opportunity should be given to those members desirous of doing so of stating their reasons for approving of its being finally passed into Law, which, frankly, as it was originally presented to us I could hardly have done. What I wish is not to discuss the general principles of the Bill but to say a few words with regard to the nature and effect of the amendments introduced by the Select Committee, which are now, for the first time, before us in Council. Both on behalf of the Mercantile community whom I have the honour to represent, and as being myself largely interested in the growing of coffee, tea and other such products, I feel bound to express my appreciation of the very keen desire evinced by the representatives of Government in Committee so to mould this Bill as to make it just and even-handed, and one calculated to promote and safeguard the interests alike of employers and employed. And I must earnestly deprecate the idea, which I cannot help feeling still prevails in certain quarters, that the Bill, as amended, is in any sense a piece of class or race legislation. That it has penal clauses of course goes without saying, but those affected by it only become subject to those penal clauses when they are guilty of such wrong-doing as no fair-minded man can justify, and as unquestionably deserves punishment, and apart from such wrong-doing I am convinced that the Bill affords no ground for fear that the labourer will be liable to, and likely to receive, harsh treatment at the hands either of the law or of his employer,—and I would again repeat, what has already been urged, that, even if actuated by no higher motive—which, as a general rule, I do not for a moment admit or believe to be the case—self-interest alone makes it absolutely necessary for the planter to study the health and the comfort of his labourers, and that to connect such words as “habitual ill-treatment” and “slavery” with the relations between the planter of Southern India and his labourers is, to say the least, to present a lurid picture, so overdrawn and fanciful as to be grotesque, and fit only to be relegated to the Chamber of Horrors, which, I have been told, exists in certain Art Exhibitions. Looking at the Bill from the planter's point of view, I cannot pretend to say that—in some districts especially—they look upon it, even as amended in Committee, as the best of all possible Bills, or that they are altogether satisfied with it, but I am sure that the good intentions of Government, and its desire to meet their objections as far as possible, subject to a complete safe-guarding of the interests of the labourer, have been fully appreciated. The conditions, however, of estate cultivation and management, and labour arrangements, vary most widely in different districts of this Presidency, for instance Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin, and, whilst in some I believe the Bill will work very well and advantageously, there are others where there is good ground for supposing that it may prove highly prejudicial. In Committee I pressed

my Honourable friend Mr. Stokes to recommend to Government the addition of a clause which would practically have the effect of securing what is called at home “local option” for each district. As to the practicability of this I found him unbending and immovable, but must confess to being myself somewhat in the position of the proverbial man “convinced against his will” namely “of the same opinion still.” However, the Committee agreed to put on record their opinion that the Government should always give due notice, and await the receipt of, and consider, local representations, before bringing the Act into force in any local area. This recommendation I understand that Government has accepted, and all those interested may, I may sure, be perfectly satisfied that it will be fully and faithfully carried out, and it is with this conviction that as one having a very large financial interest in the Planting Industries of Southern India I feel justified in supporting the Bill, feeling sure that if carried out, as I am certain it will be, carefully and wisely, and only made applicable to those districts where there is ample proof that it will be advantageous, it will work to the benefit, and promote the welfare alike, of employers and employed.

His Excellency put the proposition to the vote, and it was carried unanimously.

His Excellency the President then proposed and the Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Forbes seconded that the consideration of the preamble and the title to the Bill be postponed pending the consideration of the amendments.

#### AMENDMENTS ADOPTED.

The Hon'ble Mr. STOKES :—

“Estate” means land not less than 10 acres in extent whether held by one person or by more persons than one jointly and whether in one or more blocks and for the first twenty-six words of the definition of “Estate” and to substitute in Section 2 that “Labour Contract means a contract penally enforceable under this Act to labour for hire on an estate otherwise than as a domestic servant.”

#### Section 5.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Perrazu moved a verbal amendment to the section, which was accepted by the Government, and the section as amended was adopted.

#### Section 6.

Consideration deferred.

The Hon'ble the ADVOCATE-GENERAL—for the proviso in sub-Section 1 substitute :—

“Provided that a contract for a period not exceeding two months may be signed in the presence of two witnesses if the labourer's home is not more than 15 miles from the estate, or he is not accommodated in the cooly lines permanently maintained on the estate.” This amendment was exactly similar to the amendment already moved but it was drafted in a different manner.

The amendment of Mr. SANKARA NAIR to insert the following as sub-Section 3 was accepted by the Government and carried :—

“Where the Magistrate or such other person as is expressly authorised as above considers that the labourer is not in a fit state of health to undertake the journey to the estate or that he is incapacitated by reason of any obvious bodily defect or infirmity for labour in the labour district, he shall not permit the contract to be signed in his presence.”

The Council was adjourned at 7-15 P.M. to reassemble on Saturday at 11 A.M.

#### Second Day.

An adjourned Meeting of the Madras Legislative Council was held on February 28 at 11-30 A.M.

#### AMENDMENTS ADOPTED.

The Hon'ble the ADVOCATE-GENERAL—to substitute the following proviso to Section 6 :—

“Provided that no labour contract made by a woman shall be enforceable under this Act if her husband or guardian, if any, objects to its enforcement.” The difficulty with regard to the proviso as



drafted in the Bill was that it did not appear to take sufficient account of the wishes particularly of the husband.

#### Section 8.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. STOKES—to substitute the following for Section 8 of the Bill :—

"Either party to a labour contract may determine it on giving at least three months' notice in writing of his intention to the other party and showing to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, if objection is taken to the notice, that he has reasonable grounds for determining it, and repaying any sum found by the Magistrate to be due to the other party in respect of such contract." He said that Hon'ble Members would notice that in the amendment now moved the words "reasonable grounds" had been substituted for "sufficient cause." Some Hon'ble Members had taken objection to the amendment on the ground that it was contrary to the general principles of the Law of Contract. But the amendment was entirely in accordance with one branch of the law of contract namely, the law of master and servant, which was analogous to the case of a planter and labourer on an estate. The three months' notice provided by the amendment was necessary to enable the planter to protect his crops by getting coolies in the place of those that desired to leave.

#### Section 9.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. STOKES—

The substitution of the following for Section 9 of the Bill :—

"9. (I) A labourer may determine his labour contract at any time without notice on showing to the satisfaction of a Magistrate that he has reasonable grounds for determining it, and on repaying any sum found by the Magistrate to be due by him to his employer together with a further sum of three annas for every working day of the unexpired period of his contract or of a period of three months, whichever may be less."

#### Section 10.

The Hon'ble Mr. STOKES—

Substituted for sub-Section 1 of this section :—

"If a labourer is alleged by his employer or claims to be disabled for completing his labour-contract by reason of accident or illness, and is unable to agree with his employer as to the terms on which the contracts should be determined, the employer may, and if the labourer so desire, shall, send the labourer, if he is able to travel, and if not, send notice to the nearest Magistrate, who, if on enquiry he finds the labourer to be permanently disabled from completing the contract, shall declare the contract to be determined and such order shall be final."

Add the following as sub-Section 3 :—

"(III) In any case in which the Magistrate shall find that the accident by which the labourer was disabled was due to the negligence of the employer, he may order any sum not exceeding three months' wages to be paid by the employer to the labourer as compensation."

Of the several amendments proposed by the non-official members the following additional section proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Perrazu was accepted by the Government.

10-B. (V) When the labour-contract of the labourer is or has been determined or cancelled under the provisions of this Act, the Magistrate may, in his discretion and on the application of the labourer concerned, cancel the labour-contract of any labourer, being the wife, husband, father, mother, son or daughter of the labourer whose labour-contract is or has been determined or cancelled who may have entered into a labourer-contract to work on the same estate.

Sir HENRY WINTERBOTHAM.—An amendment to this new section to limit its operation to the provisions of Section 10 instead of the provisions of this Act.

#### Section 14.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI—

To insert the following in this section which dealt with the power of certain officers to inspect Estates :—

"Enter and inspect all lands and houses wholly or partially used by or for labourers, and require that all such labourers, or any particular class or classes, or individual or individuals of them, shall be brought before them, and that a copy of the labour-contract of any labourer shall be produced, and may make any enquiries

which he thinks proper touching the condition or treatment of such labourers and the employer shall be bound to comply with every requisition and to answer every enquiry so made to the best of his ability."

#### Section 17.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

Add the following proviso to Section 17 :—"Provided that the Magistrate shall not take any action regarding the payment of compensation to the accused under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or other law for the time being in force."

#### Section 21.

The Hon'ble Mr. STOKES :—

"That in line 9 of Section 21 after the words "shall repay to the planter" the words "within a reasonable time to be fixed by the Magistrate in the order" be inserted.

#### Section 23.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

That in Section 23, after the word "Act" insert the words "or omits to comply with any requisition made under Section 14."

#### Section 25.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

To add also the following sub-section: "(2). If the planter wilfully omits to comply with the order within the time so fixed, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty rupees for each day during which the omission continues."

#### Sections 30, 31, 32, and 33.

#### Sections 30 to 33.

The following are sections 30, 32, and 33 as adopted by the Council :—

30. When any labourer is convicted under Section 26 or 28 the Magistrate so convicting or sentencing him shall on application of the employer endorse on the labour-contract the period during which such labourer is convicted under the sections aforesaid of being absent from his work, or the term for which he is sentenced to imprisonment, or both, as the case may be, and the period so endorsed shall be added to the term for which the labourer contracted to serve, and such labourer shall not be deemed to have completed his labour-contract till he has served for the terms specified therein in addition to the periods so endorsed.

Provided that the additional period so endorsed shall not exceed the unexpired period of his labour-contract on the date of the offence.

Provided also that no such endorsement shall be made if more than 12 months have elapsed since the date on which the original labour-contract would otherwise have determined.

31. When any maistry has been sentenced to imprisonment for an offence under Section 22 or when any labourer has been sentenced to imprisonment for any offence under this Act, the planter with whom such maistry has entered into a contract or the employer of such labourer or any person authorised to act in this behalf for the planter or employer may apply to the Magistrate at any time previous to the expiry of such sentence that such maistry or labourer be forthwith made over to him with an order to complete his contract or his labour-contract as the case may be.

(2) On such application being made the Magistrate may, if the maistry or labourer consents cancel the remainder of such sentence and may direct the maistry or the labourer to be made over or forwarded to the applicant together with the order applied for.

32. Same as Section 31 of the Bill.

33. On the expiry of any sentence of imprisonment on a maistry or labourer for any offence under this Act, the maistry or labourer shall if the planter or employer requests, be produced before the Magistrate who shall direct such maistry or labourer to complete the performance of his contract on pain of further prosecution and punishment in case of his refusal to do so, and no conviction under this Act or imprisonment under such conviction shall have the effect of relieving any maistry or labourer from the terms of his contract or labour-contract as the case may be.

Provided that no such direction shall be given, in the case of a labourer, if more than 12 months have elapsed since the date on which his original labour-contract would otherwise have determined.



Section 35.

The Hon'ble Mr. STOKES—

Substitute for Section 35 of the Bill :—

"35. (1) Whoever, knowing that a labourer is bound by his labour-contract to labour for any employer, voluntary entices or attempts to entice the labourer to leave his employer, or harbours or employs any labourer who has, in contravention of the terms of his labour-contract, left his employer, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both.

(2) The convicting Magistrate may award to the employer with whom the labourer has contracted the whole or any part of any fine levied under sub-Section (1)."

Section 41.

The Hon'ble Mr. STOKES—

Add to this section :—

(2) In making any rule under this Act the Local Government may direct that every breach thereof shall be punishable with fine not exceeding in any case five hundred rupees.

(3) All rules made by the Local Government under this Act shall be published in the local official *Gazette* and, on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted by this Act.

Section 42.

The discussion on the sections was then concluded.

His Excellency the President said that he felt certain that the Hon'ble Members would not wish to pass the Bill at that Meeting nor did he think that the Bill which had been so considerably amended should be passed on one and the same day. He therefore proposed to adjourn the Meeting to Tuesday when amendments might be moved only with the permission of the President. He proposed on that occasion to take into consideration of the question whether the Government should take power to annul or rescind any notification made under that Act. It was a somewhat difficult question and the Government would give it its most serious consideration.

The Meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, at 11 A.M.

Third Day.

The adjourned Meeting of the Madras Legislative Council was held on Tuesday at 11-45 A.M. in the Council Chamber, Fort Saint George. After certain amendments had been passed, the chief of which have been referred to in our telegraphic news, the Hon'ble Mr. STOKES moved that the Bill be passed into Law, and said that the Bill as amended had very fairly secured the remedying of the grievances of the planters and substantial benefits to the coolies.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH, in supporting the proposition, said that the planters of Southern India had been the greatest benefactors of coolies. Referring to the speeches of the non-official members, the Hon'ble Mr. PERRAZU PANTULU and the Hon'ble Mr. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI, one would imagine that the planters of Southern India were a set of brutal slave dealers. He did not deny that there had been now and then instances of high-handedness on the part of planters, but these instances were exceedingly rare. But when these did occur the planters concerned had been condemned by the planting community at large. There were black sheep in every fold, and for the sake of one it was not charitable to condemn the whole lot. The Hon'ble speaker then recapitulated the circumstances that had in 1895, during the *regime* of Lord Elgin as Viceroy and Governor-General, contributed to the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the planters' grievances. It was then decided that Government should take upon itself the duty of finding a remedy in the shape of a penal law. The Hon'ble native gentlemen were for the most part labouring under a mistake of fact, and commenced an attack upon the planting community. The wages at Travancore were at present five annas a day, and the coolie was infinitely better off on the hills than on the plains. At the end of a year a coolie generally returned with Rs.50 in his

pocket, a sum generally sufficient to keep him in complete idleness for a year. The Hon'ble Mr. PERRAZU had spoken in ignorance of the actual state of affairs when he said that coolies should be better housed, better clothed, and better fed. As a rule, the coolies were better housed and generally better cared for on the hills than on the plains, while some of them had their own gardens, and the whole lot obtained gratuitous medical advice. In some estates there were schools provided for the children of the coolies, and on his own estate the honourable speaker had some schools. That the coolies, themselves seemed contented was obvious from the fact that a number of coolies had year after year renewed their contracts. The Bill as proposed was a vast improvement on the existing state of affairs. On behalf of himself and the planting community in general, he thanked His Excellency and his two Hon'ble Councillors for expediting the passing of the Bill. He thanked the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes, who had kept all through an open mind in the matter, and in conclusion he said that he gave his hearty support to the passing of the Bill into Law.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. PERRAZU PANTULU said that some of the observations he had made at the time of the introduction of the Bill had so incensed the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth that he had now and then made some uncharitable observations during the discussion of the amendments proposed by him. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth was very much mistaken if he had thought that he (the speaker) meant any insinuations against any particular gentleman. He was of opinion that penal legislation was not needed in the present state of circumstances, and expressed his inability to give his vote to the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY WINTERBOTHAM, in supporting that the Bill be passed into Law, spoke at length on the attitude assumed by certain native papers apparently under misapprehension of facts, and said that these and the speeches of the Hon'ble non-official members appeared to him to indicate that they were of opinion that the Government was legislating a measure to benefit the European planters. He defended the action of Government in having initiated that measure, which was needed in the interests of planters and coolies.

The Hon'ble Sir GEORGE ARBUTHNOT also supported the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. GOVINDARAGHAVA AIYER, in declining to give the Bill his support, said that the question for consideration was whether they would not by passing the Bill be arming the planters with powers which, if they chose, they could use to the detriment of the coolies. He did not wish it to be understood that he was not in sympathy with the planters and that he did not appreciate the action and desire of Government to strengthen the planting industry. He was of opinion that after the Bill had passed the Select Committee, the Bill had assumed an entirely one-sided aspect, and that was in the interests of the planter. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth gave only one side of the picture, and there was another side of the same which had also to be considered.

His Excellency the President then put the proposition to vote. Votes were carried and the Bill was passed into law by a majority, the Hon'ble Messrs. PERRAZU and Govindaraghava Aiyer being the two dissenting members and the Hon'ble Nawab Sayyid Mahomed Sahib Bahadur remaining neutral.

The Council then dissolved at 1-10 P.M.

COFFEE NOTES.

Coffee prices should decline before they advance much beyond present levels. There is too much coffee in sight —*Merchants' Review*.

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Coffee was sold at low prices in 1830, about 8c. per lb. at place of importation, but the *per capita* consumption then was 2.98 lbs. In 1870 the price was 10.3c. per lb. and the *per capita* consumption was 6 lbs. Last year the import price was 6.4c. and the consumption was 13.37 lbs. per head, yet despite that enormous gain some folk at Washington and in New York newspaper sanctums think the grocer is overcharging the public.—*Merchants' Review*.



**Coffee in Queensland.**—In a letter from Queensland dated February 2nd, the continued drought in that colony is spoken of as very serious. "We have only had one half crop now in four years," says the writer, "and last year was a total failure. This year promises to follow suit."

A Brazilian journal states that there actually exists down there the belief that "a rise in coffee prices is possible in April, or even sooner, and especially should last season's manœuvres be repeated in New York." It should not be flattering to New York coffee men that such an opinion of them prevails abroad but we suppose they have earned it, and are bearing with resignation the gnawing void in their purses and will with equal fortitude the loss of their reputation in Brazil. Since, however, a "manœuvre" is so soon expected of them, and since the coffee men are anxious for a natural price in coffee it might be wisdom for the market to issue a bulletin to the effect that it is far from the plans of its mice and men to indulge in another flyer at the cost of two cents to the pound, no matter how fascinating the tales of frost or drought sent out to beguile. But, all in all, it speaks ill for the intelligence or mental balance of the Brazilians that they should think New York will so soon be "willing to do it again."—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar.*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market, actual and speculative, is featureless, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of February 4, except for the dullness which pervades the entire business. What trading of a brisk nature there was a fortnight ago has subsided and it would appear that the interior traders have supplied their immediate wants and are now resting. There is a good demand for good roasting Santos from numbers 5 to 9, but these grades seem to be out of the market and hence are not easily obtainable. Prices in them are therefore firm and inquiry general. The spot market for invoices closed quiet and steady with quotations at 5¼c. for Rio No. 7, 6½c. for Rio No. 4, and 6¼ to 6½c. for Santos No. 4. Distribution has been slow in jobbing and roasting and this has had its corresponding effect on the importing houses.

Speculatively the market has been very quiet. January and February options touched the low record mark of 4.10 but there were no sales at this bid. Rio and Santos receipts hover around the 20,000 bag mark, and thus the statistical situation remains discouraging for any advance in coffee. This alone would stimulate buying. The foreign markets remain as featureless as the New York market. At Rio prices are firm and sales are reported on a basis of 5½, c. and f., for Santos No. 5.

In Milds the interest centers on the settlement of the Venezuelan question. When this occurs considerable coffee will be released from there and this will ease the firm market here. The basis of good Cucuta is 8¼c. East India growths are quiet.

The deliveries of Java coffee in Holland, as per Dutch Trading Company's return for the month of January, were extremely scanty, consisting of only 3,230 bags, as compared with 4,780 bags in the same period last year, 3,350 bags in 1901, and 8,810 bags in 1900.

Mr. George W. Werlin, of Werlin & Willits, coffee brokers, San Francisco, sums up the present coffee situation as

follows: "The coffee market in San Francisco continues quiet and very little interest is shown in the article. The trading in this market at present is mostly Hawaiian and Salvador coffees. The former is bringing a considerably better price than last year; the latter is selling, for good unwashed, on about a basis of No. 4 Santos, *plus* freight. New Guatemala coffees from the volcanic district are arriving in an uncertain and unsatisfactory condition to a great extent, the coffee being somewhat off in color and showing a dull roast beside other defects. To date the receipts of Central American coffees at this port are about the same as last year; the total receipts last year of these coffees in this port were larger than the average, but not as large as the previous year."

Coffee is a good barometer, the bean becoming so damp and tough on the eve of a rainstorm that it is difficult to grind it. If a lump of sugar be dropped into a cup of coffee without stirring, and the air bubbles which soon rise collect in the middle, the day will be fine. If they adhere to the side of the cup there will soon be rain.

## TEA NOTES.

**American Tea.**—The domestic tea industry, so tiny and hopeless, serves nevertheless as a perennial topic for the press and for the bulletins of over-sanguine Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture, but it has, says the *Merchants' Review*, about as much prospect of usefulness as a coffee plantation in Georgia would have. The tea cannot be sold below 80c. to \$1.00 a pound and the flavour is not equal to the 25-cent tea of the grocer. The flavour is too "herby," suggesting the rawness of home-grown and home-cured tobacco in New York State. From a desire to be amiable, a judge of tea might well praise the domestic leaf to the planter's face, but it would be a rash expert who would condemn himself to drinking the stuff regularly.

Mandarin tea is sometimes heard of, but never seen in the West, its use being restricted to the nobility in China. If it ever comes here it is brought by Chinese nobles for their own use. It is probably too delicately fine to be appreciated by gross Western palates.—*Merchants' Review.*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market remains firm and the tendency in the movement of prices is still upward, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of February 4. This condition is surprising but of course gratifying to everybody except that luckless trader who has waited and is still waiting with impatience for the market to break. Even some of the optimistic looked for some sagging last week, especially in Formosas, but that much-sought-for tea was still more coy and actually increased its selling price one cent in the higher grades. Seemingly the tea is scarcer than ever, and if there is any large block of it still in first hands the fact is being carefully concealed.

The China greens, such as Pingsuey and the Country greens, are very rare, but the demand does not seem to slacken, despite the fancy prices the teas are bringing, and the market in them advanced a cent last week. There was some trading in them. As for Japans, they are out of sight and traders are beginning to look with no small favour on the Ceylon greens to take their place for matches. The better



grades of Indias and Ceylon blacks are scarce too and in demand, so that the market in them is harder.

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The official report of the tea transactions at the port of New York during December last, specially furnished to *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, provides somewhat unexpected information. The amount of tea remaining in warehouse January 1 does not reach by much the total that was inferred from the way the warehouse totals had piled up in the preceding months and the known imports warranted, the warehouse totals only footing up just short of 57,000,000 pounds against 64,000,000 pounds expected. However, the deficiency is explained by the heavy withdrawal for transporation of 5,448,624 pounds, which is unusual but very natural in view of the cessation on January 1 of the tea duty. But, all in all, there was less tea in New York than supposed. The withdrawals for consumption reached the small quantity of 722,842 pounds, against, for example, withdrawals last May of 6,000,000 pounds. The fact bespeaks the extent to which the reserve of tea held by retailers and others was permitted to fall and explains the present strength and firmness of the market, dealers still buying to make good the shortage they were compelled to tolerate by the belated repeal of the tea duty. In view of the reported extensive exports of green teas to England the actual export of only 41,000 pounds is a surprise.

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Our faithful and unbiased statements of facts bearing on the quantity of tea in the United States seems, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, to be interpreted in certain circles abroad as having in them intentional malice, to discourage the Ceylon and India tea men from continuing their shipments of tea to this side of the Atlantic. . . . But bless the dear hearts of the India and Ceylon tea men! Far be it from us to stand in the least a barrier to their ambitions and enterprise to acquire the American market as their special asset. We are no more a special pleader for China, Japan, and even American, tea than we are for India or Ceylon. In a word, we are impartial, and are partisan only to state the whole truth, no matter whom it flatters or stings. We will do even more, and say that we believe that the British grown teas, have a splendid future before them in America, and China and Japan teas may well fear the outlook unless there is a sudden, but improbable, expansion in the tea-drinking habits of Americans. . . . It is true that among us there are drinkers who say that they cannot abide the puckering quality of the British teas, and would as soon drink vinegar, but there are also drinkers who are surprised at the passion of others for Japan tea which they loath, and so on. . . . Patience and smartness in operations will change any taste, and so, why may not India and Ceylons have their day in court on the American continent? Their agents have, it is true, spent no little money in pushing the commodity, and results have not been up to expectations, so that a belief is abroad that some special prejudice exists against the British-grown tea. . . . The British tea men are dealing with a continent, and scattered sowing brings only scattered harvests. But patience and persistence will conquer even a continent sometimes, and so it is up to whether the "sometimes" is worth while.

\* \* \*

**Canada Exporting Tea.**—A Montreal broker states, says the *Canadian Grocer*, that there has been some exporting of green tea from Canada to England, in spite of the light stocks

and high prices here, as prices are even higher in England. A fairly large demand is also experienced in the United States from the same source, and if it should continue as heavy as at present, dealers will be puzzled to know what to do for stocks.

Another importer gives it as his opinion that we will be exporters of tea to the United States before the season is over.

Although this view is not endorsed by others in the trade, it is yet admitted that the condition of the United States tea market is such that before the next crop arrives they are likely to be drawing their supplies from all possible sources. Canada, should she have any tea whatever to export, would naturally be turned to among the first, and, as the Americans can offer very tempting prices, this market would not take long to exhaust.

Buyers of tea who are holding off in expectation of lower prices should take these facts into account and make their position secure while they may.

\* \* \*

**Why Japan Teas are Higher; A Theory.**—The higher prices for Japan teas are explained by some on the ground that the Jap, who, in former years, had no high ideals of dress and finery, and would put in a good, faithful day's work for very small pay, is now, since the advent of civilization and American styles, quite an up-to-date person, and needs, and demands and gets from 75 to 150 per cent. more wages. —*Tea, Coffee and Sugar*.

\* \* \*

The import price of tea in 1830 was 22·3c. per pound, and the *per capita* consumption was then ·53 lb. In 1870 the price was 29·4c. and the *per capita* consumption was 1·10 lb. Last year the price was 12·4c. and the *per capita* ·94 lb. —*Merchants' Review*.

\* \* \*

Tea blends are more commonly sold abroad than here, but they are coming more and more into use here every year. Blending is not mixing. To blend tea is to so mix it with the aid of machinery that the fragrance and flavour of the different teas in the mixture will so blend together as to form a distinct and original fragrance and flavour.—*Merchants' Review*.

\* \* \*

The warehouse supply of tea in New York on the first instant was only 56,800,000 lbs., a less quantity than was supposed be in store. But holders are not complaining. The smaller the general supply the better they are pleased.—*Merchants' Review*, January 30.

\* \* \*

Tea that is not improved by blending is sure to be injured by the process.

\* \* \*

The landings of Tea of all kinds in London during January were restricted to 26,486,150 lbs., as contrasted with 36,011,950 lbs. in 1902. Owing to considerable anticipatory duty-paid clearances prior to the delivery of the Budget last year the single month's deliveries then were swollen to 32,591,600 lbs., whereas the clearances this year have been only 24,865,800 lbs., so that the stock in bond on the 31st ultimo presented a comparative deficit of 9,631,700 lbs.

\* \* \*

**A Tea Crop Contract.**—Pinehill crop bought for 1903 at 40 cents. The 1903 crop of the Pinehill Estate Company has been sold on



contract to Messrs. C. M. Wright & Company. The price paid is 40 cents per lb. Messrs. C. M. Wright & Co., also recently bought up the Naseby estate crop for the year at the rate of 63 cents per lb. At the last Meeting of the Pinehill Company, held in August last year the Report for the year ended the 30th June, showed that a crop of 143,487 lbs. of tea had been secured, and a dividend of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. was declared. The net price realised for the tea was 35.58 cents. The estimated crop for the current year was given at 145,000 lbs., and it is manifest that the transaction—disposing of the whole crop at an advance of 4.42 cents per lb. on last year's prices is a profitable stroke of business for the shareholders and will mean a handsome increase of dividend.—*Times of Ceylon*.

**China Tea for the European Capitals.**—In the course of an article in a Straits paper regarding the alarm which the Russian Government is beginning to display that Chinese labour will displace Russian labour in the southern provinces of Siberia it is stated:—“A St. Petersburg report announces that a few days ago eight Chinese merchants arrived in Warsaw; six continued their journey into Western Europe, and two remained in Warsaw to sell tea, porcelain, and other Chinese products. This is said to be but the first step in an important undertaking and it is being made by these agents of a Shanghai company with a view to establish depôts of Chinese products in various European capitals and large towns, so that the Chinese may be able to carry on their trade with Europe on their own account, and without the aid of agents. These Chinese agents can speak English, French, and German, and one of them has a fair knowledge of Russian. They will open a store in Warsaw, and this will be made the transit branch for all Chinese goods that reach Europe by the Siberian Railway.”

## NOTES.

### Tea and Coffee.

Tea is an infusion. Coffee is a decoction. Tea should be brewed. Coffee should be boiled or distilled.

### French Import Tariff.

February 27.—A Convention has been signed securing the benefits of French minimum Tariff to coffee, pepper, tea, cardamoms, and certain other products of India.

### German Quinine, etc.

During the eleven months ending November the exports of “quinine, quinine-preparations, etc.,” from Germany were:—

	1900.	1901.	1902.
Kilos. ...	170,600	183,000	202,210

### Calcutta Tea Sales.

At the tea sale on 24th ultimo 3,000 packages were sold, mostly second-hand teas and clearing lots. Prices were firm. There was a good selection of Calcutta-finished greens, which sold at prices running from 6 to 7 annas. It is unlikely that any more sales will be held.

### The Ceylon Tea Cess.

A London cablegram, dated 23rd ultimo, to the *Times of Ceylon* says:—The Tea and Produce Committee met to-day, and an animated discussion took place on Mr. Kingsford's communication. A majority agreed to recommend an increased cess for eight months; and home producers are to be circularised accordingly.

### Indian Green Teas.

The *I. P. G.* pays a tribute to Mr. Drummond Deane, “who by his original simple and easy process for producing uncoloured green tea in bulk, which he is now developing to the production of the most varied styles of the true green teas of the

East, in conjunction with our local expert, has practically saved the situation for British-grown tea.”

### Italy.

Imports of Coffee into Italy from Great Britain were as follows:—

Average 1897-1900 ...	£96,920
1900 ...	69,920
1901 ...	56,240

during 1901 Italy exported, mainly to Turkey in Europe and Roumania coffee to the value of £154,748. The total imports of coffee amounted to £854,339, Brazil accounting for £637,929. Tea is not separately mentioned in the official returns.

### Ceylon Tea in Europe.

It is stated that in Switzerland Mr. Valentine Webster has upwards of 1,300 shops selling his tea, and all of these are doing a legitimate trade with tea they have bought, and are not merely “depôts”—a dépôt being a place where they undertake to expose the tea for sale, but may never sell, or pay for, a pound of it. He has also made a beginning with several shops in Austria and Italy. His latest tour, now in progress, is to include France, Italy, Aden, and South Africa. Mr. Webster states that there can be no doubt that the taste for Ceylon tea is growing in France.

### Ninety Years ago.

An interesting light upon the cost of living ninety years ago is afforded by the following extract from a day-book for 1816-17, formerly belonging to Messrs. Mason, Brigg, Lincolnshire, and now in the possession of Messrs. Symonds and Symonds, Brigg. The undernoted prices are from a bill paid by Lord Yarborough:—1 lb. of tea 7s. 4d.;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. green tea, 12s.; 2 stones soap, 10s. 6d.;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  stones treacle, 4s. 8d.; 1 lb. mustard, 5s. 4d.; 7 lbs. mottled soap, 11s. 8d.; 2 lbs. lump sugar, 1s. 2d.; and 4 lbs. currants, 1s. Soap, of all kinds, appears to have been very dear, 9s. 9d. being charged for 2 stones of common yellow soap.

### The Balata Industry in Dutch-Guinea.

The industry is restricted as to place and tapping by strict official orders. In spite of the unfavourable condition of trade during the first five months of 1901, the number of firms enjoying concessions has increased and, as prices remain satisfactory, everything seems to point to a renewed future of balata. The yield of 1901 has been about the same as in 1900, the Nickerie district alone giving 145,000 kilos. The greatest danger to the industry lies in the killing of the trees through irrational tapping by the workmen. In order to gain the greatest possible quantity of balata, the tree is often not tapped on one side only, as officially wished, but on both sides, which causes it to die off; very often the trees are even felled.

### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 26th ultimo from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is also steady, while the market for teas for price is dearer. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. (same as last week) and the average  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. (also same as last week). The average for the same period last year was  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. Reuter reports that there is a generally good demand for Ceylon tea at fully previous rates and common



¼d. to ½d. higher. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 6½d. (½d up) but the average for the week is 7¾d. (same as last week). 21,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 20,000 disposed of; while of the 35,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 32,000 were sold at an average of 8½d. (same as last week).

**Cacao in Uganda.** In his report on Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda, Mr. J. Mahon says :—“The two cases of cacao (*Theobroma Cacao*) sent out here by Kew in August, 1901, have thriven exceptionally well. They arrived during the drought already referred to, and as there could be no thought of planting them out I had them all put in pots, and, to shade them, had recourse to converting my tent into a greenhouse, and it suited the purpose admirably, whilst there they were attacked by rats, which apparently, in pure mischief, gnawed the stems of many quite close to the soil. Trapping several frightened them away eventually. It was not possible to plant out the cacao till December, 1901. Their progress in nine months permanently planted out has been and continues to be most satisfactory. I am not aware of any country where cacao is grown commercially at 4,000 feet altitude. If we prove it can be done here the experiment will be valuable.

**A Good Yield of Rubber.** Mr. Francis Pears, writing from Muar, gives the following information :—“In case you have not received previous information, I append particulars of the yield of two cultivated Pará trees at Gapis Estate, in Perak, reputed to be 25 years old. The tapping was conducted by Mr. Baxendale, and extended over two months, and was done evidently with the intention of procuring a maximum yield.

	Tree No. 1.	Tree No. 2.
Girth at one yard from the ground	89 in.	56 in.
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.
Yield of clean rubber, dry	15 12	11 2
Yield of scrap rubber, dry	2 4	1 8
Total	18 0	12 10

Tree No. 1 had never been previously tapped, and was worked from three channels, whereas Tree No. 2 was worked from two channels only, and was tapped during 1901 and yielded 3 lbs.”

**The Crockery Did It!** Some little time ago the London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon* wrote :—“The largest tea-rooms in the South of France are owned by a M. — who hitherto has always used China tea. Despite all Mr. Webster’s endeavours, this gentleman was faithful to his old love and steadfastly refused to give Ceylon tea a trial. On the occasion of Mr. Webster’s last visit, however, he took him samples of his “Quaker” crockery, which he supplies free to all those who sell his teas, and the owner of the restaurant was so much taken with these that he agreed to take ten kilos. of a high-grown Ceylon Pekoe for use one afternoon, and to report results. When Mr. Webster went in the evening almost expecting to hear that the experiment had been a failure, the kitchen register was produced and it was found that out of several hundred cups served only five had been complained of, which was just the average when the best China tea was used. A contract was at once signed for the exclusive use of Ceylon in future ; and by French law the possession of the Quaker cups and cutlery

lays the signatory open to a heavy penalty if he does not adhere strictly to the terms of the agreement.

**Cooly Recruiting for Ceylon.** Major E. Gordon Reeves, of Madulkele, was to start on the 2nd or 3rd instant and proceed to the Coast with funds and two or three Kanganies from different districts. He expects to be able to land coolies in Tataparai for Rs.10 or Rs.12 per head, so that on the estate they will not cost more than Rs.15 each. If, however, he has to go further afield, say to Vellai or Arcot, it will increase the cost per head. Major Reeves believes that available labour, is plentiful : but that Kanganies, for reasons not far to seek, will not introduce it. He writes :—“In the coffee days *thousands* of independent stragglers singly and in small parties could be met almost any day coming down with their small bundles and chatty (no boxes in those days). It stands to reason that such as these (with at the most, Rs.2 at their disposal) cannot afford to emigrate *viâ* Tuticorin. By the Strait they came across for 50 cents, and that 50 cents with the rice they carried represented the cost of their journey. The blocking of the North road was doubtless a necessary and wise measure ; but it has resulted in the blocking out not only of plague and cholera, but probably 10,000 head of Tamil labour per annum.

GENERAL ARTICLES.

THE VALUE OF MANURING.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS.

An Australian paper remarks :—It is not too much to say that the widespread application of artificial manures to the wheatfields of Australia has opened up a new era to the cultivator. No movement, not even the introduction of scientific dairying by the invention of the separator, is so hopeful in its prospects as the advent of the seed drill, with its cunning device for spreading so economically and so effectively the artificial fertilisers which science has told us contain the plant food growing crops are in need of. Mr. Pearson, the late Government chemist, and his successor, Dr. Howell, have, by their intelligent and well-sustained experimental work, rendered a service to the State that is not yet fully appreciated. It is not only that the cereal growers have been shown the way to increase the low average yield of their fields, but the fruit-growers also, quick to recognise the value of manures to the wheatfields, are applying them with gratifying success to the orchards, and so this healthy movement grows, and the return of normal seasons will witness far more of true land development and less of land speculation than has existed in the past. There are millions of acres in the State held for grazing, which have become sheep sick by continuous grazing, that, now widespread knowledge exists of the requirements of plant life, and how really to apply them by manuring, ought to pass in the natural order of things to cultivation, and there are large areas of second and third class land still in the hands of the Crown which, by good management, could be rendered available for the same purpose. Because it must be understood that we are only on the fringe yet of soil improvement. The experiments so far have gone in the direction of restoring to the soil the phosphoric acid (in the shape of bonedust and superphosphate) which analysis has shown is deficient in most of our soils, and particularly those of the North, even in their virgin state. And it is because this has been so clearly demonstrated by the experiments begun by Mr. Pearson that the widespread use of phosphoric fertilisers has set in. It is, however, clearly the work of the demonstrator to widen the field of his experiments, to take heart from the fine response which has been made to his teaching, and never halt until we have materially raised the position of Australia from being at the bottom of the list of all the grain-growing countries in the world in regard to average production per acre. Great Britain stands at the head of the list, and this position has been attained, in spite of a rigorous climate, by the thoroughness with which her fields are manured. The wonderful experiments begun at Rothamsted, in Hertfordshire, in 1843, by



Sir J. B. Lawes and Sir Henry Gilbert, and continued ever since, conclusively show that wheat grown continuously on unmanured land dropped during the first eight years to an average of 17 bushels per acre, and averaged for forty years only 13 bushels; manured every year throughout the 40-year period with superphosphates and potash manures only, the average was raised just two bushels per acre. With the addition of nitrogen to these the yield averaged  $30\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre for the 40-year period, and with farm-yard manure only, at the rate of 14 tons per acre annually,  $31\frac{7}{8}$  bushels were obtained over the same long period of time. Then, again, their experiments showed that their first attempts to add nitrogen, by applying nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia at the time of sowing the crop, were comparative failures. It was washed out of the soil by the Winter rains in large quantities, and it was only by top dressing the growing crop in the Spring that satisfactory results were at last obtained. Professor Wrightson, an able scientist and a practical farmer, states in a recent work that there is scarcely an acre of wheat grown in England to-day that is not top dressed with nitrate of soda in the Spring, although heavily manured in the Autumn with farm-yard manure and superphosphates.

One phase of manuring on which brilliant scientific research during recent years, especially in Germany, has thrown a flood of light is the value of leguminous crops, peas, lupins, vetches, clovers, and lucerne, either for turning down as green manure or for crop rotation. By the action of bacteria in the soil little nodules are formed on the rootlets of these leguminous crops, which gather not only all the nitrogen they require for their own growth from the atmosphere, but sufficient also to enrich the soil with this coveted plant food after they have been removed. Green manuring, crop rotation, the top dressing of the cereal fields in Spring time are all practices which should find a place in good farming, wherever they can be profitably applied.

## BACTERIA IN PLANTS.

### SOME CURIOUS FACTS.

Mr. G. Clarke-Nuttall, writing in *Longman's Magazine*, deals in an interesting manner with the results of the experiments made in seed and soil inoculation during the years 1897-8-9, at the State Experimental Farm at Ottawa. The net result, he says, with all the crops was that those to which the bacteria had been introduced were far superior to those to which they had not been brought. The reports of the various stages give much important matter for thought. With reference to the clover, it was noticed at the end of the first year that the weight of the crop from the soil inoculated, and also that from the seed-inoculated plants, exceeded the weight of the crop grown without nitrogen, and that this increase was chiefly due to the greater development of the roots. There was also considerably more nitrogenous matter in the treated crop than in the untreated, though this was not due to any part of the plant containing more nitrogenous matter than usual in its tissues, but because the plants were more flourishing, and therefore produced more root, stem, and leaves. The trials further showed that the best results of all came from seed inoculation rather than from soil sprinkling. The second year, therefore, only two sets of clover plants were grown, one of which had not had any of the bacteria introduced to it in any form whatever, while the other had had its seed inoculated before being sown.

The results confirmed the previous year's observation in a very gratifying way, for the plants from the inoculated seed were much more luxuriant than those from the untreated seed. The third year was even more interesting: the plants of the second year had been left growing and had survived the Winter, so there was no further treatment of the soil, and, of course, no further sowing of seed. During the Spring "both series made excellent growth, but the plants from the inoculated seed were very much larger." This is probably due to the fact that the treated plants were by this time much the more largely endowed with bacteria nodules both as to size and number. So striking, indeed, was the result that a photograph, taken of the plants as they grew, testifies unmistakably to the superiority of the one over the other. As with clover, so with peas. Direct seed inoculation proved more efficacious than soil sprinkling, probably because the bacteria were more "on the spot." The plants to which the bacteria had been introduced through the medium of the nitrogen were invariably

finer than those left untouched, while the little nodules on their roots were present in far greater numbers.

Yet, notwithstanding its value, it is by no means certain that nitrogen, in its present form, will ever be commonly used as an improver of crops. For the bacteria composing it are very susceptible to external influences, and if these are not exactly what they require they quickly die, and the preparation becomes valueless. From Hellriegel's discovery we obtain a new and startling view of possibilities which may be lying all unsuspected beneath the common well-worn facts of plant life. We learn that bacteria may play a definite part in the course of plant development. From the later experiments we further learn that we can manipulate these bacteria; that we can introduce them to certain plants; and that we can, by inoculating a seed, affect the after-development of that seed and stimulate it in various directions, just as by inoculating an animal we can produce certain definite and distinct results. But it must be remembered that the whole question of seed inoculation is still in its varietal infancy, and we cannot yet even indicate the length to which it may be carried.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

For the first time for many months the world's visible supply showed a decrease on the 1st instant compared with a month ago, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of February 7, 1903. Some slight reduction was expected, but it proved larger than was anticipated, being 15,440 tons, and, in consequence, there has been more activity shown in the terminal market and quotations have advanced about 9d. per cwt., though yesterday, with slightly heavier receipts, the tendency was not quite so strong, and with the excessive stock in the world it will require several months of decreases to have any real lasting effect. At the auctions the demand has been fairly brisk, though it is felt that the crops are only just commencing and heavier supplies will inevitably be offering shortly, so that dearer rates ought not to be looked for. The new crop East India shows little improvement, but prices are decidedly low, and as a result, there has been more competition, and rates have a tendency to harden.

### London Coffee Returns.

	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.		STOCK.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
For the week ended January 31 ...	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
	339	274	271	121	27,333	14,187
For 5 weeks ended January 31 ...	1,518	1,590	1,670	724	...	...

## TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—A steadier tone has prevailed in this market, says the *Produce Market's Review* of 7th ultimo, and at the public auctions on Monday a larger proportion of the offering changed hands than has been the case during the past few weeks. Since the publication of the figures, a stronger tone has been manifest, and unless the later imports are heavier than recently reported from Calcutta, the market will probably assume a stronger tendency in the near future. The total imports from the 1st June to the end of last month are smaller by 7,000,000 lbs. than for the same period in the preceding season, while the deliveries are larger by 2,000,000 lbs.; but this does not indicate the exact position, inasmuch as the removals from bond during the past month have been normal, while for January, 1902, upwards of 6,000,000 lbs. more than actual requirements were released from the Customs. The stock, contrary to expectation, is smaller by 3,600,000 lbs. than was the case a year ago, and coupled with Ceylon, the deficiency amounts to 5,400,000 lbs., while the total stock of all growths shows a diminution of 9,600,000 lbs. It is apparent, therefore, provided



that the figures fairly represent the position, and the increase in the consumption continues, the available supply, later on, will be much smaller than for several seasons past. The movements of Indian tea during January compared with the same month last year were: Imports, 16,220,000 lbs. and 21,101,000 lbs. respectively; Deliveries, 14,269,000 lbs. compared with 20,349,000 lbs.; and the Stock, 70,163,000 lbs. against 73,770,000 lbs. During the week 30,307 packages were submitted to public auction, and as a better tone prevailed, the tendency was in favour of sellers.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—The better tone noticed last week in this market has been maintained, and the sales on Tuesday were well supported, firm prices being paid for all descriptions. The lower grades of Whole Leaf were in better request, and were well taken by the trade at late rates, a smaller quantity being withdrawn, but no alteration in values can be quoted. Medium Pekoes were in somewhat less demand, and prices were slightly irregular, occasionally favouring buyers. In Broken Pekoes no change was manifest,  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. still being practically the lowest quotation for garden teas. The supply of Dusts has been very limited, and nothing was obtainable in these kinds under  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. The following are the figures for the past month compared with January last year. The imports were 7,988,000 lbs. against 11,109,000 lbs., the deliveries being 8,073,000 lbs. and 9,182,000 lbs. respectively, while the stock stands at 19,796,000 lbs. as compared with 21,638,000 lbs.

**CONGOU TEA.**—At the public auctions held on Wednesday a fair quantity was offered including some good teas, although the quality generally was poor. Prices were firm for all descriptions, and holders refused to sell except at full rates, in which they are fully justified, as the statistical position is exceptionally strong. From the official figures recently published it will be seen that the stock of China tea has fallen from 18,326,000 lbs. on the 31st January, 1902, to 14,314,000 lbs. on the 31st January, 1903, while the deliveries for the five months ended 31st January of this year show an increase of 2,882,000 lbs. over those of the corresponding period last year. At the same time it will be noted that the imports

during the same time reveal a falling-off of some 4,271,000 lbs. From these facts it seems highly improbable that low-priced sweet teas, which are now obtainable at most reasonable prices, are likely to remain long where they are.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—More activity is reported in the Green market, and a better tone prevails than was the case last week. The decline in medium Gunpowders was only of short duration and higher prices are again anticipated, the quantity coming forward, according to reports lately received, being very limited. There is very little of interest to report in Fancy teas and prices remain unchanged. The following are the public sale figures for the week:—934 packages of Green tea were offered, of which about 40 were withdrawn, and 128 packages of Fancy tea, 95 failing to find buyers.

The arrivals for the week are as follows:—

“Orontes,” from Colombo; “Clan McIntosh,” from Tuticorin, calling at Cochin and Calicut; “Magician,” from Calcutta and Colombo.

#### London Tea Returns.

	DUTY PAID.		EXPORT.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
For week ended January 31. }	4,299,428	4,180,603	725,172	696,439
For 5 weeks ended January 31 }	29,463,938	21,984,277	3,261,284	3,592,994

#### THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COMMISSION.

##### FINAL REPORT.

The following is the final text of the recommendations, declarations, and Resolutions adopted by the International American Coffee Commission:—

##### PRODUCTION.

1. *Resolved*: To recommend that all Governments and Municipalities should procure good coffee seeds to acclimate and distribute, in order to obtain better prices and increase the demand for coffee; that agricultural institutions and botanical experimental stations be established in countries where they do not exist, in order to acclimate and propagate new species of coffees; that practical demonstrations be made to farmers regarding the most modern developments accomplished in regard to coffee; that prices be offered in order to stimulate cultivations other than coffee; that special laws be enacted for the protection of owners' coffee plantations.

##### DISTRIBUTION.

2. To recommend that the abuse of changing the original packages or marks, showing whence the coffees are imported, be severely punished; that effective propaganda be established to extend the use of coffee in new markets; that local duties on coffee be abolished; that coffee, when desirable, be sold at auction; that facilities of transportation be developed; that regulations be adopted so that coffee shall be packed in such condition as not to suffer alteration; that each package of coffee be marked with the name of the country whence it is imported.

##### CONSUMPTION.

3. To recommend that all Governments make the use of coffee a regulation in their armies and navies; that the Governments in countries which produce coffee establish, as soon as possible, in countries where coffee is not now consumed, places for the demonstration of pure coffee; that coffee-producing and consuming countries prohibit the sale of adulterated coffee and all substitutes bearing the name of coffee, and in case this prohibition cannot be enforced, that a heavy duty be imposed on said substitutes.

##### PRESENT CRISIS.

The following three declarations and five recommendations were adopted:—

1. That although it is desirable that many improvements be introduced in the production and trade in coffee, the present crisis

## BASEL MISSION WEAVING ESTABLISHMENT, CALICUT, MALABAR.

## MANUFACTORY OF COTTON GOODS.

VARIOUS PATTERNS IN  
TROUSERINGS AND COATINGS, GINGHAMS  
AND LADIES' DRESS MATERIALS.

## LARGE ASSORTMENT IN

WHITE TABLE LINEN AND TEA TABLE CLOTHS WITH NAPKINS TO  
MATCH (WITH KNITTED OR HEMMED FRINGES ACCORDING  
TO ORDER), TABLE CLOTHS IN DIFFERENT COLORED  
DESIGNS, BED AND TOILET  
LINEN, FACE AND BATH  
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in that industry consists only in the lack of profit and in ruinous prices paid for the commodity to the producer.

2. That the principal cause of the low price which brings about the present crisis is the excess of the supply over the natural or normal demand.

3. That speculation may, to a certain extent, be responsible for the crisis, but such speculation would not produce such an effect if said excess of the supply over the natural or normal demand did not exist.

RECOMMENDATIONS:—*First*.—To prohibit, by the most efficient means, the exportation of *triage* as coffee; the most diligent action on the part of the consuming countries, to prevent the importation and use of said *triage* and of whatever adulterations or substitutes which are offered in the name of coffee, or are intended for adulterations.

*Second*.—The adoption of the most advisable and effective measures in order to obtain from the consuming countries the suppression of or at least a reasonable reduction in the Customs duties and other taxes affecting the importation, distribution, and consumption of coffee.

*Third*.—The organisation of an International Union composed of the greatest possible number of persons interested intended to guard perpetually the interests of the coffee industry, maintaining a constant propaganda, spoken or written, and, by means of the diffusion of knowledge to increase, to its utmost, the use of coffee in the world.

*Fourth*.—As the only measure which may modify favourably and quickly the price at which producers sell their coffee, the elimination from sale or exportation of such a quality of the total production as may reduce the supply to the reasonable limits of consumption, a surplus stock of not more than 3,000,000 bags of 60 kilograms, or 132 pounds, each, being allowed as a reserve, the use of which shall be discretionary for the time being, and dependent upon the bulk of the visible stock.

*Fifth*.—To call together as early as possible, a Conference of fully empowered delegates, thoroughly competent in this branch of economics, for the purpose of concluding a convention or treaty concerning the measures of an international character which this conference has recommended, or of others which may be suggested later on.

#### FUTURE CONFERENCES.

The following Resolutions were adopted:—

The International Conference for the Protection of the Coffee Industry,

*Resolves*: (1) To invite the Government of Brazil to convene, as soon as possible, and in the place and date it may designate, a second International Conference of Experts on Coffee for the purpose of concluding the conventions or treaties of international character, which may be derived from the measures recommended by this Conference, or which may be hereafter suggested for the protection of the coffee industry.

The delegates to such Conference must be provided with full authority to conclude and sign conventions or treaties.

(2) To invite, also, the Brazilian Government to open and continue all necessary or convenient negotiations with the Governments of the other producing countries, in order to carry out the Resolutions, recommendations, and desires of this Conference.

#### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange, 17th January, 1903.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. rose to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on Tuesday and closed this evening unsteady at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

It is clear, now that the factors are recognizable, that the oscillations of the last two or three weeks were mostly, if not wholly, of a speculative origin.

The sentiment of the market is still, decidedly pessimist, but it is overbought and as soon as the "bears" try to act on their convictions bills flow in from every side and a re-action ensues. In a similar manner attempts to put rates up have been shortlived, because, as we have pointed out before, the real state of the market is that of unstable equilibrium and the trade supply and demand for bills being about balanced and sentiment alone determines oscillation to one side or the other.

Rubber bills are said to be coming in freely and may be counted on to supply 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 million £ up to the end of March.

Coffee is giving about £350,000 per week and if shipments continue at the same rate will yield £4,000,000 more. Other exports may be counted on for another million making the total up to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  or 8 millions for the first quarter of the current year.

Against this has to be put the value of imports, which if continued at the present rate, which seems scarcely likely will exceed £6,000,000, and with Government requirements, for which some £1,200,000 are requisite, make in all £7,000,000, and leave only a half to one million over for private remittances.

Last year exports during the first quarter yielded over £9,000,000 whilst Imports did not exceed 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  millions.

The surplus of bills left over after satisfying all the requirements of importers and Government in 1901 was, likewise, very much larger than last year, probably to the extent of some 9 or 10 millions sterling, and cannot now be counted on to supplement supply to any extent.

For this reason we conclude that if during the next three months the supply of bills does not fall absolutely below demand, it cannot very much exceed it unless supplemented by some extraordinary resources such as the proceeds of sale of the Sorocabana Railway or negotiation of a loan. Should such an operation come off soon there is no doubt that in the state of semi-equilibrium there would be an immediate and perhaps violent rise. But, otherwise, it seems likely we shall witness continuous oscillations of the rate for the next month or so, with, perhaps, a decided downward tendency in April or May unless coffee shippers should take to selling ahead, or some Government negotiation supply funds abroad to draw against.

At present the tightness of money prevents any serious speculation for the fall, but should the tendency prove to be as we anticipate, frankly downward, plenty of money will be quickly forthcoming.

It is true that last year the value of Imports and Government requirements alone, during the second quarter were very little more than that of Exports, but never actually fell below it, and so, with the assistance of the Bank and a little speculative selling in May and June rates were steadily maintained.

Whether under completely different circumstances, with the trade and Government demand positively in excess of the supply of bills, history will this year repeat itself seems to depend almost exclusively on the course the Bank may determine to adopt.

During the week ended January 16th the value of coffee shipments (*embarques*) was £396,000 against £311,000 the previous week and £305,000 last year.

Declared sales were 225,000 being 44,000 bags more than the previous week's and 115,000 bags over last year's.

**Coffee.**—Entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 16th January were 30,075 bags larger than the previous week's and only 11,668 under those of the corresponding week last year of which they represent 94.3 per cent. Up to the 16th instant crop entries amounted to 8,623,792 as against 11,072,322 bags of which they represent 77.8 per cent.

Entries at Rio and Santos up to the Friday of the second week in January during the last 5 crops were as follows:—

YEARS.	Entries million bags.	Crop.	% entries to crop.
1897-98 ... ..	7.626	10.4	73.3
1898-99 ... ..	6.097	8.8	69.2
1899-00 ... ..	7.079	9.6	78.6
1900-01 ... ..	7.470	10.9	68.5
1901-02 ... ..	11.072	15.5	70.0
	39.344	54.6	72.8

On the basis of 72.8 per cent. the percentage of entries to the crop during the last 5 seasons, the total entries at Rio and Santos for the current crop on June 30 should be 11,845,000 bags.

Coffee this year has been no doubt hurried down in an unprecedented manner and making allowance for this the probabilities are that entries will barely exceed 11,000,000 bags.

Shipments (*embarques*) during the week ended December 16 were larger again being 53,256 bags more than the previous week's and 113,342 more than the corresponding week's last year.



Declared sales were also large, 44,000 bags over the previous week's and 115,000 more than the same week's last year. In spite of all, however, stocks on the 15th instant showed an increase of 92,605 bags compared with the previous Friday's, and were then 142,000 bags heavier than on the corresponding date last year.

The value of the coffee actually shipped up to 16th instant is £4,260,407 less than in 1902.

Prices improved a little during the week the average for n. 7 at Rio being 4\$357 as against 4\$344 the previous week and 5\$192 last year; for good average the average at Santos was 3\$983 as against 3\$060 or 5\$100 respectively, and at New York 5'25cts. as compared with 5'21 the previous week, and 6'58 last year.

SANTOS, January 16th, 1903.—Our market showed a better tendency throughout the week, Commissarios being sometimes able to obtain up to Rs.4\$200. The market closed to-day somewhat weaker at Rs.4\$100 Commissarios basis. The sales were large for the time of the season, declared sales for the week being 172,000. The better tone was caused partly by shorts covering and partly owing to somewhat better orders from the other side. In consequence of the law now published by the *Viario Official* taxing planters, who increase coffee plantations at the rate of 2 contos de réis (about £100) for every *alqueire* of new coffee planted as also of the rumour of a new bill being still voted providing that 20 per cent. of the next crop shall be burned, Europe market seems to have been influenced and during the last days orders were received at 27/9 to 28/3 for superiors, 26/3 to 26/9 for good average. The States also were in the market principally for specialities.

The qualities mostly wanted are Superiors and Goods. Primes were paid for from 4\$600 to 4\$700, Superiors 200 to 300 réis below, Goods 300 below Superiors. Regulars remained practically unchanged. Low coffees are difficult to sell and only Ordinary could be sold relatively at average prices, say at about 3\$000. Fine washed showed a bit better demand, lower qualities of washed being nearly unsaleable. Peaberry still continues on a low basis, their prices being only slightly above those for flat bean Coffee. For really fine Peaberry up to Rs.2\$200 could be obtained. Fine Bourbons fetched up to Rs.4\$900. There is proportionally fair amount of old coffees "goods," "superiors" in the market but they really do not obtain much of a premium.

Entries and *passagens* during the week continued on the level of those of last week.

Shipments were very fair and are about 22,000 more than last week, our stocks (1,196,098) showing a decrease of about 60,000 against last Friday. Stock in first hands is calculated between 600,000 to 700,000.

Exchange kept steady between 11 $\frac{25}{32}$  and 11 $\frac{7}{8}$  not influencing the coffee markets.

On the whole, with the present entries, no appreciable rise in prices is expected, but general opinion is that our market will sustain present prices more or less for the time being. For certain qualities higher prices may be obtained soon, as Exporters find it already more difficult to buy all their requirements in the running lots.

Quality of receipts is falling off and a large quantity of our existing stock consists of very low qualities, undesirable for consumption in the present form. We presume that the situation—specially in New York but also in Hamburg—is very analogous, very likely worse, to ours and that the assortment in both markets is poor.

The N. Carolina State Board of Agriculture has been analyzing green and roasted coffees and found the former to be positively freer of adulteration than either roasted or ground. Arbuckle's brands were found to contain from 1'35 per cent. to 1'61 per cent. of glazing matter, from *nil* to 7'7 per cent. of broken and damaged coffee and from *nil* to 4'4 per cent. of immature coffee. Woolson's Spice Company on the other hand showed samples as high as 2'10 per cent. glazing matter, 16'8 per cent. immature coffee and were the worst of all except one "B. M." Davenport and Morris with 48'4 per cent. of broken coffee and 10'8 per cent. of immature coffee.

From *O'Café* we translate the following summary of a report on the effects of the late frost on plantations in the district of S. João da Boa Vista:

"There are in this prosperous district 374 different plantations all of them of coffee except 10.

The remaining 364 counted before the frost 10,001,200 coffee trees giving an average of 27,480 trees per estate showing how

property has been subdivided in the district. Before the frost the percentage of trees under 4 years to the total was 25'8, a rate that can be shown in few other districts.

The number of trees killed by the frost is 971,700 or 9'77 per cent. The number of trees over 4 years killed and damaged whose bearing 1903-1904 will be affected is 3,191,000 or 43 per cent. of the total. The reporting Committee calculate the damage done to the coming crop at 40 per cent.

This is one of the districts that suffered most. These conclusions are based on the following figures:

Number of trees in existence before the frost:

Over 4 years	...	7,420,400
Under 4 "	...	2,580,500
		10,000,900

Trees injured:		
Over 4 years	...	2,764,500
Under 4 "	...	1,228,300
		3,992,800

Trees killed:		
Over 4 years	...	426,500
Under 4 "	...	542,200
		971,700

Trees remaining in good bearing condition ...	...	4,964,500
		5,036,004

The damage is estimated as follows:

Probable yield before the frost	...	660,000 arr.
Total loss by 971,700 trees killed	...	64,132
Loss 75 % of yield of 3,992,800 trees	...	199,868
		264,000
Probable yield, 1903-1904	...	396,000

## THE PARTHENOGENESIS OF THE APHIDES.

The writer of a "Communicated" article in the *Times of Ceylon* says:—

I believe that up to the present day the male of the Tea-Aphis (*Ceylonia Theaecola*) one of the most common of the numerous tea-blighters, has not been discovered in Ceylon, and I fancy this is true of India also. Hence there seems to be an idea that the Aphis as found in the East is continuously parthenogenetic. This appears to me more than unlikely, for the following reasons:—

In England and in countries where there is a pronounced Winter, the Aphides which have been breeding parthenogenetically (*i.e.* without males), also viviparously, in countless hosts all the Summer, when food is abundant and the weather warm; on the approach of Winter (when the conditions of life become harder), produce both males and females. These unite in the ordinary way, but instead of viviparous offspring, eggs are produced. These live on through the Winter in some secure spot, and at the approach of Spring develop into females, which again produce parthenogenetically and viviparously.

Now in Ceylon there is no Winter and therefore this fact, backed up by the fact that no males have been discovered, has rather inclined to the idea that no males are produced.

However experiments have been tried with the artificial heat of greenhouses to keep up the parthenogenetic succession of Aphides and this was successful for two or three years, but then males were produced. Why? Was it simply because the artificial warmth failed, or was it because the germ-cells had become weak and needed the stimulus of a male to regenerate them.

In the lowest forms of life, to which we must always turn, if we would know the Why and the Wherefore, some of the protozoa seem to all intents and purposes to be immortal, increasing constantly by division, without having recourse to conjugation; but in the ciliated infusorians, which belong also to the protozoa, Professor Manpas proved that after a great number of generations produced by division, the family of infusorians which were kept apart by themselves, became as Professor Geddes says "Not exactly old, but were being born old" and parthenogenetic division came to a stand-still; however, should an individual from this family be removed before the generations had exhausted them-



selves, and be placed among foreign infusorians, this individual would at once conjugate with an unrelated form and then the series of successive parthenogenetic generations would once more begin over again. However, after this new series had reached the 130th generation, the family again grew old and the removal of the later members was no longer of any use, as the power of conjugating was lost.

Much of this information is taken from Professors P. Geddes and J. A. Thomson "Evolution of sex" and it is there stated that "Without the normal sexual union the family becomes senile. Power of nutrition, division and conjugation with unrelated forms come to a stand-still, etc." Now if senility occurs through continued parthenogenecy so low down in life as the ciliated infusorian, much more surely would it occur, in the comparatively highly formed Aphidae!

Hence it seems that although continued vegetation and warmth would warrant the belief of continued parthenogenecy among the Aphidae, yet there are other factors; as illustrated by the lower forms of life, which demand that at certain periods, males must be reintroduced, so as to replenish the gradually weakening race.

Perhaps by this time the male Aphis has been discovered in the East and I am labouring under a delusion that it has not been found and is not supposed to exist, but if this is not so, the above reason seems to me clearly to prove that at certain seasons the male Aphis must be reintroduced for the safety of species.

## COFFEE, CARDAMOMS, AND RUBBER.

### A COMPARISON BETWEEN SOUTH INDIA AND CEYLON.

Mr. E. G. Windle, of Kotagiri, Nilgiri District, is now on a visit to Ceylon, having arrived yesterday with his daughters, who left for Home by the B. L. *Warwickshire*. Mr. Windle, who owns estate property in the Annamalai and the Shevroy Hills, started

#### CARDAMOM CULTIVATION

on the Annamalai property about five years ago; while coffee is grown on his Shevaroy plantation. As regards cardamoms, he mentioned that the general opinion among South India cardamom growers was that the product was better cured in Ceylon than in India. It was only a matter of opinion, and he could not tell for a certainty that it was so because he had not had the opportunity of studying the process of curing in Ceylon. The fact remained, however, that South India cardamoms fetched better prices, and the natural conclusion therefore was that the Indian product was of better quality. Mr. Windle thought Mr. Westland's cardamom cess scheme an excellent one, and there was no doubt that the sale of the product would be increased as a result. With regard to new products he did not care to venture an opinion as to whether the experiment in

#### RUBBER

cultivation would prove a success. Castilloa and Pará rubber were planted largely in the Nilgiris and the Shevaroy Hills, and most of the trees, which were about four years old, showed excellent growth. These trees had not yet been tapped, but he hardly thought rubber in South India would be successful, seeing that it was grown at an elevation of about four thousand feet. Anyway, it remained to be seen whether it would turn out successful or not. A good deal of the rubber was planted among coffee, more or less with the idea of using it for shade. With regard to

#### COFFEE,

Mr. Windle did not think that coffee was cured better in Colombo than in South India, nor that a good deal of coffee was now being sent over for that purpose to Colombo, but he understood that the idea was expressed by people in Colombo who wished to buy coffee in South India that they preferred to cure it in Colombo than to have it cured in India. The Ceylon coffee no doubt fetched a better price than South India coffee, but whether that was owing to the ancient good reputation of Ceylon plantation coffee or not, he could not say.

#### VANILLA

cultivation, which the South India planters had tried and given up, some time back, was not likely to be revived.

Mr. Windle goes up-country by the mail train to-night to visit some friends, and will return to Colombo on his way to South India in a few days' time.—*Times of Ceylon*.

## TEA IN RUSSIA.

The new overland route may revolutionise the conditions of the tea trade in Russia. As an article of widespread consumption among Russians of all classes, and in view of the increasing import of Ceylon tea of late years some more detailed information may be of interest. While Russia is, undoubtedly, the largest consumer in Europe so far as the quantity of the liquid tea drunk is concerned, the amount of tea consumed, owing to the different method of mixing, is but 0.93 lb. per head per annum, whereas in the United Kingdom it is over 6 lbs. (taking the data of 1900). It is far more expensive than in the United Kingdom, 4s. per lb. of 14½ ozs. being the price for average tea, but owing to the weaker infusion habitually prepared it is made to go much further.

The supply from China has diminished by 36,207,322 lbs. since 1899, partly accounted for by the import of Ceylon teas, which, according to a report of the Russian Vice-Consul at Colombo, rose from 3,000,000 lbs. in 1895 to 23,000,000 lbs. in 1901. Ceylon tea is used in Russia mainly for blending purposes, Russian taste not yet appreciating its particular flavour as a drink by itself. About 50 per cent. now comes through Russian firms established in the island. Its special qualities and comparative cheapness have now established a firm hold on the Russian market.

Chinese teas hitherto reached Russia either direct by sea, mostly in the Volunteer Fleet steamers from Hankow to Odessa, or overland *via* Siberia. The Siberian routes were:—

1. By water to Tientsin, thence overland *via* Kalgan and Kiakta to Irkutsk. This, the ancient caravan route, will probably succumb to the altered transport conditions.

2. By sea to Vladivostok, and thence—

(a) By the Ussurian Railway to Khabarovsk, thence up the Amour and Shilka to Sretensk, and so on to Irkutsk.

(b) To the station of Iman, on the Ussuri line, thence by the River Ussuri to the Amour and Shilka.

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

*Record of 3 years' Exploration.*

BY CAPTAIN H. H. P. DEASY,

*With Appendices, Maps, 80 Illustrations.*

The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed, and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan.

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APPLY TO—**G. A. NATESAN & CO.,**  
[w. 21-2-03.] **ESPLANADE, MADRAS.**



3. By sea to Nikolaievsk, on the Amour, and thence by the Amour and Shilka.

The incidence of duties has hitherto played an important part in the distribution of tea within the Empire. An increase of 3 roubles per pound of the duty on tea conveyed *via* Siberia has been decreed with a view to equalising the cost of delivery by sea and by land. It seems to be expected that the Ussuri and Amour routes will now lose their tea cargoes, as indeed the main part of their traffic. The chronic detentions caused by the shallowness of the Amour were a perpetual hindrance to regularity of delivery. The Manchurian railway authorities and the Government are evidently doing their best to attract this valuable freight to the direct land way. The Consul says it seems possible that the indirect trade in tea to Russia *via* the United Kingdom will be considerably curtailed by the operation of the Siberian railway.

## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, January 29, 1903.

This week we report a better business in all kinds of teas locally. Prices are unchanged, but jobbers generally are beginning to sort up and are picking up teas that show good value. This is especially the case with regard to Ceylon greens, which are at present showing excellent value.

MONTREAL, January 29, 1903.

The demand for teas on the local market is not active for any but small lots; in that way a fair trade is doing. Teas are very firm here and their position in the United States is also strong. People in the United States are reported to be holding off in expectation of a break, which is not considered even a possibility by tea-men. They look for higher prices. In addition to the fact that certain teas, like Japans and greens are scarce and must continue so until the next crop arrives, there is also the feature that an export trade to England of no mean proportion is being done from the Republic, which may easily result in creating very fancy prices. It is estimated that of the 85,000,000 lbs. of tea in the United States, about four-fifths has been sold already, leaving one-fifth to do business for the next six months. On the London market China teas have been quiet, although some inquiry for export was received for the better monings, and a small business in low-price teas was done with blenders. Holders of lower grades are firm, and any export demand would soon send up prices. Indian teas are firm and lower grades are inclined to harden.

## THE SHOT-HOLE BORER.

SOME CORRESPONDENCE.

(Copy.)

SECRETARY, Planters' Association of Ceylon, Kandy.

SIR,—I am directed to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter received from the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, together with a copy of the letter from the Government Entomologist therein referred to, regarding the continuous spread of the "shot-hole borer" pest in tea, and I am to state that His Excellency the Governor will be glad to be favoured with an expression of the opinion of your Association on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary's Office, (Signed) A. G. CLAYTON,  
COLOMBO, January 23rd, 1903. for Colonial Secretary.

(Enclosure.)

The Hon'ble the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Colombo.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the enclosed letter from the Government Entomologist and to point out that, under Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, His Excellency the Governor has power to make such regulations as suggested for the prevention of the spread of insect pest.

2. I am in full agreement with the Government Entomologist as to the advisability of some such action being taken and have reason to believe that this preliminary step will be welcomed by tea-planters. Should this dangerous pest increase to a large extent, such measures will prepare the way for any preventive steps

which the Government may think necessary in the future for the safety of the tea industry.

I am, etc.,

Royal Botanic Gardens, (Signed) J. B. CARRUTHERS,  
PERADENIYA, November 21st, 1902. Acting Director, R. B. G.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST SPREAD OF "SHOT-HOLE BORER" IN TEA.

The DIRECTOR, R. B. Gardens, Peradeniya.

SIR,—I have the honour to bring to your notice the fact that reports are being repeatedly received of the continuous spread of the above tea-pest, and of the sudden appearance in districts hitherto free from attack.

I am of opinion that some simple legislation is advisable, and that the following suggested measures, if honestly carried out, would very largely reduce the further distribution of the pest.

I would advise:—

(1) The compulsory registration of all estates upon which the pest occurs. That reports of occurrences should be made to and register kept by the Government Entomologist.

(2) The absolute prohibition of the distribution of tea plants or any parts of tea plants, from affected estates, until such estates shall have been certified by the Government Entomologist as free from the disease.

(Tea seed need not be included in the prohibition.)

I am, etc.,

Royal Botanic Gardens, (Signed) E. ERNEST GREEN,  
PERADENIYA, February 11th, 1903. Government Entomologist.

## THE TEA MARKET.

Mr. W. Forbes Laurie writes to the *Home and Colonial Mail*:—

As a grower of tea I have read Mr. Herbert S. Parker's letters in your journal with great interest, especially the last, for, as he truly says, schemes for improvement are far easier pulled to pieces than constructed. The worst feature of all is the inability, so far, of all interested to meet the difficulties by any practical measure. Sooner or later something will have to be done, or, notwithstanding short periods of fair prices, the trade will always be liable to a recurrence of its present position.

The situation of Ceylon, in the centre of the world, on the line of steamers for all parts, would naturally in a few years outdo London, if it would only remove the objectionable import duty. Blended teas have come to stay, and no attempt at keeping back the component parts of these blends—whether common or high class—can succeed in the future, either in Ceylon or London. Ceylon would then be able to secure nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. more for its teas all round, by making Colombo the world's market, where blending could be done cheaper than in London, Australia, or America, and from which market every class of blended tea would flow not only to London, but to all countries. The saving to Ceylon would be enormous.

From a grower's point of view it matters not whether he sells in London or elsewhere, provided he secures the highest possible price. Large buyers have for some years entered the market who seem, by concerted action, to prevent full competition in buying, but retain it in reselling. The effect of this, with their continued effort to sell the cheapest canister, has been to bring down prices injuriously to every one, including themselves. They have fallen below the average cost of production, consequently extensions have ceased and a reaction is inevitable. Consumption is now increasing, but production is at a standstill. Under the present system of buying and selling a scarcity must disorganise the buyers far more than an over-supply can the growers; for the latter have tangible value in their gardens, which the dealers do not so visibly possess, nor will their customers like rising markets.

Both grower and dealer have what are established industries, and if they wish to make them permanently prosperous they should mutually arrange how best to prevent these slight over and under-supplies affecting the mutual profits of their trading, and this can surely be done by some system of selling suitable to both. This is worthy of consideration.

It is absolutely impossible by natural means to produce tea from India and Ceylon in sufficiently approximate quantities to keep supply and demand upon the equipoise. For twenty years the market has been on the downward grade, so a rebound must come.



Being a producer, I am prepared to face this, yet I still believe the best plan would be to add another factor to Mr. Parker's concerted action of the great powers, or, failing this, for the growers to form a concert of their own. I do not say the time has quite arrived for this, but it is not far off. Whether the opportunity will be seized is another matter.

In the meantime the nations of the world will blend and drink whatever manner of tea they choose, irrespective of Ceylon's 6d. import duty. When the growers in that island fully grasp the value of their geographical position and cheap labour it will become the chief tea mart of the world.

I cannot do better than conclude in Mr. Herbert S. Parker's words: "To try to construct a workable plan that will place the London market in a healthier and sounder condition (1) by lessening misunderstandings, (2) by lessening the estrangement that keeps buyers and sellers apart, (3) by drawing the outline of an alternative method of business, to the end that growers may obtain a fuller reward for their labours."

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### COORG.

Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association held at the Bamboo Club-house, on Saturday, 14th February, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. Boponna, H. Cockerton, H. G. Grant, A. H. Jackson, J. Logan, F. Macrae, H. G. Parsons, H. T. Shaw, (Bidunda Ganapathy, M. I. Mandanna, new members,) and A. Lambert, *Honorary Secretary*.

The President, Mr. Sprott, having written expressing regret at his inability to be present, Mr. Logan took the chair.

The Honorary Secretary previous to reading extracts from the Minutes of the last Meeting, intimated his intention of definitely resigning office at the end of the current season.

**Proposed Voluntary Coffee Cess.**—On the Honorary Secretary informing the Meeting of the paucity of supporters thereto, especially amongst European planters, it was resolved to defer further discussion thereon for the present.

Mr. Davy's letter *re* the remission of taxes on wet lands (uncultivated) and *the remission or reduction of taxes on uncultivated Paisari land*—resolved, that the sub-Committee appointed to meet the Commissioner in November last to discuss this question be asked their reasons for not submitting any report thereon. Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Grant. As this matter is to be brought before the Chief Commissioner during his forthcoming visit to Coorg, it was decided to leave further discussion thereon to the sub-Committee to be appointed to meet the Chief.

**Non-receipt of Notices of Sales of land for arrears of Assessment.**—The Honorary Secretary informed the Meeting that he had failed to find any information or correspondence on this question in the Association books.

**Alteration of Clauses 252-253 of the Coorg Revenue Manual (the Borer question).**—As this subject is also to be laid before the Chief Commissioner during his tour in Coorg, there was little or no discussion thereon, and it was decided to leave it to the sub-Committee appointed to meet the Chief.

**Funds.**—The Honorary Secretary briefly explained the financial position of the Association, and after some discussion thereon, it was unanimously resolved to call Committee Meetings, North and South, prior to the Annual General Meeting, in May next, to decide on what action it will be necessary to take to place the Association on a sound financial basis for the future.

**Fishing Association.**—Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Lambert, that Government be asked if it would not be possible to exempt rod-fishing from the close reason (*vide* Rule II of the notification *re* Fishing rules, dated 24th January, 1903). It having been brought to the notice of the Association that the close time (as laid down in Rule II) March 1st, June 1st is the only period during which many planters can get away for fishing, and therefore the said rule appears to inflict an unnecessary hardship upon those thus situated. Moreover it is said many natives practice rod-fishing, so the hardship falls upon all alike.

The following gentlemen were appointed to the sub-Committee to meet the Chief Commissioner in Mercara: Messrs. Boponna, Lambert, Logan, and Parsons. It was considered desirable that North Coorg should appoint their own representatives, and that the President be advised to that effect.

**Railway.**—The new suggestion as to raising funds by means of a small special Railway Cess to be levied with a view to at first guaranteeing the interest on the capital expended during construction of the line through Coorg territory, and afterwards in case of the Railway failing to pay the required rate of interest, say 4%, was favourably received and a hope was expressed that this matter would be discussed with the Chief Commissioner in Mercara and that we should be favoured by an expression of his views thereon. Pending which, we can now only wait and see what our neighbours, both in Malabar and Mysore, think of the scheme.

**General Labour Act.**—There was a strong feeling throughout the members present that Government should give a properly-recorded promise that the new Madras Labour Act would not be compulsorily proclaimed in any district not desiring it, and that such districts be permitted to remain under Act XIII, 1859, as hitherto.

**New Members.**—Messrs. Bidunda Ganapathy and M. I. Mandanna. Proposed by Mr. Boponna, seconded by Mr. Jackson.—*Unanimously elected.*

The usual U. P. A. correspondence and District reports from Wynaad, Shevaroy, and Nelliampathy Associations were laid on the table.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the Meeting.

POLLI BETTA,  
February 14th, 1903.

(Signed) A. LAMBERT,  
*Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.*

## JUDGE SLOWLY.

It is not always an easy matter to judge correctly of the quality of things. Less than one in a thousand of us is capable of accurately estimating the worth of a picture; not more than one in a hundred the quality of a horse. In general, judgments rapidly made are of small value. "Did you ever notice," recently inquired a visitor to an English University town of his companion, as they sat together on a verandah, "that queer-looking old fellow with the idiotic face, turned-up coat collar, and boots seven sizes too large, who passes here every morning at eleven?" "Many a time," replied the other, "He is Professor of Comparative Grammar to the University of ———, and speaks fourteen modern languages, to say nothing of his mastery of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew." The incident will serve to show the futility of superficial judgment. Many judgments which pass unchallenged are none the less deplorably wrong, more especially in matters which require a practical test. Who can say positively whether a certain medicine has the power to cure some particular malady or not without giving it a trial?

When the friend of Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, of 66, Forbes Street, Woolloomooloo, Sydney, N.S.W., advised him to take Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup for the cure of indigestion, he backed his advice with some excellent reasons—excellent because his judgment of that remedy was based upon actual experience of its merit. Says Mr. Fitzpatrick in a letter written on the 20th June, 1902: "For many years I suffered terribly from indigestion and biliousness, and spent pounds and pounds on doctors' medicines and so-called cures; but without avail. In those days I had no appetite, and the little food I ate turned sour on my stomach, causing severe attacks of heartburn. I was also troubled with pains in the chest, violent headaches, and habitual constipation. In fact, at one time or other I suffered from most of the symptoms which characterise a sluggish liver and impaired digestion. My worst affliction, however, was a total inability to obtain sufficient sleep. I would go to bed feeling worn-out and sleepy, but as soon as my head touched the pillow my brain would become unnaturally active, and I would think of every kind of subject, and roll and toss about between the sheets, listening to the Fish Market Clock as it chimed hour after hour, until all my nerves were in a quiver. Then I would rise and walk the floor, backwards and forwards, the greater portion of the night. For years I had been in this wretched state when one day a friend fortunately called to see me. I was trying the hot-water cure at the time, and was just in the act of drinking a cupful of steaming liquid. He asked me what I was taking it for. I described my troubles to him,



and in reply to a further question informed him that I had not, so far, gained any relief from the hot-water treatment. He advised me to abandon it and try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup instead. He gave me such excellent reasons for doing so that I accepted his advice—advice which, I am thankful to say, has had the very best results. After taking only one small bottle I felt very much better. As I continued to take the Syrup, so did I continue to improve in health, and in less than two months my cure was accomplished. That was three years ago, and I have remained in good health ever since, which proves conclusively that it is not mere passing relief that Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup affords to sufferers from indigestion, but permanent cure. Now I am careful never to be without a bottle of the Syrup on hand, as I take a dose occasionally to counteract the ill effects of my sedentary occupation—for I am a bootmaker by trade—and for this purpose I find it acts like a charm."

MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of February 13th, 1903.]

COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—Supplies at auction during the week have been more extensive than of late, and with a steady demand both for home trade and export, previous prices have generally been maintained, high rates having been paid for really fine qualities. Recent arrivals of East India to a fair amount have been catalogued and nearly all sold; recent rates were realised for low middling to middling qualities, whilst the limited supply of really colory descriptions met a strong demand at very full prices; there is a decided improvement noticeable in the quality of some of the recent arrivals. Jamaica full up. Fine Costa Rica continues to command high prices, and a fair demand has prevailed for other descriptions, with an occasional advance obtained at the close. Santos well competed for at fully valuations. The market for "futures" has shown more firmness, and closing quotations are rather dearer for the week, chiefly owing to considerable buying by New York; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 27s 1½d to 27s 3d, May at 27s 9d to 27s 10½d, September at 29s and December at 29s 9d. We quote:

London	...	Santos	...	March delivery	...	27s 3d.
New York	...	No. 7 Rio	...	"	...	4.60 cents.
Hamburg	...	Santos	...	"	...	28 pf.
Havre	...	Santos	...	"	...	33½ francs.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903.	1902.	
Tons	28,168	14,095	1903.
HOME CONSUMPTION.			1902.
	1903.	1902.	
Tons	1,803	2,054	2,048
EXPORT.			813
The preceding figures exhibit—			Tons.
In the Imports an increase this year of			2,955
Home Consumption a decrease of			251
Export an increase of			1,235
Stock an increase of			14,073

Auctions this week have gone off as under:—  
EAST INDIA.—4,662 bags mostly sold as follows:—Mysore, smalls 40s 6d to 45s, low middling 47s to 52s 6d, common to fair bold 52s to 66s 6d, peaberry 50s 6d to 69s 6d; Coorg, smalls 34s to 45s, low middling 43s 6d to 48s 6d, middling 49s 6d to 55s 6d, common bold 50s to 52s, fair bold 58s to 65s, good bold 72s 6d to 75s, peaberry 50s to 77s 6d; Neilgherry, smalls 42s to 48s 6d, low middling to middling 44s 6d to 52s 6d, good middling 63s 6d, fair to good bold 57s to 68s, fine blue bold 88s, peaberry 50s 6d to 82s 6d; Nelliampathy, smalls 42s, low middling 45s to 47s, middling 49s to 51s 6d, bold 54s, peaberry 50s to 55s. Wynad, smalls 38s 6d to 41s, low middling 45s to 47s, bold 53s to 55s, peaberry 50s to 52s.

MOCHA.—351 packages withdrawn.  
JAMAICA.—68 bags 93 barrels sold—smalls 32s 6d, good to fine fine ordinary 33s to 43s, low middling 44s.  
COSTA RICA.—5,462 bags nearly all sold, smalls 37s to 47s 6d, low middling to middling 47s to 58s, good middling blue 60s to 69s

6d, fine middling 70s to 79s 6d, fair bold 58s to 65s 6d, good to fine bold 67s to 82s, very fine bold 85s to 91s 6d, peaberry 51s to 98s.

SALVADOR.—223 bags sold—smalls 40s 6d, low middling 46s 6d to 47s, bold 53s 6d, peaberry 55s.

GUATEMALA.—667 bags partly sold, smalls 33s to 40s 6d, fine ordinary 41s, low middling to middling 43s 6d to 50s 6d, good middling 56s to 56s 6d, fair to good bold 56s 6d to 64s, fine blue bold 70s, peaberry 43s to 57s 6d.

NICARAGUA.—26 bags sold, ordinary at 28s to 29s.

MEXICAN.—83 bags mostly sold—sea damaged, bulked, medium 43s 6d to 44s, bold 53s.

COLOMBIAN.—915 bags sold, smalls 28s 6d to 31s 6d, ordinary to good ordinary 28s 6d to 33s, low middling to middling 40s to 46s 6d, bold 46s 6d to 58s 6d, peaberry 41s to 44s.

BRAZIL.—1,092 bags Washed Dumont Santos nearly all sold, smalls 31s 6d to 33s 6d, medium 37s to 42s, bold 41s 6d to 52s 6d, peaberry 32s to 52s; of 1,576 bags unwashed, on quay terms, 980 bags sold, smalls 26s to 27s, medium 29s to 3's, bold 33s to 40s, peaberry 35s.

To-day's auction supplies consisted of 181 bags East India, 260 bags Nyassaland, 230 bags 36 barrels Jamaica, 20 bags Nicaragua, 19 bags New Granada, 784 bags Ecuador, 807 bags Costa Rica, 352 bags Salvador, 107 bags Guatemala, 75 bags Colombian, and 123 bags Mexican. A good demand at the auctions and full prices paid.

A decidedly improved tendency is noticeable in Brazil futures, with more general buying than for some time past.

Transactions include—March 27s 6d to 27s 9d, May 28s 1½d to 29s 6d, December 30s to 30s 3d.

Closing quotations:—		Sellers.	Buyers.
March	...	28/	27/9
May	...	28/6	28/3
July	...	29/3	28/9
September	...	29/6 paid	...
December	...	30/4½	30/1½

Brazil reeeipts 25,000 bags, against 29,000 and 23,000 the two previous seasons, and Exchange ½ higher at 11¾.

Hamburg ½ higher, and Havre ½ higher. New York opened 10 higher.

Receipts in Rio and Santos.				
	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio	2,873,000	3,981,000	1,937,000	2,497,000
Santos	6,391,000	7,946,000	6,142,000	5,049,000
Total	9,264,000	11,927,000	8,079,000	7,546,000
Crop	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11¾d, previous day 11¼d.

HAVRE, February 12.—Good average Santos February opened quiet at 33½f. and closed quiet at 33½f., March opened at 33½f. and closed at 33½f., May opened at 34f. and closed at 34f., September opened at 35f. and closed at 35f., December opened at 35½f. and closed at 35½f.

HAMBURG, February 12.—Good average Santos February opened steady at 27¾pf. and closed steady at 27¾pf., March opened at 28pf. and closed at 28pf., May opened at 28½pf. and closed at 28½pf., September opened at 29½pf. and closed at 29½pf., December opened at 30pf. and closed at 30pf.

NEW YORK, February 11.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.
Feb. 11	4.60	4.60	4.65	4.75	4.80
Feb. 10	4.45	4.55	4.60	4.70	4.75

TEA.

INDIAN.—Public sales were again moderate, aggregating only 28,900 packages, contrasting with 30,100 at the date of our last report, and 42,300 at this period of 1902.

The tendency of the market has been more favourable, and with increased inquiry both in the auction room and privately, values have been fully firm to an advance. Tea for price closes fractionally dearer, while the more useful lower grades from 5¼d upwards often improved ¼d, semi-broken leaf doing best. Some very attractive Assams with Autumn character were included in the catalogues, and such sold freely at full values, the Assam Frontier Tea Company showing a particularly nice lot, while a complete



invoice from Budla Beta estate, with brownish appearance, brought an average of 1s 3½d. Tippy kinds are getting scarcer, and realise more money, especially Broken Pekoes from 8d to 10d. Fine Darjeelings are in very limited supply and are wanted, a small invoice from Jungpunnah averaging 1s 8½d.

South Indians continue mostly of a desirable description, and those drawing rich colory liquors have been in distinct request and realised higher figures.

Although the total for home consumption for January is comparatively small, the daily deliveries of all tea are now good, being on about a par with last year, when at this time the duty scare temporarily abated.

For 23,500 packages on estate account 7½d per lb. was obtained, against 7d for 39,000 and 6½d for 50,000 in the two foregoing seasons.

The inquiry has latterly further developed and a strong undertone is apparent.

CEYLON.—The reduced quantity of 17,600 packages was submitted, comparing with 22,500 on the 3rd instant and 25,000 a year ago.

More spirit was manifested in the bidding, and buyers are evidently beginning to recognise the strength of the position. Pekoe Souchongs and Pekoes, especially those just above common, ruled firm to ¼d per lb. dearer. Medium to fine kinds did not show much change in value; they were, however, in less request, and some lots were withdrawn, notably so in the case of broken between 7d and 9d, which showed considerable irregularity. The best lines of Broken Pekoe and Broken Orange Pekoe met with strong competition at full to enhanced rates. At the close a brisker tone was evinced, and many ex sale parcels were placed at an advance on offers made in "the room."

The average is 7½d. On the 5th instant it was 7¾d, and 7d twelve months since.

JAVA.—Rather over 800 packages passed the hammer and commanded attention, moving in sympathy with other growths.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From February 1 to 10, 1903	...	6,264,580 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	6,466,063 „

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India	23,384	5,554	28,938
Ceylon	14,695	2,900	17,595
Java	802	26	828

Total ... 38,881 8,480 47,361

Also 347 packages from second hands.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated February 13th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903	1,094,466	798,496	53,516
1901-1902	1,193,751	832,759	53,310

29,204 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 47,863 packages were offered in public auction  
17,831 " CEYLON } this week.  
828 " JAVA }

Foreign and Colonial markets continue to take increasing quantities of Indian and Ceylon tea. The increase last year was nearly 11 million pounds over 1901, which in turn was 12 millions over 1900; in fact ever since 1890 when only 14 millions were used, the quantity has steadily increased every year.

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
INDIAN	41,496,070	36,080,151	33,442,970	29,570,173	25,960,405
CEYLON	64,146,967	58,797,549	49,259,693	38,438,509	36,066,888
Total lbs.	105,643,037	94,877,700	82,702,663	68,008,682	62,027,293
	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
INDIAN	22,413,511	19,206,172	16,815,323	14,149,904	14,027,129
CEYLON	29,131,021	23,465,733	19,923,803	14,563,082	13,138,544
Total lbs.	51,544,532	42,671,905	36,739,126	28,712,986	27,165,673

Probably now that Green tea is being largely manufactured, the field abroad will be still wider, and may lead to the development of additional markets.

Export of Indian and Ceylon tea (in lbs.) to places outside U. K. from 1st January to 31st December.

INDIAN TEA.				
	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Re-exports from U. K.	13,921,617	13,226,367	10,172,949	7,724,262
Transshipments from U. K.	3,719,566	1,001,174	1,628,644	581,652
Direct expts. from Ceylon	23,854,887	21,852,610	21,641,377	21,264,259
Total lbs.	41,496,070	36,080,151	33,442,970	29,570,173
CEYLON TEA.				
	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Re-exports from U. K.	17,352,345	18,072,706	13,775,433	12,144,389
Transshipments from U. K.	3,650,800	2,159,275	1,303,477	797,363
Direct expts. from Ceylon	43,143,822	38,565,568	34,180,783	25,496,757
Total lbs.	64,146,967	58,797,549	49,259,693	38,438,509

INDIAN.—The continued offering of tea in only moderate quantities appears at last to be having an appreciable effect on the market. Demand this week was of a distinctly more general character, and led to a hardening of rates in which all descriptions participated to a slight extent, and in many instances a fractional advance was shown. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Budla Beta T. Co. B. B.," 1/3¼; "Selimbong," 1/3; "Ass. Fron. T. Co. Khobong," 1/2¾.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 24,892 pkgs., av. 7·88d. 1902, 38,827 pkgs., av. 6·94d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 824,491 pkgs., av. 7·32d. 1901-2, 920,781 pkgs., av. 7·84d.

Comparative prices of Indian tea in London.

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Dust.	(Fair ordinary, dark liquor)	4¾d.	4½d.	2¾d.	5½d.
Fannings.	(Red to brown, strong rough liquor)	5d.	5d.	2½d.	5½d.
Broken Tea.	(Brownish to Blackish, strong liquor)	6½d.	6d.	4½d.	6½d.
Pek. Soug.	(Blackish greyish, useful liquor)	6d.	6d.	4½d.	6½d.
Pekoe.	(Greyish to Blackish, some tip, useful liquor)	6½d.	6½d.	5½d.	7½d.
Pek. Soug.	(Blackish greyish, inferior liquor)	5½d.	5½d.	3d.	6d.
Pekoe.	(Blackish, greyish, some tip, inferior liquor)	5½d.	5½d.	3½d.	6½d.

CEYLON.—The tone of the market was decidedly strong with hardening prices generally, while here and there a distinct advance was noticeable, especially in teas below about 7d per lb.

Average for week 7·58d, against 6·94d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 120,173 pkgs., av. 7·52d. 1902, 152,083 pkgs., av. 7·26d.

Comparative prices of Ceylon tea in London.

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Pekoe Soug.	(Ordinary leaf; fair liquor)	6d.	6d.	4½d.	6½d.
Pekoe.	(Ordinary leaf, little twist; fair liquor)	6½d.	6½d.	5d.	7½d.
Pekoe Soug.	(Rather bold leaf; indifferent liquor)	5½d.	5½d.	2¾d.	6d.
Pekoe.	(Somewhat bold leaf; indifferent liquor)	5½d.	5½d.	3½d.	6½d.

JAVA.—The small auction passed with good competition all kinds selling at steady prices, while the lower grades were fully a farthing dearer.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1 4½. Colombo 1 4½.

## COCOA.

With the exception of fine Ceylon, which again advanced at the auctions on Tuesday last, prices show a further movement in buyers' favour. Of a total of 8,819 bags brought to the hammer about 5,900 bags sold. Trinidad was represented by 842 bags, of which 220 bags sold at about valuations—good to fine red 61s to 67s, ordinary to middling 58s to 60s.

The large supply of Granada, 4,264 bags, experienced a very good demand at again rather easier rates, fully 4,000 bags finding buyers at 55s 6d to 57s for good to fine red, 53s to 55s for common to fair and 50s to 52s 6d for low to common. Of 202 bags Jamaica 75 bags sold at 50s to 53s for ordinary to good. Of 331 bags Dominica about 200 bags were placed at 54s for good fermented



and 50s to 51s for common. 7 bags St. Vincent brought 63s 6d for fine bright red, and 50s for pale reddish, while 19 bags St. Lucia realised 53s 6d to 54s. 58 bags fine Demerara were quitted at 60s to 61s. 2 bags Montserrat were withdrawn. Of 349 bags Guayaquil 50 bags pickings sold at 49s. 21 bags Esmeralda sold at 60s to 60s 6d. 80 bags African passed the hammer unsold. Tip-top qualities of Ceylon were much wanted, and fully 3s per cwt. advance was obtained for them, but the bulk of the offerings tended decidedly in buyers' favour; 2,634 bags were catalogued and 1,270 bags sold—very fine bold red realised 80s to 86s, good to fine bold and medium 65s 6d to 74s, middling to fair medium and small 61s to 64s, ordinary ditto 54s to 59s, fair to good small 48s 6d to 56s, pickings 33s 6d to 34s 6d, and collected 50s to 52s 6d per cwt.

### PEPPER.

**BLACK.**—The market is dull, and sales of Singapore January-March and March-May shipment have been made down to 5½d and further sellers. In all about 100 tons sold. On the spot there are sellers of fair Singapore at 5½d, with buyers at 5½d.

At public sale on the 11th instant 355 bags Singapore were offered, and 123 bags fair, August 1901 import, sold "without reserve" at 5½d per lb. landing weights.

**WHITE.**—It also cheaper. 20 tons Singapore December shipment (s) have been sold at 8½d. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at 9½d, and fair Penang at 9½d.

At auction on Wednesday of 257 bags Singapore 31 bags fully fair sold "without reserve" at 9½d to 9½d; of 56 bags Penang 18 bags sold, also "without reserve" at 9d for fair. 25 bags Siam withdrawn, and 175 bags dark Lampong kind were bought in at 9½d per lb.

### GINGER.

**COCHIN.**—remains very quiet. 25 cases 555 bags were catalogued but only 9 bags sold—bold, medium and small bright Calicut rough, new crop, at 40s; bold cut and scraped, limed, retired at 90s, and medium and small Native cut at 55s per cwt.

**JAMAICA.**—full up. 172 barrels offered and 95 barrels sold—ordinary dark and lean 36s 6d to 38s, mouldy ditto 36 per cwt.

### CINCHONA.

The Nederlandsche Veem received a cable reply on Monday that the correct shipments from Java during January were 593,000 Amsterdam lbs., not 828,000 Amsterdam lbs., as reported in our issue last week.

At auction on Tuesday the small suply of 735 packages was offered, and practically everything was sold at or after the sale at an average unit of fully 1½d per lb., against 1½d, and for some lots a unit of 1½d was paid. The bark contained altogether about 80,000 oz. quinine sulphate.

The following table shows the quantity of cinchona offered and sold:—

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
East Indian cinchona .. ..	306	273
South American cinchona .. ..	222	214
Java cinchona .. ..	171	171
Ceylon cinchona .. ..	36	36
	735	694

The following were the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	lbs.
Messrs. Howards & Sons .. ..	49,488
American factories .. ..	27,400
Frankfort and Stuttgart factories .. ..	23,560
Brunswick factory .. ..	10,353
Mannheim and Amsterdam factories .. ..	6,430
Imperial quinine factory .. ..	5,197
Druggists, etc. .. ..	17,234
Total quantity sold .. ..	139,662
Bought in or withdrawn .. ..	8,880
Total quantity offered .. ..	148,542

The prices obtained were as under:—

**SOUTH AMERICAN.**—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya (222 bales), fair quill, 5½d to 6½d per lb.; broken quill and chips, 5½d; 8 bales of cultivated flat, which is scarce, had not arrived in time.

# ST JACOB'S OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

**CURES**  
**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,**  
**SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,**  
**LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**  
 And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.  
**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being pre-scribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



CEYLON.—Ledgeriana, natural stem chips 7½d, renewed ditto 5½d, and branch 4½d; ordinary stem shavings, 3½d, and Succirubra shavings, 2½d.

JAVA.—Ledgeriana and hybrid stem chips, 6½d to 9¾d; hybrid branch, 3½d to 6½d. Succirubra, branch 3½d, root 6½d, and stem chips 5¾d.

EAST INDIAN.—Officinalis, ground stem chips, 2¾d to 2¾d; renewed, 4d to 4½d; and branch, 1¾d to 3d. Succirubra, stem chips and shavings, 2½d to 2¾d; renewed ditto, 2¾d; and siftings, 1¾d per lb.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on February 26 will consist of 4,871 bales and 412 cases, weighing 480,940 kilos., of Java bark.

QUININE.

The demand has improved this week, and prices are firmer, probably owing to the advance in the unit at the London cinchona-auctions. A fair spot business has been done in second hands at from 1s 0¾d to 1s 0½d, and 1s 0¾d for May delivery. To-day the market is firm, with further small sales at 1s 0½d, spot.

INDIA-RUBBER.

The market has been rather disorganised this week, owing to a certain Liverpool house being in difficulties. There is little change in prices. Hard cure fine distant delivery sold at 3s 7½d to 3s 7½d, ditto nearer 3s 7d to 3s 6¾d, spot at 3s 6½d, soft cure fine sales of near and spot at 3s 6d to 3s 5½d; Peruvian, sales of fine at 3s 6¾d, scrappies spot 2s 10d to 2s 10½d, fair ball at 2s 9½d to 2s 9¾d; Cametas, small sales of forward at 2s 3d.

At auction to-day moderate supplies were brought forward and a good part sold at steady to slightly easier prices.

PARA AND PERUVIAN.—129 packages offered and 12 sold, Cameta and Caviana negrohead at 2s 3d, coarse entrefine and virgin part weak 3s 2½d to 3s 3d, fair ball at 2s 9¾d, Obidos ball at 2s 7½d.

ORINOCO.—39 packages sold, fine part rather weak 3s 5d, entrefine 3s 3d, negroheads 2s 10d per lb.

MATTOGROSSO.—91 packages offered, and 82 sold, virgin 3s 2d to 3s 2½d; negroheads 2s 9d to 2s 9½d; Mangabeira, thick slab at 2s 4d.

CENTRAL AMERICAN, ETC.—78 packages offered and 56 sold—weak scrap 2s to 2s 2¾d, slab, strip and sheet part dirty 1s 7d to 1s 10d.

COLUMBIAN.—64 packages offered and 4 sold, rather barky and mixed scrap 2s 7½d.

MADAGASCAR.—10 packages offered and 8 sold—mixed pinky and Majunga 2s 8d to 2s 9½d, Majunga and dark coated 2s 4d.

MOZAMBIQUE.—361 bags offered and 100 sold—good stickless sausage 3s 2½d, fair red ball 3s 1d. Beira ball part loose 3s to 3s 1d, ditto and sausage softish 2s 10d, rather mixed loose ball 2s 8d to 2s 9d, Lamu ball 2s 8d.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·88d., FEBRUARY 13TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	707	6·54												
Atchencoll	54	6½	...	...	19	6	35	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherian Mallay	40 p	5½	...	...	16	5½	8	6½	13	5½	...	...	3½c	5½
Ladrum	102	6½	20	7	38	6	14	8	5	5½	...	...	25	7
Lockhart	78½c	6½	26½c	†6½ 8½	30½c	6½	17½c	6½	...	...	...	...	5½c	5½
Stagbrook	124 p	6½	30½c	8½	39	6½	43½c	7	7	5½	5	7	...	...
S T T Co Venture	165 p	6½	...	...	60	6½	75	6½ 7½	20	5½	...	...	10½c	5½
T T E Co Mount	84	7	...	...	25	6½	33	7½	5	6	...	...	21	6½
White Hills	60	6	...	...	32	†5½	28	†6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynaad	343	6·63												
Cherambadi	142 p	6½	50½c	7½	39	6	21	6½	19	5½	...	...	13	6½
Walkers Achoor	125 p	7	...	...	49	6½	52½c	7 8½	24	6½	...	...	...	...
Wynaad T Co Pe	76 p	6½	...	...	25	6½	31½c	†7½ †8½	20	6½	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S LTD.

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to

His Majesty  
The King.

CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.

[w. 1·10·98—t.f.o]



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1903.

[No. 11.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 20th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 11th March.—*Weather*—Fine and hot during days. Not unpleasant at nights. Very little wind stirring. Clouds are beginning to work up. *Crop*—Gleaning still going on. Pruning is making satisfactory progress. Some estates have finished. *General health*—Fair. *Interesting item*—Fancy Dress Ball at Mercara on 18th instant.

### THE PLANTERS' LABOUR BILL.

IN OUR last issue we endeavoured to give the amendments adopted in the draft of the Madras Planters' Labour Bill presented to the Legislative Council of Fort St. George with the report of the Select Committee. The amendments that were not carried we ignored. It is just possible that we do the movers injustice in attaching no weight to these; but our opinion is that the subject had not been properly studied, the amendments were not the outcome of conscientious opinions that the Bill was unfair, and the movers were merely attempting to oppose something that they thought must be good for employers, as planters were understood to approve of the Bill. The fact is that planters, generally speaking, did *not* approve of it. The Hon'ble the Planting Member wisely selected a middle course. He tried to get concessions that would make the measure less unacceptable to the planting community than it was in its original form. Probably he realised that as planters had asked for a Bill on similar general lines it would be unwise to attack it too severely. Doubtless, too, he was well informed as to the modifications that Government were likely to agree to and those that they would certainly oppose. The Native Press has arrived at the conclusion that in the shaping of the Bill the Government have been entirely partial to the planters; but that is not the opinion of the latter. But one word more as regards the opposition of the Native

Press. Having stigmatized the Bill as one favouring a system of slavery on the part of the cooly, the *Hindu* attacks the measure as a specimen of class legislation and argues thus:—“The Indian cooly is not made to slave for one class alone. This will be the natural contention of those who now having to employ large numbers of labourers are left without any protection if the labourers in a body desert them in order to go away to the British Colonies or to the Hill plantations. The planter works in India for profit. The landholder works for his existence. Without a sufficient supply of labourers, it is impossible to carry on agricultural operations; and the limit of land assessment is so high that the payment of abnormal wages is an impossibility. A law like the Planters' Labour Act will be of immense benefit to the numerous agricultural classes; and it is as unjust to deny it to them as it is unrighteous to hand over the cooly to the mercy of the planter on the Hills without any of those safeguards which the Honorable Non-Official Indian Members of the Council advocated in vain.” That is to say, having failed to prevent the introduction of this so-called “slavery,” the *Hindu* cries out for its extension! The planter must not have a monopoly of slave-driving, the Indian agriculturist must be allowed to share the odious privilege!

As to the Bill itself the most important amendment passed is that which relates to the continued application of Act XIII of 1859 in districts wherein the new Act is not applied, and the revived application of the former to any district from which, after application, the latter may be eventually withdrawn. From the drafting of the Bill as originally submitted to Council it appeared as if it would repeal Act XIII of 1859, and leave contracts that formerly had the protection of that law without any protection whatever. That this was not the intention of the Government has now been made clear. Here the Government have not seen their way to meet the planters' wishes in regard to the subject of “local option,” and they have acted rightly. What the planters wanted, in effect, was the right to choose whether they should work under the old Act or the new; they were to be consulted before the new Act was made applicable to a particular district. It is evident, especially in view of the native opposition to the Bill, that it would never do to establish a precedent of this kind. Unless the same privilege was accorded to particular native communities in respect to various forms of legislation, the cry of “class legislation” would



be justified. There must be local option for all or for none; and it is not surprising that the Government should decline to grant it at all. What they propose is perfectly fair, and if any district can show that the conditions of labour on estates therein make it expedient that the old Act shall be retained, there is little doubt that the new one will not be enforced there.

It is just at this point, in fact, that we touch upon the chief difficulty that the framers of the Bill had to face. The conditions of labour are very far from identical in the planting districts of Nilgiris, Wynaad, Shevaroy's, Cochin, Mysore, and Travancore. It was practically impossible to frame a Bill that would equally meet the necessities of planters in all these districts. The great desideratum was to lay down general principles. Within certain limits it is still possible for the Native States of Cochin, Travancore, and Mysore to introduce modifications before legislating on the lines of the new Madras Bill. It is still possible for particular districts in the Madras Presidency to try to show reason why the new Act should not be extended to them. For our part, we think that the wiser course will be to accept the new Act as it stands and let it have a fair trial; then, after practical experience of its working has been gained, either amendments can be asked for or the entire withdrawal of the Act and the re-application of Act XIII in 1859 in any district in which the new law may be found to work unsatisfactorily.

### BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

JANUARY, 1903.

The following tables show the Imports, Consumption, and Exports of the undermentioned articles for the month of January in the present and two previous years, compiled from the Board of Trade Returns, with stock in U. K. on January 31:—

COFFEE.		1901.	1902.	1903.
Imports	cwts.	33,283	67,798	177,852
Home consumption..	"	33,978	29,592	25,789
Export	"	28,214	16,563	36,495
Stock	"	291,000	289,000	644,000

COCOA—Raw.		1901.	1902.	1903.
Exported	lbs.	5,827,524	9,306,788	6,940,461
Home consumption..	"	5,645,742	7,166,086	3,634,324
Import	"	713,200	1,118,010	804,413
Stock	"	16,562,000	13,507,000	13,125,000

Cocoa—Prepared.		1901.	1902.	1903.
Imported	lbs.	687,535	632,931	838,490
Home consumption...	"	584,411	639,994	740,973
Export	"	52,210	71,273	50,175
Stock	"	382,000	128,000	138,000

TEA		1901.	1902.	1903.
Import	lbs.	37,428,674	36,412,164	27,333,558
Home consumption..	"	32,486,134	30,727,890	21,639,495
Export	"	3,852,505	3,126,095	3,292,629
Stock	"	121,060,000	117,178,000	110,088,000

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### THE INDIAN TEA CESS BILL.

The original draft of this Bill was published in *Planting Opinion* of the 21st ultimo. The Bill as revised by the Select Committee is as follows:—

#### THE TEA CESS BILL.

A Bill to provide for the levy of customs duty on Indian tea exported from British India, and to amend section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended for the promotion of the interests of the tea industry in India by a Committee specially constituted in this behalf;

and whereas for this purpose it is expedient to levy customs duty on all tea provided in India exported from British India, and to amend section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

*Short title and extent.*—1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903; and

(2) It extends to the whole of British India except Aden.

*Definitions.*—2. In this Act,—(a) "Collector" means, in reference to tea exported by sea, a Customs-collector as defined in clause (c) of section 3 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, and, in reference to tea passing out of British India by land, the Collector of the district;

(b) "tea cess" means the customs duty imposed by section 3 of this Act and by section 5 of this Act and by section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, as amended by this Act; and

(c) "Tea Cess Committee" means the Committee constituted under section 4.

*Imposition of duty on exports of Indian tea.*—3. On and from the first day of April, 1903, a customs duty shall be levied and collected on all tea produced in India and exported from any customs-port to any port beyond the limits of British India or to Aden at the rate of one quarter of a pie per pound, or at such lower rate as the Governor-General in Council may, on the recommendation of the Tea Cess Committee, prescribe by notification in the *Gazette of India*.

*Constitution of Tea Cess Committee.*—4. (1) The Governor-General in Council shall constitute a Committee to receive and expend the proceeds of the tea cess.

(2) The Committee shall in the first instance consist of twenty members, who shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the following bodies and authorities, namely:—

(a) three on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; one on the recommendation of the Madras Chamber of Commerce;

(b) seven on the recommendation of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta; and

(c) nine on the recommendation of such respective bodies or authorities interested in the production of tea in India, and established in British India, as the Governor-General in Council may appoint in this behalf:

Provided that if, within the period prescribed in this behalf by rules made under this Act, any of the said bodies or authorities fails to make any recommendation, or to make the full number of recommendations which it is entitled to make, the Governor-General in Council may appoint the required number of members of the Committee of his own motion without such recommendation.

(3) Whenever any member appointed either on the recommendation of any body or authority referred to in sub-section (2), or in default of such recommendation, dies, resigns, ceases to reside in India or becomes incapable of acting as a member of the Committee, the Governor-General in Council may, in his discretion, on the recommendation of such body or authority, or in default of such recommendation, appoint another person to be a member in his stead.

(4) No act done by the Tea Cess Committee shall be questioned on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of the Committee.

*Application of proceeds of tea cess.*—(1) At the close of each month, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, the Collector



shall pay the proceeds of the tea cess, after deducting the expenses of collection (if any), to the Tea Cess Committee.

(2) The said proceeds and any other monies received by the Committee towards meeting the applied by the Committee towards meeting the cost of such measures as the Committee may consider advisable to take for promoting the sale and increasing the consumption in India and elsewhere of teas produced in India.

6. *Keeping and auditing accounts.*—(1) The Tea Cess Committee shall keep accounts of all money received and expended under section 5.

(2) Such accounts shall be examined and auditors appointed in this behalf by the Governor-General in Council; and such auditors may disallow any item which has, in their opinion, been expended out of the proceeds of the tea cess or out of any monies received under section 5 otherwise than as directed by or under this Act. Should any items be disallowed by such auditors an appeal shall lie from their order to the Governor-General in Council whose decision shall be final.

7. *Power to make rules.*—(1) The Governor-General in Council may, after previous publication, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act in so far as affects the levy and payment of the cess to the Committee; the keeping of accounts by the Committee and the mode of selecting and reporting the election of the said Committee.

(2) All such rules shall be published in the *Gazette of India*. *Amendment of Act VIII of 1894, section 5.*—8. In section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for the words "shall be levied at the rates respectively prescribed in the second, third and fourth schedules on goods passing by land out of, and in the fifth schedule on goods passing by land into" the words "at such rates as may be prescribed by or under any law for the time being in force relating to customs duties on imports and exports, respectively, into and from ports, shall be levied on goods passing by land out of or into shall be substituted.

*Time during which sections 2 to 7 are to remain in force.*—9. Sections 2 to 7 shall remain in force only until the thirty-first day of March, 1898:

Provided that the Governor-General in Council may, on the recommendation of the Tea Cess Committee, declare, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, that the said sections shall continue in force for any further period specified in such notification.

*Disposal of surplus proceeds of tea cess.*—10. If any proceeds of the tea cess or any monies so received aforesaid remain unexpended when sections 2 to 7 cease to be in force, they shall vest in His Majesty.

The most important change is in section 2, which now gives a nomination to the Madras Chamber of Commerce. It is not clear if this is intended to bring about a reduction of U. P. A. S. I. nominations from *two* (as previously proposed) to *one*.

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## CEYLON'S EXPORTS.

The following are extracts from the report of the Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce:—

*PROSECUTIONS OF MELBOURNE TEA IMPORTERS.*—In the month of September last the attention of your Committee was drawn to the prosecutions of several large firms of tea merchants by the Minister of Customs at Melbourne for importing "teas unfit for human use." Not only was the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce addressed on the subject, but the aid of the local Government invoked, with the result that His Excellency, with his usual courtesy, made representations, on behalf of the Chamber, to the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

The Melbourne Chamber replied sympathetically, promising to do all in its power to protect Australian and Ceylon merchants from a too arbitrary interpretation of the Customs Ordinance by an over-zealous Minister. Subsequently, a despatch was received by the Ceylon Government, containing full copies of reports of the prosecutions referred to. These were placed at the disposal of the Chamber, and for the moment the controversy is in abeyance, but your Committee will not fail to keep the matter in view, meanwhile expressing their indebtedness to the Ceylon Government for its assistance.

## TRADE DURING 1902.

*TEA EXPORTS.*—The total output of tea for the year 1902 was 148,991,241 lbs. compared with 146,209,018 lbs. in 1901—an increase of 2,692,223 lbs. Of this 103,543,932 lbs. were shipped to the United Kingdom, showing a decrease of 2,190,638 lbs. on the previous year.

Australia shows a falling off to the extent of 1,921,290 lbs., due primarily to the fact that shipments were hurried forward in 1901 in anticipation of duty; and secondly, to the dulness of trade in the Colonies caused by the prolonged drought in that country during the past year.

Direct shipments to other foreign markets show an increase of 6,804,151 lbs., Russia, America, and China being chiefly responsible for this.

*Quality.*—This has been well maintained, and there has been a marked absence of low grades of Red Leaf and coarse Souchongs, due to the careful system of plucking generally adopted throughout the island.

*COLOMBO TEA SALES.*—The qualities offered and sold were—

	Offered.		Sold.
1902	55,835,478 lbs.	1902	42,874,399 lbs.
1901	51,044,000 "	1901	39,160,923 "

*Prices.*—The average price for 1902 at the Colombo Sales was 33.07 cents against 33.55 cents for 1901.

Common teas kept their prices well until the latter part of September, when a fall took place, lasting about four weeks. They recovered again late in October and remained firm for the remainder of the year.

Fine teas have held their own all through the year and have been in continual demand, but medium sorts (better than common but without particular character) suffered in price from time to time and sold constantly in buyer's favour.

Dusts have realized good prices throughout the year.

GREEN TEAS have been an important factor in the market, and prices improved considerably during the latter part of the year. The demand has improved steadily, and shipments continue to increase in the face of advancing prices.

The general manufacture has been considerably improved, and the facing or finishing of the leaf has been of material assistance in increasing the consumption by opening fresh markets.

*Cocoa.*—Exports have again considerably increased.

1902	60,455 cwts.
1901	49,459 "

and prices have been ruling with a downward tendency.

*CARDAMOMS.*—Under the pressure of the ever-increasing exports,

1902	615,922 lbs.
1901	559,704 "
1900	537,455 "

prices have fallen about 25 per cent., and those interested in the cultivation of this spice have under the influence of this drop in value begun to seriously consider the question of finding fresh markets for their produce. It has been proposed to work this problem on similar lines to those adopted to cope with the over-production of tea. With the exception of the United Kingdom, India, and Germany, the rest of the world takes directly only very small quantities, and it appears there is good prospect for an agitation to foster direct trade with such countries as now supply themselves indirectly *via* Europe at a considerably enhanced cost of the article to the consumer.

The undermentioned comparative statement of shipments will be found of interest:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Coffee .. .. cwts.	11,436	9,722	10,777
Black tea .. .. lbs.	146,194,397	145,188,244	148,431,639
Green tea .. .. "	2,796,844	1,110,774	..
Cocoa .. .. cwts.	60,455	49,459	33,476
Cardamoms .. .. lbs.	615,922	559,704	537,455
Plan. Cinnamon Bales .. ..	2,555,313	2,756,270	2,678,111
" " Chips .. ..	1,763,679	1,516,083	1,863,406
Wild " Bales .. ..	8,700	8,581	43,339
" " Chips .. ..	38,146	5,066	105,914
Coconut Oil .. .. cwts.	512,498	453,531	443,959
Desiccated Coconuts .. .. lbs.	16,227,565	14,055,493	13,604,913
Copra .. .. cwts.	374,796	439,865	362,467
Coconut Poonac .. .. "	247,697	204,356	185,992
Coconuts .. .. nts	12,588,212	14,850,781	14,995,909
Plumbago .. .. cwts.	495,501	453,267	383,350
Cinchona .. .. lbs.	407,201	601,089	510,462
Citronella .. .. "	1,294,750	1,430,168	1,409,058



## COFFEE NOTES.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market shows an improvement, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of 11th ultimo, and has advanced fractionally owing to the trade awakening last week to the realization that the world's visible supply had shrunk nearly one-half million bags during January. So large a decrease had not been expected. The contributing causes were the increasing shortages in the shipment of mild coffee from blockaded Venezuela and the silent heavy buying in the actual market, which was tempted by the low prices prevailing if not actually compelled to buy on account of depleted stocks. Certainly the deliveries were heavy, not only in the United States but also in Europe. A surprising feature was that the trade did not discover the heavy deliveries until the Exchange announced the news. Such consumption should certainly have in itself advanced the price of coffee one-half cent, but that it did not is explained by reference to the still excessively large visible supply of coffee. The statistical position was too much of a weight to permit the market to respond in a buoyant manner of its own accord. As soon as the facts obtaining were ascertained the small jump upward occurred, and the highest was taken by package coffee, which advanced one-half cent. The margin of profit there has thus widened to the roasters.

\* \* \*

The official report of the proceedings of the late Coffee Congress have been printed as Senate Document No. 35 and may be had by application to the International Bureau of American Republics, Washington, D.C. The proceedings are contained in one volume of 312 pages and are in the English, Spanish, and Portuguese languages. Thus everybody interested in coffee-growing, except the Dutch, have at their disposal the reports, and the transactions following them, of this first convention exclusively called in behalf of the welfare of the coffee bean.

It may be said that enough has been heard of the Congress, but we are not inclined to concede this view, and we ourselves shall from time to time review what was said in that congress, for on cursory inspection we find much that invites criticism. It will be recalled, that while the congress was in session in this city, it transacted its business with official secrecy, and now only is on view all that took place in the sessions. A first comment is that the delegates were quite pleased with themselves, for they make the suggestion that all meet again. While it is true that some of the delegates were eminently qualified to sit in the congress, it is also to be said that not a few did not know their business in the least, and if the results of the congress fall short of even the smallest culmination, the cause can easily be found in the membership, the credentials in which were in the main founded on diplomatic experience rather than on practical coffee knowledge. We rest happy, however, in the belief that the representation of the United States was all that it could have been in intellect, knowledge and especially common sense, which was important, very important, as it prevented the United States from subscribing itself as commending and approving the conclusions of the congress. Truly, strange mental temperament were disclosed and from the character of the discussions it is not to be wondered that the recommendations in the main are Quixotic and unattainable. The wonder is that the Castilian-Latin race has accomplished what it has and especially

in coffee, even to the over-production where our Spanish-American friends have succeeded so lamentably, and from the seeming "crisis" of which they can conceive no other rescue save that which may come from legislation and treaties. We see the Spanish and Portuguese mind is utterly unable to grasp that the salvation they seek lies in their own bosom, and will come only from their initiative. They expect to be aided internationally, and will wait, indefinitely we fear, if strenuous reliance is being placed on the next coffee congress, which Brazil is to call that the delegates of the late congress may contemplate the extent to which the world has accepted its recommendations. So far the world has adopted none of them. In one way the distressed growers might show activity. The congress was called upon to show among other things the cost of coffee production but all the congress was able to do was to report that such statistics were not available and so there was nothing to say. The growers might collate them and so demonstrate that there really is a "crisis." Many say there is none.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar*.

\* \* \*

**Coffee in the U. S.**—The *American Grocer* remarks:—The United States is now a billion-pound annual consumer of coffee, the bean which delights the palate, aids digestion, and makes the user feel as if he were at peace with all mankind and thankful for life and the pleasures of the table.

During 1902 the imports were 955,283,919 pounds, against 1,072,009,182 pounds in 1901; grand total for two years, 2,027,293,101, or an annual average import of 1,013,646,550 pounds.

Since 1894 the imports have more than doubled and the *per capita* consumption increased four pounds. This is a notable gain and is larger than that made by any other article used as a beverage. It is a mild and agreeable stimulant, less harmful than beer or other alcoholic beverage; more pleasing to the palate of most folk than tea, and obtainable at surprisingly low cost. It sells at retail from 10 to 40 cents per pound; a highly meritorious roasted article being obtainable from 20 to 25 cents per pound.

It is, or ought to be, a profit-making article for the retailer. If he cannot get a 25 to 40 per cent. profit out of coffee, he lacks proper knowledge of his calling. Coffee will bring up the average profit better than any other article the grocer handles, because it is a ready and constant seller and, if good, makes trade and cements the relation between the dealer and his customer.

It pays to make the coffee department very prominent. Talk coffee, serve coffee, advertise coffee, drink coffee.

Many will be interested to know from whence this billion pounds of coffee comes, and to gratify such we present the record, as follows:

	lbs.	Per cent. of total.
Brazil .. .. .	764,658,963	80.1
Central America .. ..	45,512,114	4.8
Mexico .. .. .	30,719,800	3.2
Other countries, South America ..	63,824,056	6.7
East Indies .. .. .	20,814,403	2.2
West Indies .. .. .	20,429,314	2.1
Other Asia and Oceanica .. ..	5,003,563	
United Kingdom .. ..	1,778,461	
Netherlands .. .. .	1,828,935	0.9
All other countries .. ..	714,310	
Total .. .. .	955,283,919	100.00

Think of it! A trifle over eight-tenths of all the coffee consumed comes from the Republic of Brazil and only 2.2



per cent. from the East Indies, and yet Java coffee is universally sold.

South America, Central America, and Mexico combined furnish 14·7 per cent. of the total. The Western Continent grows nearly 95 per cent. of the coffee consumed in the United States.

Brazil has more than quadrupled its production since 1880. Plantations are still being extended in spite of low prices, so that cheap coffee is certain for several years ahead unless some great disaster strikes the industry.

### TEA NOTES.

**The Tea Tray.**—The following half-page advertisement appears in the *World* :—

THE TEA TRAY.

16b Grafton Street, Bond Street, W.

There was a young woman, and she  
Said, "Really, I must have some tea ;

Oh, where in the West

Are the tea and things best ? "

They said, "Grafton Street, dear—16b."

In addition to the prettiest and cosiest Tea Rooms in London, The Tea Tray includes Manicure and Electrical Beauty Treatment Rooms, equipped with the latest modern electrical appliances.

THE TEA TRAY.

16b Grafton Street, Bond Street, W.

In the same issue of the *World* the following appears from "Crepe-de-Chine" :—

In these restless times an original idea soon creates a sensation and becomes extremely popular. Such has happened to "The Tea Tray," the newest five-o'clock-tea resort, lately opened by Mrs. Palmer at 16b Grafton Street, Bond Street. Besides the dainty teas which may be obtained in those quaintly decorated, softly-lighted salons, which make so central and pleasant a resting-place, more serious restoratives to the good looks and well-being of the visitors may be found in snug little salons downstairs. Here, by a clever specialist, electric treatment for the hair can be undergone, as electricity properly applied is said to stimulate the growth of the hair, and not only stops its falling, but restores faded hair to its proper colour. Electricity is also said to have a beneficial effect upon the skin, making it soft, firm, and white, and in time it will doubtless take the place of more dangerous *cosmétiques* and lotions. This treatment has already delighted many of Mrs. Palmer's clients, while the method of manicure obtainable at "The Tea Tray" is the American.

\* \* \*

**Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and the Tea Duty.**—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in conversation with a representative of a Ceylon paper, expressed the opinion that a reduction in the duty could hardly be expected, at any rate at present. "I do not think it is possible," he said, "for I have no doubt that the Income-tax must come first." The ex-Chancellor, although he could not speak with certainty said it could not be a for some time, and he very much doubted that there would be a reduction. "Why, you get much better prices now," he remarked. "You see," he continued, "the tea duty produces nearly £2,000,000 for every 2d. in the pound, and it is a very serious matter to lose as much as that in taxation."

\* \* \*

**The Tea Clearing House.**—Several further Meetings are said to have been held, and some good work has been done. The composition of the Council has been modified, and, the

London correspondent of our contemporary says, is now proposed to be as follows :—4 producers ; 4 buyers ; 4 wharfingers ; 1 broker. It is thought that several economies can be effected which will bring about a considerable saving over present methods. One of these, which has been suggested, deals with Warrants. At present, teas are lotted in quantities of six chests, and each warrant has to bear a threepenny stamp. It is proposed to raise this 6-chest limit to 9 chests or 12 half-chests, and it is obvious that this change alone would save a good deal of money. Care, however, will have to be taken that small buyers are not put to any disadvantage. It is very much to the interests of growers that the small buyers should be encouraged.

\* \* \*

**Tea in Australia.**—Sydney advices dated 14th ultimo say—100 chests of Ceylon Pekoes and Broken Pekoes sold at 8½d. to 1s. 0½d., and 70 chests ditto at up to 10½d. From Colombo cables have been received confirmatory of those published earlier in the week. One states :—"Have ceased buying for Australia. The market is too high. Prices have gone up all round. Small supplies are coming to hand." Another message states :—"Market is decidedly higher for all kinds." Teas that are selling at present at 6¾d. cost on the basis of last week's market in Colombo 7d. to 7½d. to lay down.

Messrs. H. W. Carey & Co. report :—"We offered at our sale-room to-day, under instructions from Messrs. Scott, Henderson & Co., an attractive catalogue of 251 packages Ceylon and 336 packages Indian tea, and cleared five-sixths of the quantity to good competition at prices indicating a steady and gradually improving market. Ceylon Pekoe Souchongs realised 7d., medium to good Broken Pekoes 7½d. to 10d., Dooars Fannings 7d., Assam Broken Pekoe Souchongs 6d. to 7½d., Assam Broken Pekoe 8d., Assam Pekoes and Orange Pekoes 7d. to 8¾d., Darjeeling Orange Pekoe 10½d. per lb."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tendency in the prices of tea is still upward. A fair activity prevailed last week, but the trading was mostly in small lots and at firm rates. There is no large stock of tea in first hands to permit extensive sales, excepting, of course, Congous and Foochow.

For the greens of whatsoever kind inquiry continues unabated. The market is practically barren of them and may be that such stocks of them as were exported to England in the last two months will be reimported. The London market is slow while that here keeps on advancing and so will prove an irresistible magnet, especially if Japans and Pingsueys advance another cent, which they did last week. This advance has stimulated all the more the interest in Ceylon greens, by which it is hoped to satiate in part the hunger for the orthodox greens. The query now is how large has been the import of the Ceylon greens? On the extent of it, naturally, much depends in relation to the future price of all greens. The Ceylon greens have now a handsome opportunity to establish themselves in the American market. If in quality they shall prove as good as the Japans or Chinas and sell for a little less, their future is assured. But a criticism has been that their quality leaves much to be desired.

All Formosas, except about 30,000 packages, are now out of first hands. They are still much wanted and so much so



that another advance of two cents is predicted of them.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, February 11.

\* \* \*

**Japan Tea Market.**—M. J. Brandenstein & Co., in their market letter dated January 3, say of Japan tea :

"Supply at present is exhausted. Settlements about same as last year. Prices have shown a gradual advance, particularly towards the end of the season. Quality, as a whole, inferior to last season. Total settlements since opening of season at Yokohama and Kobe, 290,229 piculs, against 289,948 piculs same time last year and 302,079 piculs for the entire season. Total exports to United States and Canada to date, 37,802,605 lbs. ; same period 1901-2, 34,353,754 lbs. ; same period 1900-1, 36,205,214 lbs. Total exports to United States and Canada for the season of 1901-2 were 35,886,262 lbs. ; season 1900-1, 37,935,920 lbs."

\* \* \*

**Tea Farm in Texas Procured.**—What are considered suitable lands for tea farms have been procured on the Colorado River in Texas by Prof. Galloway of the Department of Agriculture under instructions of Secretary Wilson says a Charleston, S. C., dispatch. The experiments will be in charge of John H. Kinsler, who has been an assistant of C. U. Shepard of the Pinehurst tea farms at Summerville, South Carolina.

\* \* \*

**U. S. Tea Imports for 1902.**—Tea imports into the United States during 1902 were as follows according to the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Treasury Department, included being a comparison with the imports for the years 1901 and 1900 :

	1900. lbs.	1901. lbs.	1902. lbs.
Imported from			
United Kingdom...	2,163,660	3,425,157	5,264,757
British North American ...	1,116,383	1,399,374	1,824,295
Chinese Empire ...	54,111,195	30,352,239	60,837,270
East Indies ...	3,185,845	2,394,796	5,761,676
Japan...	33,261,387	30,385,675	34,578,325
Other Asia and Oceania ...	2,513,070	205,942	475,194
Other countries ...	33,156	57,479	8,947

Total ... 96,384,696    68,220,653    108,750,464

The value of the tea imported was \$14,570,285 in 1902, \$8,744,190 in 1901, and \$11,783,317 in 1900. The exports of tea during 1902 amounted to 924,544 pounds, making the net imports 107,822,920 pounds. The Chinese imports were 56 per cent. of the total and Japanese 32.1 per cent.

The imports for December, 1902, were 16,479,579 pounds, against 7,565,451 pounds for December, 1901.

Tea remaining in warehouse January 1, 1903, at the principal custom houses was—

	1901. lbs.	1902. lbs.
Boston and Charlestown, Mass. ...	488,149	3,955,446
New York, N. Y. ...	26,129,739	56,899,940
Philadelphia, Pa. ...	46,912	813,696
Puget Sound, Wash. ...	42,643	200,930
San Francisco, Cal. ...	4,205,445	6,025,646
Willamette, Oreg. ...	162,873	302,826
Chicago, Ill. ...	7,465,422	12,278,625
Cuyahoga, Ohio. ...	323,824	1,098,930
Detroit, Mich. ...	444,769	723,912
Minnesota, Minn. ...	762,962	1,208,766
Kansas City, Mo. ...	102,302	516,571
All other ...	1,486,935	6,945,922
Total ...	41,661,965	90,971,210

—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar.*

## NOTES.

### St. Louis Exhibition.

Louis Exposition in 1904.

It is stated that Mr. David Barrie is to represent Ceylon tea at the St.

### Java Quinine-exports.

The exports of quinine from Java during December, 1902, amounted to 576 cases (206,800 oz.), about 470 of which were shipped to the United States, the remainder being divided between Japan, Hong-Kong, and Singapore. From January 1 to December 31 the shipments have been :—

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Cases ...	1,986	2,255	1,921	1,600	1,172

### Adulterated Coffee.

Our contemporary, the *Merchants' Review*, referring to some recent remarks of ours, remarks :—"It is necessary to say, positively and distinctly, that the sale of spurious and adulterated coffee has not increased amazingly in this part of the world. Coffee is too cheap for adulteration to flourish as in former years." Chicory is still cheaper, however ; and in Europe, at least, the sale of adulterated coffee continues and increases. We are under the impression that it does so in the United States also, where coffee is "prepared" for sale after various fashions.

### A Portuguese Cocoa Trust.

A despatch dated 25th January last has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Lisbon, reporting that a Meeting of the St. Thomé and Principe planters was recently held there, to discuss the formation of a cocoa trust for placing the island proprietors in direct communication with the wholesale trade. Hitherto the cocoa crop has been in the hands of a few Lisbon merchants who buy up the cocoa and ship it abroad at prices very advantageous to themselves. The proposed trust would monopolise the sale of all cocoa produced in the Portuguese Dominions. H.M. Minister adds that the United Kingdom heads the list of countries importing Portuguese cocoa.

### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 5th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is also steady, while the market for Pekoes for price is easier. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 7½d. (½d. up). The average for the same period last year was 7½d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is generally steady and that Broken Pekoes are irregular. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 6½d. (same as last week), but the average for the week is 7½d. (½d. up). 22,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 19,000 disposed of ; while of the 35,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 25,000 were sold at an average of 8½d. (½d. up).

### Cocoa in the United States.

During 1902 the imports of cocoa (unprepared) passed all former records, reaching a total of 56,744,545 pounds, against 50,433,562 pounds in 1901, 45,305,016 pounds in 1900, an average annual increase of 10 per cent., or over 5,000,000 pounds. In addition there were imports of prepared cocoa valued at \$1,045,403, against \$908,285 in 1901, \$995,401 in 1900. These figures show practically no



gain in the trade in foreign-made cocoa and its various preparations, while they demonstrate a pronounced increase in the consumption of cocoa and chocolate of domestic manufacture. This is a very gratifying condition, as it demonstrates the benefit to an American industry of free raw material and a high tariff on the manufactured article. The high nutritive value of cocoa is being appreciated more and more, and at the present rate of increased consumption the United States ought to double its imports in five or six years.

### Rubber in Matale.

**Rubber in Matale.** Mr. W. E. Gildea writes to the Colombo papers :—The following information *re* the growth of *Castilloa* rubber on the Ambanganga estate in the Matale district may be of interest and merit inclusion in your next issue of the *Tropical Agriculturist* :—

No.	1	19 ft.	3 in.	23 in.	No.	8	16 ft. 6 in.	23 in.
"	2	21 "	11 "	25 "	"	9	16 " 8 "	24 "
"	3	18 "	7 "	26½ "	"	10	12 " 9 "	24 "
"	4	23 "	0 "	24 "	"	11	14 " 0 "	23¼ "
"	5	21 "	4 "	26 "	"	12	15 " 3 "	22 "
"	6	18 "	7 "	25 "	"	13	18 " 3 "	25 "
"	7	18 "	6 "	23¼ "				

All the above are in a clearing planted in November-December, 1900, and so  $2\frac{1}{4}$  years old only. Can the Straits beat this? It is interesting to compare these measurements with those of the same clearing published by you some six months ago, where the average girth was 16 inches only and average height  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet only.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange, Saturday, 24th January, 1903.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday at  $12\frac{23}{32}$ d. and closed this evening at  $11\frac{22}{32}$  or perhaps  $11\frac{20}{32}$ d.

The tussle between the "bears" and "bulls" this week was sharp and decisive. A regular set was made against the Bank where £100,000 of ready bills were taken by speculation in one day, which will be deliverable early this week; in the depauperised state of the coffers of the foreign Banks, it is hard to see where so much money is at present to come from.

It is reported for the fiftieth time that the Sorocabana has been or is about to be sold, which, if true, would be a most welcome windfall for the market and justify the Bank in its policy of bolstering up the rates.

During the month of December in the different branches of the five foreign Banks there was a further aggregate falling off of 9,460 contos in the cash, whilst the credit with Home Offices had risen from 436 contos on 30th November to 12,455 contos. Meanwhile sight deposits also decreased 3,073 contos, but those of term increased 1,213 contos, so that the percentage of cash to sight deposits fell from 87·6 to 80·7 per cent. and to deposits of all from 75 per cent. to 68·1 per cent.

The shrinkage of cash was largest as would be expected at Pará, 4,554 contos, Rio coming next with a shrinkage of 4,509 contos, then Pernambuco with 2,567 contos and Santos with 1,976 contos less than on 30th November.

The relatively small percentage of cash held by the German Bank is probably explained by the fact that this Bank has no branch of its own at Pará or Manaus, and that whatever cash it may hold there in the hands of agents does not, we presume, figure in the balance-sheets.

From the foregoing it is clear that the Banks have remitted heavily during the month of December and strengthened their home position at the cost of the local position, where the percent-

age of cash to deposits, it seems will not stand much further reduction.

**Coffee.**—*Embarques* during the week ended December 23rd were 60,924 bags less than the previous week but 73,235 more than the corresponding week last year, whilst declared sales were 14,000 larger than the previous weeks and 86,000 more than for the corresponding week last year.

Stocks fell off slightly, in consequence being 34,527 bags less previous Friday.

Prices were somewhat weaker, the average for the week for No. 7 being 4\$337 as against 4\$357 per 10 kilos. for the previous week and 5\$021 last year and for good average 4\$100 as against 3\$983 and 4\$800 respectively. The average New York spot quotation for the past week was unaltered at 5\$250.

(From the *Boletim da Agricultura*.)

**Planting Conditions in December.** *1st district* (Tanbaté).—December was drier, but a few heavy storms caused a little damage.

*2nd district (Campinas).—*The weather during the month has been very favourable, coffee trees are in good condition and less fruit has fallen.

3rd district (Ribeirão Preto).—Continuous and abundant rain has been very beneficial.

Before the frost in August there existed in this district 119,793 *alqueires* (S. Paulo acres) of land with 250,250,377,370 coffee trees of which 52,823,740 in formation, the average annual yield being 15,145,000 *arrobas*. The frost killed 7 per cent. thus reducing the number of trees to 232,850,955, and damaged 30,270,021, which, according to treatment they receive, will take 2, 3, 4 or more years to recover. The damage done to flowering can be calculated at 40 per cent. and a further 10 per cent. caused by wind, hail, etc., as also 15 per cent. by the fall of fruit, thus making a total 65 per cent., which will therefore reduce the yield from over 15 million *arrobas* to about 6,000,000.

4th district (S. Carlos do Pinhal).—The trees are presenting a fine appearance with green berries of more than one month's growth, but resulting from November flowering are rather too small and will likely give no yield.

The coming crop will be small and will pan out much under the current one ending on 30th June next, not only because it was swollen by the balance remaining over from the previous (1901-2) crop, but also because in 1903-4 crop is going to be the early particularly and part of it will come down during the current season.

The trees affected by the frost are, by reason of favourable weather, gradually reviving

5th district (Botucatú).—Though the trees have clothed themselves with leaves yet their appearance is not quite as verdant looking as during the same period last year; they are in good condition, however, and show fine fruit.

The fine weather has been taken advantage of for weeding and clearing, and now it is easier to calculate the full extent of the damage caused by the frost, which has been added to by the fall of a large quantity of the fruit, brought on by the heavy winds experienced up till now.

## COFFEE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Although not equal to the time of year, says the *Producer Markets' Review* of February 14, there has been a much better supply offered at the auctions, and as with it the demand has shown a decided improvement, there has been no difficulty in clearing the catalogues from day to day, and prices have generally improved. Costa Rica, particularly fine qualities, has been in most request and rates have advanced from 1s. to 2s. the demand coming not only from the home trade but also from the Continent; there is of course still the bulk of the crop to come, but with a decided shortage from Guatemala, a larger quantity of Costa Rica will doubtless be taken for export. The East India offered showed a marked improvement in some of the lots, and correspondingly high prices were obtained; the medium and lower grades are still relatively cheap and have attracted attention on the Continent. In the terminal market smaller receipts and a firmer market in Santos have had a hardening effect upon quotations, and the advance is about 1s. per cwt. compared with last week, while a larger business has been done than for some time,



## U. S. 1902 COFFEE IMPORTS LESS.

Coffee imports into the United States during 1902, with comparisons with the two previous years, according to Treasury figures, were as follows:

Imported from	Twelve months ending December.		1901.	
	Pounds.	Values.	Pounds.	Values.
United Kingdom ...	2,128,942	\$ 263,289	4,750,251	\$ 526,946
France ...	2,159,374	222,257	150,001	17,549
Germany ...	4,415,834	331,131	1,750,912	173,017
Netherlands ...	1,967,483	251,728	1,934,059	224,057
Other Europe ...	1,721,330	176,420	78,045	5,372
Central America ...	43,961,550	4,246,571	65,684,172	6,748,306
Mexico ...	30,010,567	2,859,690	22,897,373	2,200,143
West Indies ...	9,148,580	739,700	7,971,330	628,989
Brazil ...	608,429,596	41,945,564	857,104,258	50,942,481
Other South America ...	56,052,222	4,993,145	94,333,994	6,804,717
East Indies ...	22,224,166	2,928,761	11,168,956	1,279,654
Other Asia & Oceania ...	3,562,864	537,896	4,078,007	590,062
Africa ...	49,813	5,505	37,445	3,161
Other countries ...	85,213	9,114	70,720	11,590
Total ...	785,918,534	59,510,771	1,072,009,182	70,156,044

Imported from	1902.		1901.	
	Pounds.	Values.	Pounds.	Values.
United Kingdom ...	1,778,461	\$ 231,118	1,778,461	\$ 231,118
France ...	134,884	15,922	134,884	15,922
Germany ...	396,935	30,291	396,935	30,291
Netherlands ...	1,828,936	211,191	1,828,936	211,191
Other Europe ...	34,293	3,409	34,293	3,409
Central America ...	45,512,114	4,788,443	45,512,114	4,788,443
Mexico ...	30,719,800	2,785,633	30,719,800	2,785,633
West Indies ...	20,429,315	1,440,474	20,429,315	1,440,474
Brazil ...	764,658,963	47,004,453	764,658,963	47,004,453
Other South America ...	63,824,056	4,616,867	63,824,056	4,616,867
East Indies ...	20,814,403	2,385,100	20,814,403	2,385,100
Other Asia and Oceania ...	5,003,563	625,126	5,003,563	625,126
Africa ...	9,650	994	9,650	994
Other countries ...	138,848	18,614	138,848	18,614
Total ...	955,283,919	64,157,664	955,283,919	64,157,664

The average of the imports for the last two years is 1,013,646,550 pounds. The export of coffee from the United States was 26,001,555 pounds, against 12,534,048 pounds in 1901 and 259,841 pounds in 1900. Roasted coffee exported during 1902 was 525,140 pounds, against 216,205 pounds in 1901.

Brazil furnished 80.1 per cent. of the imports for 1902, Central America 4.8 per cent., Mexico 6.7 per cent., West Indies 2.1 per cent., and the East Indies 2.2 per cent.

## TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The moderate quantity brought forward met with a good demand, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of February 14, and consequently holders experienced less difficulty in disposing of their teas than for some time past. For the lower qualities there was an active inquiry at hardening rates, and a considerable business has been transacted by private contract in teas previously offered and withdrawn from public auction. Although there is no important movement in prices, there is a smaller quantity to be bought under 5½d., and the market closes very firm with an advancing tendency. For the medium grades prices remain steady with a fairly good demand, most of the teas from the different districts showing excellent value compared with the lower sorts; and, as the stocks held by the trade are comparatively small, a much improved business in these kinds may be expected. The finer descriptions continue to be actively bid for, more particularly some of the Assam growths, which have brought very firm to advanced rates; and, with a reduction in the supply which usually takes place at this period of the year, there is every prospect of a strong and improving market. At the public sales 29,108 packages were submitted and 23,300 changed hands, while a considerable portion of the balance has since been sold.

CEYLON TEAS.—Only small supplies were brought forward at the sales on Tuesday, and more animation was displayed, the tone generally being considerably stronger. Teas for "price" were in most demand, and Whole Leaf kinds under 6d. were ¼d. per lb. dearer, only a few parcels selling under 5½d. which was practically the lowest quotation. Medium Pekoes met with a ready sale at slightly hardening rates, and competition was brisk for all the finer descriptions. Broken Pekoes from 7½d. to 10d. were somewhat irregular, and very little was obtainable under the former price. At the public sales 17,830 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,800 were withdrawn. The official estimate of the exports from Colombo for the current month is 7,500,000 lbs. to 8,000,000 lbs., so the supplies here will be small for some little time to come.

CONGOU TEAS.—This market is firm in sympathy with Indians and Ceylons, and teas for price in particular show a distinct advance. Good sweet Monings are still to be bought at prices which, as compared with other growths, are extremely low. These teas are now being taken more freely by the trade, and with Indian and Ceylons at their present values there seems to be every prospect of a further advance in all grades of "price" Congous.

## WORLD'S VISIBLE COFFEE SUPPLY.

The visible supply of coffee of the world on February 1st, 1903, as compiled from figures received from the Coffee Exchange correspondents, is as follows:

	Stocks.	Bags.
England:		
London ...	462,723	
Liverpool ...	5,950	
Southampton ...	4,760	
		473,433
Hamburg ...		1,538,000
Antwerp ...		335,400
Havre ...		3,356,000
Bordeaux ...		60,800
Marseilles ...		99,600
Trieste ...		357,640
Netherlands ...		1,126,000
Total, Europe (all kinds) ...		7,346,873
Rio ...		527,000
Santos ...		1,222,000
Bahia ...		25,000
United States:		
Brazil ...	2,287,688	
Other kinds ...	212,553	
		2,500,241
		11,621,114

AFLOATS.	
Afloat for U. S.:	
From Brazil ...	410,300
" Europe ...	Nil.
" Java and East ...	19,000
Afloat for Europe:	
From Java and East ...	16,000
" Brazil ...	609,000
" United States ...	31,000
	EMBARQUES.*
Rio ...	10,000
Santos ...	53,000
	Total ... 12,769,414
Against January 1 ...	13,212,775
Against February 1, 1902 ...	10,894,093

The visible supply decreased during the month 443,361 bags, which proves a surprise, as a decrease of not more than 250,000 bags was expected. The markets were prompt to respond by an increase in quotations. The excessively heavy diminution is ascribed to the shutting off of supplies from Venezuela by the blockade in force there, only 185,000 bags being sent forth, of which 74,000 bags came to the United States.

The deliveries both in the United States and Europe during January were heavy. Evidently traders found it necessary to refill

\* Representing coffee deducted from stocks for shipment and not yet cleared.



their stocks and the prices were inviting for large orders. The deliveries amounted to 1,407,123 bags.

The shrinkage during the month in the visible supply was distributed as follows: Antwerp, 335,400 bags from 339,400 bags January 1; Bordeaux, 60,800 bags from 61,600 bags; Trieste, 357,640 bags from 582,000 bags; Santos, 1,222,000 bags from 1,361,000 bags; Bahia, 25,000 bags from 31,000 bags; United States, 2,500,241 bags from 2,600,426 bags; afloats, Brazil, 609,000 bags from 922,000 bags; embarques, Rio, 10,000 bags from 43,000 bags; Santos, 53,000 bags from 57,000 bags.

It is worth while noting that while the visible supply decreased in the United States it increased in Europe, the total for Europe (all kinds) on February 1, being 7,46,873 bags against 7,168,149 bags January 1, 1903.

Arrivals of coffee in January in New York were 393,378 bags, of which 45,086 bags were non-Brazilian, against in December of 393,378 and 83,384 bags respectively; total of all kinds in the United States of 524,593 bags (450,551 Brazilian), against 471,226 bags (364,605 Brazilian) in December; total for seven months, 1902-03, 3,976 bags (3,457,618 Brazilian) against 5,094,838 bags (4,531,557 Brazilian) during the same period 1901-02; total for the chief ports of Europe during January, 961,069 bags, and total for the last seven months of 6,410,573 bags against 7,025,937 bags during the same period in 1901-02.

The deliveries of coffee during January in New York were 418,151 bags of Brazil and 84,973 bags other kinds; in New Orleans the deliveries were 79,202 bags, Brazil, against 9,648 bags in December; total for the United States 624,778 bags (521,252 Brazilian) against 493,649 bags (398,288 Brazilian) in December and a total of 3,914,740 bags (3,296,731 Brazilian) during the last seven months, against 4,106,816 bags (3,410,606 Brazilian) during the same period in 1901-02. In Europe 782,345 bags against 689,649 bags in December; total for Europe and the United States 1,402,123 bags against 1,183,298 bags in December. The grand total deliveries were 9,287,257 bags during the last seven months against 9,517,309 bags during the same period in 1901-02.

Receipts at Santos and Rio during January were 782,000 bags, against 922,000 bags in January, 1902; total for last seven months were 9,008,000 bags, against 11,468,000 bags in 1901-02.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar.*

## COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

**Mexico.**—In the December issue of the International Bureau of American Republics, we find an account of coffee cultivation in Mexico, as follows:—

Mexico is the most northerly of American countries to engage profitably in the growing of the coffee plant. The initial efforts in this culture were made in 1818 at Cordova, in the State of Vera Cruz, and large *cafetals*, or coffee plantations, may still be seen in that region, though tobacco growing has become the leading industry of the district. Certain parts of the Republic are admirably adapted for coffee cultivation, and yield a quality which is equal to the best varieties of Arabia.

The plant may be grown at any altitude between sea-level and 5,000 feet, its success at the various heights being governed by local climatic conditions. On the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, where the elevation of some of the plantations is not more than 500 feet, a favouring temperature is produced by the air currents which sweep across the neck of land from ocean to ocean, reducing what would otherwise be too tropical heat. Equally good results are obtained from among the mountains and foothills of the States of Oaxaca, Michoacan, Puebla, Vera Cruz, and Chiapas. These States are the principal coffee-producing sections of the Republic, as the northern part has too sterile a soil and too temperate a climate for such vegetation, and much of the southern part is a tableland over 5,000 feet above sea-level.

The variety chiefly cultivated is *Coffea arabica*, allied to the Mocha. The myrtle species, similar to the Java, is second in quality, and it is thought that on the lowlands near the coast Liberian coffee would do well, as it is grown near the sea in its native habitat. The best coffee in Mexico is grown in the State of Michoacan, near the city of Uruapan. The berry is small and dwarfed and

contains but one seed. This is of so delicious a flavour that it is supposed to have its own portion and that of the missing seed as well.

One of the largest plantations in Mexico is owned by United States citizens, and is situated in the Sierra Madre Mountains in the State of Oaxaca, a day's journey on horseback from the Mexican Southern Railway, over seven ranges of mountains. It is a model form, comprising 6,000 acres, and fitted up with modern machinery of United States origin. In the Department of Palenque, State of Chiapas, a number of planters from the United States are successfully engaged in raising coffee, and several companies have secured land that they are selling in small tracts and colonizing. On the Isthmus of Tehuantepec an Ohio company has bought 900 acres of coffee lands in the foothills of a mountain range, and adjoining this property is an estate owned by a Kansas City company on which one of the most complete coffee-cleaning plants is in operation. Many other planters in the vicinity have reached the period when returns on their outlay are being realized. Another exceptionally favourable location for coffee growing is on the Tehuantepec Railway, 85 miles south of the Gulf port of Coatzacoalcos, and bordered by rivers on each side. This estate is known as "La Puerta," and contains 40,000 acres. The State of Vera Cruz also contains large plantations devoted to this culture, which is being carried on with good results.

Mr. J. Hirst writes:—

I have been very much interested in noting the effects of different soils, situations, and methods of cultivation of coffee in Mexico, and more especially the effect of shade, for that, more than anything else, is the key to coffee-growing there. The growers have experimented and gone from one extreme to the other, and are only now finding the right medium. What I saw confirmed my first opinion, which would be the opinion I think of any man who knew anything about coffee, barring Ceylon men, who somehow seem unable to adapt themselves to circumstances. The Mexican elevation being low, and a good deal of the land having a clay sub-soil, a heavy shade is required, but at the same time you must admit the sun some time during the day, preferably in the morning and evening, for the mid-day sun is very hot. It is a very difficult question, owing to the long, dry, hot season, followed by the long, very wet season, which makes it difficult to suit the shade to both; in fact, you can't do it, you can only strike a mean.

The prevailing south wind, which is very injurious, being hot and dry, makes it almost impossible to grow coffee on a southern or southwestern exposure, but very few will recognize this. I noted no disease, excepting the white fly, which is worse than in Jamaica, and seems to occur most on southern exposures, probably due to the debilitated condition of the trees making them more liable to attack. I found one tree attacked by borer, and I believe if I had investigated more closely, I should have found more. Canker I have not noticed, but think it very likely is here. Foot-rot I noticed a good deal of, but it did appear to come from the usual causes, a great number of cases appearing on fairly good, well drained soil. I attribute it to bad plants, badly planted, the attacks of some animal, probably a mole, and also of ants, probably attracted to the trees by machete wounds inflicted in weeding, which wounds I noted on most of the dead trees, and a large number of the healthy trees show the same wounds.

### MORE CAREFUL WEEDING NEEDED.

If coffee culture is to be carried on in Mexico, more careful and more frequent weeding will have to be done and the machete will have to be discarded in favour of the hoe or the tarpalox, not alone on account of the damage done by the machete, but because a loosening of the surface earth and the mulch caused by it is absolutely essential on these soils and in this climate. The practice also prevails of continually weeding away from the tree, and piling in windrows between. If during the dry weather this were spread over the ground, around the tree, very great good would result, not only by the mulch protecting the ground from the rays of the sun and retaining moisture, but by recovering the roots exposed by this system of weeding and rendering available this very necessary plant food, which when placed in rows is out of the reach of young plants owing to the very wide distance at which hitherto it has been customary to plant here. Some of the soil is good coffee soil, especially the light-colored chocolate



loam mixed with gravel, which I found on the Solo-suekil river. A brown sandy loam also appears to be a good soil, and coffee seems to thrive on it. Some other soils, and also some of the clays, will grow coffee, but will require considerable skill and care, and the lasting qualities of the plant can only be determined on by experiment.

#### COFFEE SHORT-LIVED.

So far, I do not believe coffee will be long-lived, perhaps from ten to twenty-five years, but with careful management, good crops can be obtained on good soil and in good situations, but the quality of the berry I can say nothing about until I see a crop, but believe it will be fairly good. But without better and more abundant labour, I do not believe coffee can be successfully cultivated at a profit in Mexico. Every state shows very plainly the want of labour. Competition has not only raised the price, but made it necessary to advance anything up to \$2.00 per man, before he even comes to you. Under these conditions, every plantation has about half the force it requires, and the only solution of the difficulty seems to be imported labour. Coffee requires an abundance of cheap labour and the ability to get rid of it at will. Driers are in common use, and seem to be necessary, owing to climate and lack of labour. Sun-curing is impossible because the necessary labour cannot be obtained.

### ESTIMATE OF COST AND REVENUES OF A CACAO PLANTATION.

[Estimates of expenses in establishing a cacao farm in the Visayas, Phillippines, and profits after the fifth year.]

The size selected is 16 hectares, the amount of land prescribed by Congress of a single public land entry. The cost of producing such a tract of land is as yet undetermined and cannot be reckoned in the following tables. The prices of the crop are estimated at 48 cents per kilo., which is the current price for the best grades of cacao in the world's markets. The yield per tree is given as 2 catties, or 1.25 kilos., a fair and conservative estimate for a good tree, with little or no cultivation. The prices for unskilled labour are 25 per cent. in advance of the farm hand in the Visayan islands. No provision is made for management or supervision, as the owner will, it is assumed, act as manager.

Charges to capital account are given for the second, third and fourth year, but no current expenses are given, for other crops are to defray operating expenses until the cacao trees begin to bear. No estimate of residence is given. All accounts are in United States currency.

#### EXPENDABLE THE FIRST YEAR.

##### Capital account:—

Clearing of <i>average</i> brush and timber land at \$15 per hectare	..	\$340.00
Four carabaos, plows, harrows, cultivators, carts, etc.	..	550.00
Breaking and preparing land, at \$5 per hectare	..	80.00
Opening main drainage canals, at \$6 per hectare	..	96.00
Tool house and storeroom	..	200.00
Purchase and planting 10,000 abaca stools, at 2 cents each	..	200.00
Seed purchase, rearing and planting 12,000 cacao, at 3 cents each	..	360.00
Contingent and incidental	..	174.00

Total .. 2,000.00

#### SECOND YEAR.

Interest on investment	..	200.00
Depreciation on tools, buildings and animals (20 per cent. of cost)	..	150.00
		350.00

#### THIRD YEAR.

Interest on investment	..	200.00
Depreciation as above	..	150.00
		350.00

#### FOURTH YEAR.

Interest on investment	..	200.00
Depreciation as above	..	150.00
Building of drying house and sweat boxes, capacity 20,000 kilos.	..	450.00
		800.00

Total capital investment .. 3,500.00

#### FIFTH YEAR.

##### Income account:—

From 11,680 cacao trees, 300 grams cacao each, equals 3,500 kilos., at 48 cents	..	1,680.00
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##### Expense account:—

Fixed interest and depreciation charges on investment of \$3,500	..	350.00
Taxes $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on a one-third valuation basis of \$250 per hectare	..	60.00
Cultivating, pruning, etc., at \$5.50 per hectare	..	88.00
Fertilising at, \$8 per hectare	..	96.00
Harvesting, curing, packing 3,500 kilos. cacao, at 10 cents per kilo.	..	350.00
Contingent	..	86.00
		1,030.00
Credit balance	..	650.00

#### SIXTH YEAR.

##### Income account:—

From 11,680 cacao trees, at 500 grams cacao each, equals 5,840 kilos., at 48 cents	..	2,803.20
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##### Expense account:—

Fixed interest and depreciation charges as above	..	350.00
Taxes as above	..	60.00
Cultivating, etc., as above	..	88.00
Fertilising, at \$8 per hectare	..	128.00
Harvesting, etc., 5,840 kilos. cacao, at 10 cents per kilo.	..	584.00
Contingent	..	93.20
		1,303.20
Credit balance	..	1,500.00

#### SEVENTH YEAR.

##### Income account:—

From 11,680 cacao trees, at 750 grams cacao each, equals 8,760 kilos., at 48 cents	..	4,204.80
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##### Expense account:—

Fixed interest charges as above	..	350.00
Taxes as above	..	60.00
Cultivating, etc., as above	..	88.00
Fertilising, at \$10 per hectare	..	160.00
Harvest, etc., of 8,760 kilos. of cacao, at 10 cents per kilo.	..	876.00
Contingent	..	170.80
		1,704.80
Credit balance	..	2,500.00

#### EIGHTH YEAR.

##### Income account:—

From 11,680 cacao trees, at 1 kilo. cacao each, equals 11,680 kilos., at 48 cents	..	5,606.40
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##### Expense account:—

Fixed interest charges as above	..	350.00
Taxes as above	..	60.00
Cultivating, etc., as above	..	88.00
Fertilising, at \$12.50 per hectare	..	200.00
Harvest, etc., 11,680 kilos. of cacao, at 10 cents per kilo.	..	1,168.00
Contingent	..	240.40
		2,106.40
Credit balance	..	3,500.00

#### NINTH YEAR.

##### Income account:—

From 11,680 trees, at 2 'catties' or 1.25 kilos. cacao each, equals 14,600 kilos. at 48 cents	..	7,008.00
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##### Expense account:—

Fixed interest charges as above	..	350.00
Taxes at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on one-third valuation of \$500 per hectare.	..	120.00
Cultivating, etc., as above	..	88.00
Fertilising, at \$15 per hectare	..	240.00
Harvesting, etc., of 14,600 kilos. of cacao at 10 cents per kilo.	..	1,460.00
Contingent	..	250.00
		2,508.00
Credit balance	..	4,500.00

In the tenth year there should be no increase in taxes or fertilisers, and a slight increase in yield, sufficient to bring the net profits of the estate to the approximate amount of \$5,000. This would amount to a dividend of rather more than \$312 per hectare, or its equivalent of about \$126 per acre.

These tables further show original capitalisation cost of nearly \$90 per acre, and from the ninth year annual operating expenses of rather more than \$60 per acre.



It should be stated, however, that the operating expenses are based upon a systematic and scientific management of the estate; while the returns or income are based upon revenue from trees that are at the disadvantage of being without culture of any kind, and, while I am of the opinion that the original cost per acre of the plantation, nor its current operating expenses may be much reduced below the figures given, I feel that there is a reasonable certainty that the crop product may be materially increased beyond the limit of two 'catties.'

In Cameroons, Dr. Preuss, a close and well-trained observer, gives the mean annual yield of trees of full-bearing age at 4½ pounds.

Mr. Rousselot places the yield on the French Congou at the same figure. In the Caroline Islands it reaches 5 pounds and in Surinam, according to M. Nichols, the average at maturity is 6½ pounds. In Mindanao, I have been told, but do not vouch for the report, of more than ten 'catties' taken in one year from a single tree; and, as there are well-authenticated instances of record, of single trees having yielded as much as 30 pounds, I am not prepared to altogether discredit the Mindanao story.

The difference, however, between good returns and enormous profits arising from cacao growing in the Philippines will be determined by the amount of knowledge, experience, and energy that the planter is capable of bringing to bear upon the culture in question.—*Philippine Bureau of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin, No. 2, 1902.*

## CINCHONA AND QUININE.

In their annual review of cinchona and quinine during 1902 (dated February 6), Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse give some interesting statistics regarding the position of these products. It is unnecessary to trace the course of the markets last year, as they were fully dealt with in the market movements in our issue of December 27. The prominent facts in regard to the series of tables given in the circular, are: (1) that the world's supply of bark is increasing; (2) that the consumption and distribution of quinine are also increasing; (3) that the percentage of quinine in the manufacturing bark is higher than hitherto; (4) that the output of Java quinine is less. We quote the more important of the figures, which represent English lbs.:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Ceylon, exports ..	976,000	619,000	510,000	601,000	407,000
E. I., exports ..	3,060,000	2,407,000	3,421,000	1,818,000	2,020,000
Java, exports ..	16,339,000	15,616,000	15,827,000	16,542,000	17,153,000
U. K., imports ..	5,143,000	3,742,000	4,604,000	4,765,000	4,447,000
U. K., exports ..	3,269,000	3,520,000	4,965,000	2,886,000	2,700,000
Holland, imports ..	11,657,000	12,579,000	11,166,000	13,455,000	14,644,000
Holland, exports ..	11,891,000	12,308,000	11,278,000	12,385,000	12,853,000
Germany, imports ..	7,805,000	8,658,000	8,019,000	9,341,000	8,768,000
France, imports ..	2,304,000	2,522,000	2,618,000	2,712,000	2,816,000
Italy, imports ..	340,000	202,000	124,000	128,000	168,000
U. S. A., imports ..	3,512,000	3,480,000	4,438,000	4,481,000	3,510,000

The French and Italian imports for 1902 represent eleven months only. The figures regarding South American (chiefly Calisaya) and African barks are stated in bales, and are therefore excluded. The chief point about the above figures is that, as already stated, the world's supply of bark is steadily increasing, the estimated output of Java, British India, and Ceylon being 17,153,000 English lbs. in 1902 against 16,542,000 in 1901. Taking the German imports of cinchona, it is interesting to compare with it the following exports of quinine from Germany—*viz.*, in 1898, 7,094,000 oz.; in 1899, 7,447,000 oz.; in 1900, 6,523,000 oz.; in 1901, 6,899,000 oz.; and in 1902, 8,201,000 oz. Our imports from Germany show a continual shrinkage since 1898, the figures last year being 996,000 oz.; while those to the United States totalled 2,046,000 oz., against 1,921,000 oz. in 1901. The exports of quinine from France are remarkable, being officially declared at 2,490,000 oz. during 1902, against 1,222,000 oz. in 1901. This would show that French makers had more than their usual share of the demand last year. Italy exported 66,000 oz., or 6,000 oz. less than in 1901; while the exports from Java fell to 700,000 oz., against 1,033,000 in the previous year. The United Kingdom exported 1,142,000 oz. last year; and as these figures are declared for the first time no comparison can be made. Our imports last year were 1,443,000 oz. for the eleven months, of which Germany sent practically 1,000,000 oz.

## "SPIKE DISEASE" IN SANDAL.

About the middle of last year, Mr. Barber, Government Botanist, Madras, investigated what is known as the "spike disease" among Sandal-wood trees in Coorg. He traced the disease to the roots of the trees and said:—"As regards the exact cause I have not had the means of judging. It seems to me that this is a suitable piece of work for the Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India." According to the *Madras Mail* of the 3rd instant, "the consequence is that the only result of Mr. Barber's investigation and report is to show the lines upon which 'some interesting experiments might be conducted.' Meanwhile, the disease continues unchecked." This scarcely gives a fair statement of facts. Our contemporary does not appear to be aware that Dr. E. J. Butler, M.B., F.L.S., Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India, visited the infected district of Coorg last July, shortly after Mr. Barber had been there, for the purpose of studying the disease under reference. Dr. Butler has reported upon the matter. He remained in ignorance of Mr. Barber's work until his own was completed; but his conclusions are similar to those arrived at by Mr. Barber. What he says is that the disease affects a portion of the Sandal area of Coorg and a smaller portion of Mysore. It appears to be of recent origin, "since it is hard to believe that so remarkable a disease could have escaped attention." The first detailed reference to it appears in a memorandum by Mr. McCarthy, Deputy Conservator of Forests in Coorg, on the future supply and culture of Sandal in Coorg, in December 1899. Dr. Butler states that the external characteristics of the disease are well described in the reports of Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Barber. All we need say on this point is that in the case of affected trees "the new shoots present the appearance of fine spikes bearing four rows of fine bristles." Hence the name that has been given to the disease.

According to Dr. Butler, the presence of the spike can point to nothing else but to a profound disturbance in the nutrition of the tree. Other evidence points to increased nutrition. The two salient and constant external features of the disease are an increased vegetative activity, and a failure to form

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA, In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

*Record of 3 years' Exploration.*

BY CAPTAIN H. H. P. DEASY,  
*With Appendices, Maps, 80 Illustrations.*

The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed, and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan.

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flowers; both evidences of a forced and possibly abnormal nutrition. The roots are perfectly healthy with the exception, noted by Mr. Barber, of the root-ends and 'haustoria.' The chief internal evidences of the disease are, an excessive production of starch, together with certain structural alterations in the tissues. Dr. Butler alludes to a certain train of modifications in the structure of a plant that has been shown to occur when the plant is forced to take in excessive quantities of carbon-dioxide by exposure to an atmosphere unduly charged with this gas. He states that this group of modifications strikingly resembles the modifications that characterise spike disease in sandal, and deduces that it is evidently possible that the whole of the alterations observed in spike disease are directly due to intensified carbon-assimilation, or are the result of overloading the plant with starch. As to the cause of the intensified carbon-assimilation in spiked sandal there is no guide. As Dr. Butler observes, it would be absurd to suppose it due to unusual quantities of carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere; the effects of such a condition would have been rapidly visible in the human population of the country affected. The cause must therefore be sought in the plant itself. "For some reason or other the tree, or some isolated branches of it, suddenly proceeds to manufacture starch out of all proportion to the demand for this food by the tissues. As a result of this, growth is forced, the tree gets no rest, and dies of exhaustion, the result of starch-poisoning." Yet the starch-forming cells are apparently healthy. The fact that in addition to the free rootlets the organs of attachment to other roots, or 'haustoria,' through which a portion of the food of the Sandal tree is absorbed, are also dead in spiked trees, tells against a local disease of the rootlets alone. The existence of a poison circulating in the sap seems therefore to be the most probable explanation of the suddenly intensified starch manufacture.

Another interesting point noticed is that Dr. Butler has failed to find any spiked sandal isolated from Lantana. Further investigations are likely to be made into this, and time will help, for spike disease is progressive, and the area covered by Lantana is restricted, "If," says Dr. Butler, "the disease continues to spread into Mysore, as it appears to be doing, and extends beyond the Lantana country, then it obviously cannot be traced to this source" (the Lantana invasion). "If on the other hand, spike disease remains confined to the Lantana country, and its originally rapid spread is checked, then there is grave reason to suspect the Lantana and a definite, though not very hopeful objective to which to direct our preventive measures." Dr. Butler considers that the condition is a definite disease and communicable. He considers it probable that death follows the first appearance of the disease much more rapidly than was at first suspected. No case of recovery has as yet been reported. Excision of diseased branches in early stages does not seem to have any effect in checking the extension to other parts of the tree. Further work must, says Dr. Butler, be guided entirely by the results of experiments that he hopes to be able to commence with Mr. McCarthy's aid immediately, and these experiments must extend over several seasons before any trustworthy results are arrived at. For the present, treatment must be chiefly directed to confining the disease to its present limits.—*Daily Post*, Bangalore.

### THE PRINCIPLES OF TEA PRUNING.

There has just been issued as one of the series of the Agricultural Ledger an exposition of the "Principles of Tea Pruning" by Sir George Watt and Mr. Harold H. Mann. The subject, of course, is highly technical, but the very fact of its being so technical makes it more important that experts should lay down general rules and principles. At present a hundred theories, some correct and others vastly incorrect are afloat. The average planter, harassed by the advice of his friends and others on the question which is of so much importance, is inclined finally to cry a plague on the contrary opinions showered on him and to evolve rule of thumb theories and methods of his own. They may or may not succeed, but in any case in a few years he becomes a convert to his own views and in turn helps to puzzle the new-comer. Such being the case all planters with open minds will hail with delight the small volume referred to above, in which the whole question of tea pruning is treated from a strictly scientific point of view, though the authors acknowledge their indebtedness to men like Mr. Showers of Cinnamara, Mr. W. N. Edwards of Majulighur, Mr. Temples of Moabund

(Assam), and Mr. Rose of Doloo, and Mr. Lennox of Luskerpore (Surma Valley). The authors lay it down that one of the first things a planter should bear in mind is that the operation of pruning is the most important in the tea garden during the whole season. It cannot be done in any haphazard way without forethought and skill. It demands careful, and constant supervision. The authors confess that there are contrary ideas on the subject, but the absence of supervision, they insist is one of the chief causes of the deterioration of tea gardens. People who have studied the physiology of plant life recognise that the cutting away of the unnecessary portion is essential to any perfected system for the cultivation of a perennial plant. In the case of fruit the object is to induce continuous production, of seed or of fruit. The principle which governs the pruning of the tea-plant is somewhat different. As Sir George Watt and Mr. Mann say: "Pruning is an operation carried on in order to induce the plant to assume a particular shape so as to facilitate cultivation and the plucking of the leaf, to increase the average yield of each plant, and to retain or improve the quality of tea produced." A badly pruned bush ought to be regarded as a failure.

The art of pruning, of course, consists of many operations extended over a long period of time. Details must be looked for in the publication we are considering, but to indicate the careful and exhaustive nature of the treatise we may refer to the paragraphs relating to what appears at first sight to be the simple matter of the position and angle of the section. We learn that if the knife be inserted below the base of the bud and a long slanting section be made, the bud will be starved and thus produce a sickly shoot. "If the section be made at a point, say from half-an-inch to two inches above the bud, the protruding portion will be starved and die accordingly." This is the condition known to gardeners as the "snag." A picture from a photograph of a badly pruned bush is given showing several snags and their effect. The effect, even in a picture, is horrible. What is worse is that the authors inform us that this is no imaginary picture, but is found everywhere, worse, no doubt, in some places than in others, but present in all. A graphic description is given of the baneful effects of snags. We read that when in Spring the sap ascends to the shoots an accumulation takes place at a point near the topmost bud. "This swells in consequence, the bud bursts into foliage, the leaves commence the process of assimilation, and had the section been properly made, the elaborated sap would have, in a comparatively short space of time, caused the bark to heal over the section and extend into the new shoot until the existence of a wound had practically disappeared." This result is necessary to the well-being of a plant, for dead wood, and even fully matured wood, obstructs the circulation of the sap and retards growth. Where a snag has been left, the effort the sap makes to heal the wound only causes a larger and larger swelling round the base of the "projecting, useless, and dead" apex of the old twig. Further the snag when it dies is attacked by white ants and other vermin. It then begins to decompose and, finally, instead of an united bark covering the wound made in pruning, "a hole is formed that fills with water and sets up decay that extends far below the point of origin of the new shoot." Upon that new shoot the year's, or it may be several years' flushing depends. The thorough way in which the authors have dealt with the question of snags is an example of the general completeness of the treatise.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

At the quarterly Meeting held in London last week of the Federation of Grocers' Associations of the United Kingdom, a Resolution was submitted from the Leeds Association: "That the General Purposes Committee take into consideration the advisability of memorialising the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the view of securing the imposition of a license upon all dealers in tea." The mover of the Resolution said what with the Salvation Army and insurance agents, the canvassing by foremen in workshops and factories, and pension teas galore, he did not know where they would get to. They in Leeds, therefore, thought perhaps a good remedy would be to license every dealer in tea which would perhaps stop this wholesale hawking of tea from door to door. One speaker sagely said that if they applied these licenses to tea, why not to cocoa or coffee or to any other article? After the proposal had been referred to as one of the "most remarkable propositions ever heard," the Resolution was withdrawn.



Mr. P. C. Larkin is quoted in Boston as saying that the Imports of India and Ceylon teas into the United States will amount to 25,000,000 lbs. during the current year.

Hard times in the tea trade, which we earnestly hope are giving place to better days and a brighter outlook, have not prevented the Mazawattee Tea Company from distributing 9 per cent. again to the shareholders, as in the three previous years. The present distribution is of 4 per cent. for the half-year (a similar amount having been paid for the previous half-year) and a bonus of 1 per cent. The Directors state, no doubt with satisfaction, in their report that the issue of debentures last July was very considerably over-subscribed.

It is an age of cheap processes, and one of the latest achievements of chemistry is the discovery of a cheap process of making a certain compound that exists in tea, and which has a medicinal value. The substance was formerly known as theophylline, but is now called theocine. When it is derived from the tea-plant the price is nearly £20 an ounce. Produced by synthetic chemistry it is said to cost only about 10s. Cocaine and a few other vegetable products that doctors have a use for can be manufactured by the same system, but the series of operations necessary to that result makes those articles more costly than when they are obtained by other means. Indeed, several chemists had previously found a way to make theocine by synthesis, but their processes were much too expensive to have a commercial value. The new method, according to an American journal, was discovered in the laboratories of a great German house, the Farbenfabriken of Elberfeld.

Burnt turnip seems inadequate as a substitute for coffee, but it evidently passes as the real thing occasionally. An East-end grocer was recently fined for selling this stuff. It was found on the premises in barrels and in packets. Defendant explained, "This comes from Germany. It is turnip flour or burnt turnip, and is used with boiling water as a drink. The substitutes for coffee are not only numerous, but most of them are nasty."—*H. & C. Mail*.

### THE TEA MARKET.

Mr. W. Forbes Laurie writes to the *Home and Colonial Mail* :—

I have read with interest the letter of "One Dependent on the Ceylon Tea Industry" in your last issue.

In my previous letter I pronounced myself a producer, and, as such, my aim was not so much to make Ceylon the tea market of the world as to point out that it was worth while for our London friends to "wake up," and to bear in mind that there are other Richmonds in the field.

Mr. H. S. Parker tells us of the difficulty experienced in obtaining large lines for America, and we all know that the expense of landing and blending or bulking in London is prohibitive—at least for export. Transactions in every commodity, from locomotives to tea, are all sought in large orders, and can consequently only be supplied from the maker direct. It need not affect the London market if sellers and brokers will recognise that it is so, and that it entails some change in methods. "Greens" are already suffering from the same want of organisation. If some firms in Calcutta and Colombo would bulk all suitable kinds, and so produce an even flow of what are wanted, there would be fewer complaints and a stronger demand.

"One Dependent" evidently has not studied the labour market. Colombo always has a full supply, even when the tea estates are short, just as in London, where the unemployed are parading the streets and the home counties are simultaneously crying out for daily labourers.

The fall in the price of tea has been steady for the past fifteen years—rather less, if anything, since the draft dispute than before—more noticeable, perhaps, at that period, owing to its beginning to touch the vitals of the industry. The three most personally interested in the tea market are (1) producer, (2) dealer, (3) retailer. The dealers have been able by concerted action to keep off the market when it answered their purpose. The producers, acting individually and with no similar organisation, have let their teas go without resistance, although, being first in possession, they held the stronger position. This is quite enough in a fully though not necessarily over-supplied market to account for the steady fall.

I in no way agree with "One Dependent" on the inadequate result of the Ceylon cess. India was in the American market

before Ceylon, yet withal has not sold so much tea, although the cess has advertised both kinds. Had Ceylon men from the beginning adopted American methods, as recommended by Sir John Grinlinton, their first Commissioner, instead of fighting the large operators, their success would have been greater.

"One Dependent" and I are quite one when he speaks of the sorry state of the present market proving in the long run injurious to dealer as well as producer, and, indeed, to all concerned. I am only agreed in concerted action among growers sufficient to paralyse that against which it is opposed, and which could be accomplished if firmly attempted with spirit—indeed, any measure which would result in a more even market—and which I believe to be the only way of meeting successfully in the London market the inevitable results of fewer and large operators on either side. Established large industries have been found to require some system of mutual consideration much like what has been going on between the Colonial Secretary and the Boers; for everything cuts both ways in the long run, and I am very much mistaken if the dealers are now going to have as good a time as they have had. Although the prospects of "a boom" are pleasant in contemplation to the grower, yet he must not forget that if uncontrolled it will bring many new tea-producing countries into competition with him—a greater evil still. Both the grower and dealer have an opportunity now of doing each other a good service by adopting a line likely to keep out the evils which on both sides beset the tea industry.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports :—

TORONTO, February 5, 1903.

Speaking generally, the tea market shows an improvement over last week. There is more demand for all kinds of teas, and we note a resumption of buying of China greens. For some time back the high prices ruling on the market have been holding buyers back. Now they are finding that they have to sort up and must enter the market. Ceylon greens are strong with a rather firmer tone. From New York there is a report that rather more interest is being shown in Congous, which are holding steady.

MONTREAL, February 5, 1903.

The market keeps firm all around. An attempt has been made from some quarters to "bear" the market, but with no effect. The American market shows no change. One Montreal importer has received several inquiries for teas for United States account, and he has placed a number of samples on the Chicago market. Some dealers are still firmly convinced that the price of Japans will come down before long. Said one: "We have sold a great quantity of Ceylon greens, and people seem to like them. They have bought some Ceylons that could never before be sold here, on account of the high price of Japan teas, and until Japans come lower, they will continue to buy them." Advice from Japan, under date of January 3, state that the supply is exhausted. The quality was inferior to that of last year, but prices showed a gradual advance, particularly towards the close of the season. Settlements since the opening of the season were only 281 piculs greater than last year. The local market, though firm, is quiet, a few orders being received from country points.

### RETAIL TEA PRICES IN THE U. S.

Several weeks ago it was pointed out in the *Review* that the removal of the duty of ten cents a pound would not mean a sharp general reduction in retail prices of tea, but that the public would nevertheless receive the full benefit of the repeal, owing to a more or less general improvement of the quality of the standard grades.

Some people may argue, as against this view, that "whatever goes up must come down," to which we agree. If, however, there has been no advance there ought to be no expectation of a decline, and it is no secret that numbers of grocers bore part of the tea tax themselves, the growers bearing the remainder; hence, as there was no advance of prices in those stores when the duty took effect, there should be no decline when it is taken off.

How some of the leading grocers regard the question may be learned from a glance at the following announcement in *Acker's Weekly* of January 26-31:



## BETTER TEA VALUES.

Several years ago a war duty of ten cents a pound was placed on tea.

But we never changed our standards of quality because the growers reduced the price on many teas about five cents a pound and we bore the loss of the other five.

On January first the duty was taken off, but, in the meantime, many growers advanced their prices about five cents in anticipation of this removal of duty.

But this will enable us to give even better value for the respective prices than heretofore—which tea users will fully appreciate.

Our 50c. and 60c. teas please nearly all tastes.

But we'll continue to offer the very finest teas grown for those who appreciate the very finest.

FINLEY ACKER CO.

Considering how low the average price of tea has fallen, and how much the consumption of the leaf has suffered from neglect of proper considerations as to quality; we fervently trust that the great majority of the retail grocers will, if they have not already done so, take the occasion of the removal of the duty to raise quality instead of lowering prices.—*Merchants' Review*.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

## SHEVAROY.

Proceedings of the Quarterly Meeting of the S. P. A. held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, at 1 p. m. on Monday, the 9th March, 1903. PRESENT :—Messrs. W. I. Lechler, W. Rahm, J. C. Cobbe, J. C. Large, C. G. Lechler, E. Dickins, J. E. Limouzin, E. Travers Drapes. Mr. R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. The notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.

2. The accounts for the quarter ending 28th February were examined and passed, showing a balance in hand on that date, of Rs.526-11-3.

3. The Proceedings of the Committee Meetings held on the 12th January and the 9th February were duly confirmed.

4. Read letter from Mr. Large proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Government on the completion of the new Ghaut Road, with a hope that feeder roads will be made at once, in order to connect it with outlying estates.

*Resolved*, that the Collector be requested to convey the hearty thanks of the Association to Government, on the completion of the cart road from Salem to Yercaud, with the hope that to enable the boon to be fully utilized, feeder roads may be constructed as soon as possible.

5. Read letter No.  $\frac{85}{\text{Eng.}}$  of 28th February, 1902, from the President, Taluk Board, enquiring whether the owners of the land through which the road from the Firs to Thulasholay would pass would give the necessary land for quarries, required for the upkeep of the road, free of cost.

The road in question passes through land belonging to Messrs. Robinson, W. Rahm, and Travers Drapes. The two latter, being present at the Meeting, say they are willing to give the quarries required by the President of the Taluk Board; and the Honorary Secretary is requested to ascertain whether Mr. Robinson will do so, and to reply to the President accordingly.

6. Read Secretary's Circular No. 20/03, of the 4th instant, forwarding copy of a letter from the Secretary to Government, offering a maximum subscription of Rs.5,000, towards sending a gentleman to investigate the conditions of the coffee industry in Brazil, under certain conditions, and provided that the planters would themselves subscribe.

*Resolved* (unanimously), that in the opinion of this Meeting the best thanks of the coffee-planters in Southern India should be conveyed to the Government of India, through the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., and that all coffee-planters should be asked to subscribe, as well as curers and shippers, and firms interested in the industry.

Further that this Association is prepared to subscribe Rs.100 from the funds of the S. P. A. if the other Associations will subscribe in proportion: and that every member present at this Meeting will subscribe a minimum of (Rs.5) five rupees, and will endeavour to induce all his planting friends to do the same.

Also that a copy of these Resolutions be forwarded to the Chairman, U. P. A. S. I., through the Secretary, for favour of circulation to all Associations, firms, etc., interested in coffee.

7. Read letter and telegram from Mr. de Chazal. Ex. Engineer, saying that the Chief Engineer, Mr. de Winton, would come on Saturday next the 14th instant, and investigate the question of feeder roads.

*Resolved*, that Messrs. C. Lechler, J. C. Large, and the Honorary Secretary be requested to form a deputation to see the Chief Engineer, if he be willing to receive them, on Saturday, to discuss the question of feeder roads.

A very lengthy correspondence about the new Labour Bill comprising Secretary's Circulars Nos. 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, and 22, of 1903 was read; but as the Act has now been passed and as this Association has recorded its opinions very fully in the above correspondence it was not considered desirable to re-open the subject.

The following letters were read and recorded :—

1. Secretary's Circular No. 10/03, dated 12th February, 1903, forwarding letter from Sir H. Vincent in favour of preferential duties.

2. Letter No.  $\frac{1695}{\text{For.}}$  of 1903, dated 10th February, from the Collector declining to reconsider his decision about Bamboo passes, and suggesting an appeal to the Board.

3. Secretary's Circular No. 11/03, dated 14th February, 1903, inviting criticism on the draft of the Tea Cess Bill from those interested in tea.

4. Letter from Mr. A. G. Nicholson, dated 14th February, saying that he wishes his name removed from the books.

5. Letter from Secretary stating that the Tea Cess Bill will be published in *Planting Opinion* of the 21st instant.

6. Letter from Mr. A. G. Nicholson, saying that Glendower may remain on the books of the Association and that he will rejoin if the subscription be collected annually in advance.

7. Secretary's Circular No. 14/03, dated 20th February, 1903, giving Chairman's opinions on Sir Howard Vincent's letter (Secretary's Circular No. 10/03).

8. Letter from Mr. S. M. Pritchard enquiring when forms of crop statistics may be expected.

9. Letter No.  $\frac{151}{\text{M.D.}}$  of 1903 from Collector, stating that printed forms of crop statistics have been sent to the Tahsildar for distribution.

A number of books and papers received during the month were laid on the table.

ROBT GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

## WYNAAD.

General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, March 4, 1903. PRESENT :—Messrs. Abbott, Behr, Day, Mackinlay, J. R. Malcolm, Nicolls, Romilly, Taylor, Trollope, Waddington. Mr B Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*.

Mr. Abbott in the Chair.

1. **Proceedings of last Meeting**—Taken as read.

2. **Finance**.—The Meeting considered the financial position of the Association and with reference to the annual subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. *resolved*, that in the event of the vote of Councillors in Committee remaining at one the Association will be willing to subscribe the minimum rate only, for the year after the next U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.

Otherwise the Association will subscribe according to its means. The amount of subscription to be decided at the same Meeting.

3. **Pepper Vine-disease**.—Read letter of 10th February to Mr. Barber, Government Botanist, also his reply of 14th and letter of 28th.—*Recorded*.

4. **Money Orders and Postal**.—Read correspondence between Mr. Day and Meppadi Postmaster.—*Recorded*.

5. **Poodapady Hotel**.—*Resolved*, that Rs.50 be paid to Shungaren on hearing he had completed the re-thatching of the hotel.

A scale of charges was drawn up permitting Shungaren to charge members of the Association enhanced rates. Persons who



are not members of the Association using the hotel, to be charged 50 per cent. on these rates.

6. **U. P. A. S. I.**—(a) *Labour Law*. Read circulars and also correspondence between Chairman of Special Committee—the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth.

All the members present, excepting Messrs. Day and B. Malcolm, pledged themselves not to apply for the new Labour Law for six months.

(b) *Tea Cess*.—With reference to the previous Resolution on the matter; and on further consideration, it was *resolved*—

That, as this Association understands that the Madras Chamber of Commerce has applied for the nomination of one of its members on the Tea Cess Administration Committee, *ex-officio*; it is of opinion, should this be granted, that planters be nominated; but failing the success of the Madras Chamber to obtain this nomination, that one planter and one member of the Madras Chamber of Commerce be nominated.—Carried by 5 to 3.

7. **Plague**.—With reference to the outbreak of plague at Endalur, the Honorary Secretary was instructed to draw members' attention to the importance of strictly observing the plague regulations with reference to Coolies' passports.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) C. E. ABBOTT,  
Chairman.  
( „ ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
Honorary Secretary.

**Honorary Secretary's Notice**.—Members are reminded that unless specially called, there will be no Meeting of this Association until Wednesday, June 3rd.

## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

### THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

At a Meeting of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association, on February 27 there were present:—Messrs. H. C. Begg, R. H. A. Gresson, A. C. Lawrie, Thos. McMorran, Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Mr. H. C. Begg was unanimously elected Chairman, and Mr. Thos. McMorran, Vice-Chairman, for the year.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring Chairman, Mr. Lockhart Smith, who was unable, through pressure of other business, to continue in office.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (LONDON).

Letters dated 23rd and 30th January, and 6th February, from Mr. Ernest Tye, Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration and disposal after previous circulation.

### INDIAN TEA IN PERSIA—IMPORT DUTIES.

The Committee had before them a letter No. 258 of 20th February from the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with regard to the duties levied, under the new Russo-Persian tariff, upon tea imported into Persia. With the letter was forwarded a copy of a telegram from Mr. E. Bradford Ouseley of Nushki, in which it was stated that after the 20th March the duty would be raised to 25 per cent. It was suggested in the letter from the Chamber that the point upon which further information was needed was as to whether the new duty would differentiate against Indian tea. If it were to be levied alike on all teas, whatever their country of origin, the Government of India would not be likely to take action. For they had (in consultation with the Home Government) recently decided that no steps should be taken in the matter of the Russian import duties so long as these were uniformly levied upon all teas. To determine the point in regard to the new Persian duty the Chamber had made a telegraphic enquiry from the Government authorities at Quetta.

In these circumstances the General Committee decided to await the reply to this enquiry before deciding as to what action, if any, should be taken.

### PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE JOREHAUT STATE RAILWAY.

In the Annual Report of the Committee for the year 1902 a reference is made to the proposed transfer of this line to the Assam-Bengal Railway system. The paragraph concludes with the statement that "they (the Committee) believe, however, that the transfer has since been effected."

A letter dated 12th February from the Inland Steamer Companies respecting this statement was before the Committee. The Companies said they understood that the transfer had not been effected; and they added that it was still not too late for the Committee to renew their protest against it.

From informal enquiries which had been made, the Committee believed that the transfer was to take effect from 1904. They thought, however, that the attention of the Government of India might again be drawn to the disadvantages which would most likely result to the tea industry from the transfer; unless some guarantee was given that the line would be maintained, and that the rates on tea carried over it would not be enhanced.

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of February 20th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The *London Commercial Record* says:—The market has exhibited much irregularity, owing in a great measure to the disappointing outturn in quality of the latest arrivals of East India which has made progress very difficult, and in many cases a decline of 2s to 3s per cwt. has been accepted, and even at that reduction it has not been possible to clear the catalogues; exception, however, must be made with regard to Naidubatum, for which high prices were paid for the most desirable quality. Low-grown Plantation Ceylon brought moderate rates. Jamaica is without material alteration. A generally steady demand prevailed for Costa Rica, and prices have been maintained, and in the case of fine colory high values were obtained. Santos about unaltered. The market for "futures" has fluctuated considerably, and closes with some decline from recent high prices; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 27s 6d to 26s 9d, May at 28s 0d to 27s 6d, September at 29s 3d to 28s 7½d, and December at 29s 7½d to 29s 6d per cwt., closing however above the lowest. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	May delivery ...	27s 9d.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio...	„ ...	4.65 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	„ ...	28 pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	„ ...	34 francs.

Auctions to-day presented 21 barrels 263 bags Jamaica, 4 barrels Ceylon, 1,298 bags East India, 238 bags Nyassaland, 210 bags Nicaragua, 23 bags Peruvian, 40 bags Columbian, 145 bags Venezuelan, 1,235 bags Costa Rica, 73 bags Mexican, and 165 bags Guatemala. No alteration in prices; demand fair.

Brazil futures opened at 3d to 6d decline, and has continued on the easy side throughout the day. Transactions have been numerous, chiefly March at 26s 7½d, May at 27s 3d, September at 28s 7½d to 28s 3d, December at 29s 3d to 29s.

Closing quotations:—		Sellers.	Buyers.
March ..	...	26/10½	26/7½
May ...	...	27/3	27/3
July ...	...	28/1½	27/9
September ..	...	28/7½	28/4½
December ...	...	29/4½	29/1½

Brazil receipts 50,000 bags for two days, against 40,000, 24,000 the two previous seasons, and Exchange 11½.

Hamburg ½ to ¾ down. Havre ¼ lower. New York opened unchanged to ½ lower.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
	1903.	1902.	
Tons ...	28,814	15,098	9,291
HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
	1903.	1902.	
Tons ...	2,116	2,427	2,774
The preceding figures exhibit—			
In the Imports an increase this year of			Tons. 3,116
Home Consumption a decrease of			311
Export an increase of			1,782
Stock an increase of			6,284

The following are the details of the auctions this week:—

CEYLON.—Plantation—1 cask 1 tierce 3 barrels sold—small 35s, low middling 56s to 59s, peaberry 46s.



**EAST INDIA.**—4,864 bags partly sold as follows: *Naidoobatum*, smalls 45s 6d to 49s, low middling 59s, good middling 70s to 75s 6d, good bold 79s 6d to 80s, fine bold 95s to 103s, peaberry 65s to 106s 6d; *Mysore*, smalls 40s to 44s 6d, low middling grayish 42s 6d to 48s 6d, middling to good middling 55s to 60s 6d, common bold 60s, good to fine bold 69s to 80s 6d, peaberry 57s to 85s; *Coorg*, smalls 36s to 42s 6d, low middling to middling 46s to 52s, common to fair bold 57s to 61s 6d, good bold 66s, peaberry 50s to 67s; *Neilgherry*, smalls 37s 6d to 45s 6d, low middling to middling 45s 6d to 55s, common to fair bold 52s to 58s, good blue bold 73s, peaberry 50s to 64s; *Nelliampathy*, smalls 40s 6d to 42s, low middling 44s 6d to 47s 6d, bold 51s to 55s 6d, peaberry 47s to 54s 6d; *Travancore*, smalls 36s, low middling 43s to 46s 6d, common bold 50s to 54s, peaberry 44s. *Wynaad*, smalls 42s 6d, middling 47s 6d, peaberry 54s.

**MOCHA.**—100 half-bales withdrawn.

**JAMAICA.**—100 barrels 77 bags mostly sold—good ordinary palish 34s, middling colory 49s to 50s, peaberry 52s.

**JAVA.**—127 bags Liberian bought in.

**COSTA RICA.**—Of 5,765 bags offered 5,100 bags sold—smalls 33s to 48s 6d, low middling 47s to 51s 6d, middling 52s to 59s 6d, good middling blue 60s 6d to 72s, fine middling 74s to 74s 6d, common bold 57s to 63s, fair to good bold 66s to 78s 6d, fine to very fine blue bold 81s to 93s 6d, peaberry 50s to 106s.

**GUATEMALA.**—Of 81 bags offered 60 bags sold—pickings 28s, smalls 32s.

**NICARAGUA.**—100 bags half sold—pickings 28s, ordinary bold 32s, peaberry 27s 6d.

**MEXICAN.**—86 bags sold—good middling blue 58s, fine bold 80s 6d, peaberry 79s.

**COLOMBIAN.**—329 bags mostly sold—low middling 42s 6d, middling grayish 49s to 50s, fair bold 50s, fine bold 66s, peaberry 43s to 55s.

**EUCADOR.**—113 bags bought in.

**NEW HEBRIDES.**—Of 126 bags offered only 7 bags peaberry sold at 54s.

**BRAZIL.**—1,570 bags Washed Dumont Santos sold—smalls 26s 6d to 30s, medium 33s to 40s, bold rough dull grayish 36s 6d to 44s, peaberry 33s to 34s. 1,636 bags Upwashed, quay terms, sold—smalls 26s to 30s 6d, medium 29s to 35s 6d, bold 32s 6d to 40s, peaberry 29s to 35s 6d.

#### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio ...	2,923,000	4,052,000	2,002,000	2,580,000
Santos ...	6,479,000	8,085,000	6,261,000	5,107,000
Total ...	9,402,000	12,137,000	8,263,000	7,687,000
Crop ...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange—d, previous day 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

**HAVRE, February 19.**—Good average Santos February opened quiet at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ f. and closed quiet at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ f., March opened at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ f. and closed at 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ f., May opened at 34f. and closed at 34f., September opened at 35f. and closed at 35f., December opened at 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ f. and closed at 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ f.

**HAMBURG, February 19.**—Good average Santos February opened steady at 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf. and closed quiet at 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf., March opened at 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf. and closed at 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf., May opened at 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. and closed at 28pf., September opened at 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. and closed at 29pf., December opened at 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ pf. and closed at 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ pf.

**NEW YORK, February 19.**—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.
Feb. 19 ...	4.45	4.50	4.60	4.65	4.75
Feb. 18 ...	4.55	4.60	4.65	4.75	4.85

#### TEA.

**INDIAN.**—A similar quantity to last week was catalogued, viz., 29,000 packages, against 28,900, comparing with 40,700 at this time in 1902.

The strong statistical position, to which we have been constantly drawing attention, supported by a policy on the part of sellers which showed faith in the figures, has at length touched the market. Since last Thursday an active demand has revealed itself, resulting in an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. under 7d, medium about participating to a like extent. Autumn Assams have continued a feature owing to the exceptionally attractive quality

shown. The following averages are among the best: Itakhoolie 1s 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, Hilika 1s 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, Khobong 1s 4d, Kharjan 1s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Khanjikoah 1s 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, Tara 1s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Seconee 1s 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, Mokabari and Sookerating 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and Lattakoojan 1s per lb.

For 25,000 packages on estate account 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. was realised opposed to 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for 37,100, and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d for 22,600 in the two foregoing seasons.

**CEYLON.**—Although slightly larger than on the Tuesday before, the amount submitted was moderate, being 19,700 packages compared with 17,600 then and 22,800 a year ago.

Similar factors have been at work as in the case of the Indian market, and the upward tendency noted last week has further developed. The sale passed with spirit, and prices marked an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d on common to medium grades. Over 7d there was not much change, but any movement favoured sellers, a good demand from Russia and other foreign markets often putting up the values of the better Pekoes and Orange Pekoes, while the finest lines of Broken Orange Pekoes were also taken at dearer rates.

The average is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. On the 12th instant it stood at 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ d, while twelve months since it was 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

**British-grown Greens and Oolongs.**—These are becoming gradually of more importance in the London market, and meet with a ready sale, provided the breaks are sufficiently large to attract buyers for home and export. As they will appreciably influence the imports into this country of Black tea (particularly Ceylons) it becomes a matter for consideration whether they should not be kept separate in the monthly figures.

**JAVA.**—About 1,100 packages were offered and freely dealt in at a further advance on previous quotations.

**Deliveries.**—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From 1st to 17th February 1903	...	10,244,826 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	10,713,931 "

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated February 20th, 1903, says:—*

#### QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	1,123,690	819,165	54,614
1901-1902	1,234,982	855,821	56,419
29,224 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 50,991 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
20,669 " CEYLON			
1,098 " JAVA			

During 1902 the Continent of North America imported nearly 9 million pounds more Indian and Ceylon tea than the previous year. Doubtless a considerable quantity of this was owing to the abolition of the duty which took place on the 1st January last, but the quantity is sufficiently large to exercise considerable influence on the Home market.

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Lbs....	26,360,206	17,475,742	15,455,316	16,680,602
	1898.	1897.	1896.	
Lbs....	13,608,696	11,361,840	9,623,283	

There is little doubt that as regards Black tea, a firm hold of the American market has at length been obtained. As regards Green tea, some two million pounds or more of Ceylon tea were taken during 1902, against probably under a million in 1901, and there is reason to believe that there will before long be a considerable development in this trade.

#### INDIAN TEA TAKEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Re-exports from U. K.	3,733,663	2,840,711	1,958,215	2,436,273
Transshipments via U. K.	3,719,566	1,001,174	1,628,644	581,652
Direct exports via China	851,450	1,103,752	1,174,557	1,300,863
Direct exports from Calcutta	3,831,908	2,081,136	2,198,612	4,168,982
Total lbs ...	12,136,587	7,026,773	6,960,028	8,487,770

	1898.	1897.	1896.
Re-exports from U. K.	2,212,020	1,746,963	1,808,216
Transshipments via U. K.	1,366,931	3,309,114	3,123,224
Direct exports via China	805,377	607,167	abt. 327,333
Direct exports from Calcutta	1,587,373	nil.	nil.
Total lbs. ...	5,971,701	5,663,244	5,258,773



## CEYLON TEA TAKEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	5,518,894	4,895,193	3,121,727	3,476,796
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	3,650,800	2,159,275	1,303,477	797,363
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	350,872	902,870	581,067	1,287,946
Direct exports from Colombo	*4,703,053	*2,491,631	3,489,017	2,630,727
Total lbs ...	14,223,619	10,448,969	8,495,288	8,192,832
	1898.	1897.	1896.	
Re-exports from U. K. ...	3,362,898	3,153,284	2,828,104	
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	1,207,708	1,855,150	1,165,926	
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	1,185,445	690,162	370,480	
Direct exports from Colombo	1,880,944	<i>nil.</i>	<i>nil.</i>	
Total lbs ...	7,636,995	5,698,596	4,364,510	

In considering the present position of the market, it is important to remember not only that the bonded stock of all tea in London is some 11 million pounds less than a year ago, but that at this time last year very heavy stocks of duty-paid tea were held, while at the present time, in view of a possible reduction in the duty these will doubtless have been reduced to a minimum, which may mean a difference of several million pounds; hence the supplies to be drawn upon are considerably less in proportion than would at first sight appear, owing to the shortness not only of the visible but also of the invisible stock.

INDIAN.—Towards the end of last week there was a decided rally in tea under 6d, which improved  $\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. This was reflected in last Monday's auction, since which date the tone has become even stronger, all teas up to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. being now readily

\*The Exports from Colombo include 1,968,456 lbs. of Green tea for 1902, and 797,796 lbs. for 1901.

saleable at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. better rates than those ruling last week. The lowest price for clean Pekoe Souchong is 6d, while very little of any kind can be obtained under this figure. For good liquoring teas prices continue very firm. Exports to U. K. first half of February 3,666,000 lbs., against 3,920,000 lbs. in 1902; making total, 1st April to 15th February 143,566,000 lbs., against 150,711,800 lbs.

CEYLON.—The improvement noted above was reflected in the Ceylon market, where prices for all grades up to about 8d per lb. showed an advance of nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. over last week's rates. Other grades sold steadily, the general tone in the room being distinctly more healthy with buyers showing eagerness to purchase. Since the auction the market has somewhat further hardened.

Exports to U. K. first half of February 3,500,000 lbs., against 4,000,000 lbs. last year.

Average for week 7.78d, against 6.81d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 138,526 pkgs., av. 7.55d. 1902, 173,501 pkgs., av. 7.20d.

JAVAS—all sold at prices showing an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. on last week's rates.

An invoice of 216 packages from "Goalpara" estate averaged 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

## COCOA.

Generally speaking prices showed a turn in favour of holders at auction on Tuesday, when 3,528 bags were brought to the hammer and 1,250 bags sold. Of 861 bags Trinidad offered 640 bags found buyers at rather higher prices—good to fine red 61s to 63s 6d, middling 59s to 60s. Of 191 bags Jamaica only a few bags sold at 52s for fair. 40 bags Dominica brought 51s to 52s. 30 bags fair Costa Rica realised 54s, and 22 bags Esmeralda 61s. Of 28 bags Columbian catalogued, 18 bags grey sold at 47s to 50s 6d. 20 bags Caraquez Guayaquil sold, out of 76 bags offered, at 67s for good red. 20 bags broken Java brought 29s 6d. Good and fine Ceylon

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SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$  & 2/6.



**CONQUERS PAIN**



realised valuations, but demand for other grades was very slow and prices hard to maintain; 2,138 bags were offered and 450 bags sold—fine bold red 76s 6d to 80s 6d, good bold and medium 65s to 68s 6d, middling to fair medium and small 60s to 63s, ordinary 54s 6d to 58s 6d, and fair to fine small 47s 6d to 56s per cwt. Private sales include—200 bags Trinidad at 64s 6d for fine and 62s 6d for good, 50 bags Bahia at 56s 6d for fine, and 350 bags Guayaquil, at 64s to 69s 6d for greyish to fine red Caraquez, and 61s per cwt. for Esmeralda.

### PEPPER.

**BLACK.**—The market has presented a much firmer appearance this week, and sales have been made at an advance of  $\frac{1}{16}$ d per lb. On the spot business has been done in fair Singapore at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d, and for arrival at  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d for January-March shipment, at  $5\frac{7}{8}$ d to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d for February-April, and at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d for March-May and April-June.

At auction on Wednesday 49 bags Singapore mostly sold "without reserve" at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d for fair; 462 bags Lampong bought in at 6d, while of 69 bags Wynaad 20 bags good heavy clean brown sold at  $6\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

The shipments of Black Pepper for the first half of February compare as follows:—

		1903.	1902.
U. K.—Singapore	...	180 } 180	150 } 150
" Penang	...	nil }	nil }
Continent	...	220	80
U. S.	...	30	340
Total tons ...		430	570

**WHITE.**—Is slow of sale but the tone is steadier at the close. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d down to  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d, and of fair Penang at 9d down to  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. For arrival no business reported.

At public sale on the 18th instant, of 278 bags Singapore offered 70 bags sold at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d for fair. Of 177 bags Penang 144 bags sold—fair limed  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d, brown at  $8\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

The shipments of White Pepper for the first half of February compare as follows:—

		1903.	1902.
U. K.—Singapore	...	40 } 80	20 } 120
" Penang	...	40 }	100 }
Continent	...	20	nil
U. S.	...	nil	nil
Total tons ...		100	120

### GINGER.

**COCHIN.**—inanimate. 200 bags 95 cases offered but only 8 cases small and ends roughly cut and scraped sold at 40s per cwt.

**JAMAICA.**—firm. 112 barrels offered and 50 barrels sold at 38s 6d to 42s 6d per cwt. for good ordinary to middling washed.

### CINCHONA.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on February 26 will consist of 4,823 bales and 412 cases Java cinchona, weighing 479,221 kilos., and containing 25,887 kilos. (900,000 oz.) of quinine sulphate. The manufacturing-bark contains an average of 5.86 per cent. quinine, against 5.45 per cent. for the January auction, and an average of 5.51 per cent. for the ten auctions held at Amsterdam in 1902. In addition 48 bales South American bark, weighing 1,719 kilos. and containing 35 kilos. q.s., will be offered. The shipments from Java during the first half of February amounted to 341,000 Amsterdam lbs. (or 375,000 English lbs.), against 320,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1902 and 525,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901. In the drug-auctions a parcel of 32 serons of Loxa quill sold at  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d, with one lot at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

### QUININE.

The moderate bark shipments for the first half of February imparted a firmer tone to the market early in the week, and small quantities of German sulphate in bulk have changed hands at 1s.  $0\frac{5}{8}$ d per oz., but later 1s  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d was accepted.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8'06d., FEBRUARY 20TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	470	7.73												
New Hope	228 p	7	87 p	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	67	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			52	6			22	7
Nonsuch	79 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$								
"	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$										
Pillay Mallay	50	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$										
Vellingherry	91	7 $\frac{1}{2}$			27	7	44	8 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	20	6 $\frac{1}{4}$				
Travancore	1174	6.37												
Balamore	130 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6			88 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Corrimony	170 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			90 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ellangy	77 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			30	+5 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	5 $\frac{1}{4}$			6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Glenmore	160 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			95 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	+5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$			1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Invercauld	25	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			7	5 $\frac{1}{4}$				
Lockhart	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	49 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$					2	5 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Seafeld	149 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6			112 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	+7					5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
S T T Co Venture	133 p	7 $\frac{1}{4}$			66	7	56	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ +7 $\frac{1}{4}$					2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
T T E Co Mu. M	91	6 $\frac{1}{4}$							47	6			10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
W	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$					27	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ 6	17	7
Wallardi	133 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	116 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	5 $\frac{1}{4}$								
Wynaad	696	6.82											11	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ 5
Arrapetta T Co A	80 p	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	10			60	7						
Askern	173 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			39	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ 6	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6
Cherambadi	111 p	7	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	26	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$				
Kanambyie & Che	22	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	+1/1	5	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	7	8	5	6				
Mootoomalla	70 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	26 p	7 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	26 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$			6	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 p	6
Pootoomalla	56	6 $\frac{1}{4}$					17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	6 $\frac{1}{4}$				
Tanga Mulla	94	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	38	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$			16	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Wynaad T Co Pe	90 p	7			28	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ +8	20	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1903.

[No. 12.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 27th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

**Munzerabad.** *March 11th.—Weather—*East wind daily, cool nights. No likelihood of rain as yet. *Works—*Still gleaning; pruning; manuring. *Crop prospects—*Good for an average crop. *Prices—*ruling at Saklaspur 145 rupees per khandy. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Abundant. *Interesting item—*Another batch of planters leave this week for South Africa.

**Munzerabad.** *March 16th.—Weather—*Getting decidedly warmer; a strong West wind has set in, so we may expect rain soon. *Crop prospects—*Decidedly fair. *Works—*Gleaning; pruning; weeding. *Plant diseases—*Coffee remarkably healthy. Leaf-disease noticeable by its absence. *Health.—*Good. *Labour—*Abundant.

**Coorg.** *POLLI BETTA, 18th March.—Weather—*Fine with passing clouds. Has been very cloudy on one or two days. Crop is dragging its slow course along; but everything will be away by the end of month. Pruning is nearing completion; and a good number of places will have paid off by the 1st proximo. Rain is not wanted till end of month at least. *Interesting item—*Volunteer Camp at Mercara commencing 22nd instant, ending 28th. Inspection on latter date.

**Kotagiri.** *18th March.—Weather—*Getting very warm, both day and night. *Rain—*A light, general shower of 15 cents on 12th. *Work—*Most estates have finished getting in all crop. Pruning in full swing. Manuring starting. Spike is pushing forward, and we will be ready for good rain soon. *Health—*Fair. *Labour—*Plentiful.

### THE PRINCIPLES OF TEA-PRUNING.

THE first number of the 1903 issue of the *Agricultural Ledger* deals with the Principles of Tea Planting. Sir GEORGE WATT and Mr. HAROLD H. MANN, the authors, have unquestionably added a very valuable contribution to the somewhat meagre literature relating to planting in this country. They have discussed the principles of tea-pruning at some length, and have thrown not a little light on some important points of practice. Yet all that they say must be read in the knowledge that generalisations are seldom safe. We cannot even say that what has been found to work well on one estate, or several, in Assam would certainly work well throughout the Assam district; much less can we with safety apply to another district, such as Travancore or the Nilgiris, lessons learnt from the experience of a few planters in a locality where the soil and climatic conditions are very different. The main principle upon which the pruning of plants should be conducted is admirably laid down in these few words:—"In almost all agricultural industries which depend for their success on the continued production of a crop, whether of fruit or leaf, from a perennial plant, the cutting away of the unnecessary part of the previous growth is an important part of the system of culture." In most cases the object of this is to induce the continuous production of seed or fruit; but in the case of tea this is not so. The authors hold that in regard to tea pruning is the most important operation in the garden during the whole season. It demands the most skilled, careful, and constant supervision; and they say that this is not usually given or considered to be necessary. They then proceed to say that pruning is an operation carried on in order to induce the plant to assume a particular shape so as to facilitate cultivation and plucking, to increase the average yield of each plant, and to retain or improve the quality of the tea produced.

In spite of the radical importance of the subject, differences in practice are very great. Doubtless this largely arises from the fact that many planters in the early days, and some later, failed to study scientific principles, and for the most part contented themselves with practical experiments. It will be readily understood that differences in practice must exist, but, as is said in the *Ledger* before us, the principles underlying every system are the same. These principles should



be studied and understood, and the practical hints given may at least serve as a basis for individual experiments in various districts. It is impossible to summarise the authors' suggestions here; our object is simply to call special attention to them so that planters may obtain for themselves copies of the *Agricultural Ledger*, 1 of 1903, and study what is stated therein. They will find the treatment of the young plant discussed. Of these it is said, not only should the first pruning be as low as possible, it should also be as early as possible. "In our opinion, it should, under no circumstances, except perhaps in filling in vacancies, be deferred beyond two years from the date of germination. It would even be better if made at an earlier date so as to ensure that the stunted stem thereby produced may contain in, say, 9 inches, all the buds (possible originators of branches) of a much greater abrogation of the three years' seedling." The second pruning is the most difficult point in the pruning of a young tea bush. Alternative schemes are referred to, and it is observed that local conditions will have a great deal to do in deciding the exact point at which this critical second pruning should be made.

As regards the pruning of mature bushes, a good deal is said about bad pruning, as a warning to avoid obviously undesirable methods. In a summary, it is said that the annual pruning should remove all dead branches, gnarled twigs, and crows-foot clumps of imperfectly formed shoots, snags which are seen to have little chance of healing over, 'trailing' branches at the outside of the bush; the last year's horizontal shoots at the outside of the bushes should be headed back to induce them to throw out vertical shoots; all small twiggy shoots throughout the bush which will never give strong, healthy yielding material for the next year should be removed, being cut right back to the stem from which they arise, or pulled out. In addition, it is remarked, the amount of new wood should be as little as possible consistent with this containing one bud—dormant or otherwise—and, if possible, the same length should be left on each pruned shoot throughout the bush. Heavy pruning and collar pruning are also discussed; and the authors conclude as they began by dwelling on the importance of pruning. They even suggest that it would be true economy to spend more money on pruning than is usually spent at present. There is a great deal of pith in the remark that "the unit of consideration should be the bush and not the plot, and each bush should be pruned according to its own wants as nearly as can be done under the peculiar conditions of the tea industry." Prune systematically, scientifically, and symmetrically. Take care of the plants and the plots will take care of themselves. These are some of the chief lessons impressed upon tea-planters in the publication under notice.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**A Rumour about a Coffee Corner.**—A report from Rome that a group of English, Italian, and Brazilian capitalists are busily engaged in forming a trust to corner Brazilian coffee is ridiculed in *Mincing Lane*.

"But for how long?" was the question put by several leading firms of brokers and merchants to the representative of an evening contemporary who went to *Mincing Lane* for the purpose of learning how far a "corner" was practicable, or even possible.

"I will tell you," said a member of a leading firm, "that the whole thing is impossible, it could never be done. Coffee

is a luxury, not a necessary, and if prices were raised the holders of stock would be hard hit, and would have to sell out at a great loss."

"You might as well try to 'corner' sugar. In both cases the only result would be that people would not buy; they would do without it or use less, and then where would these speculators be?"

Another gentleman in the trade, with a large Continental house in addition to his London business, ridiculed the idea as impracticable.

"In the first place," he said, "the Italians and the Brazilians have not the money to do it, and I am sure no Englishman would be foolish enough to go into it."

"What of American capital behind the scenes?"

"No, no," laughingly. "If the American is in it he would want that fact heralded forth to the world. But you may rest assured it is not possible; the whole thing is out of the question. It should be clear to anyone that if the price of coffee is raised people would go without, and the market is at once dead."

\* \* \*

**Coffee Over-production.**—At the basis of all the trouble in the coffee market is, says the *Canadian Grocer*, the question of over-production. Until some means can be found to limit the supply, it seems as if the difficulty would be one of constant recurrence. The current crop is believed to be about 12,000,000 bags, and the next is estimated at from 14,000,000 to 15,000,000 bags. In the face of such huge production it seems improbable that any permanent advance can be made for some time.

At present the visible supply of the world shows a larger decrease than was anticipated. Political troubles in the principal countries of supply have been responsible for the holding back of a large quantity of mild coffees there. Some reports put this quantity at over 1,000,000 bags, while more conservative estimates name 600,000 to 800,000 bags.

During January the stocks of all kinds of coffee in European ports were increased by 180,000 bags, bringing the total up to 7,350,000 bags.

Having in mind the noticeable decrease in the estimated supply for February 1, it is not surprising that there has been a little upward movement. The rise, however, has been sensational in its nature, and should be regarded with caution. Best advices are not at all sanguine of any improvement in the situation.

\* \* \*

**Coffee in Venezuela.**—Coffee has been cultivated in Venezuela only since 1879, and yet it is now that much-talked-of country's chief commercial product. About 200,000 acres are under cultivation. Agriculture is the leading industry of the country, at least one-fifth of the population being engaged in it.

\* \* \*

The United States government statistics on the importation of coffee differ not a little, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, from those gathered and published by the Coffee Exchange of New York, which have such great value. Reducing the importations for the calendar year 1902 to bags of 132 pounds each we find the importations to have been 7,240,000 bags, approximately, while the arrivals of coffee into the United States as reported by the Exchange were 6,850,000 bags, a difference of 390,000 bags, not a small sum. In the same way we find a difference for the year 1901 of 360,000



bags and for 1900 of 330,000 bags, a rather steady factor. The Coffee Exchange, of course stands by its statistics and the explanation is that the national government includes in its importations all coffees in transit for export to Europe, which are in ignored by the Exchange in so far as they bear on coffee in relation to the United States.

\* \* \*

When coffee first came into general use in England, Sydney Smith said: "If you want to improve your understanding, drink coffee. Sir James Mackintosh said later: "The difference in men's intellects is due to the different quantities of coffee they drink."

\* \* \*

**January Coffee Movement in the United States.**—Last week, says the *American Grocer*, attention was called to the fact that the total imports of coffee into the United States for the calendar years 1901 and 1902 reached 2,027,293,101 pounds, or an annual average import of 1,013,646,550 pounds, thus making the United States a billion-pound coffee-consuming country.

The year 1903 opened upon deliveries much larger than for the same time in previous years. In Europe and the United States they reached a total of 1,407,123 bags, against 1,165,291 bags in January, 1902—an increase of 241,832 bags.

The world's visible supply, February 1, shows a decrease during January of 443,361 bags.

The receipts at Rio for the first seven months of the trade year 1902-03 were 2,794,000 bags; at Santos, 6,214,000 bags; at both ports, 9,008,000 bags, against 11,468,000 bags in 1901-02; 7,728,000 bags in 1900-01. During three previous semi-annual crop years the receipts for this period averaged 75 per cent. of the total crop. On this basis the total receipts for the year should be about 12,000,000 bags.

The following statement shows the January movement in detail:

Stocks, January 1, 1903—	Bags.	Bags.
United States ...	2,600,426	
Europe ...	7,168,149—	9,768,575
Receipts during January—		
United States ...	524,593	
Europe ...	961,069—	1,485,662
Total supply, February 1, 1903 ...		11,254,237
Less stocks, February 1, 1903—		
United States ...	2,500,241	
Europe ...	7,346,873—	9,847,114
Deliveries, January, 1903—		
United States ...	624,778	
Europe ...	782,345—	1,407,123
Deliveries, January, 1902 ...		1,165,291
Increase as compared with January, 1902 ...		241,832
Deliveries, July, 1902 ...		1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902 ...		1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902 ...		1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902 ...		1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902 ...		1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902 ...		1,183,298
Deliveries, January, 1903 ...		1,407,123
Total deliveries, seven months, 1902-03 ...		9,287,257
Total deliveries, seven months, 1902 ...		9,517,309
Total deliveries, seven months, 1901 ...		8,248,615
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902 ...		15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901 ...		14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly year, 1902-03 ...		1,293,055
Average deliveries, seven months, 1902-03 ...		1,326,751

The January sales of options were 532,500 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 4.15 cents for February; the highest, 5.25 cents for December.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 521,252 bags were Brazil and 103,526 bags of all other sorts. About 83.4 per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 16.6 per cent. of all other kinds.

\* \* \*

Arbuckle Bros. advanced their prices  $\frac{1}{2}$ @9 cents per pound net on their roast package coffee, "Ariosa" brand. The Woolson Spice Co. also made a similar advance, bringing its price to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound net for "Lion" brand.

\* \* \*

Opinions differ regarding the outturn of the present Brazil crop. Some in the trade express their views that the crop will not exceed 11,500,000 bags, while others figure on a 12,000,000-bag crop. The next crop is estimated at 14,000,000 to 15,000,000 bags.

\* \* \*

The political disturbances in Venezuela and Colombia are responsible for holding back about 800,000 bags at different shipping points. This coffee is ready to be transported when navigation is opened again.

\* \* \*

Notwithstanding the advance on roasted Brazil package coffee, says the *American Grocer*, prices for mild sorts remained unchanged, but the tone was firmer. The trade still claim that the market for the latter grades is too high compared with that for Santos sorts, thus business was still held in check. Jobbing lots of good Maracaibo were offered at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ @9 cents per pound, and Bogota at 11 cents up per pound, resulting in few sales, prices being still above the needs of buyers.

\* \* \*

The decrease in the visible supply of the world of fully 250,000 bags was due wholly to the shutting off of supplies of coffee from Venezuela.

\* \* \*

Coffee on the present basis of prices looks like a good purchase. The belief appears to be gaining ground, says the *American Grocer*, that the bottom of the market has been touched. Taking the actual position of the market, same is practically unchanged, and opinions of the leading merchants in the trade are that no healthy nor permanent rise in the market can come about until the knotty question of over-production is for once and ever settled, which looks a far way off.

\* \* \*

The coffee known as the Highland coffee of Sierra Leone, was introduced to the West Indies about six years ago, through the instrumentality of the Royal Gardens, Kew. It is quite distinct from either Arabian or Liberian coffee, and is admirably suited for cultivation from a sea-level up to an elevation of about 800 feet. The botanical name (*Coffea stenophylla*), that is "narrow-leaved coffee," is a good name, as by this character and its small, dark purple berries, it is readily distinguished from all other coffee. *Stenophylla* coffee has nowhere been more successful than under Mr. Hart's care at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Trinidad. It has grown there into tall, handsome bushes, 10 to 12 feet high, loaded with berries. It is singular that it has shown a marked tendency to be cross fertilised by Liberian coffee, so that in the second or third generation its original characters have almost entirely disappeared. If this coffee is desired to be kept distinct, it must therefore be cultivated away from other coffee plants.—*Barbados Agricultural News*.



## TEA NOTES.

**January Tea Transactions in New York.**—The tea transactions during January at the Custom House of the port of New York are reported to *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* by Auditor J. S. Knapp to have been as follows:—

	lbs.
Imported .....	6,523,630
Withdrawals for transportation ..	468,7713
Withdrawals for export .....	153,354
Withdrawals for consumption ..	54,147,091
Remaining in Warehouse at close of month ..	2,190,939

With the exception of 500 pounds all the imports for the month were entered for immediate consumption.

It is interesting to note in connection with the above table that while the imports were six and one-half million, the amount of tea passed by the tea examiner of the port during January was 12,110,882 pounds. Heretofore imports and the report of tea passed have been very nearly co-extensive, so that the report of the amount of tea passed indicated the amount of tea imported during the month. The amount of tea exported during January is surprisingly small in view of the reports of large export of tea to England, especially green tea.

**Withering and Fermentation.**—Mr. Mann, Scientific Officer of the Indian Tea Association, has issued the second part of his pamphlet on the ferment of the tea leaf, dealing chiefly with withering and fermentation.

For the present we can only say of this that, while acknowledging that his pamphlet is so far fragmentary, owing to the short time devoted to this work, the conclusion Mr. Mann has arrived at is—that the time required for making leaf chemically ready, for rolling is nearly independent of the time required to render it soft enough for that purpose. At a temperature of from 76 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit the time varies from 18 to 24 hours. The object should be to wither the leaf in that time. If it is withered too quickly artificially, the leaf is soft enough for rolling before being chemically ready; if too slowly, as on wet days, and when saturated with moisture, the leaf is chemically ready long before it is soft enough for rolling.

Mr. Mann lays stress on correct withering as an essential to a high quality of tea; and insists on the absolute cleanliness of everything during manufacture, especially during fermentation, suggesting the addition of a small quantity of salicylic acid to the fermenting leaf, to eliminate the effect of outside microbes, the salicylic being entirely driven off during firing, resulting in a corresponding improvement in the tea.

India and Ceylon teas are becoming more in favour with grocers, says the *American Grocer*, as the latter find these grades suitable for mixing purposes.

The stock of tea at New York on January 1, 1903, was about 60,000,000 pounds, and since the removal of the war tax it is said that fully 35,000,000 pounds have been delivered.

Owing to the high prices of low grades of India and Ceylon sorts, compared with China grades, and a steady demand for export from England for English Breakfast kinds, the stock of the latter will show a further large reduction.

This will shortly be felt here, and an advance in price will follow.

Owing to the satisfactory results obtained by mixing Formosa, Congou, and Foochow sorts, which blend, the grocer is marketing readily at a profitable price, these grades are much in demand, says the *American Grocer*. Jobbers are offering small lots at 19@19½ cents for Formosa, 8½ cents for Congou, and 13@13½ cents per pound for Foochow.

It is stated that the China qualities sell best in the East, and the Japan in the West, Formosa included in the China teas. The demand for India and Ceylon qualities is increasing, and is chiefly for the cheaper grades. In the New York market the proportion of green tea sold compared to black is 1 to 5.—*American Grocer*.

**Japan Tea in America.**—In a Commercial Review for the week ended January 29, the *San Francisco Weekly Commercial News* has the following:—

Concerning the tea market an importer says: "This season Japan tea has been very active and all offerings have been bought readily at the advance. The latest information from Japan states that any they have there is of very poor quality and very high in price, and consists of very small parcels. In their opinion the prices will be continued to next season; also, the natives predict that the first crop will be even higher than last year. This opinion seems to be founded on good ground. There is some satisfaction in the statement that, as this season has been profitable to the growers, they have been able to renew their plantation, which has been neglected some years, owing to lack of profits, and weather conditions being good there will be better quality of teas for next season."

During the month of January New York alone sent out 600,000 packages of tea into the country for distribution and the figures are significant testimony of the very ample business the tea men were called upon to execute and how well they have dispatched it. And the activity is still on, and no man can say with any positiveness when it will end. So for the prophecies have ended only in disappointment, as so many waiting traders have learned to their cost. But the future is a puzzle. On January 1, Government statistics tell us there were in warehouse 91,000,000 pounds of tea in the United States. Since then there have been added at least about 15,000,000 pounds by export, and subtracting from the sum total the monthly consumption of 6,000,000 pounds, leaves a total of 100,000,000 pounds on February 1. Although the imports have ceased to be as heavy as they were in January, they are still on a sufficiently heavy basis to warrant the belief that they will equal the consumption for the month, and so the quantity of tea on hand March 1 will be the same, 100,000,000 pounds. Four months from that date, minus the consumption during the time, the quantity of tea in the country will be 80,000,000 pounds, and that will be the surplus July 1, when the thoughts of the tea men will be on the new crop then being marketed.—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar*.

**Points of Importance in Advertising Tea.**—Always harp upon the cheapness of tea per cup when advertising, and show that it is so low in price, comparatively, that the temptation to use the beverage more freely ought to be ever present to Americans. The range in gallons of the usual infusion is from five to ten per pound. There are 16 cups of half-pint



capacity in a gallon, or 24 cups of one-third pint capacity. The average tea cup holds one-third of a pint or even less. Using one-third pint as the unit we find that the pound of strong full-flavoured tea yields 240 cups, while the mildest kind of tea yields 120 cups to the pound. As infused in the household it is highly probable that no kind of tea ever yields as small a quantity of infusion as 120 cups, and it is quite likely that the stronger kinds sometimes yield more than 240 cups, that is, ten gallons, to the pound.—*Merchants' Review*.

\* \* \*

We are pleased to hear, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, that the proposed National Association of tea men is about to be born and that in about a month, and perhaps sooner, the birth will be proclaimed with all the details, officers, purposes, scope and the rest. The matter has been a long time springing from the brain of Jove (Minerva like) but if the foundation and expanse of the Association shall stand all the more thorough and comprehensive on that account the delay will have been worth while. It is after all not a small task to bring the tea men of so large a nation as is ours together, and then not a few wanted to know just what they were doing in consenting to father the Association. We have it that some 160 leading tea firms in the United States are the charter members and nothing stronger and more imposing could have been wished. That certainly should be a guarantee of permanency, and we have seen the list of officers as proposed and offered for confirmation to the members. It is such that no one can doubt the efficiency of the management and that the special purposes of the Association, the support of the present tea laws and their improvement together with needed reforms in freight rates and other general matters, will be attended to with a force that will mean results. In due time it will all be known and meantime let everybody get ready to say "Hail!"

### NOTES.

#### Java Quinine.

The result of the tender held on February 27 at Batavia is as follows: Of 2,145 kilos. Ed. II., 1,660 kilos. were sold at an average of 18fl. per kilo. (about equal to 6¾c. Amsterdam unit), against 17.30fl. per kilo at the previous auction.

#### Java Cinchona.

The exports from Java during February were 655,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 455,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year, and 727,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901. Total for the two months is 1,242,000, against 1,430,000, and 1,727,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1902 and 1901 respectively.

#### China's Tea Exports.

Messrs. Siemssen & Co.'s Market Report dated Honkong, February 27, states:—

	1902-1903.	1901-1902.
	lbs.	lbs.
To England ...	16,486,885	19,124,479
„ The Continent ...	6,842,611	6,584,664
„ Russia ...	25,638,813	30,061,051
„ America ...	57,460,418	36,097,449
„ Australia ...	1,138,697	2,036,969
„ South Africa ...	1,016,423	1,741,639
Total lbs ...	108,583,047	95,646,251

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 13th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes as well as for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is also steady, while the market for Pekoes for price is easier. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 7½d. (¼d. down). The average for the same period last year was 7d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is quieter, and that Broken Pekoes are rather irregular, while Pekoe Souchongs are steady. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 6½d. (same as last week), and the average for the week is 7½d. the same as last week). 22,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 19,000 disposed of; while of the 35,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 25,000 were sold at an average of 8¼d. (the same as last week).

#### Rhea Cultivation.

Mr. H. D. Christian writes from Monghyr to the *Englishman*:— In your dāk edition of the 9th instant your Behar correspondent refers to a writer in a contemporary who mentions a simple hand machine for decorticating rhea. I should like to be placed in communication with the writer, as I quite agree with him that the present system of decortication is wasteful and extravagant. I should like to mention here the outturn of rhea obtained by me. Out of about 20 acres of plant I set apart an acre-and-a-half; the plant being in its third year, and the soil and plant of an average quality. The plant stripped of its leaves (which were left in the field) weighed out per acre as follows:—

	Mds. per Acre.
1st Cutting February, 1902	35
2nd „ May, 1902 ...	30
3rd „ July, 1902 ...	69
4th „ August, 1902	106
5th „ October, 1902	105
Total ...	345

The outturn of dry fibre with the experimental Faure decorticator was 9 maunds, or at the rate of 2½ per cent. This gives one ton of dry fibre to three acres. The outturn will increase as the plant thickens, and the machine can be improved; but under fair average conditions, and taking good and bad years, together, I do not think that we should calculate on more than half-a-ton of dry fibre to the acre.

#### Java Government Cinchona.

The report of the Java Government cinchona-plantations, for the third quarter of 1902, states that the period under review was characterised by extreme drought, such as had not been known since 1891. In most districts the rainfall was less than 2 inches, as compared with an average of about 11 inches during the corresponding quarter of the last five years. Although the drought has a very favourable effect on the plantations which have already reached the productive stage, the reverse was the case with the young plantations, where a large proportion of plants died in consequence of the drought. Contrary to the experience of the last few quarters, labour was very abundant during the period under review, a fact which is attributed to the effect of the great drought on agricultural labour generally. The consignments of bark from the plantations have been exceptionally large; at the end of the September quarter they



amounted to over 1,000 tons for the three months, against about 400 tons for the preceding six months, and a further quantity of about 250 tons was ready on September 30 to be forwarded to the Bandong quinine-works. Of the above-mentioned 1,000 tons, 239 tons were consigned to the Bandong factory, as the Government suspended shipments to Europe when, in the course of the Summer, the quotations declined more and more, in consequence of over-production by the private planters.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Although, as our readers are aware, even amongst producers themselves there has been a diversity of opinion about the advantages to the tea industry of the Tea Cess Bill just introduced to the Indian Legislative Council, it must be admitted that the supporters of the Bill can produce a strong array of facts in its favour. The example of Ceylon is the most striking. In 1896 foreign markets took  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the Indian crop, as compared with  $21\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the Ceylon crop; in 1900 17 per cent. of the former, as against 33 per cent. of the latter; and in 1901 18 per cent. of the India crop, as against 40 per cent. of the Ceylon crop. Apart from percentages, which may be misleading, the exports of Indian tea in 1902 to markets outside the United Kingdom, according to statistics published the other day, amounted to  $41\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds, in round figures, as against about  $64\frac{1}{2}$  millions of Ceylon tea. The extraordinary increase in the demand for Ceylon teas in markets other than the United Kingdom is attributed mainly to the money spent out of the Ceylon tea cess in introducing the tea to foreign markets. The necessity for the imitation of Ceylon methods in promoting an overseas demand for Indian tea arises, according to Sir Montague Turner, from the circumstance that the production of tea in India has outrun the demand for the time being, though the industry "is a sound one." Fresh markets, it is urged, must be found; and the best way of securing them is "to force Indian tea on the notice of foreign consumers." At every exhibition abroad Indian tea must be much in evidence; and there must be a multiplication of agencies in countries where the demand promises to be good. When once a footing has been gained in any market special efforts must be made to stimulate local consumption and to place the tea within easy reach of the new customers. In the United States, for example, a regular campaign should be undertaken, and the forthcoming St. Louis Exhibition should receive extraordinary attention. The export duty, or cess, will provide an assured annual income for this purpose, the tax being collected by the Indian Government for the use of the Tea Cess Committee. The operation of the Bill is at present limited to five years, but—it is remarked by an Indian authority—"it will be very surprising if the results obtained do not justify its continuance at the end of that period."

The Chairman of the Mazawattee Tea Company, like some other sanguine people interested in tea, is hopeful that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be in a position to take off the extra duty on tea imposed in 1900, when he introduces his next Budget. Tea is certainly much more entitled to relief than some of the other commodities whose vendors are clamouring for reduced taxation; but justice does not necessarily govern these matters.

According to the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Treasury Department, the value of the tea imported into the United States was 14,570,285dols. in 1902, 8,744,190dols. in 1901, and 11,783,317dols. in 1900. The exports of tea during 1902 amounted to 924,544 lbs., making the net imports 107,822,920 lbs. The Chinese imports were 50 per cent. of the total, and Japanese 32.1 per cent. The imports for December, 1902 were 16,479,579 lbs., against 7,565,451 lbs. for December, 1901.

They know how to push coffee in America, where the consumption of the berry seems to be regarded as a public duty. An American journal recently issued the following statement on

the subject:—"The United States 1902 coffee imports were 955,283,919 lbs., against 1,072,009,182 lbs. in 1901; grand total for two years, 2,027,293,101 lbs., or an average import of 1,013,646,550 lbs. Since 1894 the imports have more than doubled, and the *per capita* consumption increased 4 lbs. This is a notable gain, and is larger than that made by any other article used as a beverage. It is a mild and agreeable stimulant, less harmful than beer or other alcoholic beverage; more pleasing to the palate of most folk than tea, and obtainable at surprisingly low cost. It sells at retail from 10 to 40 cents per lb.; a highly meritorious roasted article being obtainable from 20 to 25 cents per lb. It is, or ought to be, a profit-making article for the retailer. If he cannot get a 25 to 40 per cent. profit out of coffee, he lacks proper knowledge of his calling. Coffee will bring up the average profit better than any other article the grocer handles, because it is a ready and constant seller, and, if good, makes trade and cements the relation between the dealer and his customer. It pays to make the coffee department very prominent. Talk coffee, serve coffee, advertise coffee, drink coffee." After quoting statistics the writer goes on to say:—"Think of it. A trifle over eight-tenths of all coffee consumed comes from the Republic of Brazil, and only 2.2 per cent. from the East Indies, and yet Java coffee is universally sold. South America, Central America, and Mexico combined furnish 14.7 per cent. of the total. The Western Continent grows nearly 95 per cent. of the coffee consumed in the United States. Brazil has more than quadrupled its production since 1880. Plantations are still being extended in spite of low prices, so that cheap coffee is certain for several years ahead unless some great disaster strikes the industry."

The *Daily News*, quoting the current issue of *India* calls attention to the Planters' Labour Bill, now being considered by the Madras Legislative Council. *India* declares that this measure "might more truly be called the Madras Slavery Regulation Bill," and that it will be a public scandal if it is allowed to become law; and the *Daily News* thinks that while the question of forced labour in South Africa is under discussion the Madras Bill should be given a share of attention.

### A TALK ON TEA.

It is a pleasant thing, says the *Grocer*, to see a grocer's window smartly dressed with samples and showbowls of tea, and in anyone connected with the trade such a sight generally arouses a feeling of admiration. But how rarely are such efforts to win back the tea trade shown by the one-shop and two-shop tradesmen of to-day! Yet it is not easy to blame them; there are excuses for this want of interest. The truth is that the retail tea trade has been so exploited, and in such a variety of ways, that numerous grocers have grown indifferent about the cultivation of a tea trade. It is too large an order. They find it better business to push groceries and even brushes and hardware. If a customer wants tea they are content to sell a packet of an advertised proprietary article for a very small profit. The result often is that such tradesmen, though competent in every other branch of the business, have little or no knowledge about tea. As an instance showing how ill-informed some grocers are on the subject, a grocer said, in all seriousness, last September, "I suppose now is the time for Autumnal teas"—imagining that the Autumn of the tea gardens was the same as the Autumn of the English harvest field.

Nevertheless, we are well aware that there is in this country a multitude of one-shop and two-shop grocers for whom the tea trade has a fascination, and for whom it provides profit as well as pleasure. Most of this esteemed multitude are lately aware that tea is dearer, but that it is mostly in the kinds used for blends retailed from 1s. 2d., 1s. 4d., and 1s. 6d. that the advance is so marked. From the lowest point about three months ago there has been a gradual and well-maintained improvement in prices, until at last the position has become one that calls for careful watchfulness on the part of those shopkeepers who have a jealous regard for this branch of their business. There is no need to discuss the causes of the rise, or to trouble about the probabilities of the future; such matters may be best left to the speculators and statisticians. But the fact is that teas bought at the beginning of November are difficult to match at from 1d. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. more money. We say difficult advisedly, because there are now more faulty teas about, hence the need for care



on the retailer's part. He must see that his blends are kept up to the mark, for it is there that the real danger lies. Obviously the wholesaler cannot keep on supplying the same quality at the same price, with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. rise, unless he be in the fortunate position of having laid in a huge stock when prices were easy, and is generous enough to give his customers the benefit of his capital judgment and foresight. The wise wholesaler knows quite well that his and the retailers' interests are pretty much the same, and that loss of retail customers is bad for both; and there are plenty of successful grocers who have placed the supply of their tea in the hands of reputable firms with results eminently satisfactory to both. Nevertheless, it is essential that the shopkeeper should know exactly how things are going on, and if an advance or a fall takes place it is best that the differences in price should be arranged rather than the quality should be let down.

To some it may seem superfluous to point this out, but a case in point may explain. A young grocer who had two shops had a nice tea trade, but no technical knowledge of tea. Having tremendous faith in a firm that had for a time supplied him, he never troubled about rises or falls in the market, and the *Grocer* market report was unknown to him. Although he did at times test the blends he was receiving, he did not do so with the regularity that is necessary. He felt it well-nigh impossible that the firm could break faith with him, and simply kept on repeating his orders at the same price. Before very long there came a big rise—one of those excited times when telephone and telegraph are in constant request by the wholesale tea trade, and when travellers get big orders that cannot be executed. It was just in one of those times of inflated prices when this particular grocer—and he was probably not alone—found that his customers were bringing back his tea. They could not drink it; their complaints were loud and very uncomplimentary; there were comparisons with “hedge-pickings” and “poison.” And, in simple truth, the tea was rubbish. This happened some years ago, but we know of recent cases very similar. In most of them the grocers had not chosen firms of the best repute. In the particular case we have mentioned the grocer thoroughly realised the seriousness of the matter, and he recovered most of his tea trade, but it was only by tremendous effort and monetary loss. The lesson, though costly, was not without good results. “Sweet are the uses of adversity,” but better still if we can understand the “uses” without having the “adversity.”

### TEA AND SUGAR DUTIES.

The reassembling of Parliament this week very sensibly awakens an interest in commercial men, and in the City of London it is, says the *Grocer* of 21st ultimo, pregnant with meaning and significance, for on what Parliament may or may not do in framing the financial estimates for the year 1903, largely depend the prospects and condition of two of the largest trades in the United Kingdom, viz., tea and sugar. Both, as duty-paying articles, are liable, in case of necessity, to further imposts at the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But it is taken for granted that measures of this sort are not at present in contemplation, and therefore no uneasiness need be felt on that point. It is more in reference to what portion of the duties on either one or both of these commodities is likely to be reduced or removed that leaders in the tea and sugar trades are chiefly concerned; and on whatever grounds their expectations may be based, whether there is a warranty for the supposition or not, it is none the less true that certain sections of the tea and sugar centres are so modifying their business arrangements, in view of the approaching time for the delivery of the annual Budget, that the several markets already begin to wear a rather anxious appearance.

Operators in the tea trade naturally think that they ought to be relieved of part at least of the Customs' duty before anybody else, and have been inclined to abstain from clearing stocks out of bond faster than was necessary, so as to be in a better position to enjoy the full advantage of a reduction in the impost, should such a proposal be made and carried through. The actual state of the market for tea at the moment is so peculiar as to be almost beyond influences of a fiscal nature, and the change that has come over it within the last fortnight has created quite a surprise. Attributable in the first instance to the shortening of the supplies immediately on offer, by importers restricting the number of invoices to be catalogued for public sale every week for a long while past, the dealers and others have not been overburdened with unmanageable

duty-paid stocks as they were at this period last year. The consequence has been a great strengthening of the market, as time and opportunity have been given for all surplus quantities in the hands of the trade to be worked off; and as the principal blenders have again entered the market to renew their purchases and replenish stocks, a fresh and stronger stimulus has been imparted to the upward move of late, which has become so marked this week that prices for the common qualities have advanced fully  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.—a rally in no way connected with the question of the lowering or raising of the duty on tea.

As to sugar the conclusion is much the same though arrived at by a different course. In the first place nobody has the remotest idea of there being an increase in the duties; whilst with respect to a removal of the imposts on sugar that is equally improbable, because it has been hinted more than once that the duties have “come to stay.” In considering whether any remission of duty might be granted without injuring the revenue, the trade have only to be reminded that such a step would be scarcely politic directly the stipulations agreed to at the Brussels Conference have been ratified, and few or none are sanguine enough to believe that there is a possibility of the whole scale of duties being re-adjusted to adapt them to the needs of individual interests. That being so, the sugar trade, as if the question of duties did not enter into their calculations for the future, are content to sit idle, so to speak, having no expressed desire to act otherwise after the sharp lesson they received a year ago. A majority of the refiners and grocers, who had been confidently anticipating some addition to the sugar tariff, then acted by storing up in every available space heavy stocks of the raw as well as of the refined article, and when it became known that the duties were passed over and renewed for another year, demoralisation seized the trade throughout, and it was not until about six months afterwards, when old duty-paid stocks were nearly all absorbed, that the market began to show symptoms of recovery. Then quotations were forced down to a point so abnormally low that a rebound seemed inevitable, and when it followed and had spent itself another calm returned similar to that existing now. In every particular the outlook for both sugar and tea is healthier than it was early in 1902, and so far from benefiting the trades at large, the smallest alterations in or tampering of the duties on these articles of daily use would, for a season, involve them in perplexity and doubt without affording adequate compensation or evoking universal thanks.

### HEVEA IN MALAYSIA.

REPORT ON SAMPLES OF RUBBER EXTRACTED FROM HEVEA BRASILIENSIS IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, NATIVE STATES.—No. 432.

Downing Street, December 31st, 1902.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you for your information and for communication to Mr. Stanley Arden, Superintendent of Experimental Plantations, the papers noted in the subjoined schedule.—I have, etc.,

(Signed) ONSLOW,  
for Secretary of State.

(Copy.)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, December 24th, 1902.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that I have received from Mr. Stanley Arden, Superintendent of Experimental Plantations in the Federated Malay States, series of samples of Pará rubber coagulated by various methods, with a request that I would obtain a commercial report upon the results. A copy of the brokers' report is enclosed. Without entering into unnecessary details it is sufficient to notice that Nos. 1 and 6 were naturally coagulated; No. 2 was coagulated by the addition of acetic acid; No. 7 was “scrap rubber” collected off the tree; the remaining samples were coagulated by various mineral acids. It is quite clear from the brokers' report that natural coagulation affords the best results and that the only admissible artificial coagulating agent is acetic acid. The point, however, which it is important to notice, is that Pará rubber can be produced in the Straits Settlements from ten years old trees, which is worth eightpence a pound more than the best



equivalent Brazilian product. I may be permitted to feel some satisfaction at this result seeing that the trees which have furnished the rubber now reported on are the descendants of those transmitted from Kew to the Straits Settlements in 1877; these were part of the first consignment of Pará rubber trees to the tropics of the Old World. I have no doubt that the Straits Settlements is now in possession of a new and important cultural industry. The facts stated above are therefore of sufficient importance to bring under the notice of the Secretary of State and to be placed on permanent record. Mr. Chamberlain will no doubt cause them to be communicated to Mr. Stanley Arden, in official course.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) W. T. THISELTON-DYER.

MESSRS. HECHT, LEVIS AND KAHN TO ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.  
36, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. December 19th, 1902.

DEAR SIR,—We have examined the samples of Pará rubber from Selangor which you submitted to us. We are of course not chemists, and can only judge the rubber from its elasticity, strength and freedom from dirt. With ordinary Hard Cure Fine Pará worth to-day 3s. 8d. per lb., we should estimate the value of your samples as follows:

No. 1 about 4s. 4d. per lb. Nos. 2 and 6 about 4s. 3d. per lb. No. 5 about 4s. 2d. per lb. No. 4 about 4s. 1d. per lb. No. 3 about 4s. per lb. No. 7 about 3s. 4d. per lb.

Numbers 3 and 4 are decidedly weaker than the others, and on the whole we think the less acid used in coagulation the better. Sample No. 1, coagulated without acid at all, is certainly the best of the lot.—We remain, etc.,

HECHT, LEVIS AND KAHN.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

Although business has not been quite as brisk this week, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 21st ultimo, there has been a fairly good demand. The auctions, which have contained little beyond Costa Rica and East India, have shown an increasing widening of prices according to quality; the lower grades, following the terminal market, have lost the advance which took place at the end of last week, while the few parcels of really choice quality attracted considerable competition and are decidedly dearer. These latter have realised rates quite equal to, and in some cases higher, than those obtained last year. Such prices can only be warranted upon the assumption that the quantity of fine will be below the average, a question which it is as yet too early to decide, for there are still most of the best marks of Costa Rica and East India to arrive, and as many of those already received have shown an improvement upon last year, it may be expected that there is yet much fine coffee to come. In the terminal market the heavy receipts have had a depressing effect, which even the repeated rumour of a destruction of 20 per cent. of the Santos crop could not overcome, and quotations after being 1s. dearer close about 9d. under last week.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—A large business has been transacted at a general rise in values, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 21st ultimo, and the closing auctions point to a further upward movement. Teas from 7d. downwards have been the kinds most keenly competed for, and show a rise of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on last week's rates, while only a very limited quantity is available under 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. With a continuance of the moderate offerings at the public sales, it is by no means probable that the highest point has been reached, although a comparison of the prices of the lower grades now and in November show an advance of fully 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The buying has been more general, clearly indicating that the stocks held by the trade are comparatively moderate; and, although purchases may, on account of the increased values, be more or less of a hand-to-mouth character, the statistical position is favourable, at any rate to a steady strong market, for some time to come. As the Calcutta market is practically closed, it will be possible shortly to arrive at the actual output of the past season's crop. At present the shipments to Great Britain are about 7,000,000 lbs. short of the previous year; therefore, if the future imports should not exceed those for the same

period in 1902, this, coupled with the shortage in other growths, places tea on an exceptionally sound basis. At the public sales only 29,224 packages were offered, and the small proportion of 2,500 withdrawn.

CEYLON TEAS.—The quantity brought forward at the auctions on Tuesday was only moderate, and, with very strong competition, a marked rise took place in all descriptions. The lower grades of Whole Leaf were eagerly sought after, and Pekoe Souchongs and Pekoes up to 7d. showed an advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. on last week's quotations, while only a few lots of very ordinary quality sold under 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. The medium and finer kinds were also in good request, and sold at firm to higher rates. Broken Pekoes likewise attracted strong bidding, and it was difficult to follow recent purchases, most of the teas meeting with a ready sale at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. advance. At the public sales 20,670 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,400 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—The market is distinctly firmer for all kinds, more especially the lower qualities of Moning, which have advanced considerably. In some instances common Black Leaf teas are 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. higher than at the lowest point. Now that Indian and Ceylon teas for "price" have advanced so much, the trade generally are buying these Monings freely, the deliveries for last month being 1,000,000 lbs. in advance of the imports. As the whole stock of China tea in the country is now far smaller than for many years past, there seems to be every prospect of still higher prices in the near future.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—There is much more activity in the Caper market, and a better business is reported, especially among the lower grades. The stocks held are now getting into very small compass, and with only a limited quantity coming forward a firmer market is anticipated. The position of Green tea is unchanged, and the market remains very firm. At the public sales 852 packages of Green tea were offered, of which 160 were withdrawn; and 1,212 packages of Fancy tea were brought forward, 727 failing to pass the hammer.

### CEYLON TEA IN RUSSIA.

A CHAT WITH A RUSSIAN TEA MERCHANT.

Mr. A. N. Isgarischeff, of the well-known firm of Russian tea merchants, Popoff Brothers of Moscow, is now on a visit to Ceylon, and will spend a short time here before going over to China to visit the firm's business centres there. During a conversation with a representative of this paper on the subject of Ceylon tea in Russia, Mr. Isgarischeff said that he regretted to see that the quality of the Ceylon tea now offered in Russia was not good at all. Looking back to the time when the Ceylon product had just been introduced into the Russian market, and even up to a few years back, it was regrettable to note that the stuff now offered was altogether of inferior quality. In the first place the appearance of the leaf was not in its favour; there was plenty of broken leaf and dust forming more or less a mess, and when one looked into the infusion the extent to which the tea was mixed became apparent. The tea itself when brewed, he thought, did not answer requirements. It was not strong. What was wanted by the Russian people was a beverage of some strength which could be made lighter, if necessary, to suit the taste as required. If there was a good strong Ceylon tea put on the market it would do very well he thought. The fault at present lay, he believed, in the fermentation, when manufacturing the leaf here, but he could not go into details over it. There was no doubt that the consumption of tea in Russia was increasing to a great extent, but the price at present prevailing for teas was too high, while the exorbitant duty on tea of about 1s. 8d. per lb., of course, went a great way to keep up prices. He did not think there was any possibility of the duty being reduced. The grades that were most in demand were Orange Pekoes and Pekoes, but here again, in the case of Ceylon tea, the quality was not so good as one expected to get. Mr. Isgarischeff was sorry he had no figures to give our representative. He was just now busy grading and sampling teas at Messrs. Scherbachoff, Tchokoff & Co.'s and would be leaving for China after the Easter holidays. The China tea season would begin in May, and he would be visiting Hankow, Shanghai, and other places looking through the firm's business, and on his return to Russia would pass through Colombo again.—*Times of Ceylon*, March 14.



# TRAVANCORE TEA ESTATES COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary General Meeting of the Travancore Tea Estates Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company, 20, Eastcheap, E.C., on Wednesday, the 18th ultimo.

The Chair was occupied by Mr. W. Mackenzie, Chairman of the Company.

The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—

GENTLEMEN,—I presume, as has been our usual custom, you agree to accept the report and accounts as read. I need scarcely say it is exceedingly disappointing for my colleagues and myself to have to present you with such a depressing account of our affairs as is recorded in the report and balance-sheet which is in your hands. We had hoped at this time last year that the price of tea was likely to move upwards, but this did not take place, for Indian tea in 1902 fell one-sixth of a penny, while Ceylon tea remained stationary. The crops from both of these countries fell short of estimate, which was indeed fortunate, for had it been a favourable season for yielding there is but little doubt the market price of tea would have fallen still further. I scarcely think it needs any words from me to tell you what a very serious struggle the industry has been going through, but when I state the fact that in 1901 (the figures for 1902 are not yet published) the forty-five Indian Tea Companies registered in London, with a share capital of 9 millions sterling, paid no dividend whatever on 5½ millions of that capital and only 6 per cent. on the remaining 3½ millions, you will readily see how seriously affected the industry has been. With a lower price and less crop for 1902, the statement I have just made is perhaps sufficient to prove the correctness of the paragraph in our report when we state that the past year was the worst ever experienced by the tea industry.

To deal, however, with the more immediate affairs of this Company, you will note that we have still a large area, some 1,200 acres of young tea, yielding but little leaf (probably 150 lbs. per acre), which brings down our average yield over the 3,122 acres to 246 lbs. per acre. Under these conditions the cost of production is not so low as it will eventually be. Last year the cost laid down in London was 5½d. per lb., as against 5¼d. the previous year, and this year it is estimated at 5d., but when the estates are in full bearing we see no reason why this should not be brought down to 4¾d. per lb. or even lower. Such a low cost of production, and the natural increase in yield, as the bushes mature, would in themselves do a great deal for the Company, and we must look to a rise in prices to bring this Company to the dividend-paying stage.

Now, if you refer to the statement annexed to the report you will find that in 1898-9 our average price was 7.18d per lb., and previous to that considerably higher. Well, we have worked out as carefully as we possibly can an estimate of cost and yield for the next few years, beginning with the current year at a price for our teas of 6½d., and rising in three more years to 7d. per lb., surely a most moderate forecast, and we find that at the end of the current year, under these conditions, the debtor balance would be reduced to about £1,700, and next year, 1903-4, we will be able to pay arrears of pre-preference dividends. In 1904-5 we should be able to pay two-and-a-half years' arrears of Preference dividends. In 1905-6 three years' Preference arrears, and in 1906-7 the final arrears of Preference dividends with a surplus of £2,000.

I put this information before you to show you what we confidently believe will be the results if the price of tea gets back to the level it was before the years of over-production.

There can be no question I think that the bogey of over-production has at last been laid, and with no plantings of tea having been made for practically the last four years, taking into consideration the increased consumption of British-grown teas all over the world, it is difficult to see how the tea market can longer remain in the state it has for the last few years. But it is also on this question of the probable results of the near future that the carrying on of the Company by the shareholders depends. As you are aware, advances have been made to the Company for the development of the estates, amounting in the aggregate to £46,000, during the past few years, and these advances were secured to the lenders by the issue of debenture bonds to a like amount. By the terms of the loan re-payment falls to be made on September 30 next, and unless

this can be provided for in full, the estates can be taken over by the lenders to meet the Company's debt. The debentures, however, do not mature until September 30, 1910. Now we have to consider how this sum can be raised.

In the first place, when we have received from our manager his further estimates for expenditure and crops for future years, the cost of additional machinery required and other details, we will submit these to the shareholders worked out on the basis I have sketched out to you of our teas gradually rising to a price of 7d. per lb., and we will ask you with these figures before you to apply for these £46,000 debentures. I may here mention that the balance of the debentures is held by your manager in India and myself. We are perfectly satisfied the investment is a good one, as the amount of the debentures represents only £16 per acre, and with tea at 7d. per lb. the interest would be covered four-and-a-half times over. This is all I need say at present, but I sincerely trust you will see it is to your interest to aid the directors all you can in carrying on the Company by redeeming this loan.

With regard to the current year, I may say the estimate of the manager is for an output of 1,045,000 lbs., costing 5d. in London. Up to date we have sold 167,000 lbs. at an average price of 6½d. per lb., and the undoubted feeling throughout the whole of the tea trade is, that prices are likely to be a good deal firmer than they have been for some years.

I shall be very pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may desire to put, and I now beg to move that "the report and accounts for the year ending September 30, 1902, be, and hereby are, received and adopted."

Mr. H. K. Rutherford, in seconding the Resolution, remarked that as the Chairman had gone into the affairs of the Company very fully there was no need to add anything to what had been said. He fully endorsed everything the Chairman had said, and

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

*Record of 3 years' Exploration.*

BY CAPTAIN H. H. P. DEASY,

*With Appendices, Maps, 80 Illustrations.*

The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed, and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan

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APPLY TO—G. A. NATESAN & CO.,

[w. 21-2-03.]

ESPLANADE, MADRAS.



believed they could carry out the estimates that had been framed if the tea realised 7d. per lb.

In reply to questions from Mr. Anstruther, the Chairman stated that the Company's teas fetched the average price of Travancore teas; their lowest elevation was 2,500 feet, and tea grown at an elevation of 6,000 feet. only fetched slightly better prices. The Company now had five factories and ample motor power, but would, as crops increased, require more rollers and driers.

The Resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was then unanimously agreed to.

On the proposal of Mr. H. K. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. D. Reid, Mr. G. A. Talbot was re-elected a director of the Company.

Mr. Dangerfield proposed, and Mr. Haslam seconded, the reappointment of auditors.

The Resolution was agreed to.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors.

### A MEXICAN RUBBER-GROWER SPEAKS REGARDING PROFITS.

£15,000 A YEAR IN THE 7TH YEAR FROM 100,000 TREES.

Having planted and watched the growth of several hundred thousand trees for the past four years-and-a-half and having devoted much attention to the preparation of rubber in a series of experiments extending over the last three years, some marketable results I have obtained may be of interest to those who have taken up the rubber industry in Mexico. I may be permitted to state that my property is not in the market and that I can have no interest in deceiving myself. Two years ago, I sent a sample shipment of Mexican rubber prepared by myself from trees growing on the estate to the leading firm of rubber brokers in London, Messrs. Lewis & Peat. The rubber was valued at three shillings and nine pence, the best Pará being then four shillings and two pence per pound. The quality was reported as excellent. This—I was informed—was the first sample of good marketable rubber ever sent from Mexico to London. Last year, when in London, I had sent me from the plantation a sample of rubber from three-year-old trees. The trees were only very lightly tapped, but sufficient rubber was obtained to enable me to present a sample on which a quotation could be made. It was valued by the same firm of brokers at two shillings and eight pence, and pronounced thoroughly marketable. I do not present this as a precedent to be followed, but it is interesting as showing that even at the early stage of the tree's growth, clean and careful preparation will produce a rubber which commands a price considerably over that yielded by mature trees when ignorantly and slovenly handled. I am now sending off a large sample shipment of rubber to London, prepared by an improved method (my own) which I, perhaps conceitedly, believe to be the finest rubber ever sent out of Mexico, and which will, I have no doubt, fetch the highest price next to best Pará.

It is regrettable that statements should be irresponsibly made, disparaging an industry which will certainly become a source of wealth to those who give thought, care and patience to its development, by any one who has not studied its methods and is manifestly unacquainted with the principles which make for success. For my own part, I am more than satisfied with the growth and prospects of my own enterprise. Let us take the case of a man possessing a hundred thousand trees, and put the yield at the seventh year at one pound only—I believe this to be below what the result will actually be. Let us put the price of good, clean, sound rubber at three shillings per pound, which my brokers inform me it is quite safe to assume will be its value. The result would be £15,000 sterling—fifteen thousands pounds—for the first year, which would be doubled certainly by the ninth year, an income for which I, for one, am quite content to work and wait.

PUEBLA, MEXICO, January 4th.

GEORGE CULLEN PEARSON.

#### PROSPECTS.

Again:—The following is taken from the letter of a gentleman residing in Mexico who has no interest in rubber lands, and may be considered an impartial statement:—

I am in receipt of your favour of the 15th instant in which you ask me to give you the location of the various districts of sub-

tropical Mexico where conditions are favourable to the cultivation of rubber, and stating that you contemplate establishing a plantation if available land can be found where rubber would likely prove a profitable crop. The rubber tree is found growing wild in the forests which cover a strip of country ranging from ten to one hundred miles in width, and extending from the port of Tuxpan on the north to the western boundary of the State of Campeche, a distance of probably five hundred miles. There are probably more rubber trees to a given acreage of forest in the vicinity of Frontera, in the State of Tabasco, than elsewhere in the rubber-producing country of the Gulf Coast. Near Belize, on the east coast of Yucatan, rubber trees are abundant. Around Soconusco, on the west coast of Chiapas, and in the vicinity of Pochutla, State of Oaxaca, rubber plantations have been started. As rubber grows only on the moist low lands of the coast, the width of the rubber belt varies greatly. In places it follows the river valleys for a considerable distance inland, but, where the mountains approach the sea, it is narrowed to a few miles of country lying along the coast. Nearly all the rubber produced in this Republic is collected by the Indians from the wild trees growing in the forests.

The rubber tree matures at the age of six years. They should yield from 6 to 48 pounds of milk annually. In the coagulation of the milk there is a shrinkage of about 50 per cent., leaving from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of crude rubber, which is worth 50 to 80 cents per pound gold. The process of coagulating the milk is simple and inexpensive. The annual profit of a bearing plantation of 100 acres should not be less than \$8,000 Mexican money. However, up to the present time, the actual profitability of cultivated rubber is, in a measure, a matter of conjecture, as no one, to my knowledge, is yet making money from a bearing plantation in this Republic.

In the southern portion of the Republic, particularly in the rubber-producing districts of Chiapas and Tabasco, a large number of rubber trees are annually being killed by too frequent tapping by the Indians. This is causing a great decrease in the rubber production of the country.

Capitalists seeking profitable investment in Mexico are fully warranted in going into this subject scientifically. Something is already being done in an experimental way, and a few years should do a great deal toward demonstrating what results are obtainable from the systematic cultivation of the rubber tree in Mexico. There has been a constant increase in the consumption during the past few years. The annual exportation of Brazil has reached \$100,000,000. The Central American countries are also largely exporting this commodity. The price of rubber is also advancing. The United States alone consumes \$30,000,000 worth of rubber in the manufacture of bicycle tyres. It is my belief that the price of rubber will not materially decline. The increased use of electrical apparatus, the probable general adoption of rubber-tyred vehicles, the extended utilisation of rubber in the manufacture of belting, clothing, etc., will prevent any notable depreciation in the value of this commodity. A decline in price will be quickly followed by an increase in consumption.—*Modern Mexico* for February 1903.

### WHAT IS CHEAP TEA?

In the *Retail Grocers' Advocate* L. J. Callanan discusses cheap tea as follows:—

"What is cheap tea? It is the poorest leaf of the tea-plant, rarely, if ever, exported from China or the country where it is grown except by unscrupulous exporters, who purchase it at very low prices and ship it on speculation; it is rarely imported by reputable merchants, and its importation was the cause of the enactment of a law appointing a board of tea examiners, who select samples of teas for a standard, below which all teas arriving in this country are not permitted to be landed. This is good as far as it goes; keeping out teas which are so poor that they are only fit for bedding for hogs. I have had samples of teas submitted to me before the tea examiners were appointed that were not fit to be used even for that purpose; they stunk, yet they were imported into and distributed throughout this country, and presumably consumed in it. The standard fixed by the examiners is too low; it barely passes the mark. No tea costing less than fifteen cents per pound in the primary market should be allowed into this country, and if



I had my way I would make it higher. Let us see where the benefit comes to the consumer. A pound of good full-bodied, choice flavoured tea costing at retail fifty cents per pound, will make 225 to 250 cups of good tea, fit to drink, pleasing to the palate, and giving comfort and pleasure to the person using it. One pound of tea at thirty cents will make less than 175 to 200 cups—flavour weedy, body thin and watery—pleasing neither the party using it nor the party selling it. I cannot understand why people want to buy cheap tea when a cup of really good, healthy tea, which is a pleasure to drink, costs only one-fifth of a cent per cup; the tea bought at thirty cents costing about as much, and pleasing no one. All teas costing less than fifteen cents in the primary market should be prohibited in this country."

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, February 12, 1903.

All grades are at present more or less neglected locally, with the exception of Ceylon blacks, in which a fair trade has been doing. There is a little stronger tone to be noted in the Ceylon market. Jobbers report quite a little movement in green Ceylons. These seem to be taking the place of Japans, being similar in flavour and draw and selling at reasonable prices. Indications are that the prices of Indian teas, will be considerably higher before the opening of next season. At present there is a fight in progress between the holders and big buyers. The demand for Japans has improved within the past month, and the few teas in importers' hands would be quite insufficient to meet the demands until the arrival of the next crop, if the present rate of demand is maintained.

MONTREAL, February 12, 1903.

There have been few changes on the local market. The general tone is steady to firm. Low-grade Ceylons and Indians are a little higher. Green Ceylons are in fair request from 16c. up to 23c. for finest. Business in Japans has also brightened up a bit, and jobbers report a moderate inquiry for teas at 25c. per lb. There has been no change in the price of Japan teas, which are still very firm. A small distributing trade is reported in Ceylon blacks.

### SEEDS AND THEIR CULTIVATION.

#### PROCESS OF GERMINATION.

There is an interesting article in the current *Windsor Magazine* on "Seed testing," in which the writer points out that in the proving of seeds the great thing is to find out whether the seed has any life in it. There are all kinds of curiosities. Mangel seed will show 160 to 170 per cent. of growth, and sometimes as much as 200 per cent. That is to say, almost every seed will give two growths! Then, again, sample lots of pea and bean seeds, if soaked in water previously, will show germination or otherwise reveal themselves in about 48 hours; while, if not soaked, they will take at least four days. Celery, parsley, parsnip, and onion absolutely refuse to grow in a heated "germinator" such as coaxes the peas and beans into life, and therefore, they have to be tested apart in a cool glass case in the testing-house or "examination hall." Lettuce, mustard-and-cress, will germinate with extraordinary rapidity if soaked in water; but perhaps the most curious behaviour of all is that of the flower-seed known as portulaca, which is almost explosive in its energy, as germs of life will be visible in "candidates" in about two hours; oddly enough, the seed looks exactly like gunpowder! On the other hand, parsley seed is a slow and dull candidate at examinations, and 20 days at least must elapse before it shows any signs of life, and is allowed to "pass." Seeds of the rose, auricula, and violet, are also slow and very erratic in germination.

#### CARE IN TESTING.

In every case the seeds to be tested are counted, and a careful entry made of the date of the sowing. Then, as the germs appear their number is recorded. To prevent error, the trials are duplicated, and in the event of conflicting results, entirely repeated. The methods of testing are, of course, varied according to the characteristics of the seed; temperature and moisture are essentials,

and must be uniform night and day. With most seeds it is pretty easy to find the percentage of germination by artificial means; but then you must remember that the seed grower has to get this most valuable information during the waning days of Autumn, and in the low temperature of Winter, when natural forces are practically inactive. It is impossible to fix a hard-and-fast rule in connection with seed testing. Such a hardy subject as furze, for example, seldom or never yields so high a percentage of growth under glass as in the open ground. As to the trials, in many cases a pinch of seed is sprinkled on to a small sheet of soaking wet blotting-paper, and then put into the germinator. In a few hours, or in a day or two, a peep into the "ovens" will show that the seed in bulk is all right, for its representative has "passed its exam." A few days later quite a little garden has sprung up on the scrap of blotting-paper, the plants being two or three inches high, and with strong clinging roots thrown out all over the surface. The rigidity and vitality of the little plants is quite extraordinary as also is the grip they have of the blotting-paper. The writer has amused himself with quite a little blotting-paper garden of beet-root, turnips, and many other plants, tested and forced in the germinator, and these may be kept in a room in a saucer of water for many days after they come out. Not all seeds, however, go into the germinator, for many other varieties are tested in earth, and yet others in the open air where desirable and possible. During the various tests of seed, "inspectors" go round, precisely as they would in a big school of children, to see how the candidates are progressing, and to keep an eye on them generally. The candidates are—so to speak—awarded marks, and their behaviour praised or condemned according to their performance. Unremitting care and attention are lavished upon them, and finally they may be transplanted into the open air, where they pass their final "exam." with what may be truly termed "flying colours."

#### ABOUT THEIR VALUE.

You would think the burglar a dull creature who broke into a great seed-growing establishment and made off with sacks of flower seeds, but these may be worth many times their weight in gold. Many of the choicer strains are far too expensive to be treated in the ordinary way, and calceolaria seed is so minute that the actual cost of producing the finest strain exceeds ten times the weight of the seed in pure gold! The outlay in growing double begonia seed is so great that a liberal allowance for a five-shilling packet is measured in a tiny spoon with an outside diameter of three-sixteenths of an inch. And yet in that tiny spoonful there would be enough seed to produce more than one hundred stately begonia plants! Naturally such very minute and precious seed has to be handled with extreme care, and as a sudden draught from an open door would scatter perhaps £100 worth, the counters where these seeds are being packeted are closed to traffic, and so arranged that not a puff of wind can ever enter. The curiosities of flower seeds are almost incredible. Of aster seed alone there are no fewer than 185 varieties, including the different colours, and stocks are almost as numerous. Of sweet pea seeds you can have 100 varieties.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### TRAVANCORE.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Santhampara, Cardamom Hills, on 12th February, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. J. S. Sealy (Cardamom Hills Superintendent), Geo. E. Bewley, S. L. Robertson, K. E. Nicoll, H. M. Knight, *Chairman*, and J. J. Murphy, *Honorary Secretary*.

The notice calling the Meeting was read and the Minutes of the last Meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

The Chairman, in addressing the Meeting, said:—

"GENTLEMEN,—We are now entering upon our fourth year. During the past we have justified our existence and I trust we shall continue to do so. I regret the prospects for the new year are not brighter, the price now ruling for cardamoms is the lowest on record and the crop from these Hills on the current season 653,000 lbs. probably the highest.



"It is now a year since Dewan Bahadur K. Kristnaswamy Rao, C.I.E., visited these Hills and gladdened our hearts with promises of new roads, bridges, police, medical and anchal requirements and a staff of surveyors so badly needed but, although I feel certain that Government have not overlooked us, still so far nothing has been actually done.

"The cultivation of cardamoms has largely extended in S. India and I imagine that not less than 4,000 acres have been opened in the last four years by Europeans alone. In Ceylon, I gather from the report of the Rangalla Planters' Association of 28th January, 1903, that the cultivation has increased by 50 % during the last seven years and that the estimated output for this year is 650,000 lbs. off 8,621 acres. I don't think much reliance can be placed upon the statement made at that Meeting with regard to Travancore, viz. 'that there must be a good deal of bluff going on there regarding the cultivation of cardamoms as it is a poor country as regards yield at the best of times and very uncertain and will never give a high yield per acre.' I am told by a planter, who knows the cultivation of cardamoms both in Ceylon and Travancore, that our yields per acre are likely to far exceed those obtained in Ceylon.

"A scheme for exploiting the continent of Europe with cardamoms is on foot in Ceylon which I think we should support. I am glad the honour of G.C.I.E. has been conferred upon H. H. the Maharajah and our congratulations are heartily tendered.

"The Madras Labour Act has passed before a select Committee and will be brought before the Madras Council before the end of this month. I trust in its amended form it will be found to be of much use in Travancore. I welcome Mr. Sealy, the Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills, on his return from Home. We are all glad to see him again.

"I now place my resignation in your hands."

### Honorary Secretary's Annual Report.

**Membership.**—5 estates are on the roll of the Association. I regret that owing to delay in surveys it is impossible to say how many acres are represented.

**Finance.**—At the last Annual Meeting it was found necessary to ask for a donation of Rs.25 from each estate to wipe off the debt from previous year's working and I am pleased to say we start the new year with a credit balance of Rs.18-5-5 and there is some prospect of recovering a sum of Rs.75 previously written off as a bad debt.

**Roads and Bridges.**—After considerable delay we have at length been entrusted with the upkeep of the roads in the Santhampara division, but the money required for necessary deviations and revetments has not yet been granted. The Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills, Mr. Sealy, has asked Government to sanction four new outlet bridle paths into British Territory and it is hoped that work may soon be commenced on them. So far nothing has been done towards bridging the Kalaar and Santhampara rivers both of which are unfordable during monsoon weather.

**Medical.**—No dispensary has yet been established but the Cardamom Hills Superintendent, Mr. Sealy, in a recent letter wrote "I am glad you have called my attention to the dispensary . . . am strongly in favour of a dispensary at Udumonshola as it is more central than any other place and moreover the police station is there." The district is undoubtedly most unhealthy at certain seasons and medical aid is an urgent requirement.

**Post Office.**—During the year under review the deficiency in income of Thavarem Post Office over expenditure amounted to Rs. 49-4-0 and this, in accordance with the arrangement agreed on at last Meeting, has been paid by Satharangapara and Gudumpara estates through the Association.

**Surveys.**—A resident surveyor was appointed to the district about a year ago but is not able to get through all the work by himself and should be given an assistant. It also takes an unreasonably long time to obtain plans from the Head Office in Trevandrum after the district surveyor has sent in his field books. I now tender my resignation.

(Signed) J. J. MURPHY.

Mr. Robertson moved that report be passed.

Seconded by Mr. Bewley and carried.

**Roads and Bridges.**—Proposed by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Nicoll, "that Government be asked to allow an upkeep grant for the road from Pambadampara to Ramakal.—Carried.

It was proposed by the Chairman and carried *nem. con.*, "that Rs.150 be asked from Government for putting revetments in order from Paniyar Bridge to Nundar."

**Outlet Roads.**—Mr. Sealy said that the sum asked for tracing and cutting four new outlet bridle paths would probably be granted. Mr. Murphy called attention to the necessity of a road from Perambukutti or Kutheri Panjan and Mr. Sealy said he saw no objection to the trace being made from there instead of from Thavarem Mettu.

**Post Office.**—It was resolved, that the present arrangement with regard to Thavarem Post Office be continued and that the Postmaster-General be asked to establish a Post Office near the Paniyar Bridge.

**Shooting on the Cardamom Hills.**—This subject having been fully discussed in Committee, the Chairman proposed "that the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Sealy, Superintendent, Cardamom Hills." This was agreed to and Mr. Sealy said that he would give the subject (fully explained to him) his best consideration.

**Exploitation Scheme.**—It was proposed by Mr. Nicoll and seconded by Mr. Murphy, "that owing to the decrease in price and probable large increase in production of cardamoms co-operation with Ceylon for the purpose of finding new markets is advisable." To discuss this, the Meeting went into Committee and it was decided to let the matter stand over till our next Meeting.

**Subscriptions.**—Proposed by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Bewley, "that estates subscribing to this Association shall pay on all cultivated land belonging to them within the Cardamom Reserve and that subscriptions for the current year be fixed at Rs.5 per 100 acres, over 50 acres to count as 100."—Carried *nem. con.*

Election of officers resulted as follows:—

Chairman ... Mr. H. M. Knight.

Honorary Secretary ... Mr. J. J. Murphy.

Committee ... Messrs. S. L. Robertson, Geo. E. Bewley, and A. B. Milne

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

H. M. KNIGHT,

Chairman.

J. J. MURPHY,

Honorary Secretary.

### UNCLAIMED TREASURES.

There is no lack of treasures in the world; the trouble is that they are all claimed: or if indeed there be any unclaimed (and surely there must be some such), they are so difficult to find that for the rank and file of mankind they might as well be among the claimed treasures, or not exist at all. That was a delightful compliment which Charles Reade paid to old maids when he called them unclaimed treasures. Because a thing is unclaimed or rejected by no means implies its worthlessness. A goodly proportion of the masterpieces of literature have been rejected by publishers, Thackeray's incomparable *Vainety Fair* among the number. The only positive proof of anything being a treasure is its having stood the time test. For thousands of years gold has everywhere been regarded as valuable, and people never seemed less inclined to go back on that opinion than they do to-day. For thirty-four years Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup has been the most popular medicine. Not a year passes without a large extension of its sales, nor a day without voluntary testimony as to its power for good. It is a treasure, but by no means an unclaimed one. On the contrary, it is claimed as the family medicine in six hundred thousand (600,000) British homes. There is no matter for wonder in these figures, great as they are when the benefit which it confers is more often than not fully as great as that described in the following legally sworn declaration:—

"I, John Boddy Mintoft, of Nunnington, in the county of Yorkshire, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

"That in spite of skilled medical aid I was for many years a martyr to indigestion and a strangely disordered stomach, and that had it not been for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup I doubt whether I should be alive to-day. For a year or two before I broke down, I never knew what it was to have a day's good health. I was always ailing. The least exertion tired me, and I felt drowsy, despondent, and miserable. Ordinarily, I had a very good appetite, but just then my food began to disagree with me, and I felt uncomfortable after it. There was a fulness and distention of the stomach that seemed to affect the heart. My breath was very



short. Finally, a pain settled in the chest and under the left shoulder. I ought to have attended to it at once; but unfortunately neglected to do so, consequently the disease developed. I had always an unpleasant taste in the mouth and my tongue was dry and parched. My appetite, hitherto good, was now very poor, and after forcing myself to eat I often had violent pains in the stomach, and used to break out into a cold perspiration, feeling so chilled that I shivered from head to foot. My condition becoming so serious, I consulted a doctor; but in spite of all he did for me I grew worse, and at the end of six weeks was advised to go into a hospital at York. There I was treated with great kindness, but I think my case must have puzzled the doctors for, after detaining me eleven weeks, they sent me away uncured. Then began the most painful period of my illness. When I got home my mother was shocked at my appearance. She has since said that she believed I had come home to die. I was troubled with obstinate constipation, my sleep was broken, and when I lay awake it seemed as if the bed were sinking under me. Night sweats robbed me of the little strength I had left, and I was soon so weak that I could scarcely walk across the room. To go upstairs, I had to crawl on my hands and knees, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that I got down to the sofa again next day. Thus I was for three years a confirmed invalid. Meanwhile, I had seen a specialist whose treatment seemed to do me good at first; but in the end I found myself as bad as ever. Almost in despair, and as a last resource, I tried Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Ah, if only I had tried it before! I began to mend as soon as I had taken half of the first bottle. My appetite improved, slightly it is true, but what I ate agreed with me. The night sweats ceased, and gradually strength returned, so that by the aid of a walking stick I could get about. My convalescence was a long one, but by persevering with the Syrup, all the bad symptoms left me, and I was able to resume my work again. My present employment is a very arduous one, compelling me to expose myself to all kinds of weather; still, I feel none the worse for it. Believing that it may benefit some other sufferer, I regard it as my duty to make these facts known. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true. By virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act of 1835 (William IV. c. 62). Declared at Malton, in the county of Yorkshire, the 6th of May, 1902, by John Boddy Mintoft, before Arthur L. C. Russell, a Commissioner for Oaths."

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of February 27th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The London Commercial Record says:—Fairly liberal supplies have been brought to the hammer during the past week, and although the market is without activity, the bulk was disposed of. The quality of the greater proportion of the East India continues unattractive, and it has been difficult to effect sales even at a further decline of 1s per cwt., but the few fine parcels sold with good competition at full prices. Ordinary to good ordinary Jamaica is rather easier, but fine ordinary is steady. Colory Costa Rica continues to command very firm rates, but the less desirable grades are 1s per cwt. cheaper. Other Central American descriptions have been in limited supply, and are barely steady. Santos somewhat irregular. The market for Brazil "futures" has been irregular and generally lower, the depressing factor being large receipts; at the close a recovery took place, and we finish without change for the week, but other countries are rather easier; yesterday Santos for March delivery sold at 26s 6d to 26s 10½d, May at 27s 4½d to 27s 7½d, July at 28s, September at 28s 6d to 28s 10½d, and December at 29s 4½d to 29s 6d per cwt.

London	...	Santos	...	May delivery	...	27s 9d.
New York	...	No. 7 Rio	...	"	...	4'60 cents.
Hamburg	...	Santos	...	"	...	27¾ pf.
Havre	...	Santos	...	"	...	33½ francs.

The auctions to-day went off with fair demand at steady prices for all qualities. Catalogues for auction to-day comprised:—83 bags East India, 190 bags 54 barrels Jamaica, 20 bags Peruvian, 75 bags Java, 42 bags Vera Paz, 2,672 bags Costa Rica, 221 bags Colombian, 202 bags Mexican, and 126 bags New Granada.

Brazil futures opened firmer and gradually advanced 6d on good buying and a scarcity of sellers. Transactions include May at

27s 9d to 28s, July at 28s 3d to 28s 6d, September 28s 9d to 29s 1½d, and December at 29s 6d to 30s.

Closing quotations:—

	Sellers.	Buyers.
March	26/6	27/3
May	28/	27/10½
July	28/7½	28/6
September	29/3	29/
December	30/	29/9

Brazil receipts 25,000 bags and Exchange ½ higher at 11½.

Hamburg ¼ up. Havre ¼ up. New York opens 5 to 10 higher.

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Coffee in London are as follows:—

		STOCK.		IMPORTS.	
		1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons	...	29,077	15,527	10,685	7,114
		HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.	
		1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Tons	...	2,439	2,827	3,582	1,101

The preceding figures exhibit—

	Tons.
In the Imports an increase this year of	3,571
Home Consumption a decrease of	388
Export an increase of	2,481
Stock an increase of	13,550

Auctions this week have gone off as under:—

EAST INDIA.—7 casks 1 tierce 5 barrels 3,841 bags partly sold as follows:—Mysore, smalls 35s to 46s, fine ditto 55s, low middling to middling 43s 6d to 5½s 6d, good middling 70s to 70s 6d, common bold 53s to 60s, fair to good bold 64s to 70s, fine bold 91s, peaberry 50s to 93s 6d. Coorg, smalls 34s to 43s 6d, low middling to middling 41s to 52s 6d, good middling blue 60s 6d, common bold 48s 6d to 58s, fine bold 79s 6d, peaberry 49s to 86s. Neilgherry, smalls 39s, low middling 46s, fair bold 62s 6d, peaberry 51s. Nellampathy, smalls 38s, low middling 44s 6d to 45s 6d, common bold 53s 6d, peaberry 51s to 52s. Travancore, low middling 42s, bold 50s, peaberry 50s. Ceylon-cleaned, smalls 37s, medium 43s, peaberry 43s 6d.

JAMAICA.—104 barrels 245 bags partly sold—ordinary palish 29s to 30s, good ordinary greenish 37½, low middling brownish 44s 6d, bold ditto 55s; country damaged bold palish 30s.

COSTA RICA.—Of 5,267 bags offered 4,650 bags sold—smalls 31s 6d to 53s, low middling 45s 6d to 51s, middling to blue 53s to 59s 6d, good middling greenish to blue 60s to 70s 6d, fine middling blue 73s to 77s, common bold 60s to 64s, good bold 67s to 79s 6d, fine to very fine bold 82s to 93s 6d, peaberry 50s 6d to 105s 6d.

GUATEMALA.—177 bags mostly sold—smalls 34s, fine ordinary grayish 42s 6d, middling blue 50s, good bold 65s, peaberry 47s to 56s 6d.

COLOMBIAN.—Of 719 bags offered 550 bags sold—smalls 31s to 33s, fine ordinary 38s, low middling mixed 42s 6d to 47s 6d, middling brownish 48s 6d, good bold 50s to 53s, peaberry 40s to 46s 6d.

NEW HEBRIDES.—148 bags partly sold—good bold greenish 60s, peaberry 57s 6d.

SALVADOR.—40 bags bought in.

MEXICAN.—103 bags withdrawn.

PERUVIAN.—26 bags sold—ordinary mottled greyish 28s 6d.

BRAZIL.—Of 2,001 bags Unwashed Dumont Santos, on quay terms, offered 870 bags sold, smalls 26s 6d to 27s 6d, medium 30s to 30s 6d, bold 32s 6d, peaberry 28s to 30s. 40 bags Bahia were bought in.

Receipts in Rio and Santos.

		1902-3.	1901-2.	1900-01.	1899-00.
		Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Since July 1—					
Rio	...	2,999,000	4,132,000	2,049,000	2,662,000
Santos	...	6,594,000	8,205,000	6,401,000	5,146,000
Total	...	9,593,000	12,337,000	8,450,000	7,808,000
Crop	...	...	15,496,000	10,900,000	8,971,000

Rio Exchange 11½d, previous day —d.

HAVRE, February 26.—Good average Santos February opened steady at 32½f. and closed steady at 33f., March opened at 32½f. and closed at 33f., May opened at 33½f. and closed at 33½f., September opened at 34½f. and closed at 34½f., December opened at 35f. and closed at 35½f.



HAMBURG, February 26.—Good average Santos March opened steady at 27pf. and closed steady at 27½pf., May opened at 27½pf. and closed at 27½pf., September opened at 28½pf. and closed at 28½pf., December opened at 29pf. and closed at 29½pf.

NEW YORK, February 26.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.
Feb. 26	... 4.40	4.40	4.50	4.60	4.65
Feb. 25	... 4.35	4.35	4.45	4.55	4.65

### TEA.

INDIAN.—Public sales were rather larger, and included 35,000 packages (of which 240 were Greens), compared with 29,000 in the week before, and 40,700 for the corresponding period of 1902.

The improvement noted last week has been accentuated and the sales have passed with a further upward tendency. Common were about ¼d dearer, with little leaf to be had under 6d, while useful medium kinds between 6½d and 8½d showed ¼d to ½d advance. "Stand out" invoices continued to sell freely at full values.

The average for the month just closing, as shown below, is 7½d, which, although higher than last year, when the position was very much less favourable, and there were few or no fine "autumns", is less than for February, 1899, when the conditions were more analogous and the average stood at 9¼d.

For 28,600 packages on estate account 8½d per lb. was realised, contrasted with 7½d per lb. for 35,800 and also for 28,800 in the two foregoing seasons.

February offerings were: 1903, 123,000 packages; 1902, 175,500 packages; 1901, 167,400; making 1,034,000 packages of the present crop printed to date in comparison with 1,185,000 to the end of February 1902. This difference of 151,000 packages is no doubt already largely accounted for by the increased volume of business done privately and the now assured heavy shortage in the 1902 crop.

CEYLON.—Catalogues totalled 20,500 packages (of which 600 were Greens), opposed to 19,700 on the 17th instant and 25,600 a year ago.

All descriptions met with spirited competition, and a further hardening in values can be reported. Common to fair leaf kinds

were perhaps most wanted, and fetched ¼d to ½d per lb. over rates current on the foregoing Tuesday. Medium Pekoes and Orange Pekoes received substantial support from both home and foreign buyers, selling in favour of importers. Broken Pekoes were also in demand at improved prices, most noticeable in the case of parcels over ½d per lb. Where quality was maintained fine and finest lines ruled firm.

The Green teas were well taken up "finished" sorts bringing out the best bidding as they are the more suitable to the requirements of this market.

Owing to the small proportion of fine tea the average is only slightly over 7½d per lb. On the 19th it was 7½d per lb., and 7½d per lb. in 1902.

Amount brought forward during the month:—

1903.	1902.	1901.
80,310 pkgs.	101,600 pkgs.	107,700 pkgs.
(Avge. 7½d per lb.)	(Avge. 7d per lb.)	(Avge. 6½d per lb.)

JAVA.—Rather over 2,500 packages were submitted, and passed steadily at previous rates.

Auctions from 1st to 27th instant aggregate:—

1903.	1902.	1901.
7,600 pkgs.	9,900 pkgs.	7,200 pkgs.
(Avge. 6½d per lb.)	(Avge. 6d per lb.)	(Avge. 5½d per lb.)

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—

From 1st to 24th February 1903	...	14,402,474 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	...	14,801,693 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold. Pkgs.	Withdrawn. Pkgs.	Total offered. Pkgs.
India	30,994	3,950	34,944
Ceylon	17,407	3,047	20,454
Java	2,412	162	2,574
Total	50,813	7,159	57,972

Also 538 packages from second hands.

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated February 27th, 1903, says :—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.				
		Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	...	1,158,880	840,077	57,188
1901-1902	...	1,276,292	881,646	59,596
35,190 pkgs. INDIAN 20,912 " CEYLON 2,574 " JAVA				
Total 58,676 packages were offered in public auction this week.				

The strength of the statistical position is apparently becoming gradually more recognised, with the result that a greater degree of confidence is being evinced by purchasers. Buying has recently become more general, and although a good deal of tea is doubtless for immediate requirements, this tends rather to emphasise the strength of the position than otherwise.

Exports of Indian tea from Calcutta and Chittagong, as shown by figures of the Indian Tea Association.

	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Australasia	5,206,400	9,167,795	9,578,626	8,772,050
Indian Ports	3,618,940	3,758,900	3,299,542	2,780,516
North America	8,171,498	2,466,419	4,128,464	6,166,884
Turkey	2,574,169	2,770,061	3,474,595	2,861,045
China	1,307,680	1,421,547	997,315	1,204,945
Germany	608,119	640,662	861,780	704,877
Persia and Arabia	1,001,379	488,051	586,565	508,322
Russia	4,001,423	1,239,721	307,571	44,811
Egypt	243,291	99,018	99,196	89,660
Straits Settlements	46,118	41,418	48,816	39,448
Africa	123,888	71,761	83,077	46,449
France	15,573	23,983	23,983	17,759
Norway	Nil.	2,290	Nil.	3,000
South America	2,700	1,410	Nil.	300
Austria	16,761	23,516	2,905	14,655
Other Places	142,075	21,341	26,481	7,443
Total Outside U.K.	27,080,014	22,237,893	23,518,916	23,262,164
United Kingdom	147,173,547	154,444,012	158,662,495	146,433,976
Total Lbs	174,253,561	176,681,905	182,181,411	169,696,140

Duty payments are progressing very satisfactorily, being about equal to those of February last year, which were well up to the normal rate.

CEYLON GREEN TEA for North America.—This trade has increased rapidly. Between October 1898, and the end of December 1902, the grant was paid on 6,149,862 lbs., viz.:—  
1898, 13,302 lbs.; 1899, 86,327 lbs.; 1900, 472,294 lbs.; 1901, 1,590,000 lbs.; 1902, 3,987,939 lbs.

INDIAN.—The auction passed with strong bidding, prices generally being ¼d to ½d above those ruling at the commencement of last week, and hardly anything can now be obtained in clean whole leaf

tea under 6½d, while a satisfactory feature is that medium and better teas are now participating in the advance which has taken place. Closing invoices are now beginning to appear in the catalogues. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Ass. Fron. T Co. Ledo," "Jokai T Co. Hattiali" and "Kamroo T Ass.," 1/1¼; "Sealkotee," 1/1½; "Turzum," 1/1¼.

TRAVANCORE.—A gradually increasing quantity comes from this district, and meets with good attention from the Trade. An invoice from "Munaar" estate averaged 8¼d. per lb.

Revised Customs Imports of Indian and Ceylon tea from 1st June to end of December.

Bengal Presidency (including Calcutta and Chittagong) ...	111,086,349	} 1902. lbs. 114,855,104	} 111,731,096  2,082,134 640,070	} 1901. lbs. 114,453,300
Madras Presidency (including Travan- core) ...	2,961,922			
Bombay Presidency .	806,833			
Ceylon Tea ...				
		60,542,849		56,577,319

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 29,220 pkgs., av. 8:05d. 1902, 36,353 pkgs., av. 7:11d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 878,884 pkgs., av. 7:37d. 1901-2, 994,935 pkgs., av. 7:79d

CEYLON.—With a strong general demand prices showed an advance of fully ¼d on last Tuesday's rates, common and better teas both selling at improved prices; there is hardly any whole leaf tea under 6d per lb. Quality shows some falling off as frequently happens about this time of year. Average for week 7:81d, against 7:11d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 155,429 pkgs., av. 7:57d. 1902, 197,383 pkgs., av. 7:19d.

JAVA.—Javas passed with a firm tone, nearly everything being sold in the room at prices fully up to rates current towards the end of last week.

COCOA.

There was little alteration noticeable in the prices paid at Tuesday's auctions, when 6,703 bags were catalogued and about 3,050 bags sold. Trinidad was represented by 3,713 bags, which experienced a fair demand at about valuations, 1,660 bags selling at 66s to 67s 6d for very fine, 61s to 64s for good to fine, and 59s to 60s for middling. Only 34 bags Granada were offered and 27 bags sold at 53s to 55s 6d for fair to good. 227 bags Dominica found buyers at full rates—good to fine 53s to 55s, common to fair 50s to 52s. Of 423 bags Jamaica offered 250 bags sold at about last auctions' rates—viz., 53s to 55s 6d for good to fine, and 50s 6d to 51s for common to fair. 78 bags St. Lucia brought valuations at 54s to 56s for good to fine, and 52s for fair. Of 157 bags Colombian only one lot sold at 85s for fine. 3 bags Seychelles brought 53s. Ceylon rather quiet, but of 1,890 bags offered 850 bags sold at about recent prices; fine bold and medium red realised 75s 6d to

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[w. 1-10-98—t.f.o]



77s, fair to good 64s 6d to 70s, ordinary to middling medium and small 53s to 60s, fair to fine small 47s to 57s, and fair collected 50s per. cwt. Bought-in growths consisted of 28 bags Demerara, 60 bags Carupano, 11 bags Caracas, 27 bags Guayaquil, and 48 bags African. Private transactions embrace 300 bags Trinidad and 200 bags Ceylon at auctions' rates, and 50 bags Guayaquil at 63s to 70s per cwt. for greyish to fine Caraquez.

### PEPPER.

**BLACK.**—A dull tone is manifest and value is lower. About 200 tons Singapore have been sold at  $5\frac{1}{8}$ d down to  $5\frac{7}{8}$ d on the spot, at  $5\frac{7}{8}$ d for January-March shipment, and April-June and May-July at  $5\frac{1}{8}$ d, and at  $5\frac{1}{8}$ d for June-August.

At auction on the 25th instant 78 bags greyish Singapore retired unsold at 6d, also 200 bags Penang, weighing 4 lbs.  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., dust 4.06 per cent. per gallon measure, at  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

**WHITE.**—is quiet. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $9\frac{5}{8}$ d, and fair Penang at  $8\frac{1}{8}$ d. For arrival 50 tons Singapore January-March and February-April shipment have changed hands at  $9\frac{1}{8}$ d to  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

At public sale on Wednesday, 24 bags fair to good Singapore were bought in at  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $10\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

### GINGER.

**COCHIN.**—Washed rough is cheaper, but cut kinds are well held. 59 cases 637 bags were brought to the hammer, of which 124 bags (mostly "without reserve") sold—good medium and small washed rough, plump, at 37s, hard and dark part coated ditto 35s, and inferior ditto 33s. A bid of 60s was refused for good medium, with some small plump cut, limed, 70s being the buying-in price, while medium and small cut retired at 57s 6d, and 32s per cwt. was bid for small and medium brown rough.

**JAPAN.**—81 bags withdrawn in the absence of offers.

**JAMAICA.**—10 barrels sold—common washed, part lean and dark, 36s 6d to 37s, and mouldy 35s to 36s per cwt.

To-day quiet. Of Black Singapore 40 tons June-August shipment sold at  $5\frac{1}{8}$ d.

Business has been done in Tellicherry to arrive at 53s per cwt. c.i.f., delivered weights Hamburg, per February (s.).

### CINCHONA BARK.

At the Amsterdam auctions held yesterday, only 5,200 packages of Java bark were offered, compared with the heavy total of 10,990 packages catalogued in January. A very firm tone ruled, and practically everything sold at an advance of 27 per cent., the unit averaging 8.20 cents, against 6.45 cents obtained in January, and 7.95 cents in February last year.

The shipments of Bark from Java compare as follows:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
January	593,000	975,000	1,000,000	603,000
February	655,000	520,000	748,000	641,000
Amsterdam lbs.	1,248,000	1,495,000	1,748,000	1,244,000

### QUININE.

Sulphate quinine is firmly held, and at the close the price has improved  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per oz. on the advance in the value of Bark at the Dutch sale. Sales about 60,000 ozs. B&S or HB on the spot at 1s  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d up to 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d; for delivery August has been done at 1s 1d up to 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d.

A firm tone with few sellers has characterised this market, the disposition being to wait the result of the Amsterdam bark-sale, when a 10-per-cent to 15-per-cent. advance in the unit is expected. The announcement of the moderate shipments from Java for February gave a firmer feeling to the market on Wednesday, small sales of German sulphate in bulk being made at 1s  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d per oz. The advance of 25 per cent. in the Amsterdam bark unit to-day caused surprise on this market, not more than 10-per-cent. to 15-per-cent. advance being anticipated. The result was known early in the afternoon, and quinine in second hands immediately rose  $\frac{1}{4}$ d, business being done at 1s 1d for spot, and 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d quoted. It is quite thought makers will advance their prices, which have remained unchanged at 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d since October. It is said 2d advance would be warranted, but the makers have no desire to influence the speculative-market by making so substantial an advance.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8.05d., FEBRUARY 27TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
Coa	22½c	9½	11½c	11½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11½c	7½
Travancore	1616	7.13	...	...	60	6 6½	31	6½	66	5½ 5½	...	...	8½c	½5½
Ellangy	165 p	6	...	...	...	...	50	7½ 7½	25	6	...	...	25	6½
Glenmary	174	6½	74	½6½	...	...	52	9½	35	7½	...	...	34½c	6 7½
Kan Dev H Co M...	323 p	8½	113 p	8½	89	8	15	8½	54	7	...	...	50½c	5½ 7½
" Periaurrai	244 p	7½	37	½7½ 8	88	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5½
MD	62½c	6½	33½c	½7	29½c	½6	...	...	...	...	...	...	21½c	5½ 5½
Stagbrook	183 p	7	133 p	7 8½	43	6½	96	7 7½	20	6	...	...	10½c	5½
S T T Co Venture	262 p	7	...	...	125	6½ 7	80	7½	...	...	10	6	...	...
T T E Co Bon Am...	203 p	7	43	7 7½	60	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynaad	551	7.35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrapetta T Co A	69	7	59	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	5½
Askern	46	7	27	7 8	12	6½	...	...	...	...	7	6½	...	...
Cherambadi	110 p	7½	25½c	10½	25	7	44½c	½8	16	6½	...	...	...	...
Chulika	78 p	7½	44½c	8½	27	7½	...	...	7	6½	...	...	...	...
Kanambyie & Che	22	6½	...	...	22	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pootoomulla	136 p	7½	44½c	8½	...	...	30	7½	24	6½	38	½6½	...	...
Wynaad T Co Pe	90 p	7½	...	...	30	7½	40½c	7½ 8½	20	6½	...	...	...	...

### INDIAN GREEN TEA.

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Young Hyson.		Hyson No. 1.		Hyson No. 2.		Gunpowder.		Dust.	
	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.	Quantity.	Price.
Ind T Co Rose K	...	93½c	7½	55½c	7½ 9½	38½c	7	...	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1903.

[No. 13.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 3rd proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### COFFEE-PLANTING IN BRAZIL.

THERE has been abundant evidence of late that Brazilian coffee-planters are not so happy as they were a few years ago. Yet supplies continue to be poured on to the markets of the world, and the public are led to infer that coffee is still being raised at a profit in Brazil. Quite recently the Brazilian planters held a Congress. Certain particulars as to the results, with the comments of a Brazilian contemporary, are given in our present issue. From these we are inclined to believe that the Congress has done no good. It finally recommended that various measures be taken for the relief of coffee-planters. First among these is a loan at 8 % to be raised by the State to the extent of 50,000:000\$ (£7,500,000) and lent to planters on mortgage of produce at 9 % per annum for a year. From this it would appear that Brazilian coffee-planters, like many of their brethren in India, are feeling the pinch of tight money and depreciated credit. It is extremely unlikely, however, that the Government will fall in with the above suggestion. The next recommendation is summarised rather curiously: "Reduction of 30 % in railway tariffs, and in case of refusal an equivalent tax on their nett profits." Does this refer to the coffee tariff alone, and are railway profits to be taxed in behalf of coffee alone? If the answer be "yes" in both cases, the recommendation is admirable only in its colossal impudence! The third resolution is much more business-like, viz. "To promote in every possible measure (? way) trade with other States and

suppression of the inter-state duties." That is fair enough. Too much cannot be done in the way of fair development of demand, and if the coffee industry in Brazil be really in a parlous state all duties on the article might well be abolished. The fourth suggestion is equally good: to aid in the founding of co-operative societies for propaganda abroad. That is a reasonable line along which to approach the Government, for the coffee industry is the mainstay of the State and deserves to be guarded and encouraged by it.

Then there is a divergence on to absurd lines again. The fifth recommendation is to suppress 20 % of exports by means of a special tax on low-grade coffees, to be paid in kind by the exporters. Of the low-grade coffees thus received, Government shall destroy two-thirds and reserve the remaining third to be roasted and exported by agricultural syndicates, free of duty, as a means of propaganda. The recommendation is contradictory. Ostensibly it aims simultaneously at checking exports of low-grade coffee and at stimulating a propaganda on their behalf! Brazil should do one thing or the other: either she should give *quality* the preference, with a view to working average prices up; or she should push her coffees regardless of quality, relying on *low price* to bring her out all right in the long run by stimulating consumption. The idea that a man should destroy a portion of his crops in order to raise the value of the remainder is opposed alike to the principles of economics and common sense. If men grow coffee simply to destroy it, they are obviously incurring needless expenditure; and to judge from the wording of the recommendation, the coffee to be destroyed would actually be sent to one of the ports, thus involving heavy outlay in transport from the estate! It is unnecessary to criticise such a proposition in detail.

To take measures to increase a regular current of immigration is the next recommendation, a sound one. Planters need a regular labour supply, and the larger it is the cheaper it is likely to be. The seventh recommendation is to suspend the execution of the law prohibiting new plantations







## THE BRAZILIAN PLANTERS' CONGRESS.

## FOREWORDS.

In a day or two, says the *Brazilian Review* of the 3rd ultimo, a Congress of planters will meet at S. Paulo to consider the situation and take steps for its improvement. Planters are the most powerful and influential class of the whole community and, if they can be induced to act together, can no doubt impose their will on the S. Paulo Government and thus, indirectly, on the Union Government also. Up to the present, although there have been several attempts to organize the planting interest politically, they have all failed and Government has done pretty well what, it liked without any particular attention to planters' interests other than an occasional sop in the shape of extending the favours and privileges of mortgage banks already on their last legs.

Now the situation has changed and Government has to deal with desperate men fighting for sheer existence with whom no consideration but survival will have any weight. The time for palliatives and tergiversation has gone by and, unless they bely themselves, Congress will not dissolve without having obtained from the Government of the State of S. Paulo a distinct promise of support in one way or another. That the matter is regarded seriously at S. Paulo itself is shown by the fact that the *Commissao Central* (Central Committee) of the ruling party, the most powerful organization in the country, has gone to the trouble of issuing invitations to their friends to attend the Congress and support Government proposals.

It is said that planters will demand an issue of 150,000:000\$ (£7,500,000) of paper money to be loaned to them by the State on easy terms. This, we know, it is the intention of the Central Committee to resist, but unless they can propose some equally plausible counter scheme we doubt if desperate men on the brink of absolute ruin will be satisfied with mere platitudes or promises. No doubt they will argue paper money is bad, but annihilation is worse; and such are the alternatives that have to be faced. What will be clamoured for is money in some form or other with which to pay off pressing creditors, send exchange down and currency prices up and give the planter, now on his last legs, another chance.

The Banco de Credito Real of São Paulo is utterly exhausted and may at any moment be obliged to close its doors because no one pays into rest any longer on their mortgages and foreclosure is useless because no buyers can be found and to work the plantations means more loss still. This Bank which issued mortgage bonds to planters had a paid up capital of 5,000:000\$ and an issue of 230,000:000\$ per cent. in 6 and mortgage bonds which are now unsaleable at only 30 per cent. of their nominal value, the Bank is said to already have 80 different plantations on its hands and would have half S. Paulo were all its overdue mortgages foreclosed.

Government is urged to promote another bank and, indeed, has been authorized to do so by the State Congress on very favourable terms. But even if borrowers are still to be found on the ruinous terms that current quotations of this kind of security implies, no one will supply the capital for a business foredoomed to loss and failure. There is no market for the bonds and no capital for such banks and they are worse than useless.

Whence is the money planters clamour for, *coûte que coûte*, to come from? The State and Federal Governments are both threatened with deficits and cannot spare a *vintem*. Private capital will have nothing to do with planters or plantations and there seems nothing for it, if planters are to get their way as they certainly will if they are united and resolute, but to issue paper money once again.

It is true that it is no remedy. After a little burst of quasi prosperity which the wise will take advantage of to transfer their liabilities to the State, so long as the conditions of production and consumption are unaltered, no matter what exchange may be, local price will be forced down again and within a few months things be as they were before, with the only difference that one lot of creditors will be substituted by another less exacting, whilst the increased cost of production, that must follow a fall of exchange, will still further reduce the narrow margin of profit or augment the loss as the case may be. It is certain that, so long as the supply of coffee so immensely

exceeds demand, prices are in the hands of consumers and not of producers and that the pressure to sell will keep prices down as close as possible to the cost of production. If by re-issue of paper money exchange should decline to 8d. it is certain that local price of coffee would gain little or no advantage, and instead of rising to 9\$000 or 10\$000 would be kept at about 6\$000 *per arroba*, the price at which coffee still comes to market and will continue to come, never mind what exchange may be.

On the other hand, the fall of exchange raises the cost of all imports and of the labour indispensable for production. Alluring as the prospect of immediate relief by issuing paper money may seem, it is after all but an illusion that would soon pass away and leave the planter and the country worse off than ever. Besides, it is unnecessary. Planters have in their own hands the only possible remedy for low prices—to limit production; and unless they do it they must reconcile themselves to the continuation of existing conditions for years, until, indeed, consumption catch up and exceed production. With a surplus of millions of bags per annum in the world's supply, when that comes about the present generation will be in their graves and their troubles over and forgotten.

But things will not be so and if planters want a "living price" they have only to cut down 25 per cent. of their trees to the root and reduce production proportionately to at once bring production and consumption into line. Properly carried out the effect of the temporary sterilisation of 250,000,000 bearing trees would be electric and prices would rise immediately, whilst the trees would not be lost or capital be destroyed but merely lie dormant, and in the course of three or four years, if it were found that consumption could stand it, these trees or part of them might be allowed to come into bearing again.

Against this it will be urged that such a measure could not be made compulsory. Doubtless that would be too violent an interference with the rights of property, but by granting certain favours, such as rebates on freight and export duties to coffee from plantations where this measure had been adopted, it is likely that the majority would comply.

It is the interest and duty of every single planter at this moment to leave personal profit aside and act in the general interest as it is that of the Government to support him as far as is lawful and right. But without some sacrifice on both sides immediate improvement is impossible. With certain ruin creeping on them day by day and paralyzing all their energies is it not better to lop off a member than to sacrifice the whole body? Let planters remember that even Government is not all powerful and that only by their own labour can money or capital be created, and then make up their minds to the indispensable sacrifice of part to save the rest of their patrimony and within a year they will be as steadfast opponents to ruinous re-issues of paper money as we ourselves.

## AFTER THE MEETING.

Writing on 10th ultimo the same paper says:—The coffee planters have met, abused the Government and passed a number of Resolutions that, even they must know to be impracticable, and there for the present the matter rests. The report of the Committee, which was adopted, recommended that the following measures should be taken for the relief of coffee-planters: (1) A loan for 50,000:000\$ bearing interest at 8 per cent. per annum to be raised by the State and the product loaned to planters on mortgage of produce at 9 per cent. per annum and at 12 months date. (2) Reduction of 30 per cent. in railway tariffs, and in case of refusal an equivalent tax on their nett profits. (3) To promote in every possible measure trade with other States and suppression of the inter-state duties. (4) To aid in the founding of co-operative societies for propaganda abroad. (5) To suppress 20 per cent. of exports by means of a special tax on low-grade coffees to be paid in kind by the exporters. Of the low-grade coffees thus received Government shall destroy two-thirds and reserve the remaining third to be roasted and exported by agricultural syndicates, free of duty, as a means of propaganda. (6) To take measures to insure a regular current of immigration. (7) To suspend the execution of the law prohibiting new plantation until the other coffee states likewise agree to it.

The Union Government is also asked to contribute by (a) issuing 150,000:000\$ of paper money to be employed in compensating the different States for the coffee destroyed by each and establishment



of mortgage banks and co-operative societies. (b) Reform of the mortgage law making the estate, whether mortgaged or no, alone responsible for wages and salaries. (c) To promote the consumption of coffee abroad by commercial treaties.

The document is signed by Ignacio Mendonça Uchoa, Antonio S. Cardim, Rodrigo Lobato, M. Machado, J. Pinto Cezar, Leopoldino M. Vieira de Andrade, Theodoro Leite de Camargo, M. A. de Alvarenga, A. Augusto de Amaral, José de Souza Queiroz, and Higino Costa.

### INDIAN COFFEE FOR THE STATES.

Referring to some of our recent remarks about pushing sales of Indian coffee in the United States, and utilising the St. Louis Exposition of 1904 as a means to this end, *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* (New York) remarks:—

The thought in India that Indian coffee should have a large market in the United States and the suggestion that a demand be fostered is interesting. The Indian coffee or Ceylon, is regarded in the United States as a very fine coffee, but so peculiar in flavor that a taste for it has to be cultivated. This then is an obstacle in the proposed agitation in favor of the coffee, but one not necessarily insurmountable. But the coffee will have to be exceptionally good to make any headway against the many good American coffees which find a market and popularity here largely on account of the cheapness at which they can be brought into the country. If the Indian coffee cannot be put down as cheaply, or nearly so, in the United States, its hopes for popularity here are vain. But the idea of making a good show at the St. Louis Exposition is to be commended. It might start a fad for the coffee among the fashionables, and if nursed after the manner of Indian and Ceylon tea, be an enterprise very worth while.

The reference made to the "peculiar flavor" of Indian coffee strengthens our belief that Americans do not know what that article is. What they call East Indian coffee is, we fancy, mostly the produce of the Dutch Indies, and a very different article from that of Southern India.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The movement in the coffee market is not so brisk as it was, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of February 25, and prices have had a check in their upward movement and even tend to sag. In the trade demand has fallen to only moderate proportions, dealers evidently having satisfied their wants for the present, and the prospect is that the February deliveries will not show such an aggressive inroad into the totals of the world's visible supply as expected. The market will, then, have no occasion for an elation in tone that will beget a confidence booming things. The movement in Brazil coffees too has been rather heavy, the total on Wednesday and Thursday of the week amounting to 50,000 bags, which at this season is excessive in amount. It was a good note for the bears to pipe on, and the circumstance, together with the decrease in the buying demand in actual coffee, tended to lower prices, especially in options, which have declined 10 points for the week but which on the average are 30 points above the lowest prices quoted in January. Interest in speculative buying is rather flat but sales have been fairly large. The more distant months are the favourite ones sought. The European markets have lent the local one no special courage to advance the market.

In actual coffee, Brazil coffee, which has been offered on a basis of 5½c. and f. for Rio No. 7, was unattractive. For invoices in spot the market closed dull and jobbers and roasters reported quiet times. The market closed 5½c. for

Rio No. 7, 6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub>c. for Rio No. 4, and 6¼ to 6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c. for Santos No. 4.

The Mild market is in an indifferent state. Buyers expect an easier market as soon as the coffee now free to be shipped from Venezuelan ports shall arrive here, and holders of such coffee as is here are indisposed to sell except at quoted prices. Neither side being willing to make concessions, few sales are reported. East India coffee is quiet and unchanged.

\* \* \*

Total stock in United States February 1, 2,500,241 bags against 2,184,200 bags February 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States February 21, in store and afloat, 2,723,134 bags against 2,386,667 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 210,724 bags, against 258,127 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York February 21, 2,113,124. Stock in New York in other coffees February 16, 166,521, in San Francisco, 39,439 bags, and in New Orleans, 4,764 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, February 1, 12,769,414 bags.

\* \* \*

According to cable advices the Provincial Congress of Brazil meets March 5 next, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of February 25, to consider the proposition to destroy 20 per cent. of the coffee crop in the low grades as one means of assisting the so-called coffee crisis to bow itself out. If such a congress is really to meet to deliberate upon such a proposal, its conclusions will have some interest and especially inviting will be the sight of Brazilians destroying their coffee. We cannot imagine the diversion, and so will not revel in anticipations of joy or regret. It is not improbable, however, that the Brazilians will talk somewhat on the matter. That is a special forte of theirs. Every little while some "fool scheme" is broached, but never is the grower made to help himself; rather is he to receive aid from sumptuary legislation. And such aid! He will have nothing less on his coffee plantation than a gold mine paying several hundred per cent. That was once his happy fortune and he now complains that the world is robbing him of his perquisites as a Croesus. So he is in a crisis, but it may be well to show again that he is rather alone in this. Coffee-growers in other nationalities, stating the case broadly, are not complaining, as may be gleaned from the report of coffee-growing conditions in Mexico, whose delegate in the recent coffee congress officially reported that "Coffee, in reality, is one of the products which at present is yielding larger profits in our country, despite the present crisis in the coffee industry."

\* \* \*

### Visible Supply of Coffee

on March 1st,		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		447,450	359,600	236,400	232,650	222,600
to Europe	{ afloat — Brazil ...	24,050	25,790	16,350	12,570	15,860
	{ loading — do. ...	1,060	3,240	760	...	...
	{ afloat — the East ..	820	1,430	1,930	2,510	510
	{ do. — U. S. A. ...	1,120	880	760	1,060	240
Stocks U. S. of North-America		474,500	390,940	256,200	248,790	239,210
to U. S. A.	{ afloat — Brazil ...	136,710	128,760	56,060	60,880	75,120
	{ loading — do. ...	33,880	30,120	32,650	36,530	23,760
	{ afloat — the East ..	4,530	2,470	1,290	...	...
	{ do. — Europe ...	1,060	1,760	1,290	1,940	1,940
		...	...	...	1,180	...
Stocks in Rio ...		650,680	554,050	347,490	349,320	340,030
Do. Santos ...		28,060	35,590	16,650	14,060	15,350
Do. Bahia ...		56,820	68,650	67,590	23,760	30,700
		1,880	2,820	3,000	880	1,290
Total ..		737,440	661,110	434,730	388,020	387,370
On February 1st..		756,720	647,700	429,760	391,570	389,860



## TEA NOTES.

*Tea, Coffee and Sugar* remarks:—Dr. C. U. Shepard, who is the special foster father of American tea and but for whose patience and persistence the industry would long ago have gone into innocuous desuetude and the India and Ceylon planters been spared much worry, gets not a little amusement out of his labour of love besides the rewards of his interest in an unusual and somewhat costly experiment. He has accrued some fame which some base on a senseless fatuity, and his tea gardens have achieved a reputation world wide to the degree that they are not a little subject to aspersions by the envious. Against the flings and arrows of outraged tea-growers the worthy doctor now and then rises to fling an arrow back, doing execution effectively enough, as might be expected from Dr. Shepard's sarcastic humour. Lately he and his gardens have been under review in India where they try to laugh the American experiment out from threatening Asiatic planters with extinction, and he has come back at his Eastern critics by sending the information telling them in a biting way just what he is doing and how after all they need not immediately expect to be driven from their markets. The "Pinehurst undertaking," he tells them "has been experimental from the start until now; at first and until within a few years at my own expense, but latterly it has received generous and welcome aid from the U. S. Department of Agriculture after Official investigation had shown that its object was not commercial, but an attempt to prove the feasibility of establishing a new and profitable industry in the Southern States, with all of the attendant benefits. It would be superfluous to inform you that the experiments although on a small scale (none of my gardens are larger than a few acres in extent), have been directed so as to cover as many sorts of tea-seed and as different types of soil and exposure as possible. It was expected that success—measured pecuniarily—might attend very few of the experiments, but it was hoped that some of them might result favourably. I will leave to your own judgment whether the following returns for this season may be regarded as promising especially as the limit of production does not yet appear to have been reached."

He then enumerates the successes of his gardens in teas grown from China, Indian, and Ceylon seeds, and shows such superiority in production over Asiatic production that his readers may well feel disquieted. However, the doctor calms them by dismissing himself thus: "Yield of Pinehurst tea for 1902 (don't laugh, please) about 8,500 lbs. It is neither expected nor desired to exceed double that amount (don't be alarmed, please). As to that little, cheap rotary sterilizer for the Green tea manufacture, it does its work so well that the product sells very readily in the American market at a price which my respect for your feelings forbids me to quote."

It is doubtful whether detractors of the kind the doctor demolishes will ever be absolutely silenced. Perhaps it is just as well that they write their little "mess." Even disparaging notice is better than none at all, and we all know the value of the strength gained in overcoming such obstacles as opposition and depreciation. Who will gainsay that it is so very improbable that sometime, somewhere a monument will stand erect by the American tea-growers in appreciation of their great forerunner, Dr. Shepard?

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market was quieter last week, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of 25th ultimo, but prices

were well maintained. Green teas, inclusive of Japans, remain the feature of the market. They are exceedingly scarce. First hands are entirely out of them, and indeed second hands also. Still the demand continues, and a new supply cannot be had for six months. The market for them, hence, must continue very firm.

There is more movement in Congous and Foochows, but at no perceptible appreciation in prices. This cannot very well take place until the more-sought-for teas have more or less disappeared from the market. The better grades of Congous are scarce and therefore the prices of them are firmly held. Indias and Ceylons are in fair demand at unchanged rates. Inquiry for Formosas is still frequent and what sales are made are at full quoted prices.

\* \* \*

China, the original home of tea, imported 4,689,428 pounds of Ceylon tea during 1902; in 1901 the amount was 2,694,819. The importation seems to be increasing by leaps and bounds. It is as if China has not got enough tea of her own growing content being beholden to "barbarians" for an extra cup or two on a pinch.

\* \* \*

**U. S. Tea Standards for 1903.**—The United States Treasury Department has issued and distributed the regulations governing the importation and inspection of tea for the current year, to go into effect May 1, 1903. The tea standards for the year are declared to be as follows: No. 1. Formosa Oolong; No. 2. Foochow Oolong; No. 3. North China Congou; No. 4. South China Congou; No. 5. Ceylon tea (use for India tea); No. 6. Pingsuey green; No. 7. Country green; No. 8. Japan pan-fired (use for sun-dried); No. 9. Japan basket-fired; No. 10. Japan dust or fannings; No. 11. Capers (use for Scented Orange Pekoe); No. 12. Canton Oolong, and No. 13. Scented Canton (use last year's standards). The standards as selected for 1903 are practically the same as those in vogue in 1902.

\* \* \*

**The Ceylon Tea Crop.**—An up-country planter writes to to say that "the Ceylon tea crop this season is likely to be shorter than most people think, quite apart from the question of green tea and short shipments to Great Britain. The weather has quite stopped flush, and the amount of pruning being done is astonishing." It is probable that March exports will be very short, and that the first quarter of the year will show a falling-off of nearly 2,000,000 lbs. from last year's figures. Altogether, with increasing demand at home, and short supplies, the tea industry has not been in such a satisfactory condition for many years.

\* \* \*

Mr. F. G. Guthrie, Assistant of Messrs. Tarrant, Henderson & Co., on his return from South Africa, observed that Natal tea was not so good as Ceylon tea. People did not seem to be able to grade it. Still the local tea had a strong hold in its own country, although inferior to Ceylon tea, and this, perhaps, might be accounted for by the fact that 6d. duty a lb. had to be paid on all tea sent into South Africa. The planters in that part of the world do not yet make green tea. Kaffir labour is not used on the Natal tea estates. It all comes from India, and is much more costly than the Ceylon planter finds his labour.

Discussing the prospects of South Africa generally, Mr. Guthrie said, that if a man was a specialist in any particular line he might stand a chance of getting a fairly good billet;



but, although his salary might appear very high, it would not really be so, because one had to take into account the cost of living. "There are a tremendous number of young fellows down there now out of billets, and the ordinary 'man in the street' seems to have no chance at all."

At the same time Mr. Guthrie thinks the day is bound to come, when, as the country develops, the expenses of living will be considerably reduced.

\* \* \*

**California.**—A letter has been received by a Colombo merchant from Mr. O. H. Greenslade, formerly of Dehiowita, Kelani Valley, dated "Kern County, California, January 30th." He says:—Tea sells retail from 50 to \$1.00 per lb.; it can be landed here for under 25 cents.

\* \* \*

The following telegram has been despatched by the "Thirty Committee" to the Secretary, Ceylon Association in London:—"Prompt payments green tea bonus will cease 20th March; payments must then be made up to the 7 millions voted (at the 4 cents rate) as funds available."

\* \* \*

**The Ceylon Tea Cess.**—The Tea and Produce Committee of the Ceylon Association in London passed on Monday, the 23rd ultimo, a Resolution recommending proprietors to agree to the increase of the Cess to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cent per lb. for the last eight months of this year. The Resolution, which was very warmly debated on both sides ere being put to the Meeting, runs as follows:—

"The Committee, having considered Mr. Kingsford's letter of 21st January, recommend proprietors to agree to the increase of the Cess to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cent per lb. for the last eight months of the current year, on the understanding that the increase be not continued beyond that time. The Committee are of opinion that it would have been better to reduce expenditure on the American and Continental campaigns, to set free funds for the Green Tea bonus, or—failing that—to carry forward any unsatisfied claims for bonus on Green Tea, incurred during 1903, against the 1904 Revenue. The Committee fear, however, that if this view is pressed at the present time, it might result in restricting the expected output of Green Tea, which would, in their opinion, be most undesirable."

#### THE CIRCULAR TO HOME PRODUCERS.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the Tea and Produce Committee of this Association to hand you the annexed copies of letters from Mr. A. C. Kingsford, Chairman of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, dated 21st ultimo, and from Mr. K. Rutherford dated 6th instant, and to ask whether you are prepared, on behalf of the interests that you represent, to agree to the proposed increase of the Tea Cess from 30 cents to 50 cents per 100 lbs., from 1st May to December 31st next.

At a Meeting of the Tea and Produce Committee, held on the 23rd instant, the following Resolution was passed, and is now communicated for your information:—

"That the Committee, having considered Mr. Kingsford's letter of 21st January, recommend proprietors to agree to the increase of the Cess to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per lb. for the last eight months of the current year, on the understanding that the increase be not continued beyond that period.

"The Committee are of opinion that it would have been better to reduce expenditure on the American and Continental campaigns to set free funds for the Green tea bonus, or, failing that, to carry forward any unsatisfied claims for bonus on Green Teas incurred during 1903 against the 1904 Revenue.

"The Committee fear, however, that, if this view is pressed at the present time, it might result in restricting the expected output of Green Teas, which would, in their opinion, be most undesirable."

Answers to this circular should be sent in on or before the 10th March next.

61 & 62, Gracechurch Street,  
LONDON, E.C.,  
February 27th, 1903.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
WM. MARTIN LEAKE,  
Secretary.

#### THE REPLIES.

A special cablegram, dated 16th instant, to the *Times of Ceylon* says:—

The final voting in the matter of the proposed temporary increase of the Cess is 59 in favour, and 56 against, the latter, including ten who support the compromise.

The correspondence is being forwarded to Ceylon.

The Tea and Produce Committee, at its Meeting to-day, did not pass any further Resolution.

\* \* \*

The tea transactions at the port of Boston for January are reported by the Collector of Customs to have been as follows:—

	Pounds.
Balance January 1...	3,955,446
Amount Entered ...	35,384
Quantities ...	3,990,830
Withdrawn in January ...	3,955,446
Balance February ...	35,384

\* \* \*

**Japan Tea Exports in 1902.**—M. J. Brandestein & Co. report the following tea shipments from Japan for 1902 with a comparison with 1901; significant is a decrease of tea exports to Japan:

	1902. Pounds.	1901. Pounds.	Increase. Pounds.
Shipped to—			
New York ...	13,380,917	12,674,321	706,596
Chicago ...	17,259,409	12,771,965	4,487,444
San Francisco ...	3,693,323	3,209,967	483,356
Canada ...	3,919,066	6,329,591	*2,410,525
Total ...	38,252,715	34,985,844	3,266,871

\* \* \*

**Tea in the United States.**—India and Ceylon teas are becoming more in favour with grocers, as the latter find these grades suitable for mixing purposes. There are practically no supplies held here by importers with the exception of English Breakfast sorts. Prices of these sorts have not advanced like other grades, and as a lower market is not expected; the purchase of above kinds is considered good. Offerings of fine jobbing lots were made, including Formosa at 19 to 40 cents; Pingsuey at 17 to 32 cents; Japan at 21 to 35 cents, and English Breakfast at 11 to 20 cents, according to grade. The stock of English Breakfast sorts on the spot is large. During the past month the supply showed a fair decrease, principally due to large exports having been made to England. The stock of tea at New York on January 1, 1903, was about 60,000,000 pounds, and since the removal of the war tax it is said that fully 35,000,000 pounds have been delivered. Owing to the high prices of low grades of India and Ceylon sorts, compared with China grades, and a steady demand for export from England for English Breakfast kinds, the stock of the latter will show a further large reduction. This will shortly be felt here, and an advance in price will follow. Private cables from China noted a firm market and prices asked were too high to interest importers here; consequently invoice sales were limited to small lots only. The feature of the market was the unprecedented heavy distribution in the United States. The total withdrawals from warehouses are placed at from 45,000,000 to 50,000,000 pounds. Owing to the satisfactory results obtained by mixing Formosa, Congou, and Foochow sorts, which blend, the grocer is marketing readily at a profitable price, these grades are much in demand. Jobbers are offering small lots at 19@19½ cents for Formosa, 8½ cents for Congou, and 13@13½ cents per pound for Foochow. In the absence of the regular auction sales of tea an improved jobbing trade was noted. Many in the trade—that is, if they were in power—say they would have the public tea sales abolished for ever, thus removing a disturbing element which has heretofore hampered business materially. The arrivals here have been, and will be, very small in the future, due to the crop being practically at an end. It is stated that the China qualities sell best in the East, and the Japan in the West, Formosa included in the China teas. The demand for India and China qualities is increasing, and is chiefly for the cheaper grades. In the New York market the proportion of green tea sold compared to black is 1 to 5.—*American Grocer*, New York, February 11.

\* Decrease.



Not disheartened at the satisfaction general in the trade over the death of the tea duties, the *Charleston News and Courier*, which is near to the Pinehurst Tea Gardens, returns to its plea for some protection for the American infant tea industry now being nursed in South Carolina and about to be in Texas. In doing this, the journal is not without embarrassment. Its natural inclinations are for Democratic free trade or "tariff for revenue only," as becomes a leading exponent of a great party in that party's stronghold, and so it coyly remarks that although it would prefer no tax on tea at all, yet inasmuch as protection pap is the policy of the country, it is not averse to have some of it distributed in South Carolina near the tea gardens. To quote it in part :

"As long as the Republicans are in control of the Government and the Republican policy of protection prevails, that party cannot, without rank sectional discrimination, refuse protection to the tea-growing industry of the South, while insisting upon protection for the beet sugar industry of the West, and the iron manufacturing and textile infant industries of the Middle States and New England. In the opinion of Dr. Shepard and those who have made a practical study of the question, the tea-growing industry can never become national in its scope and importance (except by the imposition of such a duty on foreign teas as shall counterbalance the difference in American and Oriental labour). That has a familiar sound to our ears, and it is a plea which certainly should not lack support among the Republican statesmen at Washington.

"There is another fact which is also worthy of note in connection with the tea-growing industry. A number of moneyed men have been seriously entertaining the thought of embarking in tea-planting to a very large extent, but on the revocation of the duty immediately dropped all consideration of the subject. These people were Northern capitalists, New England men many of them, and they were proceeding with their plans upon the New England idea that the Government would aid in the establishment of any industry which would vary the products of this country.

"The tea farm at Summerville is not dependent upon Government bounty ; but possibly tea farms in other parts of the country will not be established unless they are to have the support unusually extended by the Government at Washington to infant industries."

The pity of it is, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, that the New England capitalists did not take hold of their contemplated enterprise early enough to have made it something substantial by the time the repeal of the tea duty naturally suggested itself. Thus fortified, the industry might have made some impression on Congress and obtained some concessions. Indeed, assistance would not have been improbable. At present, matters having formulated themselves so that the tea trade in the United States is now free from the burden of a heavy tax, protection in the form of a duty tax is next to impossible. The forces at work in opposition are too strong, and will become stronger. A bounty seems the only possible help obtainable, and shaping its editorial to attain that end, seems the only way in which the *New and Courier* may be of real service to the American tea grown under its eyes ; besides, it could do so without straining its political conscience too much.

\* \* \*

**A Tea Moses Needed.**—Nearly two hundred members of the tea trade have consented to become charter members of the proposed National Tea Association, which will probably take shape in the early Spring, but unless this federal organization can reach down to the extreme fringe of the business and control the actions of the retail cutters who have a weakness for cheap tea, with an "inducement" thrown in, the tea puddle will hardly be disturbed by any ripple the National Association can cause. It is not "getting together" that the tea trade needs so much as an active competition between packers of fine blends, assisted by extensive and expensive advertising. It is "up to" any wholesale or retail

grocer with fair capital to be the tea trade's Moses and lead it out of the house of bondage—the bondage to "tea for price," with trading stamps, a cup and saucer or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of sugar thrown in.

Who'll be the trade's Moses? Not Uncle Sam, with his tea standards and board of inspectors ; not the blender of "something just as good" ; not the tea-store chain-system, with its cut prices and very ordinary goods ; not the tea peddler, who goes from house to house ; not "Lancelot nor another," but just the plain old-fashioned family grocer, who has the wit to see the possibilities in the tea department when it is properly developed and pushed. — *Merchants' Review*.

## NOTES.

### Cocoa in the U. S.

behind that of tea.

The consumption of cocoa in the United States is only 25,000,000 lbs.

### Ramie in Jamaica.

According to official reports small plantation of Ramie is maintained in Jamaica. The plants had begun to become exhausted and a new ground was planted out.

### Labour for Ceylon.

Messrs. Edgar Turner and John Hill have been appointed by the Ceylon Planters' Association as Commissioners to South India to report on the matter of labour supply in connection with Mr. Westland's Labour Scheme.

### Vanilla in Jamaica.

Several of the Vanilla plants growing on divi-divi trees (*Caesalpinia coriaria*) flowered and were fertilised last year. Those that were planted to grow on Physic-nut (*Jatropha curcas*) have not done nearly so well.

### Sale of a Tea Estate.

At Calcutta on the 20th instant Messrs. Mackenzie, Lyall & Co. sold by public auction the Satagura Tea Estate for Rs. 4,500. The estate, which is situated in the Hazaribagh District at an elevation of some 2,000 feet above sea-level, found a purchaser in a gentleman from up-country.

### Vanilla.

The *Agricultural News* of February 14 says:—An item that will have some interest to vanilla growers is the following:—A consignment of about 300 kilos. of vanilla cultivated in German East Africa arrived in Hamburg a short time ago. The beans are said to be of fine dark chocolate colour and are commencing to crystallise. They are of various lengths, and are reported to compare favourably with the best Bourbon quality.

### Vanilla in Mexico.

The *B. and C. Druggist*, of February 27, says:—Only 43,991 pounds of vanilla were exported from Mexico in 1901, with a value of £57,426, as against 64,921 pounds in 1900 valued at £62,565, due to a failure of the crops by heavy frosts in the early part of the year. The value of the exports as here given makes the value of each £1 6s. whereas in the previous year it was only £1 0s. 6d., a difference which coincides with the silver value declared at the custom-houses.

### Cocoa in Jamaica.

Some of the old cocoa trees in Hope Experiment Station have borne a large crop, one tree yielding as many as 127 ripe pods. The young plants put out in May 1897 have done exceedingly



well; one tree, having over 40 pods on it, is 13 feet high and 11 feet across. Nowhere in what are usually considered the best cocoa districts, has cocoa done better than in the plain of Liguanea where it gets abundance of water, yielding often 12 to 14 lbs. of cured cocoa per tree per annum. These facts suggest that even in banana plantations on the southside, cocoa should be grown simultaneously.

#### Spinsters Turning from Tea to Coffee?

Along with other characteristics of spinsterhood that have gone glimmering down the aisles of memory and tradition is that of devotion to tea, says the New York *Herald*. The spinsters of to-day drink coffee, good and strong, much more frequently than tea. Not a few of them demand even stronger beverages but for none of them would the tea-pot be an appropriate emblem. Tea no longer serves, perhaps is not needed, to soothe wounded vanity or console those women who are outside the matrimonial palace of bliss. "Afternoon tea" still stands as a convenient term, but it includes almost everything except tea, and when the harmless beverage is served it is so doctored that the tea-drinking old maid of tradition would not recognize it.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated March 19 from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally

is weak and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes shows a slight decline while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is also steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 7¾d. (½d. up). The average for the same period last year was 7d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is generally quiet but steady, and that medium qualities are irregular. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 6½d. (½d. up) and the average for the week is 7¾d. (½d. down). 20,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 18,000 disposed of; while of the 28,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 24,000 were sold at an average of 8¼d. (the same as last week).

#### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 20 (28 février 1902) :* Préparation du caoutchouc d'Hevea.—Durée des bananeries.—Pâtes alimentaires annamites.—Maison coloniale (Av. 2 fig.).—Préparation du café, nouveau procédé.—Lettres d'Erythrée et du Nicaragua.—Le kolatier.—Articles et notes agricoles intéressant le chameau et le cheval, le manioc, le riz, le castilloa, le gingembre, la luffa, le coquito de aceite, le tabac, le cacao, le thé, les agaves, les sansevières, la ramie, l'arachide, la destruction des rats et des termites, etc.—Informations et études commerciales concernant le caoutchouc, le café, la raphia, la coca, le tabac, les fruits.—Contributions inédites de MM. H. Neuville, F. Main, Hecht frères & Cie (Paris), P. Cibot (Rio-Beni), J. Berthelot du Chesnay, L. Bernard (Congo Français), Professeur Baldrati (Asmara), H. Dulien (île Sainte-Lucie), L. Paszkiéwicz (Parana), H. E. Low (Nicaragua), Ch. Rivière (Alger), U. Dammer (Berlin), Tabel (Sumatra).—Bibliographie.

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

*Record of 3 years' Exploration.*

BY CAPTAIN H. H. P. DEASY,

*With Appendices, Maps, 80 Illustrations.*

The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed, and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan.

Demy 8vo, cloth gilt, Rs. 7-14-0.

APPLY TO—**G. A. NATESAN & CO.,**  
[w. 21-2-03.]  
**ESPLANADE, MADRAS.**

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

The opponents of forced labour in South Africa profess to see in Assam a condition of things which enables them to point a moral, and the recent reports of the case of alleged cruelty to a coolie in Cachar have unfortunately materially assisted in the adornment of the tale. We notice that Sir Henry Cotton, speaking at Bradford on Saturday, drew an analogy between the labour problem in South Africa and the labour problem in Assam. "He had had," he said, "to deal with a system of legalised semi-slavery in Assam, and was pleased to say that he had assisted in mitigating the evils to a large extent. To the tea gardens of Assam were imported large numbers of coolies from Bengal and other parts of India. The men were advertised for sale in the columns of the newspapers, just as property was in England, and planters bought them in batches of 100 or 150 each. He noticed that the *Manchester Guardian*—an admirable newspaper which all Liberals should read—recently gave the details of a terrible case which had occurred in Assam under this system, which, however, still existed, though it was checked and kept under control. Now the labourers were induced to work in the tea gardens, and not forced, and as the work was not very pleasant it followed that the planters had to pay more for it. The problem was therefore settling itself in a right and proper way, and he was convinced that that was the policy which ought to be adopted in South Africa."

Sir Henry, lately from the scene of the recent controversy on the labour question, no doubt had some difficulty in dealing with so delicate a question, though he admitted that things in Assam were not quite so black as they were and that the labourers were now "induced" to work rather than "forced." But this was not quite to the point, and the *Manchester Guardian's* report of the



Cachar case he referred to was more illustrative of the evils of forced labour. In its account of the Cachar case the Manchester paper, by way of preface, said: "The protest in the Resolution to be moved at the General Committee Meeting of the National Liberal Association, denouncing the adoption of any system of veiled slavery in any part of the British Empire, will be strengthened by the news of one of those scandalous occurrences which appear to be the inevitable accompaniment of any such system. In the tea districts of India penal laws are in force under which labourers, if they should venture to strike, are sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, and under which the employers of labour are authorised to arrest an absconding coolie without a warrant." The journal then gave particulars of the recent case of the coolie, Lalsu, in Cachar. These were, by the way, quoted in an evening paper, which in reproducing them asked: "Is it possible that such things can be done under the Union Jack? Yes, it is, and what is worse, the Landlords want to establish a similar state of slavery in South Africa. In Assam the coolie is bound to his master by penal laws. He can be arrested without a warrant, and can be brutally punished. Perhaps this tale from India will arouse the slumbering conscience of the British people, which hitherto has been far too tolerant of its Beits, Albus, Rudds, and other advocates of Imperial slavery."

These extracts from the *Star* were headed "Legree in India." When the enterprising philanthropist is not occupied elsewhere he is ready to turn his attention to India, where the planter is made to serve as the most useful example of the iniquities of British rule. If in the pursuit of his ordinary business a planter meets his death at the hands of his servants or his labourers, as was unfortunately the case the other day in Ceylon, the tragic circumstance does not serve to illustrate anything in particular, so we do not find that any professional humanitarian is desirous of calling special attention to it. But should one member of a community either prove an offender, or have the offence of cruelty alleged against him, a whole province is anathema, at any rate by inference. We protest on behalf of men living in remote parts of India, who can have but limited opportunities of publicity, against the assumption, when arguments are needed bearing on a South African question, that planters as a class are less humane than other men, or that they are not equally abhorrent of cruelty when it is proven. It is easy to rail against cruel laws and inhumanity on the part of those who regulate their labour by them, but it is not a sign of charity or overwhelming kindness when people at home are ready to assume that their fellow-countrymen in India cannot be trusted with the management of their labourers without abusing the trust, and that given the opportunity an employer of labour on a tea garden in India is necessarily a tyrant. Yet if the general drift of the argument in the extracts quoted is not in this direction we should be glad to be enlightened as to its real meaning.

On the subject of certain unfavourable comments on green tea which we quoted recently as appearing in the correspondence columns of a contemporary we have received a communication from Messrs. Heatley and Gresham, of Calcutta and London. They remark that "green tea earned a bad name in the old days solely on account of the adulterations with coloring matter practised by the Chinese and Japanese. By the use of the Drummond, Deane, and Judge machines, of which we are the sole manufacturers in India, green tea is produced mechanically throughout like our black teas, and the Judge-Deane panning and coloring machine produces the required colour and finish entirely by mechanical means without foreign admixture of any kind." They mention that "nine-tenths of the green tea going forward from India is made on these machines. The best proof of its purity is the sample which we herewith send. We should be happy to have it submitted to any London analytical expert. We have sent rather a coarse grade somewhat highly coloured for the purpose, in order to take no advantage. If this coarse tea colours pure, it follows that our fine grades will give no trouble. With regard to green tea generally, it is well to note that Indian and Ceylon planters have only taken up the manufacture after long and fruitless attempts to cause the Americans to accept black tea instead of it. Having at last convinced themselves by expensive proceedings that the Americans are solid in their adherence to the green article, our planters have at last decided to try and give them what they want, instead of forcing on them what they do not want." We may add

that the sample of green tea sent to us appears excellent, and we will invite an expert opinion upon it.

Grocers are taking an active interest in the tea duty question, for they recognise that the present impost is injurious to their trade. At a recent Meeting of a Grocers' Association in the West of England, at which Mr. Giles, the Federation Secretary, delivered an address, one of the members asked if the Federation was doing anything to bring about a reduction in the duty on tea. In his opinion the tea trade had altogether altered since the 6d. duty was put on. If the Federation could do some thing towards getting the duty reduced to 4d. grocers would greatly benefit. Mr. Giles said wholesale tea dealers had brought the matter before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and there had been one or two remarkable rumours on the subject, but he could not hold out any great hope. He was not in the secret, but as far as he could gather, and speaking as a man in the street, there seemed to be but little prospect of anything coming off the duty this year.

A Consular report on the trade of Brazil for the first half of the year 1902 points out that Brazilian trade is mainly dependent on coffee values, the emission of paper and exchange, and, naturally, while coffee suffers from over-production and currency is depreciated, imports are adversely affected. Coffee exports continue low, but there has been a large increase in the exports of monazite sands and manganese. The world's consumption of coffee is about 16,000,000 bags; the visible supply of coffee on January 1, 1903, was 13,213,000 bags, against 10,871,000 bags in 1902; the Rio and Santos coffee crops of 1901-02 were the largest known, amounting to 15,500,000 bags; the present crop, 1902-03, is calculated at about 11,000,000 bags; the future crop of 1903-04 is very uncertain owing to frosts, and estimates range from 10,000,000 to 12,500,000 bags. —H. & C. Mail.

## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, February 19, 1903.

There is nothing particularly new to report. Prices at the different points of export remain practically unchanged. A fair business has been doing on the local markets in Ceylon and Indians, wherever particularly good value is offering. Japan teas seem to be meeting with more inquiry.

MONTREAL, February 19, 1903.

There has been little change in the local situation of teas since our last report, and no quotable change whatever. Trade is quiet with country points at present, on account of the bad roads, but dealers report the demand for future shipment very good, and judge from it that stocks throughout the country are rather light on all lines. It is expected that the first importations of new Japan teas will command a top price. United States buyers can handle big quantities of good liquoring May teas, and if Canadian buyers want them they will have to pay a very big price for them. As to the lower grades which will reach here about October next, advices from Japan do not give sufficient data as yet for forming an opinion as to approximate prices either one way or the other. Ceylons and Indians are moving fairly well.

## THE NATAL TEA INDUSTRY.

### ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

Few people are aware, notwithstanding the ever-increasing flow of immigrants to South Africa from all the world over, what small strides the Natal tea industry is making. Bearing in mind that Natal is the only tea-producing Colony in South Africa, the large and steadily growing market for tea, and the absence, up to now, of any keen competition from other countries, by reason of the protective duty of 6d. a lb. on imported produce, there are, says the *Natal Mercury*, only a dozen estates, or thereabouts, of any importance, and all of these manufacturing coarse, rough tea. So far, the public have had very little choice in the purchase of tea, and the local planter has taken advantage of this fact to turn out of his factory the greatest possible quantity, with little or no pretension to quality. This line of action, however, is at last beginning to tell on the industry,



for, apace with the growth of the Colony, imported teas, from India and Ceylon chiefly, are fast making their way in every other household, while import statistics prove that year by year the quantity imported is largely increasing, and local planters cannot sell off their stocks as easily as in days gone by. Beside this, Government can hardly be expected to protect these few estates at the expense of the tea-drinking public, and, sooner or later, the duty will either be abolished or at least greatly reduced, unless the industry makes more rapid strides to increase both quantity and quality of its produce. There is absolutely

#### NO REASON WHY NATAL CANNOT PRODUCE AS FINE TEAS AS ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

The labour conditions are precisely the same, while the wages paid are not much more than is customary in Assam and Ceylon, and, if these countries can produce, ship, and, after paying a big duty, sell their teas at a profit, it does not speak very highly for the energy or enterprise of our Colonists. There is a big future for tea in Natal, and, if more capital was put into the venture, care taken to produce as near as possible teas like either the Indian or Ceylon manufactured leaf, and at a price within reach of all, there is little fear of imported teas finding room in our market, especially as it has been proved scientifically that a good Natal tea contains less tannic acid, is less pungent, and therefore more easily digested, than the produce of any other country. The indentured

COOLIE IN NATAL DOES TWICE AS MUCH AS HIS BROTHER IN INDIA, and gets a third as much again as wages for his work, so that, theoretically, Natal planters ought to produce their teas about as cheaply as their Indian or Ceylon competitors.

A further hindrance to the progress of the Natal tea industry has been the marked absence of men with the necessary experience as proprietors or managers. Not one of the owners of any Natal tea estate has had any practical training in a large tea-producing country, and few employ Indian men. Most owners have become so puffed up with their own importance by being able to make, so far, a good thing of their tea, that they are jealous of any Indian or Ceylon planter about the place, preferring, should they need a manager, or assistant, to select a candidate who knows nothing about tea, and less about Indian labour, and set up to teach him a profession they know little about themselves. This narrow-mindedness can hardly be expected to improve what promises to become a big source of income to the country, and it is to be hoped men with broader views start more estates on better lines. If men from India and Ceylon were imported, well paid, and properly treated and freely employed, and a better class of coolie than the weeds being brought into this country now indentured with all the facilities tea-growing offers in Natal, there is no reason why the finest quality tea should not be made, at prices everybody can afford.

#### THE SOIL IS EMINENTLY SUITED

to the plant, and every condition favourable to its growth. The writer has seen and tasted samples of Natal tea, specially manufactured by a firm of tea-planters employing an experienced manager with Indian training, which cost 4½d. per lb. to manufacture and which compared very favourably with a fine Assam Broken Pekoe selling in London at 8d. to 9d. per lb. Allowing, say, 1d. for packing and handling before it reaches the customer, surely there is big enough margin for a profit when there is no duty to pay. More experience and more capital is needed to give this pleasant and paying industry the impetus it requires, and we ought easily, with both these conditions to back us, be able to produce in Natal every ounce of tea consumed in South Africa. The life of a tea-planter will appeal to many, and the pure country air and congenial employment has a charm peculiar to itself which must be experienced to be understood. Coffee production went to ruin here because no one thoroughly understood the venture, and the trees, delicate at best and fond of light shade, were expected to crop out in the open, with no pruning, or any other attention so necessary to this tree. The result was: every known blight and disease soon made their appearance, and presently exterminated every plantation and then the country was blamed for the failure.

LUCKILY FOR NATAL, THE TEA-PLANT IS HARDY, being an evergreen of the camellia family, so that it can stand to a large degree the rough usage it receives. Pruning of tea bushes—an art in itself, and the most important work on an Indian or Ceylon estate—is reduced to mere hacking down the bush with the

largest-sized pruning knife obtainable, and often in the hands of a raw coolie; and as a result a heavy mortality usually ensues on some estates. Plucking, another very important work, is done in a most primitive fashion, and it is a wonder the trees “flush,” or send out new shoots again, after the handling they get. By careful plucking—i.e., by removing two or three leaves with the “bud,” or topmost unformed leaf, and leaving an “eye” or embryo shoot below, carefully protected by the stalk of the last leaf picked, a new shoot soon forms, and springs out ready to be gathered in seven to ten days. The local fashion is to tear off the “flush” in handfuls and in some cases the writer has counted no less than eight leaves on a single stalk, the stalk being torn away from the parent branch, and every chance of a succeeding flush lost. It can easily be understood, therefore, that, by careful and fine plucking, and nursing the next gathering—though the amount for the day be less than if picked by the local way—the former and correct method produces more flushes for the season than the latter, and in the long run a greater quantity is obtained per acre, while the quality is of course, incomparable.

#### SUITABLE LAND CAN BE HAD IN ANY QUANTITY

at moderate prices, and a capitalist starting on a holding of, say, 500 acres, with 50 Indians as a beginning, and an experienced manager, if he is not one himself, could easily commence his tea garden, and by ordinary perseverance and imitating Indian and Ceylon methods of production, would soon develop it into a very paying concern, and the source of a very comfortable income.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.** *Saturday, 31st January, 1903.*—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday at 11½d. and closed this evening at 11⅞d.

At present two powerful currents of speculation are struggling for the mastery so far without any decided advantage though the ascendancy of one or the other for the moment determines the rate.

In favour of the “bulls” is the probability always latent, which some, however, believe to have been already largely discounted by the Bank of the sale of the Sorocabana coming off and the product being drawn for at any moment.

The prospect of the possible intemperate drawing of £3,000,000 so excites imagination that sanguine “bulls” foretell a rise of 2, 3, and even 6d. and even the “bears” are overawed and kept anxiously on the string, whilst Melhoramentos, Municipal Loans, and the £2,000,000 lying to account of Guarantee fund all serve to heighten effect and keep the shaky rate from falling.

How long the Bank will be able to work the Sorocabana oracle without actually drawing, as the best “bulls” assert, or how long it will continue to draw without covering, as the “bears” believe, are questions that interest both alike but only time will reveal. At the Bank itself they say that they are not overdrawn at all and that abundant cover has been found in the market without utilizing Sorocabana or any other extraordinary resources, which are all there still a rod in pickle for bears who venture too far.

*Saturday, 7th February, 1903.*—Monday being a holiday, ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Tuesday, 3rd instant, at 11½d. and closed this evening at 11⅞d.

That in spite of the Acre trouble and prospects of a costly and tedious expedition, and in the face of a formidable speculation for the fall, rates should have suffered so little that the Bank felt itself strong enough to not merely let things slide but to rig the market in order to draw on better terms proves two things pretty conclusively, first, that the supply of bills is at present quite on a par with demand, and secondly, that the Bank has complete control of the market.

The balance of the Bank on 31st January shows an increase of deposits since 31st December of 7,819,000\$ partly on private and partly on Government account. Against this must be put an increase of 3,555,000\$ in Contas Correntes Garantidas and of 357,000\$ in Letras Descontadas, in all 3,912,000\$, besides which the Bank has improved its position with its Agents by 1,686,000\$ and, moreover, has in hand 2,221,824\$ more cash than in December. The conclusion being that the Bank has not only covered all its



operations during January, but has managed to pay back 1-686 contos to Agents as well.

The returns for the first week of February at the Rio Customs as well as those of many other Customs districts for January seem to show that the shrinkage of imports we have foretold some time back has really set in and that the demand for bills on this account will soon fall off, if, as is believed, the market is already overtaken. The pacification of the Acre will perhaps bring forward some of the rubber retained in the interior but will be outweighed by the foreign expenditure for military stores, that, in view of possible contingencies, must be considerable.

Another disturbing feature that keeps the market in suspense is the uncertainty regarding the proposals of the Planters' Congress. If 20 % of the coffee is to be burned without issuing paper money there will be a rise of sterling coffee prices and of exchange. But, if it is to be accompanied by an issue of paper money, the improvement in gold prices will probably be outweighed by the local depreciation of the currency and, instead of rising, exchange would fall.

With so many conflicting and contingent factors to allow for it is impossible to foretell what the course of exchange may be; but for the present and so long as the Bank of the Republic can count on the necessary elements it is evident that the intention is not to allow the rate to fall to 11½d. The most prudent policy, under such circumstances, must be to live from day and circumscribe operations to the absolutely requisite, otherwise operators may be surprised at any moment by a slump or a big rise. Both are on the cards, but which will win the day depends on factors that no one can exactly appreciate at present.

During the week ended February 7th the value of coffee shipped here and at Santos was £315,000 as against only £252,000 for the previous week and £339,000 last year.

Declared sales were 19,000 as against 188,000 the previous week and 163,000 bags of coffee last year.

N.B.—As we go to Press we hear that the offer of the S. Paulo Railway for purchase of the Sorocabana has been refused.

Coffee, 31st January.—The value of coffee cleared in January was £1,393,167 giving a weekly average of £348,292 against clearances of £1,213,419 and the weekly average of £303,355 last year.

During the past week ended January 30 the value of *embarques* was only £252,000 against £327,000 in the previous week and £384,000 last year.

Declared sales also fell off from 228,000 bags the previous week to only 188,000 bags, but even so were larger than the same week last year when they only reached 160,000 bags.

A satisfactory feature, too, is the continual rise of rubber prices. Pará fine being quoted as high as 3s. 10d. on January 8th, a rise of nearly 30 per cent. since July of last year. On the other hand foreign quotations for Sugar, Cocoa, and Cotton are all lower.

Imports seem to be falling off in spite of large receipts at the customs, the number of consular invoices received in January being only 10,844 as against 11,416 in November and 15,426 in December.

As we have said before, the economic balance seems at present to be almost even and its disturbance upwards or downwards to depend, just at present, on purely artificial conditions. During the second quarter March-June, the balance of trade will be certainly against us, but as a jobber rightly observed is quite possible that by that time the natural reaction to the present "bear" speculation may have set in, and heavy selling of futures for account of the new crop steady the rate or even send it up at its weakest period.

Entries at Rio and Santos for the week ended January 30th were 15,617 less than the preceding week's and 83,691 less than for the corresponding week last year, of which they represent only 67½ per cent.

For the crop, entries to 30th January were 2,595,782 bags less than last year on the same date.

Shipments (*embarques*) were smaller, being 30,190 less than the previous week's and 29,745 less than for the corresponding week last year.

Declared sales were also smaller, being 50,000 bags less than the previous week's, but 28,000 more than for the corresponding week last year.

Joint stocks at Rio and Santos showed a slight increase of 4,094 bags.

Local prices improved a little, the average for No. 7, being 4\$391, against 4\$337 for the previous week, and 4\$743 last year.

Spot prices at New York, showing no alteration from 5·25 c. as against 5·8 c. last year.

The f. o. b. value of the coffee cleared from Rio and Santos during the crop up to 30th January shows a shrinkage of £4,105,341 compared with last year.

Santos, 30th, January 1903.—A regular business was done during the past week at 4\$100 to 4\$200 commissarios basis on a steady but quiet market. Term markets on the other side showed only very small fluctuations and in consequence orders were not plentiful and sales to Europe and States did not come up to expectations. Good average was sold at 26/ to 26/6 and Superiors from 27/6 to 28/. The disparity between Europe and our market amounts to between 100 réis and 200 réis on the general market qualities.

The qualities most enquired for were again Superiors and Goods but also Regulars. Primes continue on a slow demand at 4\$600 to 4\$800. Superiors were sold at 4\$300 to 4\$500. Goods 200 réis to 300 réis below Regulars from 3\$600 to 3\$800. Lower qualities down to ordinary found readier buyers. Ordinary fetched at an average 3\$000 to 3\$200. Fine Bourbons are plentiful and their prices rule from 4\$700 to 4\$900. Washed coffees and washed Peaberry continue neglected. For really fine washed 6\$200 could be obtained. Washed Peaberry do not command a premium over flat bean washed. Lower qualities of washed are difficult to sell. Peaberry continue on a slack demand. Really fine green peas, flinty, are sought for and up to 5\$300 obtainable. For fine old yellow coffees not much interest is shown and for really fine qualities, large bean only 6\$000. is paid.

Entries for the week show again a small decrease of about 8,000 compared with the previous week. The shrinkage is chiefly due to smaller entries on the Paulista and Mogyana railways. Sorocabana entries were practically unaltered and when the Sorocabana Railway really receives the engines and waggons promised by the Paulista Company, as reported, we may expect larger entries from the Sorocabana districts.

Shipments for the week were small and about 83,000 less than last week. Of the about 142,000 despatched during the week only 81,000 were shipped. The stock, in consequence, shows again a small increase and amounts to 1,203,927, i.e. 40,000 and more against last week.

The *Panta* went up 10 réis on Saturday last.

A good deal is talked about the new bill establishing a surtax of 20 per cent. payable in low-grade coffees, not below *esc lha limpa*, in addition to the usual 11 per cent. payable in money.

The drop in exchange on Thursday from 11½d. to 11¼d. affected coffee scarcely at all, and only occasionally were offers bettered by 50 réis.

The average estimate of receipts for next month does not exceed 400,000 bags.

On the whole it may be said that the month of January has not been a profitable one for the exporters in general and that business during the month has been very difficult.

The total entries by the different S. Paulo Railways for the crop to February 6th, 1903, were as follows:—

	Past Jundiahy.	Per Sorocabana and others.	Total at S. Paulo	Total at Santos.	Remaining at S. Paulo.
1902-1903 ..	4,823,592	1,440,673	6,264,265	6,302,320	<i>nil.</i>
1901-1902 ..	6,267,375	1,648,415	7,865,790	7,846,252	19,538

Entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 6th February were again smaller, being 20,890 bags under the previous week's and 99,650 under those of the corresponding week last year, of which they represent only 60½ per cent. Crop entries up to the 6th February were 9,141,236 and should they continue at the same percentage as last week to the end of the crop will give a total of about 11,800,000 bags for the two ports.

Shipments (*embarques*) were 45,404 bags larger than the previous week's and 13,261 over the corresponding week's last year whilst stocks on 6th instant consequently showed a shrinkage of 95,027 compared with the previous Friday's.

Prices slightly improved, the average for the week for No. 7 here being 4\$459 as against 4\$391 the previous week and 4\$767 last year and at New York average spot 5·31c. as against 5·25c. the previous week and 5·72c. last year.

Declared sales also increased, being 8,000 more than the previous week's and 33,000 more than the corresponding week last year.



**Santos, 6th, February 1903.**—The main point of interest during the week was the advice of the very appreciable decrease of the world's visible, being, according to the New York Exchange 444,000 and Daring and Zoon's statistics 290,000 tons, a diminution larger than expected. This, together with better orders from the other side (that is, Superiors 28s. 6d. to 29s. and Good Average 26s. 9d. to 27s. 6d.) which came forward more freely, caused a better demand and the feeling in our market was a far better one. Commissarios were holding out for higher prices and obtained about 200 réis more than last week. Sales were very fair and more coffee was sold than declared (135,000). The States also showed more inclination to come into the market and American houses were good buyers, although the disparity between the New York and our market is rather a big one yet say about 300 réis.

The demand for the various qualities is practically unchanged: Goods and Superiors, specially the former, are mostly looked for, but also Regulars and Low Regulars show a very fair demand. Primes rule between 4\$700 to 4\$900, Superiors 300 réis below and Good 200 to 300 réis below Superior, Good Regulars 3\$700 to 3\$900 and Low Regulars up to 3\$500. Exporters have disposed, during the last fortnight, of a fair amount of their holdings of lower grades from 3\$000 to 3\$500. Washed continue practically unchanged. Fine old Peaberry fetched up to 5\$600 and Superior Peaberry showed also a better demand at 4\$500 to 4\$600.

Receipts and *Passagens* continue on their old level, being, with one holiday this week, only about 15,000 bags less than last week. It is very doubtful whether, if receipts continue as at present, the late benefit in prices will last long.

The small shipments in the beginning of the week were due to the fact that only a few steamers were in port. During the last few days shipments were fair, amounting to 164,000 bags and our stock decreased by 46,000 bags to 1,157,094.

Exchange fluctuated between 11½d. and 11¾d. and did not really influence coffee.

As regards the general position of our market, it may be said, that there are not as many lots at sale with money conditions, as a few months ago. Commissarios accompany the market well and the whole situation is a sounder one.

The Congress, held by the planters in S. Paulo, which was looked forward to with great interest last week, disappointed to a certain extent and practically nobody considers the discussions and Resolutions arrived at by the Congress of importance, as no one believes they will be carried through.

The idea of burning 20 per cent. of the coming coffee crop seems to be making steady way amongst official classes at Sao Paulo, as the President of the Chamber is reported to have gone to Minas so interview the Governor of that State as to his ideas on the subject, whilst Dr. Mello Peixoto, the Minister of Finance, has arrived here to sound the President Dr. Rodriguez Alves.

A correspondent at Ribeirao Preto writes as follows:—"The crop on the Dumont estate was very small this year, only 42,9303 cwt. as against 143,390 last season. The coming crop is expected to be better and to give 100,000 cwt."

"With regard to the coming S. Paulo crop it may be anything from 7 to 9 million bags but will certainly be very early and probably a million bags will be counted into current crop's entries."

**Sao Paulo.**—In the Municipal district of Ribeirao Preto there are said to be 29,380,996 coffee trees. The population of the district is estimated at 54,000, including 32,811 agricultural labourers, of whom 28,083 are foreigners, and 4,728 Brazilians.

**Minas.**—In the district of S. Manoel a farm with 330 acres of fertile land, 14,000 coffee trees, brickyard, grist mill, comfortable dwelling-house and other buildings has been sold at auction for 1:000\$, about £250.

**Para.**—In a report on the prospects of the Brazilian rubber trade, the United States Consul at Pará says the political troubles in the Acre territory have had a serious effect upon the rubber trade throughout that region, and will undoubtedly result in largely reducing the crop. The rubber produced on the Beni and the Acre is considered the best that comes to Pará, and its loss will, therefore, be felt by shippers and importers alike. It is said that the caoutchouc forests of Peru, from which nearly the whole supply of this product has heretofore been drawn, are practically exhausted, as the result of the wasteful methods pursued by the gatherers. It appears, however, that there is an almost inexhaustible supply of caoutchouc in the little-known regions about the

Upper Madeira. In the near future, gatherers must look to Bolivia for their supply of this gum. It is understood that a strong effort will be made to prevent their destroying the trees, as in Peru. Experts state that the tree can be tapped in a special manner and its gum extracted year by year for a long term before it becomes exhausted.

A serious obstacle to the successful production of rubber on the head waters of the Madeira is the system of taxation now in effect. Rubber merchants are charged 23 per cent., *ad valorem* export duty by the State of Matto Grosso. The State of Amazonas also charges 23 per cent. duty.

The supply of balata in sight is said to be so great that no fears of a shortage need be entertained for years to come, if the business is properly and intelligently handled. Experts report that there is not a tributary to the Amazon which does not show forests of this tree upon its banks. The importance of this new industry in Brazil may be realised when it is known that the market price of balata is equal to that of the best rubber and the cost of production is less than one-tenth that of rubber.

Balata has another advantage in that it does not necessitate the risk of life attendant upon the gathering of rubber. The balata grows upon high ground, as well as on the margins of the swampy streams, where the fevers lurk. It is a common saying in Pará that every ton of rubber from the upper river costs two lives. This can never be said of balata, for men work at this industry with no greater risk than usually attends any labour in the Tropics; and four men will gather as many kilograms of balata per day as thirty men can obtain of borracha.

## IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

### THE TEA CESS BILL.

At a Meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber, Government House, on Friday, the 20th instant, the Hon'ble Sir Montagu Turner said: My Lord, before moving that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the levy of customs duty on Indian tea exported from British India, be taken into consideration, I will refer briefly to the alterations which have been made by the Select Committee. It is recommended that one of the Members of the Tea Cess Committee, to whom will be entrusted the management of the funds, shall be nominated by the Madras Chamber of Commerce, while clause 5 of the Bill, referring to the application of the proceeds of the tea cess, has been amended so as to allow of moneys received from the Native States of Cochin and Travancore being dealt with by the Committee of twenty. It has been provided that an appeal shall lie to the Governor-General in Council should the Government Auditors disallow any item of expenditure by the Committee, and finally it has been laid down in clause 7 that rules to be made under the Bill shall be referred to the Committee for their remarks before being passed into law. I regret that our Hon'ble colleague Mr. Bolton has found it necessary to record a note of dissent on this last proposal on the grounds—first—of inconsistency with the new sub-clause 2 of clause 7 which provides for the making of rules relating to the nomination and appointment of members of the Committee. Second—that it is undesirable to introduce an amendment which might seem to place the Governor-General in Council in some degree of subordination to the Committee and that such a precedent may be embarrassing in the future. But I contend there is no inconsistency. The Tea Cess Committee must first come into existence before they can be consulted. They will, in terms of clause 4, be appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of various public bodies referred to in sub-clause (2) of that clause. After the Committee has been appointed the necessary rules for the working of the Bill will have to be considered and amongst them the rules for nomination and appointment of members to fill up vacancies in the Committee as they may occur. Further, the suggested procedure of referring proposed rules to the Tea Cess Committee before publication only follows out the idea already adopted in the case of the Mines and Electricity Acts where it has been provided that rules to be issued by the Government of India or by the Local Governments shall first be considered by the Boards appointed under those Acts respectively. The intention in both cases is to take advantage of



the expert knowledge or experience of the members of the Boards or Committees as the case may be. The idea of subordination need not come into consideration at all. I now move that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the levy of customs duty on India tea exported from British India, and to amend section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir Montagu Turner then moved that the Bill as amended be passed. He said: My Lord,—It has been argued that this Bill, which I hope will now pass into law, will form an awkward precedent for the taxation of other industries by the Government of India, and that possibly the Government of India at some future date may attempt to divert the proceeds of the tea cess Imperial purposes. As regards the latter point, before this could happen, a new Bill would have to be introduced, and an opportunity would be given to those interested to express their views on the subject. As regards the forming of a precedent for similar legislation, it has been made clear by the Government of India, in their correspondence with the Committee of the Tea Association, that they only agree to the legislation in view of the very special circumstances attaching to the case, one such circumstance being an assenting majority of over three-fourths of the payers of the levy. Nor is it likely that exactly similar circumstances will arise in regard to other industries. The Bill simply gives the active support of Government to the co-operative principle of advertisement and other measures tending to the advancement of an industry affording employment to a considerable number of Europeans and to native labourers, some 650,000 of whom are employed in the tea districts. This principle and these measures are not new in themselves and the novelty—novelty to India but not to the Empire—of which so much is made is confined to the method of collecting the tax. The effect of the operation of the Tea Cess Fund, it is hoped, will be the opening out of new markets and further developing the areas already occupied, all of which will be effected not at the expense of the general taxpayer, but by collections made from the members of the industry concerned. The part to be played by Government is simple enough. It will be to collect the funds and return them to the Tea Cess Committee. The object is simple and so are the provisions of the Bill, and further there is this advantage, the legalised cess being shared in by all will be much fairer than the voluntary fund which has been made at the expense of only a proportion of those engaged in the tea industry, although the benefits arising from the working of that Fund have been shared in by all. The legalised cess will secure a regular revenue for the working of foreign markets; it enables the Committee to lay down definite lines on which they can shape their forward policy, and at the end of the term for which the Bill will be passed into law, it will show, I trust, that the results of the working of the Tea Cess Committee have fully justified those who have memorialised the Government to pass this Bill, and Government in meeting the prayer of the memorialists. On a previous occasion I referred to the advantage gained in Ceylon by the imposition of a similar tea cess in that Island, and I may perhaps quote a few words from a letter addressed some months ago by a Ceylon Merchant to the Committee of thirty when the question was discussed as to whether the rate of the cess should be increased. This gentleman wrote as follows:—"Dealing with the further argument that no increase in the Ceylon Cess should be made until India gets her cess, Ceylon's reply to this should be, the longer India is short-sighted enough not to have a cess the better Ceylon men should be placed. Instead of being partners, India and Ceylon are competitors, and the present advantage held by Ceylon is entirely due to its cess. Why therefore ask your competitor to share in this trade rather do what we can to prevent their having a cess." Now that the cess will be introduced into India, may we not express the hope that India and Ceylon should join hands and work together for the development of the tea industry both of India and Ceylon in all parts of the world?

The Hon'ble Mr. Charlu said:—There is indeed a considerable plausibility about this measure. I may even say a seductiveness, promising, as it does, the development of an industry in a country where, seeing what a pass it has come to, growth and multiplicity of industries seem to be at a tremendous discount and yet the only saving grace. But I must confess to serious misgivings as to this particular industry and as to the particular form of stimulating it.

To develop is rather an ambiguous phrase, and results might follow which are of dubious benefit. If it be to put tea in the place of what Your Excellency forcibly called the vile stuff which goes down the throats of men, it would do decided good. It might do a still greater good and even prevent crimes and brutal misdeemeanours, if it would materially minimise the use of the viler stuff which may or may not soothe but, too surely, inebriates. I am quite clear that every encouragement should be given to quicken consumption in both these two ways. But if action is to be taken to throw tea broadcast so as to make it to insinuate itself excessively into village life and into places where neither the vile stuff nor the viler stuff is now the fashion, then the result will be the reverse of beneficial; for it would introduce expensive habits by necessitating an additional jug of milk and an additional lump of sugar—possibly to these articles being stinted where they are more necessary and in respect of members of family for whom they are primarily essential. There is already a growing disposition to be little the credit which has traditionally belonged to masses of this country—the credit for thrift which in many cases is carried to the borders of parsimony. The acquaintance with, and the taste for, this fresh beverage may emphasise that disposition and lay them open to a real charge of extravagance. I will not speak here of its enervating effects and the danger of its bringing in its wake by insensible degrees, other and more expensive and deleterious potations, which are unhappily coming into fashion with a few but happily beyond the ken of many as yet. Thus, it seems to me that, so far as pushing tea into the country internally is concerned, the result will be either meagre or harmful. As to extending its range outside this country the bulk of exporters will have but a modest share in it, and they will have to pay all the same, possibly for the benefit of those who are smitten with a more speculative spirit of enterprise and who have over-produced or may over-produce and may yet grudge that all the cost of forcing it into distant and yet unopened markets should come from them alone as it should rightly do. If the modest and unambitious exporters are to be laid under contribution towards a cost of this sort, they will naturally demur if left free to agree or disagree. In such a case, a tax upon them would virtually be to coerce the cautious many into paying for the benefit of the adventurous few. I cannot, do what I may, get rid of these objections to which the Bill seems to me only too open. But I should indeed be glad if this Bill, which is to become law to-day, would, in practice, undo my fears and prove me to have been false prophet.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

## PLANTING IN BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

### A FORTUNE TO BE MADE IN TOBACCO AND TEA.

A young Ceylon planter, who recently went across to the Nyassaland districts, sends the *Ceylon Observer* a letter from which we quote:—

25th January, 1903.—I arrived in Chinde after a fortnight's pleasant journey from Ceylon. The river Zambesi being so low, the paddle boat could not travel farther than the first Wooding Station, after which I had to go by small barge—no house boats being available. It took 10 long weary days from there to Chiromo. 13 natives paddled the barge, stopping at night time at different villages en route. The river got worse and worse until at Chiromo, I was told that I should have to travel by *Machilla team*:—that is, being carried by natives to Blantyre. I did not care for the idea, as the forests were swarming with lions, leopards and other wild beasts and only a short time since Mr. Ray the Manager of Messrs. Sharer's Zambesi Traffic Company had a visit paid to his house by a full-grown lion. Well, I travelled all night through the forest—walking every now and again to stretch my legs; the natives meanwhile made as much noise as possible and imitated the lion to scare them away. They carry varieties of skins made into water bottles across their shoulders and run with great speed.

Thankful I was when "Chiromo" was reached after a journey lasting six weeks from the time I left Colombo. On the way up the Zambesi river I visited Mrs. Livingstone's grave: she is buried near the Jesuit Missionary Station but they had not attempted to keep the grave in good order. It took 2½ days from Chiromo to Blantyre. The river has never known to be so low before by the oldest inhabitants and the river is swarming with Crocodiles and



Hippopotami, but they did not prevent me from having my swim every evening coming up, a rather unwise thing to do, but after sitting huddled up in a barge all day in a sweltering hot sun one would risk anything, for a cool bath. I am 45 miles from Blantyre, up the hills and not far from Henry Brown, who used to be in Ceylon. Coffee, as you no doubt know, has had its day. Many firms have been ruined by it and are now all going in for *tobacco* and *tea* which pay a large profit at present. As for the land and soil, it is simply marvellous—not like Ceylon “clay,” but rich dark soil. To give you an idea, the tea that Mr. Brown planted two years ago I said at once when asked was “*five years old*.” Another Ceylon man who saw it said the same thing. The labour is so cheap I could hardly believe the wages the natives receive. As for the climate being made out to be so treacherous, that is simply ridiculous. Where I am at present is quite equal to Hatton. The only thing is: food is very scarce; but when British Central Africa is properly known it will I am sure be the centre of Africa for growing Tobacco and Tea Men with capital, not afraid to speculate out here, can I think make a fortune in a short time—very different from Ceylon in labour and competition. Although I was laughed at for coming over here to grow *coffee*, let me tell you at once that *coffee* is not reckoned on in future: *tobacco* and *tea* only. The tobacco grows here like a weed and I am planting 50 acres up this year and also *tea* is coming on splendidly, in fact better than I ever saw it in Ceylon. All that is required is machinery and that is coming as soon as enough tea is in bearing. At present I have to manufacture this estate's tea by hand and a steady sale is 3s. per lb.—Not so bad.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

The terminal market, which is mainly influenced by the daily receipts in Rio and Santos, gave way in the early part of the week to the extent of about 6d. per cwt., says the *Produce Markets' Review* of February 28, 1903, but since then, influenced by rumours of a combine, this was more than recovered. In our opinion the enormous weight of stocks in all parts of the world will prove too much for any such operations, and must remain so while Brazil continues to produce more than the consumption requires. Judging by the amount already received, it looks as if this crop will turn out from 11 to 12 million bags, or from 1 to 2 millions more than is necessary, and the silence as to expectations for the next crop is ominous of another large one. At the auctions rather heavier supplies have led to a slight reduction in all but the finest qualities. At the decline there is a steadier tone and more general buying, which tends to the opinion that the interior stocks on the Continent are unduly small.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—At the opening public auctions on Monday, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 28th ultimo, the market developed increased strength, and in some cases an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. was established. This rise has been firmly supported in the later sales, particularly in the medium and lower descriptions, the larger quantity brought forward having been readily bid for, while the proportion of withdrawals was comparatively small. The well-sustained strength of the market is due to a more general enquiry, the favourable statistical position, and to the opinion more generally entertained that the supplies will not be in excess of requirements. Those who held aloof from the market a short time back, hoping to purchase on more favourable terms, have been disappointed, and are now buying freely to replenish their much-reduced stocks. This, coupled with the shorter stocks in first hands and the smaller quantity held by the trade, are the principal causes of the rise, which is more justified than any similar advance for many years past. Of the 35,000 packages brought forward at the public auctions only 3,200 failed to pass the hammer, and these have since changed hands at full rates. There was active competition for the medium and lower sorts at the rise noted above, while the finer grades were not so freely bid for, excepting for the stand-out teas, but no change of importance in values took place.

CEYLON TEAS.—With only moderate supplies on offer, an active demand again prevailed for all kinds, while some descriptions marked a further advance. Whole Leaf Teas up to 7d. continued

to be most sought after, and were readily taken at a rise of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on last week's prices, very little being sold under 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Good Medium Pekoes were firm, exporters having come in more freely and stimulated competition. In Broken Pekoes the lower grades met with a keen demand at hardening rates, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was practically the lowest quotation for these descriptions, but the finest kinds were not so well supported, and values were slightly lower. At the public sales 20,900 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,590 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEAS.—The market continues firm with a good demand chiefly for the lower kluds of Moning. The quantity available is now reduced to such a small compass that prices for even the very commonest have advanced considerably. There has been a better enquiry for Red Leaf kinds, and, consequently, firm prices have been realised. At the public auctions 790 packages were offered.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—Owing to the poor quality of the Gun-powders brought forward for public auction, but little animation was shown in the bidding, and somewhat lower quotations resulted. Fair liquoring teas with any style, however, were well competed for, and these descriptions remain very firm. There is a steady demand for Capers, and the market remains unchanged. Of the 1,500 packages of Green Tea offered on Thursday only a small proportion failed to find buyers.

### COFFEE DISEASE.

#### BUG AND ROTTEN BERRY.

Mr. James Dempster writes in the *Central African Times*:—Some three years ago, when the coffee industry was threatened with disaster, a slight gleam of deliverance was ushered in which was to solve the difficulty and arrest the inevitable in the form of a Cameron bug. No doubt it came as a glad surprise to the unfortunate planter, when the gifted horticulturist dropped across this tiny insect which he declared to the planting world to be the sole cause of the spread of contagion and death among the coffee trees, and that the wheels of the principal industry of this country could only be kept moving by the extermination of this beautiful creature. The future success of coffee rested on the destruction of this Cameron bug, and, of course, the slaughter of the helpless was freely indulged in, bringing with it such success which will be best told by the struggling planters themselves. About the same time, or probably two or three years prior to this remarkable discovery, a mighty boom burst like a peal of thunder, and found an audience with every planter in B. C. A., that shade was one of the essentials to successful coffee growing; and with the production of shade, combined with the extermination of the Cameron bugs, lay the untold millions for the toils and pains of the dreaming planter. These two subjects, *viz.*, shade and Cameron bug, must therefore of necessity occupy the bulk of this paper. At the outset it may, with every propriety, be asked how many tons of increase per annum have those five years or more of anxious shade planting produced on the country's export of crop, or how much of an increase has been brought about by the last three or four years of anxious hunting? These are questions probably painful to touch upon, and I had better leave them to be answered by the planter himself. Shade has been got up, bugs have been eagerly sought for and killed, still the cherry, as it passes through the pulper, is as rotten as ever. Agriculture, in common with most things, requires a very careful training, and it has long since been recognised that if a man passes the first eighteen years of his life apart from the rural calling, his chances are slight, indeed, of ever making his mark in the world of agricultural lore. There is blank for ever after, which he feels unable to fill up. It is one of the few things a man can never teach himself. To attribute a cause to a certain effect has long been the business of human kind. Everything must be accounted for in some form, so it was when the planters of B. C. A. found themselves brought face to face with difficulties of agricultural life—difficulties which they found themselves unable to overcome—that they had to assign some cause of the destruction of sometimes a very promising crop, which resulted in cloaking their ignorance with the theory of a Cameron bug. The amount of money spent annually in the hope of eradicating this insect cannot be well calculated, but may probably run into a few figures. The statement that the virus of bug, or of any other insect, is the cause of bastard wood and rotten berry, seems to me to wear absurdity on the very face of it when all evidence



is brought to bear upon the point. Why is it, may I ask, that bastard wood and rotten berry never occur on some plantations, or rather in some districts, notwithstanding the fact that the insects are in great numbers? Why is it that the half of a garden may be sound and the other half rotten, while bug is equally plentiful all over? How is it that those parts remain absolutely sound and the other parts continue absolutely rotten? How is it that a young garden bearing maiden crop can be entirely rotten and where a single bug is never found to exist? To the foregoing questions I hope to be able to give one satisfactory reply and point to the main source of mischief, which has hitherto lain wrapt in the mist of inexperience, and where the light of agricultural lore has not as yet laid it open to their dimmed vision. I do not wish to cast aside too lightly this erroneous notion regarding bug merely on the ground of its being common belief and that it is not backed up with the principles of science, but I wish to prove that bastard wood and rotten berry originate from quite a different source that has hitherto been supposed. Rotten berry is a disease, arising from a certain character of subsoil and from this cause only. Unfortunately, most of the plantations are laid out on this notorious subsoil, especially in the Cholo district, and whenever the roots penetrate it, then the long train of difficulties follow—bastard wood and rotten crop. Certain kind of surface soil seem to modify the action of the under soil, and if deep enough a sound crop may be looked for under certain external circumstances. A dry year has often been lamented, and yet if statistics were to hand it would be found that those dry seasons yielded a much better return in districts such as Cholo. Unless the trees are already of a bastard nature and no more rains falls than what those surface soil can deal with until the crop has reached a half mature stage, a practically sound crop will result. Every planter admits that the first round of picking at the commencement of crop is fairly sound and the next round of picking is not just so sound. The third round is probably three parts rotten and the successive pickings absolutely so. Under those circumstances early blossom is desirable, and if there is plenty of energy in the trees no damage to any serious extent will occur from any ordinary drought. From the present reasoning, it is evident, on the certain surface soils referred to, that early blossom hurried forward to a fairly matured stage, before excessive wetness sets in, will result in a fairly round crop, while later blossom will be entirely rotten. To the observing mind, those plantations which possess some repute as to their adaptability for coffee growing will be found to have a subsoil either of a chalky or unretentive character, and where such conditions exist both early and late blossoming will be a thoroughly sound crop. On a subsoil composed of a chalky substance I venture to contend that neither bastard wood nor rotten berry will be found, and that under almost any external conditions the trees will not fail to give their annual return provided the roots be protected against the ravages of borer, which is the only detriment those plantations have to contend with, the effects of which being ignorantly attributed to sun. Now, this brings us to a most important point, *viz.*, the benefits of shade as a protection against sun. After many years of shade planting as a drought protection, as well as with a view of its exterminating borer, we find that the export of crop has rapidly gone down, while drought is as much lamented as ever, and if borer is no worse it is certainly by no means any better. Probably it may take the advocates of shade as many years as they have already been advocating it to rise to the knowledge of the infinite amount of damage done by it. Sunlight and root space are two things essential to the full development of plant-life, and where over-crowding takes place there begins the struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest, hence the reason that those rapid-growing shade trees are seen towering in triumph over their weaker fellows—the coffee. It has been well remarked that shade trees and coffee cannot grow in the same garden. Directly under shade only about one-tenth of the crop will be found compared with the trees in the open, while it seems almost impossible to rear supplies within reach of the lateral or feeding roots of shade trees. The fine texture of primary supposed to be found under shade is most undoubtedly mistaken for dwarfishness, a detriment to all future bearing, and highly prejudicial to its use for seed purposes. Its principal purpose seems to be a protection in time of drought, but I am unwilling to believe that damage to any great extent will accrue from drought if the trees are in form for bearing—that is to

say, if they have not been undermined in previous years by borer. Trees in the open, if sound at the roots and the capillaries of the soil broken to prevent escape of moisture before the hot season sets in, will not suffer inconvenience from any ordinary drought, not even from such a drought as we experienced towards the end of 1902. As a remedy to eradicate borer it has not as yet given any great results; besides, it is in my eyes not only futile but quite unnecessary, as no pest is easier exterminated than borer, if only proper means are employed. It may be contended that a proper shade should be a deep feeder, in which case the moisture which it must obtain is derived from a deeper source than we might reasonably expect the coffee roots to dip to, and therefore its roots can absorb no moisture which should go to maintain the coffee. The idea seems to me but an empty one, and certainly not one based on any practical or scientific principle. If a thorough understanding existed as to the law of capillary force, the contention, I fear, would meet with many difficulties.

As all moisture rises by that special force from very great depths, it seems but a matter of little concern whether the shade roots are deep or shallow. If deep, then the coffee can only receive such supply as the deeper feeding roots are unable to absorb.

In conclusion, I venture to predict that shade must ere long become a thing of the past, and the Cameron bag—like tsetse fly will have its day, and in some years hence, the likelihood of planter's bug-hunting will be as improbable as the present day stockowners betaking themselves to the bush in quest of tsetse fly. In a word before closing, I wish to impress upon the planter that his predominating enemy is that notorious character of subsoil already referred to, and that its action can be modified by artificial means. An application of lime or chalk in proper quantity and skilfully applied will modify, if not altogether counteract, its present action; but it must be remembered that there is a right as well as wrong method in applying it. Measures such as these, however, seem a bit impracticable when so much land abounds, possessing the very elements in its sub-soil that we would seek to remedy.

### THE RISE IN TEA.

It is some time, says the *Grocer* of 28th ultimo, since the main conditions of supply and demand were so favourable for a rise in tea as they are now, and there is reason to believe that the upward tendency of the market which has set in this month will be maintained. Within the last two or three years various circumstances have operated adversely against a solid and permanent improvement in the tea trade; and all persons concerned—from the planters in India and Ceylon to the importers and dealers at home—have been heavily handicapped in one way and another in growing the tea, shipping, and distributing it in the United Kingdom and other places. During the greater part of 1901 and 1902 there was such an exceptional glut of tea through superabundant crops in India that it became increasingly difficult to effect sales and work off the excessive stocks in first hands, especially as a large proportion of them consisted of common and undesirable qualities, thin and poor in cup, and which could be got rid of only at correspondingly low rates. In short, both the quality and price of tea of British growth were lower than ever before known, and the consequences were financially disastrous to most tea companies, no less than to many proprietors of private gardens.

Thus matters went on time after time until about the opening of the present month, when it was clearly seen that the statistical position of the article had vastly improved from what it was five or six months ago. Confidence, nevertheless, has been extremely slow in developing itself, the home trade generally, in their efforts to keep down prices, refusing to recognise to the full the altered situation, and often abstaining awhile from purchasing freely, in the hope that during the interval the market would take a downward turn. As a rule, however, they were disappointed in accomplishing their object, for the struggle between buyers and importers has all along been a tough one—the former striving to get teas “for price” at the lowest level possible, whilst holders, by strictly limiting the quantities to be put up by auction every week, have invariably kept the supply rather below than the least above the average requirements of the dealers. In fact, the conditions of buying and selling tea got so completely reversed that, instead of



forcing off different breaks at rates under their limits, as had been done scores of times previously, the brokers frequently ignored bids that did not come up to the required standard of value by withdrawing numerous lots in succession, knowing that they were sure of getting their own price, if not more, for the same teas, from purchasers who would wait upon them privately after the auctions were over, and perhaps clear off other parcels besides in anticipation of having further urgent orders to fulfil prior to the holding of the next public sales. These, in their natural course, passed off better than had been expected, being occasionally marked by more tone, assisted by a livelier competition, until now the demand has become quite brisk at hardening prices. At first the advance was so trifling as to be almost imperceptible, but recently it has been both rapid and important, and common leaf teas at this moment are quoted 1½d per lb. higher than they were in Autumn last.

There are, moreover, good grounds for the smart reaction that has taken place of late, chief among them being the report that the Indian tea crop for the current year is not reckoned to yield a greater quantity than will admit of 145,000,000 lbs. being shipped direct to the United Kingdom, in contrast with 156,000,000 lbs. for the season 1901-02, which latter total included 3,000,000 lbs. from Travancore. The general outlook for tea is therefore eminently satisfactory from the standpoint of holders, who are hardly likely to be losers, even if they were for a time to half starve the market until all doubts respecting the contents of the next Budget were entirely dissipated. Further, it may be stated, on the authority of Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, tea-brokers, that not only is the bonded stock in London some 11,000,000 lbs. less than in 1902, but that there were then very heavy stocks of duty-paid tea on hand; while this year, in view of a possible reduction in the duty, these will doubtless have been reduced to a minimum, which may mean a difference of several millions of pounds. Thus the supplies henceforth to be drawn upon are considerably less in proportion than would at first sight appear, owing to the shortness of both visible and invisible stocks in public and private warehouses.

### THE "TEA KING OF AMERICA."

The *American Grocer* gives an interesting talk with a tea trade authority:—"The Tea King of America"—that is the title that has been aptly bestowed upon modest Mr. P. C. Larkin, head of the Salada Tea Company, the main office of which is located at Toronto, Canada, and which has branch offices at Montreal, New York, Buffalo, Boston, Detroit, Pittsburg, and several other large cities on the North American Continent.

It's a pretty big sort of title, but the business done by this Company in so capably marketing its unsurpassed Ceylon teas, rather leads one to the use of large words. There is a temptation in them—they seem the only ones that adequately serve the purpose.

An *American Grocer* representative recently called at the offices of Mr. James A. McGuane, the courteous and able New York manager for the "Salada" teas, and was fortunate in there meeting Mr. Larkin, who happened to be in town on one of his periodical runs to the States.

"How's the 'Salada' trade getting on?" was a direct but natural inquiry.

"Splendidly," was the not unexpected answer. "We do, of course, a packet tea business exclusively, and have made our product well known all over this country and Canada within a comparatively short space of time, by all kinds of judicious advertising, to reach both the consumer and the grocery trade, besides giving demonstrations in suitable places, etc."

The position of black teas in the market was mentioned. "In Canada," remarked Mr. Larkin, "the black tea sold is nearly all that of India and Ceylon, and though at one time the China black tea trade was very large, it has of late years greatly diminished."

"Ceylon green tea, however, has given us greater difficulty, I must admit. People have been devoted to China and Japan greens, and a great deal of effort on the part of the Salada Company has been required to introduce Ceylon greens."

"Ceylon Green Teas have only been on the market two or three years, but have made wonderful progress, and wherever Japan teas are sold, there delicious uncolored and unadulterated teas will quickly capture the market."

"It possesses the same flavour and all the meritorious qualities of the Japan teas but is of infinitely finer flavour, of more delicacy, and yet of far greater strength."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the advent of these teas will displace the Japans in a very short time."

The *American Grocer* man ventured to remark that Americans are still partial to Japans.

"True," replied Mr. Larkin. "But the only difficulty we experience is in getting them to drink our 'Salada' brands for the first time. After that it is pretty clear sailing. The teas are really wonderfully good, and a trial or two is usually quite sufficient to make a convert even of the most confirmed devotee of the Japan teas. Had it been otherwise, our teas would hardly have made the progress they admittedly have in the estimation of the general public, which is, after all, the final judge of a thing's success. But, there, I have to rush over to Newark, get back, get dinner, and catch a train for Toronto"—and Mr. Larkin arose from his chair to do these several things.

"Salada" teas are being carried pretty generally now, especially by the better class of grocers. The introduction of them has not been noisy, but persistent—more like the steady, quiet, but irresistible rush of a deep river than the froth and bustle and hulla-baloo of a quick running, but shallow, stream. That's the way P. C. Larkin and his capable aides believe in doing business.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

The following is from the Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Friday, the 13th March, 1903:—

*Prize Essay on Pruning Tea in Ceylon.*—Read letter from Messrs. George Steuart & Co, suggesting that the time should be extended for the receipt of the essays on pruning to a date not less than three months from the date of which notice of the alteration of date shall be given. Submitted correspondence. *Resolved*:—"That the time for receiving Essays be extended to 15th June, 1902; (ii) that any gentlemen who have sent in essays be allowed to withdraw or revise them; (iii) that the Committee desires that the essays should be typewritten or at least not in essayist's own handwriting; (iv) that the essay be signed with a *nom de plume* and accompanied with a sealed envelope with the *nom de plume* outside and the name of writer inside." Read letter from Messrs. Capper & Sons offering a second prize of Rs.200 to the writer of the second best essay on the pruning of Tea in Ceylon. *Resolved*:—"That Messrs. Capper & Sons be thanked for their generous offer and that the same be accepted."

*Cardamom Committee.*—Submitted correspondence with Mr. Wm. Sinclair. Read the following Interim Report:—At a Meeting of cardamom-growers held to-day, the following Resolutions were passed and are submitted as an Interim Report by the Cardamom Committee.—"That the money promised be now called up from the subscribers as per list and that meantime information be procured from Messrs. J. A. Spence, J. H. Renton, M. Rogivue, J. Royden Hughes, J. A. Elmsley, R. V. Webster and locally regarding the best means of making known cardamoms in Australia, France, America, and other countries. (11) That the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon be asked to obtain for Mr. J. A. Spence a letter from Government accrediting him to the official authorities in the Australian Commonwealth, with a view to his being afforded facilities for acquiring desired information regarding the Cardamom Imports into Australia." *Resolved*:—"That the Interim Report be noted and the request made in the second Resolution be acceded to."

*Java Tea Industry.*—Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, forwarding for information copy of letter, etc., on the subject of Tea Industry in Java, and mentioning that with the exception of news which is still awaited from Annam, all that can be learnt from correspondence has now been obtained as regards Tea Industry of China, Java, and Annam, at the same time regretting that for obvious reasons it has not been possible to be more successful in obtaining the desired data. *Resolved*:—"That the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to the Chamber."



# THE THIRTY COMMITTEE.

[From the Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the "Thirty Committee" held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Saturday, the 14th day of March, 1903.]

"That the matter be deferred till next Meeting."

**Members of Committee.**—Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, intimating that the following had been elected Chamber of Commerce representatives on the "Thirty Committee" during 1903. Messrs. W. Shakspeare, J. F. Headrick, H. J. Scott, G. H. Alston, A. J. Denison, and Hon. Mr. Stanley Bois. Read letter from Mr. Wm. Forsythe resigning his seat on the "Thirty Committee," having temporarily left Ceylon. **Resolved:**—"That Messrs. W. C. Braybrooke and J. C. Dunbar be elected members of the "Thirty Committee" vice Messrs. Wm. Forsythe and Fred. Hadden, resigned.

**Proposed Increase of the Tea Cess.**—Considered the present position. **Resolved:**—"That the following telegram be sent to London: 'Prompt payments green tea bonus will cease 20th March, payments must than be made up to the 7 millions voted as funds available'." Read letter from Mr. H. K. Rutherford to Mr. A. C. Kingsford on the subject of the Proposed Increase of the Tea Cess. **Resolved:**—"That the Committee would ask the Chairman to point out to Mr. Rutherford that his original suggestion was to guarantee a bonus of 4 cents a lb. on all Green Tea made during 1903, and if funds should be insufficient to make the payment a first charge on 1904 funds and not to approach Government direct as indicated in his letter of the 6th February, 1903.

**Ceylon Green Teas Grant, 1903.**—Submitted Sketch Return from estates of estimate of Green Teas for 1903. Read letter from Mr. H. Drummond Deane in reference to an experiment which he believes would prove of some value to the Green Tea Industry of Ceylon.

# MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated March 6th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

		Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
		Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903	...	1,193,654	861,972	59,867
1901-1902	...	1,316,297	903,141	62,523

34,774 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 59,348 packages were offered in public auction  
21,895 " CEYLON } this week.  
2,679 " JAVA }

It seems now a certainty that there cannot be more than about 145 million lbs. of the Northern India Tea crop available for the United Kingdom, against 152½ millions last season, and 162 millions in the previous season. Ceylon is also short;—and Southern India is so far only sending us a slight increase over last season's quantity.

With deliveries proceeding at a normal rate in face of a possible reduction in the duty, it is evident that stocks of duty-paid tea are comparatively light. This is borne out by the considerable buying business which is taking place in spite of higher prices; hence there can be no doubt that the natural result of shorter supply is becoming apparent, and that sellers are consequently in a better position to control the market than for many years past.

**INDIAN.**—The slightly reduced auctions passed with good competition for all teas over 6½d. per lb., medium and better teas tending towards harder rates. For inferior kinds competition was not up to last week, and as importers were disinclined to give way in face of the strong position, several parcels were taken out. Exports to U. K. second half February 990,000 lbs., against 1,540,000 lbs. same period 1902, making from 1st April 144,556,000 lbs., against 152,251,800 lbs. The following averages are worthy

**"All Sorts and Conditions of Men"**

USE

**ST. JACOBS OIL**

**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

**CONQUERS PAIN**





of note:—"Okayti T Co., 2/1; "Ass. Fron. T Co. Hapjan," 1/4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; "Koliabur," 1/2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; "Tara T Co.," 1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; "Ass. Fron. T Co. Khobong" and "Sealkotee," 1/2.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 28,851 pkgs., av. 8·20d. 1902, 37,103 pkgs., av. 7·45d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 907,735 pkgs., av. 7·39d. 1901-2, 1,031,498 pkgs., av. 7·78d.

CEYLON.—There was a generally strong market at fully up to last week's rates for all teas over 6d per lb., commonest grades alone showing a slightly weaker market. Exports to U. K. for February 7,750,000 lbs., against 8,000,000 lbs., 1st January to end February 15,750,000 lbs., against 17,250,000 lbs. Estimate for March 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 millions, against 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  millions, 1902.

Average for week 7·83d, against 7·12d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 172,274 pkgs., av. 7·61d. 1902, 216,616 pkgs., av. 7·19d.

JAVAS—met with a ready sale at full valuations, nearly everything selling in the room.

### CINCHONA.

The parcels that were bought in at last week's Amsterdam sales have since been sold at full prices. At the London auction next week comparatively large quantities will be offered, a certain proportion of which consists of soft Colombian bark imported about 1880 and 1882, and for which 5s 9d per lb. was refused at the time of arrival; the present value is about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. The London stock of bark consists of 8,010 packages, of which only about 3,000 are manufacturing descriptions, the remainder being druggists' bark, soft Colombian, etc. The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at

Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe during February as under:—

Year.	Amst.lbs.	Year.	Amst. lb
1903 ...	661,000	1897 ...	456,000
1902 ...	524,000	1896 ...	460,000
1901 ...	748,000	1895 ...	460,000
1900 ...	641,000	1894 ...	460,000
1899 ...	539,000	1893 ...	355,000
1898 ...	700,000		

### Total Shipments January-February.

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs
1903 ...	1,254,000	1897 ...	846,000
1902 ...	1,464,000	1896 ...	1,576,000
1901 ...	1,748,000	1895 ...	1,413,000
1900 ...	1,256,000	1894 ...	1,351,000
1899 ...	1,048,800	1893 ...	1,255,000
1898 ...	1,656,000		

### QUININE.

As a result of the 27 per cent. advance in bark at Amsterdam last week, the German makers announced an increase of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per oz. in their official price, and now quote 1s 2d per oz. in bulk. Messrs. Howards have also advanced their quotations 1d, to 1s 3d in bulk and 1s 5d in vials in 1,000 oz. lots. Whiffens quote 1s 2d in bulk and 1s 4d in vials. French make (P. & G.) is 1s 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Quinine salts are also higher. In the second-hand market a considerable demand prevailed on Friday of last week at from 1s 1d to 1s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, spot, closing sellers at the latter price; May delivery sold at 1s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and August at 1s 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. This week the market has been quiet, with small sales of B. & S. and for Brunswick at 1s 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ d.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING FEBRUARY FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

IMPORTS.					DELIVERIES.				
		1903.	1902.	1901.			1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian ...	...	8,418,075	11,526,983	13,005,747			12,321,796	13,198,267	31,426,765
Ceylon ...	...	6,764,819	8,136,837	10,315,222			7,078,027	7,425,443	14,284,794
Java ...	...	599,340	744,310	724,150			491,050	511,560	666,890
China, etc. ...	...	1,860,128	928,433	814,125			1,975,749	1,742,611	2,386,405
Total lbs. ...		17,642,362	21,336,563	24,859,244			21,866,622	22,877,881	48,764,854

### FROM 1ST JUNE TO 28TH FEBRUARY.

IMPORTS.				DELIVERIES.				STOCK.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.		1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Indian ..	134,262,157	144,473,154	149,201,642		112,159,704	111,258,247	119,852,824	66,259,523	72,104,482	56,367,586
Ceylon ...	72,637,913	73,755,569	85,902,573		75,459,651	77,149,339	87,227,427	19,482,566	22,349,787	23,924,990
Java ...	3,997,700	4,426,660	3,817,380		4,348,610	4,384,590	3,778,110	969,710	1,263,430	1,045,870
China, etc. ...	18,666,555	22,092,365	21,431,420		18,650,581	15,632,247	19,264,392	14,269,215	17,577,933	14,603,109
Total lbs. ...	229,564,325	244,747,748	260,353,015		210,618,546	208,424,423	230,122,753	100,981,014	113,295,632	95,941,555

### (AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8·20d., MARCH 6TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
Halashana	121 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	8	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6
Travancore	492	6·96												
Arnakal	132 p	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	33	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	73	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7	12	8	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6
Invercauld	35	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	7	14	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			10	6				
Malabar	11 p	7												
Penshurst	72	7	19	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	45	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	11 p	7 7 $\frac{1}{4}$						
S T T Co Venture	242 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			90	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	81	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	6			8	7
Wynaad	186	6·95											23 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pootomulla	93	6 $\frac{3}{4}$			22	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$			21	6 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Wynaad T Co Per	93 p	7 $\frac{1}{4}$			31	7	42 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	20	6 $\frac{3}{4}$				

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1903.

[No. 14.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Wednesday, the 8th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—A small shower fell on Wednesday, hardly 3 cents, but there is a promise of more. *Wind* strong, West to North-West. *Crop*—is generally finished and pruning and manure is going on. *Coffee*—Remarkably healthy, the show of leaf for this time of year being extraordinary. *Spike*—forward, and trees in good heart for rain. *Health*—Fair. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—The Telugu new year was kept last Monday, it is a sign for the ryot to prepare his fields for sowing. It is lamentable to see the decline of the coffee industry in the steady departures of superintendents.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 1st April.*—Rain on Monday night, the 30th. Slight in most parts ranging from 15 to 50 cents. It seems to have been heavier in parts out West. It is to be hoped this rain will be soon followed up; but the backwardness of the bud may help the trees to stand its being deferred. *Interesting item*—Volunteer Camp at Mercara and Races. Inspection held on 28th ultimo and went off with great success.

### THE FERMENT OF THE TEA-LEAF.

IN Part II. of Mr. HAROLD H. MANN's treatise on this subject the planter will find much interesting information. The work of investigation cannot be said to have been completed, but it is well advanced. What is chiefly necessary is a series of similar investigations to those already conducted in one or two districts, in every important tea district in India, followed by a comparison of results. In the first part

of Mr. MANN's treatise we had the first results of his investigation into the cause of the fermentation or change of colour and flavour that occurs during the manufacture of tea-leaf. It was shown that this fermentation is not due to the intervention of any living organism, but to the action of an enzyme or unorganised ferment occurring always in the leaf of the tea-plant. The function of this ferment consists in adding the oxygen of the air to one or more of the products contained in the plant juices. It was established that a relationship exists between the amount of enzyme present and the quality of the tea. There was reason for the belief that the amount of the enzyme is, to some extent, determined by the percentage of available Phosphoric Acid in the soil; and the question naturally suggested itself whether, if the quality of the tea depended on the quantity of enzyme, it would not be possible to add this enzyme from the outside, prepared either from older and less valuable leaves from other parts of the plant, or indeed from other entirely different plants. This notion was based, says Mr. MANN, on the false idea that the increase of the ferment was itself desirable, while the probabilities were very great that it only increased in the leaf as the products increased which it is designed to oxidise. In Mr. MANN's opinion it seemed more valuable to turn one's attention in other directions, and this has been done. An application for a patent for the preparation of an oxidase with a view to its addition to the leaf during the manufacture of tea was made, he is informed, during the year, and this oxidase was prepared from the roots of other plants. The success which has attended experiments in this direction has not, however, been so considerable as was anticipated by the promoters, and so, though one hardly cares to definitely say that such addition might not possibly improve the quality of tea, yet we may, he thinks, conclude safely that in this line the probability of success is rather remote.

This reminds us that one of the most striking results obtained in 1901, was the discovery of the fact that after the leaf was plucked and spread out to wither, the amount of



enzyme increased enormously, in some cases doubling in amount before the leaf became fit to roll. It is evident that this has a great deal to do with the quality of the tea afterwards produced. We might say, indeed, that withering occupies the same important position in regard to the manufacture of tea as pruning does in respect of the cultivation of the plant. Mr. MANN observes that it may be said that while no further process can much improve badly-withered material, it is due to culpable neglect if leaf, in a proper condition up to this point, fails to produce, in the end, as good tea as it is capable of making. He puts two important questions:—If the time necessary to make the leaf ready for rolling is much reduced, as, for instance, by fans, do the chemical changes in the leaf also go on faster, and are they complete more quickly in the quickly-withered than in the normally withered leaf, or are they arrested before being finished when the quickly-withered leaf is rolled? Or to take the opposite case. If the withering of the leaf is unduly prolonged, as it often is in wet weather, are the chemical changes, involving the increase in the quantity of ferment, also taking place more slowly, or are they carried *beyond the proper place* before the leaf is ready to roll? Mr. MANN remarks:—“The question seems vital to any understanding of the withering process, for it at once introduces a new element into the matter if these processes do not necessarily go on at the same speed, and it may be that we ought not to be merely trying to obtain a soft leaf fit to roll, but also one in which the chemical changes have reached their most satisfactory stage.”

As a result of his investigations Mr. MANN draws the conclusion that there is a point in the withering of the leaf when the active enzyme, which causes the fermentation of the leaf, is present in greatest quantity. Further, in a good withering atmosphere, when the leaf is ready at 18 to 20 hours after spreading, this maximum of ferment coincides with the point at which the leaf is in the best condition for rolling. It is remarked that too rapid withering, while it may arrest the development of ferment (owing to the leaf drying) at an earlier stage than would be the case otherwise, *does not allow the normal and proper amount to be produced by the time the leaf is ready to roll.* Hence one reason, at any rate, why rapidly-withered leaf makes poorer tea than a natural wither would give from the same material. He concludes (1) That, during withering, the amount of oxidising enzyme or ferment in the leaf increases up to a certain point corresponding under normal withering conditions with the point at which the leaf is ready for rolling. (2) That the two processes of loss of moisture and production of ferment by no means necessarily take the same length of time, and that the leaf may be withered (in very dry weather) long before it is *chemically* ready to roll, and in very wet weather may be ready, *chemically*, to roll long before it is withered. (3) That, at the temperature studied (76°—86° F.) the normal time which the leaf requires in order to be *chemically* ready for rolling is 18 to 20 hours with normally withered and over-withered leaf, and several hours longer (it may be up to 25 hours) with leaf prevented from withering by a very wet atmosphere. (4) That the object of the tea manufacturer should be not merely to get his leaf in the best physical condition for rolling, but also in the best chemical condition, and for this purpose he should arrange, so far as is possible, to have the leaf soft for rolling when the chemical constituents of the leaf are at their best.

## U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### “AUXILIARY PRODUCTS” IN MYSORE.

Part II. of the Annual Report on Government Parks and Gardens in Mysore for the year 1901-02 deals with Cultivation and Experiment, and runs as follows:—

**Paspalum diataltum.**—Progressive experiment with this new forage grass has shown that, although no growth is made in the dry season, the roots sustain life until the rains return. With irrigation and good culture, the yield of green grass is heavy at all seasons. A little hay made from the matured grass did not look very inviting, being of a dirty straw colour without the pleasant smell of good hay. The quantity was, however, very small, and may have been badly made. As far as can be judged at present, the grass is most valuable when green. For ensilage it would afford much bulk. Cattle graze upon it with avidity. Roots and seeds have been freely distributed to the public.

**Sisal Hemp.**—*Agave rigida* var. *Sisalana*. This useful plant has now become reproductive in the gardens. At the close of the year the nursery plot gave one pole, bearing about 2,000 bulblets, worth at the present market value Rs.5 per 100. Now, a couple of months later, seven poles have appeared, which shortly mean about 14,000 bulblets. This should be good news to the South Indian Fibre Company, who are fortunate in having a good stock of the best fibre plant so close at hand. During the next few years the gardens can supply a very large quantity of young plants.

**Mauritius Hemp.**—*Furcraea gigantea*. Being longer established and found in quantity in various centres, this plant is easily propagated. It has poled very freely of late, and the Department could supply one or two lakhs of young plants if six months' notice is given. The cost without packing would be 3 to 4 rupees per 1,000. The advantage of getting such plants from the Lal-Bagh is that they are true to name.

Several other aloes have poled freely during the past season, a result brought on, possibly, by the drying up of the land.

**Bhabar grass.**—*Ischæmum augustifolium*. This valuable grass, which affords the best indigenous material for making paper, and very largely used for that purpose in Northern India takes kindly to the climate of Mysore. It is readily propagated both from seed and by the division of roots and the Department is now in a position to raise any number of seedlings, should they be required, within a few months' time. Capital invested in such an industry can hardly fail to succeed, as the amount of official paper consumed in the country is enormous.

**Central American Rubber.**—*Castilloa elastica*. Three trees seeded during the months of April and May, bearing collectively about 3,000 seeds. Of the latter number a thousand seeds were sold to the Conservator of Forests in Travancore, at Rs.5 per 100. This tree will succeed well on coffee estates throughout the Province, and it is recommended that abandoned estates may be planted up with it. In the matter of supplying rubber hereafter, it should do for the malnad what the *Ceará* rubber tree is expected to do for the maidan.

**Ceara Rubber.**—*Manihot glaziovii*. Tapping experiments made on this tree have continued to prove instructive not only in gauging the approximate yield of caouchouc from a given tree, but also in recording the best season, time, and manner of tapping. It has also been noted very clearly that some trees yield much more copiously than others. This result may in some cases be due to the position of the tree as regards shade, soil, and moisture. But irrespective of these important factors there can be no doubt but certain trees are physically more productive than others under any condition of growth. The tappings recorded in Table A were made on a tree of the latter class, only ten years old. The tree has not diminished in vigour, nor would it have done so



had 5 lbs. of caouchouc been extracted instead of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. It will be observed that the flow of milk-sap from the trunk of the tree was best during the months of October, November, and December, very heavy rain having fallen in the latter part of September. Only five tappings of the root-limbs were made in this experiment, which is an insufficient test. Root-tappings are most productive during the first half of the calendar year, when the tree is deciduous and the ground dry. During the remainder of the year the trunk should be more productive than the root.

TABLE A.—Tapping experiments on a single tree (*Manihot glaziovii*) ten years old.

Months.	Age of Tree.	MANIHOT GLAZIOVII.		FLOW OF MILK.		REMARKS.
		Parts operated upon.	Time of Extraction.	Time of Extraction.	Quantity obtained in ozs.	
1901—October 12th	10 years	Root	10 to 11-30	..	1	Flow free in some places. Cool morning flow good.
Do. 19th	..	Root	7-30 to 9-30	..	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Do. 25th	..	Trunk operated upon to a length of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet all around.	Do.	..	2	
Do. 29th	..	Trunk wounds were made in the old places.	Do.	..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Do. 31st	..	Trunk, in the same places as above.	Do.	..	3	Flow free and good.
November 4th	..	Trunk, same place	Do.	..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flow good till 9 A.M. Afterwards the flow becomes scanty till 10 A.M. and then it entirely stops.
Do. 7th	..	Ditto	Do.	..	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Cool morning, worked under the same conditions as above, flow good.
Do. 10th	..	Trunk	Do.	..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flow rather slow.
Do. 14th	..	Do.	Do.	..	3	
Do. 14th	..	Do.	Do.	..	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Do. 30th	..	Do.	Do.	..	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	
December 28th	..	Do.	Do.	..	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Do. 30th	..	Do.	Do.	..	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	
1902—January 2nd	..	Do.	Do.	..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Do. 17th	..	Do.	Do.	..	1	
Do. 21st	..	Do.	Do.	..	2	
February 15th	..	Root	Do.	..	1	
March 31st	..	Trunk	Do.	..	1	
April 31st	..	Do.	Do.	..	1	
May 28th	..	Do.	Do.	..	1	
May 18th	..	Do.	Do.	..	1	
June 15th	..	Root	Do.	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		Do.	Do.	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Total ..					43 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.	

Table B gives the result of tapping a number of trees at different periods and in different ways throughout the year. It is of value in showing how irregular the flow of sap is when tapped at the wrong season and in the wrong place. It also shows that 14 root tappings produced 17 ounces of caoutchouc against 12 ounces in the same number of trunk tappings.

In making these experiments the Curator had to work with primitive materials and unskilled labour, so that the percentage of waste was considerable.

TABLE B.—Tapping experiments made on *Ceará* rubber tree throughout the year.

Months.	Age of Tree in Years.	MANIHOT GLAZIOVII. Parts operated upon.	FLOW OF MILK.		REMARKS.
			Time of Extraction.	Quantity obtained in ozs.	
1901 July	8	Root	7-30 to 9-30	1	
	8	Trunk	Do.	$\frac{1}{4}$	
	8	Root	Do.	2	Three roots of this tree were wounded 3 or 4 places each.
August	..	Trunk	Do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
September	8	Root	Do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	12	Trunk	Do.	$\frac{1}{4}$	
	12	Root	Do.	1	Three surface roots were operated upon.
	..	Do.	Do	1	
	8	Trunk	7-30 to 10	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flow not very rapid but steady.
October	10	Do.	Do.	1	
November	12	Do.	Do.	1	Flow not very good.
December 12th	10	Do.	Do.	1	Poor flow of milk.
	12	Do.	Do.	2	Operated for the first time, best results from the trunk in December.
	8	Do.	Do.	1	Flow slow.
1902—January 26th	7	Do.	Do.	$\frac{1}{4}$	Flow not good.
2nd	8	Do.	Do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	Flow very poor, not worth the trouble to operate on trunks of trees at this period of the year.
January 28th	12	Root...	Do.	2	Flow good.
February	13	Do.	Do	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flow not good as this was a very warm day.
	13	Do.	Do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flow good in the root and no flow in the trunk.
	10	Do.	Do.	1	Flow was pretty good.
	14	Do	Do.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Already operated place. Not very good.
March	10	Trunk.	Do.	$\frac{1}{4}$	Flow not good.
	..	Root...	Do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
April 28th	10	Trunk.	Do.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
	..	Root...	Do.	$\frac{1}{4}$	
May	12	Do.	Do.	1	
June 30th	11	Trunk.	Do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	..	Root...	Do.	1	

14 root tappings 17 ozs. | 14 trunk tappings 12 ozs.

**Medicinal Herbs.**—This collection now contains about 150 species and varieties of the rarer sorts of native medicine plants. It is very popular, and freely resorted to by all classes.

The propagation of new economic plants has been successfully

*Manihot Glaziovii*, Ceará rubber tree.  
*Castilloa elastica*, Cen. American rubber tree.  
*Agave rigida* var. *Sisalana*, Sisal hemp plant.  
*Furcraea gigantea*, Mauritius hemp plant.  
*Ischaemum augustifolium*, Bhabar grass.  
*Swietenia Mahagoni*, Mahogany.  
*Caesalpinia coriaria*, Divi Divi.

carried on, while experiments made to test the utility of some have been encouraging. It is believed that the marginally noted plants will have a

great economic future in the Province, hence departmental effort is being made to propagate them in quantity.



## COFFEE NOTES.

Balzac was addicted to the use of strong black coffee and depended upon it as a nervous stimulant during the hours which he devoted to composition. Its effect he has himself described in these words: "The coffee falls into your stomach. Immediately everything starts into action. Your ideas begin to move like grand army battalions on the battlefield, and the battle opens. Memories arrive at a run, standards flying; the light cavalry of comparisons breaks into a magnificent gallop; the artillery of logic dashes up and unlimbers; thoughts come rushing up as sharpshooters; characters spring up on all sides; the paper becomes covered with ink, for the struggle has begun and ends in torrents of black water like the battle in black powder."

\* \* \*

*Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of 25th ultimo says:—Although coffee is reputed to be near to bankruptcy, there are millions, nay billions, to be made in the industry if an international coffee trust be formed to control its production and consumption. The recent coffee congress is responsible for this vision and recommends it to the earnest consideration of the next congress. It was conceived in the brain of Senor F. de la Madriz, delegate from Venezuela, who has thought it out that should the coffee-producing nations enter into a union or trust to which together they shall subscribe \$180,000,000 capital to buy the respective coffee crops, by also controlling the prices of the bags, on an estimate of an ownership of 20,400,000 bags this union will profit the first year \$63,000,000 if \$12 per bag of coffee shall be charged, \$131,000,000 if \$16 per bag shall be charged, and \$205,000,000 if \$20 per bag shall be charged. It is all as clear as day, and the proposition may be read now, set out in full with no detail lacking, in the report of the congress. Here is a chance for South American and Central American republics to realize their most exalted schemes in money raising and revolutions and such things as Venezuelan imbrolios could be afforded every year. Of course, the matter of providing the initial \$180,000,000 is the rub. Brother Jonathan, who is entitled to membership in the union, might provide the sum, as he has the bank account, or at any rate good credit. But he is not at present chasing rainbows so brilliantly radiant, and besides his constituents are averse to paying \$20 a bag for their coffee, or \$16 or \$12, when they can get it so much cheaper at the instance of the obliging Brazilians. Why rob Peter to pay Paul?

\* \* \*

The *New York Sun* gave prominence recently to a letter from Walter J. Ballard, who advocates a reimposition by the United States of a duty on coffee from Brazil. This prior to 1870, was five cents a pound, was reduced in that year to three cents a pound, and abolished in 1872. Since then coffee has been admitted free. Mr. Ballard states at length the reasons for the faith that is in him, and they are worth while reading, if for nothing else than to satisfy curiosity. Let us hear him:

"Have our people got cheaper coffee from Brazil since the duty was abolished? Let us see. Senator Dietrich of Nebraska said in the Senate on February 13, 1903 (*Congressional Record*, page 2281): In 1871 we paid Brazil  $9\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound for 257,472,708 pounds of coffee collected three cents per pound duty, thereby turning \$7,724,181 into our treasury, making the coffee cost our importers  $12\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound, duty paid. In 1872 (the year we abolished the duty) we paid Brazil  $15\frac{3}{4}$  cents, or more than double the duty taken off; in 1873,  $14\frac{1}{8}$  cents; in 1874, 19 cents, and in 1875,  $15\frac{1}{8}$  cents per pound, showing that putting coffee on the free list did not decrease the cost of coffee to the American consumer, but that coffee constantly advanced in price. Immediately after we took the duty off of coffee Brazil put on export and other taxes; approximating (and more) the duties we had been collecting, thus transferring our revenue on coffee from our treasury to the Brazilian treasury, and our people were not helped one iota. In passing, we may note that this result on coffee from Brazil is only one of the many examples of 'all lost and no gain' of

the Democratic programme of free trade. The old cry of 'a free breakfast table' is a delusion and a snare. Since 1872 our treasury has lost in duties on Brazilian coffee alone at three cents per pound the gigantic sum of \$353,522,751 (about the cost to us of the Spanish American War), and the Brazilian treasury has gained just that much at our expense.

"Even if we were getting an equitable share of Brazil's import trade, it might be different. But we are not. In this thirty years of our giving millions upon millions of help to Brazil, she has only given us 18 per cent. of her import trade. Our purchases from her have amounted to \$1,762,622,527, while her purchases from us only figure up \$303,813,166 leaving a balance of trade against us of \$1,458,809,361.

"Is it not time to stop this national loss and grow our own coffee? We are doing it in Porto Rico, but not yet to an extent anywhere near our consumption, and unfortunately so far, our people are not calling for Porto Rican coffee to anywhere near the quantity the island is already producing. Let us call for more of it. Porto Rico is a member of our family and should receive a full share of the family patronage. Increased demands will cause increased and better production and help to build up the island and American fortunes instead of building up Brazil and Brazilian fortunes. Why not restore the three-cents-a-pound duty against all but our possessions (and our ward, Cuba), and thus encourage coffee-growing in those possessions, particularly the Philippines? The soil there is rich and suitable and is our own. Why build other nests when our nests need building up? Let us grow our own coffee."

Coffee is in such general use among us and really tantamount to a necessity, that we doubt very much, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, whether consent can be obtained from the people to be taxed in their coffee-drinking. Coffee-drinkers will pay the tax after all, no matter what specious logic, statistic, balance of trade or sentiment is adduced in behalf of the suggested coffee tax. The matter is so accepted by our national legislators. Although the coffee trade is not at all organized, morally it was strong enough to deter the imposition of a tax at the time of the Spanish war. Tea succumbed to the suggestion and other important interests, but coffee escaped unscotched. It is, hence, altogether improbable that a taxation of coffee would ensue when the revenues of the United States are overburdened with a surplus, and all just for a sentiment, which, no doubt, was entertained at the time of the imposition of the war taxes in 1897 and rejected as inexpedient.

\* \* \*

Coffee Day is an event on the calendar of San Francisco dealers. One large cash store there observed the day by making an elaborate display of coffee in the show window and by offering coffee at a reduction of 10 cents a pound.

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**Transfer of Spot Coffee Contracts Explained.**—Reviewing the coffee transactions of last week, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of 4th March, the leading bear interest declared the following: "The heavy tenders of March contracts on the Coffee Exchange were nearly all returned to the issuers, showing that the buyers of options prefer paying a heavy premium to transfer spot contracts into later months rather than take delivery of the unsaleable high grade Rio coffees tendered. There is an enormous stock of these coffees in all markets, eating up expenses, and this feature of itself will weigh upon the option markets for a long time to come."

\* \* \*

It is, says the *Merchants' Review*, a peculiar quality of certain kinds of coffee of showing traces of the odour or flavour of the most conspicuous natural products of the district or country whence they come. Thus Bolivian coffees produce a more



or less intoxicating effect, said to be due to the growth of the coffee in the vicinity of cactus plants, from which pulque, an intoxicant, is distilled; Costa Rica coffees have a flavour of hides, Singapore coffee tastes of spices, Honduras coffee often has a flavour of chocolate, and so on. Perhaps, however, these foreign flavours are acquired while the coffee is being transported across the ocean in the hold of a ship, with other strongly smelling merchandise, for coffee is one of the most absorbent of substances so far as odours or flavours are concerned.

\* \* \*

A grocery journal prints this and more besides:

"The best coffee in South America is grown in the vicinity of Caracas, says the *Philadelphia Evening Telegraph*, but most of the natives do not know how to roast it properly. They burn it, and frequently ruin it by mixing with it brown sugar. Then 'to add insult to injury,' it is served at table with boiled milk, as no cream is to be had from the poor milk of the cows of that country."

The "washed Caracas" coffee is certainly a fine grade, says the *Merchants' Review*, being heavy and rich in body and superior in flavour, but has the *Telegraph* man ever drunk the best Bogota coffee, which is reminiscent of Blue Mountain Jamaica and plantation Ceylon, or Bucaramanga Maracaibo? The latter coffee furnishes several grades that are considered superior to most of the Java grades. It may not be out of place here to mention the circumstance that the district producing the Bogota and Bucaramanga Maracaibo coffees is capable of supplying more than three times the total wants of the United States, if it were properly developed.

\* \* \*

The deliveries of Java coffee by the Dutch Trading Company in Holland during February were unusually heavy, comprising 18,570 bags, against 13,400 bags last year, and 22,380 bags in 1901; thus giving a total for the two months of 21,800 bags, as contrasted with 18,780 bags in 1902, and 25,700 bags in the same period of the year preceding.

\* \* \*

Prices of Brazil coffee showed a slight decline, with the undertone weak, and quoted on the basis of 5½c. per pound for invoice lots and 6c. for jobbing lots of Rio No. 7 on the spot. Several parcels of fancy colored bean Mocha coffee was placed on offer at 14c. Supplies of this grade are scarce on the spot.—*American Grocer*.

\* \* \*

The Salvador coffee crop, it is estimated, will reach 600,000 quintals.

\* \* \*

Some fine colored large bean Java Liberian coffee was offered at 8c. per pound.

\* \* \*

Advices from Brazil stated that through legislation a renewal of the proposition to destroy 20 per cent. of the coffee crop is being made. Brokers and dealers here were disinterested in the above report, as it is generally considered impracticable.

\* \* \*

Latest advices from Java state that the East India Government crop is estimated at 205,000 piculs; private crop, 292,000 piculs, and Liberian crop, 80,000 piculs. One picul equals 133 pounds, English.

## TEA NOTES.

Fair lines of India and Ceylon teas were placed on offer at 14c. for Pekoe and 16c. for Pekoe Souchong grades. India Pekoe was offered at 16c. These grades sold readily, being mostly used for blending purposes.—*American Grocer*.

\* \* \*

**Admitting Tea into the United States.**—Following are regulations published by the United States government bearing on the inspection and admission or rejection of tea imported into the United States:

In comparing with standards, examiners are to test all the teas on these points, namely: For quality, for any foreign matter on the surface of the infusion, sometimes called scum, and for quality of infusion. Quality shall be ascertained by drawing according to the custom of the tea trade with the weight of a half dime to the cup. The quality must be equal to standard, but the flavour may be that of a different district as long as it is equal in sweetness. As an illustration, a Teenkai may be equal to a Moyune, but a distinctly smoky or rank Fychow, or Wenchow of sour character, must not be considered as equal to the two first mentioned.

In examining Japans, Green Teas, and Congous, while limiting the comparisons in the matter of infused leaf and scum to the specific standard called for, examiners are to admit tea upon the question of quality, in the three kinds above cited, provided they are equal, in the case of Japans, to either the Pan-Fired or the Basket-Fired standard; in Greens to either the Country Tea or the Pingsuey standard, and in Congous to either the North China or the South China standard.

In order to test for floating color-matter or scum, and also for the quality of infusion, a second drawing should be made of double the foregoing weight. Before disturbing the infusion, examination should be made for any floating substance, and after pouring off the water the infused leaf should be taken out so as to exhibit the lower side which rested against the cup. Should the mass show a larger quantity of exhausted or decayed leaf or foreign substance than the standard, it shall be considered inferior in quality, and the tea must be rejected. In Greens and Japans particularly the brightness of the leaf should be considered as an evidence of quality.

Should a tea prove, on examination, to be inferior to the standard in any one of the requisites, *viz.*, quality, scum, or quality of infusion, it shall be rejected, notwithstanding that it be superior to the standard in some of the qualifications. No consideration shall be given to the appearance or so-called style of the dry leaf.

Macao or Canton Congous should be compared with the standard for South China Congou, and Brick tea compared with the standard for the district whence it comes. The mustiness or damaged flavour exhibited in certain Canton teas imported for Chinese consumption shall be considered as sufficient cause for rejection. Amoy Oolongs will be tested by the Foochow standard.

The dust and fannings in all Formosa, Foochow, and Amoy, Oolongs, Canton teas, Congous, Indias, and Ceylons must be restricted to 20 per cent. when sifted through a sieve of No. 16 mesh made of brass wire. In order that the needle leaf and Pekoe tips may not be confounded with dust, they must be returned with the dust to the sieve for a second and third sifting until separated.



In the case of Ceylon and India teas, the needle leaf and Pekoe tips shall be separated by passing them together with the dust through a No. 26 sieve of No. 30 brass wire, after the tea has been first sifted through a No. 16 sieve.

Dust and fannings in Japanese teas must not exceed 4 per cent. when tested by a No. 30 sieve of No. 31 brass wire. Before condemning any tea for dust, examiners shall sieve at least two packages.

\* \* \*

**Tea Areas in Japan.**—For the following statistics and intelligence, we are indebted, says *Tea*, to "Commercial Japan in 1900," recently published by the Bureau of Statistic (Treasury Department), United States, America, and an article on "The Natural Resources of Japan," by Mr. F. Schroeder, editor of the *Eastern World*, Yokohama, Japan. Rice for home use, cocoons for silk, and tea for export, are the most important and staple products of Japan, and many areas are cultivated in all parts of the country. The cultivated area under tea is, approximately, 150,000 acres.

#### PRODUCTION OF TEA IN JAPAN.

(From official reports of the Japan Government.)

Year.	Kwan.*
1892	7,211,865
1893	7,640,368
1894	7,883,232
1895	8,698,781
1896	8,500,745
1897	8,470,182
1898	8,443,726
1899	7,543,726

In Japan there are only a very few really extensive tea estates, which, at the best, cannot be compared with the majority of British ones, being for the most part small plots owned by individual farmers, who sell the little surplus, over and above their own wants, to merchants, for foreign export.

\* \* \*

Prices of fine quality of country greens and Pingsuey were firm in tone, with holders asking 40c. and 45c. respectively. The supply of green teas is very light, and prices are one cent. per pound higher than in January. Offerings of green teas were readily absorbed at 15c. per pound up, but owing to light offerings business was restricted.—*American Grocer*, February 25.

\* \* \*

**The Ceylon Tea Kiosk in London.**—Miss Parkinson reports that though business was very quiet about Christmas time, during February the Kiosk has been well patronised, and given good weather she expects a busy season. During the Winter, part of the premises has been frequently let out for private "At Homes," and it is now suggested that during the season the Kiosk may be utilised for the holding of evening receptions and parties. When other than light refreshments are required people engaging the rooms could furnish their own caterers. Miss Parkinson considers the Kiosk is now well-known and both she and Mr. Saunders are sanguine of a prosperous year.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Compared with the activity that has prevailed during the last two months, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 4, the tea market is now rather quiet. The volume of business has shrunk fully 50 per cent, but the situation is a matter of course, and the wonder is that the volume has remained so large for so long. Supplies are now well in for most houses, and the

stocks they have on hand and to contemplate and plan any foray that may suggest itself on teas that have not been much in demand and stocks in which are heavy. The importations during February seem to equal the consumption of the country, and that means that the month of March has been begun with a stock of tea in the country of at least 100,000,000 pounds, a pretty high figure.

Whether this will mean a decided easing of the market in the immediate future remains to be seen. Lower prices have been predicted for some time, but the prophets have had to postpone their "I told you so," and have had to pay more and more for their teas. The optimists assert that the country was so barren that it has absorbed all the tea in the market and conditions will remain in this manner for a year or two before a surplus of teas will accumulate. All of which remains to be seen.

Meantime, the prices, so staunchly maintained, are unchanged. The world has been scoured for Country Greens and Pingsueys but none, it has been learned, has been discovered anywhere, and so stocks here cannot be added to.

#### NOTES.

##### Java and Quinine.

The exports from Java in 1902 were 1,986 cases; 1901, 2,255; 1900, 1,921; 1899, 1,600; and 1898, 1,172 cases.

##### U. S. Tea Standards.

The U. S. Treasury Department has issued regulations for 1903 in accordance with the requirements of the Tea Act and established standards which are practically unchanged from last season. The Board of Experts consists of George H. Hewitt and George H. Macy, of New York; George McMurray and Frank Hellyer, of Chicago; Charles B. Platt, of San Francisco; Herbert G. Woodworth, of Boston, and A. P. Irwin, of Philadelphia.

##### London Tea Market.

Cabling to Colombo on the 20th ultimo Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton reported a fractional advance; teas for price, dearer. Ceylon Pekoe Souchong was quoted at 6½d., average for the week 8d. (¼d. up). Reuter gave the same average and stated that 16,000 packages Ceylons had been sold out of 18,000 offered. Of Indians 32,000 packages were offered and 27,000 sold, the average being 8d. (½d. down). The rates are certainly more encouraging, on the whole, than any that have been seen for many months.

##### Over-supply of Tea.

At the last Meeting of the Indian Tea Association (Calcutta) a London letter was read with a request to continue the regulation of sales to the end of the season and to continue the present regulation for the two weeks ending 14th March, with an addition of 10 per cent., and further not to sell any tea privately except so long as the regulation lasts. With regard to Plucking for 1903, the following was adopted:—"That London importers view with serious concern the disastrous results that would follow a large crop and strongly urge all producers to impress their managers with the necessity of continuing a finer system of plucking than has been followed in the past season, so as to avoid the production of a large quantity of coarse tea."

##### Tea in the U. S.

The *American Grocer* comments on the non-success of present methods in the United States, where the *per capita* use of tea has steadily declined. It dropped from an average of 1.44 pounds for the three years 1895—97 to 1.07 pounds for the three years 1899—1901, and last year was just about one pound *per capita*.

[\* 1 Kwan equals 8.28 lb. (avoirdupois).]



Our contemporary adds :—" Here it would seem that coffee, beer, and cocoa were curtailing the use of tea, for the quantity of the three articles named has increased steadily. Since 1885 the use of beer has gone from 10.62 gallons to about 17 gallons *per capita* ; coffee from 9.36 to nearly 12 pounds. There is a great field for work in stimulating the demand for tea. The blender dot only must consider the taste of the consumers in different sections, but the quality of the water in the district."

GENERAL ARTICLES.

COFFEE IN LONDON.

Considering the very heavy receipts still coming to hand in Brazil, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 7th March, it is surprising that the terminal market has kept as firm as it has done, the features that have helped to keep it so being, a steady rise in the exchange, doubt as to what will be the outcome of the special meeting of Congress this week to consider the destruction of 20 per cent. of the crop, and a reduction of the world's visible supply of about 20,000 tons. This last might be the most important item of all, but it must not be overlooked that the stock is still 80,000 tons more than at this date last year and 300,000 tons more than the year before. Whatever is done to alleviate the position, nothing can be permanent but the question of supply and demand, and until the latter overtakes the former, as at present it is not doing, prices must remain on the low basis they have reached. At auctions the supply has consisted almost entirely of Costa Rica, which is coming to hand much earlier than last year. Prices have been very steady, the margin between low and fine becoming more marked. Such is likely to be the case, as, owing to the poor quality of East India, buyers of fine are driven on to this kind, and will be unless the next arrivals show a distinct improvement.

TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—In the earlier public auctions the bidding was of a hesitating character, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 7th March, but as importers continue to have confidence in the statistical position, they refused to accept the lower bids, and a large quantity was withdrawn. Most of the withdrawals, however, were readily disposed of later by private contract at fully last week's rates, and on Wednesday, when the balance of the tea printed in Monday's catalogue was offered, a much stronger tone prevailed and nearly the whole of the offerings changed hands. This improvement was manifest for all grades, and as the quantity in print for next week is about the same as this, present rates will probably be well maintained, although the trade are buying but moderately. It will be noticed that the deliveries of all growths are smaller by 1,011,000 lbs. than the same month last year, which is mainly accounted for by the uncertainty prevailing in 1902 with regard to an increased duty and the heavier clearances in consequence, while a similar doubt exists now as to the probability of a reduction. During the next few weeks, therefore, a further shrinkage in the duty payment is likely, as buyers are evidently neither purchasing nor clearing beyond their immediate requirements, but, in the meantime, the market is gradually gaining in strength. The following is the statistical position of all teas for the past month as compared with last February. The bonded stock was 100,981,000 lbs. against 113,296,000 lbs., and as the duty-paid teas in 1902 probably amounted to at least 7,000,000 lbs. in excess, this would make the deficiency about 20,000,000 lbs. The deliveries in the same period were 21,866,000 lbs and 22,877,000 lbs. respectively, while the imports only reached 17,642,000 lbs. as compared with 21,236,000 lbs. The quantity submitted at the public auctions was 34,774 packages and 8,300 were withdrawn, nearly the whole of the latter changing hands after the sales.

CEYLON TEAS.—With small supplies again on offer the market was well supported, and last week's rates were maintained for all descriptions. The auctions contained a larger proportion than usual of Colombo bought teas, and as many of these were of very inferior quality a few lower quotations resulted in Whole Leaf

importers and jobbers have now leisure to examine just what kinds, but generally the merchants refused to sell at any reduction. In Broken Pekoes there was a greater demand for the medium kinds from about 8½d. to 10d., which have been showing particularly good value of late, and in some cases a hardening tendency was noticeable, slightly higher prices being occasionally paid. At the public sales 21,890 packages were brought forward, of which about 3,400 were withdrawn. The following are the figures for the past month compared with February last year:—The imports were 6,765,000 lbs. against 8,137,000 lbs, the deliveries being 7,078,000 lbs. and 7,425,000 lbs. respectively, while the stock stands at 19,482,000 lbs. as compared with 22,350,000 lbs.

CONGOU TEA.—The market continues firm for all descriptions, with a good demand especially for the cheaper kinds of Moning. At the public auctions only 680 packages were offered and these realised fully recent rates.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—The market for Green tea remains quiet with but little business to report. A slightly easier tone was noticeable for all descriptions at the public sale held on Thursday, and some very cheap parcels changed hands. Capers are unchanged, excepting among the lower sorts, which show a further slight advance, and good Oolongs below 1s. are still very scarce. At the public auction 1,365 packages of Green tea were brought forward, of which 166 were withdrawn.

BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

Exchange.—Extremes during the week ending February 13th were 11½d.—11¾d. for 90 d/s Bank paper and 11½d.—11¾d. for private.

The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at 11¾d. the corresponding sight rate being 11¾d. against 11½d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

The average depreciation for the week, calculated on the basis of the Banks sight rate, is 57.11 per cent. and the premium on gold 133.20 per cent. against 56.24 per cent. and 128.58 per cent. last week. At these rates :

1 £ ...	... was worth	20\$728	against	20\$317	last week.
1 shilling	...	1\$036	"	1\$015	"
1 penny	...	\$086	"	\$084	"
1 Franc	...	\$823	"	\$807	"
1 Mark	...	1\$016	"	\$996	"
1 U. S. Dollar	...	4\$269	"	4\$185	"
1 20\$000 coin	...	46\$639	"	45\$714	"

14th February, 1903.—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday, the 9th inst. and, at 11¾d. and closed this evening at 11½d. to 11¾d.

For over two months rates have oscillated between 11½d. and 11¾d. and, though on some occasions speculative selling or buying seem to have determined a decisive movement, immediately the pressure was removed rates have recovered. On the one side we have had a strong bear deal, counteracted later on by a bull operation founded on the sale of the Sorocabana, which the Acre trouble neutralized to some extent, and afterwards the natural reaction, when fear of absolute hostilities was removed was counterbalanced by the announcement of the postponement of the Sorocabana, Melhoramentos and other business, that were to bring so much grist to the mill. But just as things began to look black, a new or rather refurbished providence puts in its appearance, begins buying coffee and putting up prices in a most, apparently, reckless manner. As long ago as November we foretold a probable attempt in New York to put prices up as soon as it could be justified by smaller receipts, and now it seems to have come. Lewisohns being again reputed as the *Deus ex machinâ*. At the same time the S. Paulo government has decided to summons the State Congress to special sessions to determine the best means of executing the recommendations of the planters' congress to reduce supplies 20 per cent. by eliminating lower types of coffee altogether.

Left to themselves the factors of demand and supply of bills seem at present pretty evenly balanced, so that speculation really determined the oscillation upwards and downwards and, as we said last week, no possible forecast can be made of the course exchange may take in the immediate future, though the general tendency in a month or so would be unmistakably downwards. When the position is one of unstable equilibrium, clearly any factor, however temporary, that gains the upper hand for the moment will determine rates, and the



impossibility of calculating the drift of speculation, specially when two currents so evenly balanced are at work, or the manner in which coming events may influence opinion was what we had in mind when we said either a rise or fall was on the card.

The somewhat sudden change in the coffee market is a case in point, but one that no one could predetermine or appraise precisely until it actually occurred. Coming as it does towards the end of the crop, when most of even the coffee in stock has been sold, it will not be of much immediate material use to us, except so far as it will reduce stocks, give confidence and, perhaps, prevent something silly or reckless from being done.

Supplemented, perhaps, by Government action of some kind tending to reduce supplies, it is possible that prices may not only be driven up but maintained, so that we may yet enter on a new crop with happier prospects than have been known for years. In that case it is likely that speculation will be very active and that speculative selling during the next two or three months, in spite of the otherwise weak position, may supply the market with all the bills it requires or more.

Unless some change occur, natural or artificial, such as from a rise of prices or negotiation of a loan or something to draw against, we believe, as we have maintained for months, that the economical situation is at present level but in March or April will be adverse and that a fall of exchange might then be looked for. But with factors so numerous and undeterminable acting and reacting continually upon the rate, it is impossible to foretell anything for certain.

The market rate depends on the supply of and demand for bills, but one and the other may be artificially inflated at any moment. Left to itself, we repeat, rates would fall in April and perhaps before, but against that must be placed the possibility of (1) Government or other drawing on a large scale, (2) of a rise of sterling prices in coffee, and (3) of speculative selling on account of the new crop. All these are possible, but who can tell whether any one of them will really come off? No one!

During the past week there has been a decided effort to talk the rate down in quarters as busily engaged a fortnight ago in talking it enthusiastically up, the apparent object being to corner the bulls who succumbed to the glowing accounts of the millions to be shortly drawn on Sorocabana account. It is, however, probable that this deal is largely liquidated at the present moment and that something else will now have to be invented to keep rates down.

Judging from the number of consular invoices the value of imports, though considerably less than for the closing month of 1902, is about on a par with the same month last year and, should exchange keep up and coffee prices continue to improve, it is possible that, instead of falling off, imports may increase and exchange rise too.

During the week ended February 13th coffee shipments were very large and furnished bills to the value of £432,000 as against £315,000 previous week and £354,000 last year. From the 1st to the 13th February the value of coffee shipments was £747,000 as against £616,000 last year. Declared sales were likewise enormous and, indeed, unsurpassed in any former week since 13th November, being 299,000 bags as against 196,000 the previous week and 118,000 last year, the increase being chiefly at Rio.

**Coffee.**—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended February 13th were large again, being 28,532 over the previous week's but 30,546 less than for the corresponding week's last year, of which they represent 85.5 per cent. the improvement, which is probably the result of better prices, being especially noticeable at Rio. For the crop, entries on 13th instant were 2,725,097 bags less than last year's of which they represent 77.4 per cent.

Shipments (*embarques*) were very large again, being 62,803 more than the previous week's and 48,783 over last year.

Declared sales were enormous, the largest since November being 299,000 bags as against 196,000 the previous week and 118,000 last year.

In spite of the large entries stocks fell off slightly being 90,690 less than the previous week's.

Average prices for the week show further improvement to 4\$556 per 10 kilos. for No. 7 and 4\$217 for good average. At New York the average rose to 5.45c.

In consequence of heavy buying, especially at Rio, where stocks in first hands are most depleted, the price per arroba last week reached 7\$100. Speculation has been very active and is stimulated by the proposal of the S. Paulo Government to take up in some

form the proposals of the planters. There are, however, great difficulties in the way; the principal being the want of money to pay the planters, for the coffee withdrawn or destroyed. It is said that the Governments of Rio and Minas have agreed to common action, but the practical difficulties in the way of such a measure must be very serious. Espirito Santo coffee, for example is nearly all No. 7 and under.

SANTOS, 13th February. 1903. Since the days after the frost we have not seen our market so firm and even excited as during the last three days.

Better news from Europe and, specially from the States firmed the market up daily advantage being taken by commissarios of shortness in qualities on the part of exporters, to hold out for relatively high prices, selling however freely.

In consequence, our market to-day is fully 300 rupees above last week. Declared sales for the week amount to 190,000, and represent a large business for the time of year. The reasons for the firmness of foreign markets generally advanced is that "bears" are short for March. Messrs. Prado, Chaves & Co., estimate of 6 million bags for the next Santos crop may have helped to strengthen markets and an important factor, in any case, was the fact that no cheap offers could be made from Santos and that Exporters were forced to raise their limits with other side.

Regulars, Good, and Superiors are still the qualities in demand. Primes fetched 5\$ to 5\$00, Superiors 300 rs. below, Goods 300 rs. below Superiors, and Regulars 300 rs. below Goods.

Low coffees are well attended to and are getting scarcer exporters having disposed of their holdings in these grades to a good extent. Low Regulars fetched up to 3\$800 and ordinary up to 3\$400.

Fine Peaberry show a fair demand specially old Yellow and green flinty. Superior Peas are worth about 4\$700 to 4\$800.

Washed Coffees did not practically accompany the late rise, nor did old yellow coffees. The limits for Superiors from Europe ruled between 29/ and 29/6 and for Good average from 27/6 to 28/.

Entries for the week 122,000 show very little difference against those of last week, but the *passagens* during the last few days show a small decrease which may, however be due to the heavy rain in the interior some five days ago.

The shipments during the week were large amounting to 212,000 bags (60,000 more than last week) and our stock came down to 1,066,145. It is probable that shipments will continue large next week and that we shall soon see our stock below a million bags.

The "Pauta" went up 20 rs. on Saturday last.

The New York *Journal of Commerce* says that the coming crop will be from fourteen to fifteen million bags. A cable from Prado and Chaves "Santos crop estimates greatly reduced. We expect small crop," the *Journal* says, had no influence on the market. In fact, people in the consuming markets now pay little or no attention to crop advices from this side and stick to statistics as their guide.

One of the proposals and, perhaps, the most sensible, at the Planters' Congress was to introduce the *medianeira* system of working the plantations so common in Minas, under which half of the produce goes for payment of labour and half to the owner. The proposal was scornfully rejected by the Congress but has since been privately adopted on more than one large estate.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

An interesting and important departure is, we understand, being made in connection with the insurance of the new season's Indian tea crop. The risk of damage from the time the tea is plucked until arrival in the United Kingdom has always been readily undertaken by marine underwriters at reasonable rates, but injury to the leaf before plucking, from whatever cause, has had to be borne by the planter. Hail storms are amongst the worst enemies which threaten the growing crops, and extensive damage can be done by a visitation of this nature. Cases are on record where over 20 per cent. of a whole crop has been destroyed in a few minutes, and instances of damage amounting to 10 per cent. are legion. So urgent has the matter become that the Tea Association, having been appealed to, took steps with a view to find a workable basis for the insurance of the risk. It circularised the trade asking for statistics to enable a comparison to be made between total outturn and losses due to hail, and the immediate response



of a large section sufficiently indicated their appreciation of the importance of the matter. A number of concerns, however, had to refer to Calcutta, as the required figures were not available in London; meantime, the statistics which had been secured covered sufficient ground to enable inquiries to be made in the insurance world, with the result that a favourable rate of premium has been obtained with a workable clause to govern the assessment of losses. We should imagine the industry will largely avail itself of the new facilities, especially as the statistics of losses due to hail prove without any doubt that no district or garden can consider itself safe from a visitation, whatever may have been its experience in the past; the figures show that the longer the immunity the greater the disaster when it arrives. Under such circumstances no prudent planter can afford to ignore such an opportunity to replace, in his calculation, the very real risk of a calamity with a reasonable annual charge in the form of an insurance premium. The rate is of necessity experimental to some extent, but should experience show it to be too high, competition will no doubt afford a ready and effective remedy. In any case the Tea Association, by its efforts which have led to the establishment of insurance facilities, has earned the thanks of the tea-producing industry.

From the following figures, compiled, as usual, by Mr. George Seton, of the Indian Tea Share Exchange, 120, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., it will be seen, says the *Financial Times*, that the market value of the shares of the forty-five representative companies has again advanced to a moderate extent. With one or two exceptions, the advance has been "all along the line":—

	£
Face value of 45 companies' shares ..	9,500,000
Market value July 1, 1897 (top point) ...	12,000,000
" January 1, 1902 ..	7,000,000
" September 1, 1902 (lowest point) ...	6,050,000
" January 1, 1903 ..	6,600,000
" February 1, 1903 ..	6,800,000
" March 1, 1903 ..	7,000,000

So that the recovery has been just to about the level of the beginning of 1902. As the grand total of the share and debenture capital of the one hundred and seventy tea companies registered, with sterling capital, in the United Kingdom (exclusive of private-owned estates and companies registered, with rupee capital, in India and Ceylon) amounts to about £19,000,000, the fluctuations of the entire volume, based on the above figures, may be thus roughly estimated:—

	£
Face value of (about) 170 companies ...	19,000,000
Highest market value, July 1, 1897 ...	24,000,000
Lowest market value, September 1, 1902 ...	12,100,000
Present market value, March 1, 1903 ...	14,000,000

This shows a rise in value from the lowest point of nearly 16 per cent., but there is still a depreciation from the highest point of nearly 42 per cent., or, taking 100 as representing the top value, the lowest level would be represented by just over 50 and the present level by 58.

Notwithstanding the present rather uncertain outlook as regards dividends for the producing year 1902, Mr. Seton considers that, with the restoration, or partial restoration, of public confidence in the stability of the industry, a further moderate hardening of values is to be expected. It may be noted, however, that the better prices now ruling in Mincing Lane, coming, as they have done, late in the selling season, are just barely compensating for the very low prices at which the first half or two-thirds of the crops were sold during the Summer and Autumn of last year.

From reports which appear in the Indian and Ceylon papers to hand by last mail we see that both the Indian Tea Association and the Ceylon Planters' Association have held their annual Meetings. At the Calcutta meeting the Chairman, referring to the cess, stated that he hoped that the Act would be in force in the coming season. The Committee would probably receive many suggestions as to the best means of utilising the funds. Care would have to be taken to avoid having too many irons in the fire. The funds available might not be sufficiently large to admit, with any hope of success, of indiscriminate attack on all markets. He therefore thought it would be better to concentrate effort on markets recognised to be "tea-drinking," such as America and Russia. The increase there lately showed how much might yet be done. Every-

thing pointed to increasing demand from Russia. The manufacture of Greens, he understood, was to be taken up in earnest this year. This should assist the Committee in its work in America with greater certainty of success. At the Meeting held at Kandy resolutions proposed for sending two Commissioners to India to report on the coolie districts with regard to the labour supply for Ceylon and for forming a fund for pushing Ceylon cardamoms in foreign countries were carried. Commenting on the report of the "Thirty Committee," the *Ceylon Observer* says: "Mr. Renton sends a very interesting report on his work as Commissioner for the Continent of Europe. He affords certain information which must be taken to heart as to the deterioration of the quality in Ceylon teas. At the same time the sale of 'pure Ceylon tea' of miserable blends, mostly inferior China valued at 2d. a pound, shows the difficulties in the way of extending the trade in the real article. Mr. Renton's success in getting our tea placed in several of the best cafés and refreshment rooms in Berlin is especially notable, and his various demonstrations at leading centres constitute most commendable work. Altogether we have here a remarkable report from the Ceylon Commissioner for the Continent of Europe.

According to the Board of Trade return for February the imports of tea show a very considerable decline. The value fell off by £138,000, cocoa by £126,000, and tobacco by £40,000. Refined and unrefined sugars show very heavy falls amounting in quantity to 56.1 per cent. and 68.3 per cent. respectively, the diminution in each case being principally due to smaller receipts from Germany. The import of coffee increased by £162,000.

Some particulars given during the hearing of a compensation case at the Westminster High Bailiff's Court are interesting as showing that, notwithstanding the competition in the tea and coffee shop business, there is still money to be made. A widow claimed from the London County Council £3,200 compensation for the compulsory acquisition of her leasehold interest in a coffee

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shop in Wych Street, Strand, in which she and her late husband had carried on business since 1887. Mr. Dickens, K.C., who appeared for the claimant, said his client's premises occupied a most important position, being surrounded by printing and other works, and near Drury Lane Theatre. In addition to the business done in the shop the proprietress sent out a very large number of meals, and she made enormous profits. Having shown that 870 lbs. of tea, costing £78 16s. 10d., would yield 125,000 cups of tea, producing about £783, the learned Counsel said the profits were equally large in other respects. During the year 1901 his client's purchases amounted to £1,104 7s. 5d., and the sales realised £2,383 18s. 11d., showing, after allowing for all outgoings, a nett profit of £947 per annum. On behalf of the County Council it was contended that the profits had been exaggerated, and the jury gave the claimant £1,300 compensation only, but if the statement that 9 gallons of water were used to 1 lb. of tea represented the facts it is evident that there are many more unprofitable businesses than that of proprietor of a tea-drinking shop.—*H. & C. Mail.*

### THE LONDON TEA SHORTAGE.

The *Canadian Grocer* remarks:—Many people are at a loss to know what is causing the present stringent condition in the tea market. They are aware that both in the London market and other markets, prices have lately been advancing very considerably. In fact, recent advices would seem to indicate that there has been almost a panic in the English capital.

Teas which could be sold here at 15 and 16c. per lb. last year, could not possibly be secured to-day to sell below 18½c. Buyers are exercising their keenest judgment in securing teas at reasonable prices, and they are daily being confronted with a more complicated situation. The explanation of it all apparently is that the supply has failed to keep pace with the demand.

The situation to-day in London will give some inkling of what is meant. The figures here given have been derived from a reliable source and are trustworthy. From June 1 last, until January 31 last, it is found that the imports into London of all teas were 11,400,000 lbs. less than in the corresponding period 12 months previously. This in itself is not so serious a shortage, but, on the other hand, we must take into account that the deliveries during the same period were 3,300,000 lbs. in excess of what they had been during the period under comparison. Add to this, again, the fact that on January 31, last, the stock in London stood at 105,200,000 lbs., while on January 31, 1902, it totalled 114,800,000 lbs., and it is readily seen that the situation is decidedly stronger at the present day than it was 12 months ago.

In the matter of Ceylon tea alone, the same condition is to be noted. During the five months ending January 31, the imports of Ceylon tea were under 35,000,000 lbs., while the deliveries stood at 42,000,000 lbs. If this does not alarm those interested in teas, it would be hard to find what would.

### THE FERMENT OF THE TEA-LEAF.

*Indian Planting and Gardening* says:—Mr. Bamber, asked for his views to-day on the observations of the Scientific Officer to the Indian Tea Association, courteously gave his opinions, though somewhat reticent at first about offering any criticism.

Mr. Bamber had read the pamphlet, and remarked that it contained a great deal of interesting matter.

What do you think of Mr. Mann's arguments about withering?

Well, the remark that enzyme increases during the withering process is new; but, as Mr. Mann in his first page says, it is a false idea that the increase of the ferment is itself desirable, it seems difficult to reconcile his tabular statements which point to an increase of the ferment as giving a better tea. For some years now the planter has tried to get his wither during the first 24 hours, by arranging the thickness of spreading—according to the weather; but it has been found in practice that a two days' wither, or even longer, frequently gives a thicker tea, which fetches a higher price on the present market; and for the last year or two Messrs. Davidson & Co. have been guaranteeing, I believe, a wither in from 15 to 20 hours by the use of the fans which do not unduly dry the leaf.

Mr. Mann holds that rapid withering is not good?

Yes, the tables and active and total enzyme given by Mr. Mann are instructive; but on comparing them it will be seen that practically the same amount of enzyme was found in 4 hours' rapid withering as in 18 hours' ordinary withering—in fact in one case rather more. I think Mr. Mann is quite right in stating that too rapid a wither is not good; but I don't think his figures conclusively prove that the tea manufactured after a 4½ hours' wither would not have been so good as the tea manufactured after an 18 hours' wither. I think we can hardly say that the quantity of enzyme alone is as yet a measure of quality, and Mr. Mann's result would have been more conclusive had samples of tea been manufactured upon the same leaf with which he tested the enzyme.

Can Mr. Mann's experiments in any way be applied to Ceylon estates?

Well, I think the conditions are somewhat altered. In Ceylon the conditions range from practically sea-level to 7,000 feet, and that makes it more difficult to draw deductions from experiments from one estate only.

Mr. Mann advises that the tea manufacturer should have his leaf soft for rolling when the chemical constituents of the leaf are at their best. Do you agree with this?

Mr. Mann's conclusion as to the chemical and physical condition of the leaf is no doubt theoretically correct; but practically I think that it would be found that the tea manufacturer will have to depend more on the physical than the chemical condition, even when the correct state of the latter is known. Withering in Ceylon is very largely under control, except perhaps during two or three months, when there is an undue rush of leaf, and large amounts have to be taken into the factory daily.

IS IT PREFERABLE TO WITHER IN LIGHT OR IN DARKNESS?

With regard to the experiment as to the amount of enzyme in leaf plucked late in the evening or early in the morning, according to Mr. Mann's table the leaf plucked in the morning, contains 2½ to over 3 times more enzyme than that plucked in the evening, and this should therefore produce a much better tea. But planters are disagreed as to which tea manufactured is the better. It would have been interesting if an estimation of tannin and other soluble matters in the leaf at these times had also been made, as this would probably have given him a better indication of the character of the tea.

ASEPTIC FERMENTATION.

What do you think of Mr. Mann's conclusion about aseptic fermentation?

With regard to aseptic fermentation, I quite agree with Mr. Mann that the bacteria found on the tea-leaf should be destroyed, or their action prevented; and I believe in the absolute necessity of having everything perfectly clean. For the last two or three years I have recommended that cloths, tables, and everything connected with fermentation should be kept clean by washing daily, or at frequent intervals, with a solution of permanganate of potash, with, I think, beneficial results. The fermenting leaf has occasionally been sprinkled with a dilute permanganate solution in addition, sometimes with an increased brightness of the colour, and at other times apparently with little marked effect. All cloths have been kept for some time out of contact with the fermenting leaf, so as to prevent contamination of the different rolls.

What about the effect of temperature on fermentation?

With regard to the effect of temperature on fermentation, although the action of the enzyme, as Mr. Mann says, is greatest at a 120° F., this can hardly be recommended, as the liquors would almost invariably be wanting in point, or be too soft. Cold fermentation, with the temperature as low as 56°, has been carried out in Ceylon for some time, with the result that the fermenting leaf obtained a good colour, and the liquors retained their pungency. But it is hardly safe yet to say what is the best temperature.

FERMENTATION WITH ANTISEPTICS.

What about the use of antiseptics, Mr. Bamber? Have you made any experiments?

Yes. I have personally obtained exceptionally bright colours by oxidising the rolled leaf in an atmosphere of chloroform, which entirely prevented bacterial action, and it was possible to keep the leaf for some days without its undergoing putrefaction. In Mr. Mann's experiment he apparently left the unrolled leaf in contact with chloroform vapour when he found that the ferment was destroyed.



## THE USE OF SALICYLIC ACID NOT ADVISABLE.

Do you recommend the use of salicylic acid for cleansing?

As regards the use of salicylic acid, Mr. Mann recommends that it should be dusted on the leaf immediately after rolling. Now although the tea manufactured by it was reported on as superior to that manufactured in the ordinary way, I do not like to advise its employment. It is largely used as a preservative both for foods and drink such as beer and wine; but it is not recommended in a greater proportion than one grain per pint in liquids, and one grain per lb. in solid food, and its presence in all cases has to be declared.

Mr. Mann states that it would be entirely removed when the tea has been fired?

Yes. But unless a high temperature was employed I think this is rather doubtful, as, although with steam it would volatilize at a lower temperature, its own volatilizing point is about 200 degrees Cent. or twice the temperature of boiling water—a temperature to which tea never attains. But, even should it entirely volatilize I don't think it is wise to give the impression that antiseptics are used in the manufacture of tea. There are, besides, two kinds of salicylic acid—one derived from certain plants and one manufactured artificially from sodium phenate in a current of carbonic acid gas. Although the latter form is chemically identical with the natural salicylic acid, bacterially as well as physiologically they are quite distinct.

Is the cost the same?

The cost of natural salicylic acid is 1s. 6d. an ounce. The artificial costs 3d. an ounce. The permanganate of potash that I have recommended for cloths, etc., costs about 10d. a lb., or less.

Mr. Bamber indicated that he did not think there was anything more to say. Mr. Mann's paper made some excellent suggestions, some of which might possibly be investigated here with regard to their applicability in Ceylon.

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

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The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed, and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan.

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## TEA IN AUSTRALIA.

The *Australasian Grocer* reports:—

SYDNEY, February 18.

Tea has had a fair share of attention, but up to the present this market has by no means visibly responded to the excited conditions prevalent at Colombo. Holders, however, are exceedingly firm in their ideas, and for this reason the volume of private business has somewhat slackened, as buyers have been content to devote their attention almost exclusively to auction sales.

The early days of the month witnessed a distinct improvement in this market. It soon became evident, however, that the vigour experienced with the advent of the new year was not sufficient to last to St. Valentine's Day, and during the last week private business has fallen into the same dull state which characterised the trade during the latter part of last year. Buyers are turning their attention almost exclusively to auction sales, and the eyes are picked out of each catalogue as it makes its appearance. Notwithstanding this, however, importers regard results as more favourable than they were a month ago. Almost daily cables are being received confirming the strength of the Colombo market, and at the moment of writing intimation is to hand stating that cost is high, and that common Pekoe Souchongs show a selling equivalent of 7½d., and common Broken Pekoes 8½d.

MELBOURNE, February 19.

The tea market has also been firm, and it should be advantageous for storekeepers to secure stocks, as in all probability a general shortage will be experienced during the next few months. Eastern produce has also firmed up considerably.

Prime costs at producing centres are reported to be very high, and the local market has responded to some extent. All classes of Indian and Ceylon teas are firm, and Chinas also have been bought for blending purposes. Good Ceylons have sold up to 1s. 5d., and several lots have brought 1s. 2d and 1s. 3d. Nothing under 6½d. is on the market. Indians also have been in demand, and good sales have taken place at an advance of fully 1d. on rates of two months ago. The Chief demand seems for a good leafy tea, without special regard to liquoring quality.

ADELAIDE, February 18.

Teas have seen active business since last writing. The "Cooney-anna" brought down some 700 packages of Indians and Ceylons, and these were eagerly taken up to cover orders in hand. Every desirable line offered on the open market found buyers at margins satisfactory to importers.

BRISBANE, February 17.

In teas a strong demand has been the means of firming prices, and good value at 8½d. to 10d. is now hard to get. Some fine teas at 1s. to 1s. 3d. are offering.

## MR. YUILLE AND CEYLON TEA.

### PRAISE FOR OUR PRESENT METHODS.

The *Times of Ceylon* (March 25) says:—

Mr. Yuille, well-known in connection with Indian green tea, and who has recently joined the firm of Messrs. George White & Co., brokers, London, leaves for England to-morrow by the *Oceana* after a very pleasant stay in the island. He will carry away many recollections of the Ceylon planters' hospitality. To a representative of the *Times of Ceylon* this morning Mr. Yuille remarked that he had visited a great many estates, and, though he had seen plenty of green tea, he had naturally come across a good deal more black tea. As to his opinion of our tea he observed: "I think the finished teas are very good; but I noticed that just now less tea is being made everywhere. I noticed that the planters were making black tea very carefully."

"You mean they are not plucking coarse?"—"Not exactly. They are plucking carefully, but you could hardly call it fine plucking. I further noticed that there was much more attention paid to cultivation than was the case a year or two ago. I saw a great deal of manuring being done, and I was very much struck by the attention paid to this. In India manuring is not carried on so extensively, partly because the influence of the climate is different. But at the same time I think manuring will be taken up more extensively in parts of India before very long."



## NO LARGE INCREASE IN CROP.

Speaking of the output of tea, Mr. Yuille observed: "There is not likely to be a very large increase in the crop this year, although there is no likelihood of a tea famine, so far. The weather and the state of the bushes are against a large crop; and, moreover, the present method of plucking does not induce to a large crop."

## THE DUTY ON TEA.

Mr. Yuille thinks the situation as regards the tea duty at home has been somewhat modified by the recent defeats of Government in bye-elections. "There is more prospect now of Government revising the Budget and making it a popular one; and the tea duty will probably be one of the first to be reduced." Alluding to the present price obtained for Ceylon tea, he said: "Of course it is satisfactory, and I think the present range is likely to continue. There do not seem to me to be any prospects in the coming season of any excess of tea in any way from any country. I don't see where the excess would come from at all."

## THE CESS.

As regards the cess question, he had nothing to say, except that "the cess purely a matter for the planters to settle amongst themselves. I don't wish to say anything controversial," he added with a laugh.

## MARKETS FOR CEYLON TEA.

Like many other people Mr. Yuille is of the opinion that "America is the best field for Ceylon tea at present, especially with reference to green teas. America and Russia are the countries where you should look for expansion."

## THE PERSIAN TARIFF.

On recent telegrams with regard to the new Persian tariff, Mr. Yuille made the following statement:—"I think that the Persian tariff will have a detrimental effect on the Indian tea output. Before this we imported between four and five millions of tea into Persia direct, and now it will be impossible to say by how much that amount will be decreased. It is a fortunate matter, however, that this has happened at the end of the season, because matters will have an opportunity of righting themselves before the new season opens."

## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, February 26, 1903.

Flavouring Ceylons were  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dearer on Tuesday at London. This marks an advance from the lowest point on medium-priced flavouring tea of 2d. per lb. The same thing may be said of common teas. Spot stocks in first hands are now practically nil. Any wholesale house that has to come on the market for teas, it is said, will have to buy on the basis of foreign quotations.

MONTREAL, February 26, 1903.

The market is quiet. Arrivals of Ceylon greens on this market have been fair, and cheapest Japans have also been coming in. There is very little movement in the latter, however, the price being too high; in a small jobbing way, 18 to 18½c. is about the lowest. Small exports to the United States are still in progress, and it is reported that 400 packages of Oolongs and 100 packages of Ceylons have been sold to a Chicago house.

## DRAWBACK ON COFFEE AND CHICORY MIXTURES.


The following memorial, which has been signed by leading firms in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow, has been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer through the London Chamber of Commerce:—

To the Right Honourable C. T. RITCHIE, M.P.,

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Downing-street, S.W.

The memorial of the undersigned merchants, dealers, brokers, distributors, and manufacturers of coffee and chicory, members of the London Chamber of Commerce, and others, humbly sheweth that your memorialists are actively engaged in various branches of the coffee and chicory trade, and are desirous of extending the exports of such articles. That they are unable to extend their business in exporting or supplying for ship's stores these articles on terms which will enable them to successfully compete with the traders of other countries, primarily because no drawback is granted

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Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



on mixtures of coffee and chicory. That it is submitted that the circumstances connected with the trade are such that it ought to be possible, consistently with the interests of the Revenue, to roast, grind, and mix coffee and chicory and export the same, subject to a drawback. That in view of the convenience and great advantage which the trade would gain from the suggestion in the foregoing paragraph, your memorialists, being aware of the different scale of duty levied, would be satisfied if the drawback on mixed coffee and chicory were assessed on the lower rate of duty, viz.:—13s. 3d. per 100 lbs. of mixture, and not 14s. per 100 lbs. as allowed on pure coffee, thus obviating the necessity of any declaration being made as to the proportion of chicory in the mixture, or any necessity for a Government analysis to check such declaration. That it may be pointed out that, if the facilities indicated were granted, a considerable export trade might confidently be expected with foreign countries and British Colonies (in particular those of South Africa), where it is well-known there is a large and growing demand for coffee and chicory, which is at present largely supplied from the Continent. That your memorialists are aware that many articles coming under the imperial tariff have the advantage of facilities of the kind which are asked for in regard to coffee and chicory mixtures, and they venture to affirm that no practical difficulties will arise if similar facilities of the kind they propose are granted. That chicory is recognised as beneficial, and as a legitimate article to mix with coffee, and is actually required by the Admiralty in their contracts for supplies. That while your memorialists are aware that coffee and chicory can be roasted, ground, and mixed under bond, the existing regulations and expenditure of capital upon a bonded factory for this sole purpose make the trade unremunerative, and were the proposed drawback granted the same would be unnecessary. Your memorialists therefore pray that you will give their representations your most favourable consideration, and give effect to their proposals in connection with the forthcoming Budget. And your memorialists will ever pray, etc.

### TEA IN NATAL

The article by "Nemo" in the *Natal Mercury*, quoted recently in our columns has elicited criticisms, from which we extract the following:—

"PLANTER" writes:—

I was much struck with the article on the "Natal Tea Industry" by "Nemo," in your issue of the 26th ultimo. Wholesome criticism from those who have been connected with industries attempted in Natal will at least show those who have the conduct of these affairs that there is still room for improvement in their products, while the facilities of climate, labour, soil, and proximity to markets are nine-tenths as great as the countries whence the whole world has obtained its supply for a century.

No Indian or Ceylon tea-maker would accept the carelessly-picked leaves that are sent in from the field here, and the class of machinery will have to be very much improved, and looked after by experienced men, before Natal can approach the standard these other countries attained ten years ago. I do not mean to say that it will take ten years to attain this standard—it need not take ten months—but both the field and the tea-house must be under the control of competent men, and your field will then produce more and your machines will turn out better quality. What "Nemo" has pointed out was patent to me when I came to Natal three years ago, and I have had the opportunity of comparing notes with the sons of brother-planters from India and Ceylon who have been brought up on tea and coffee estates, and know their business thoroughly: and they have gone back with little fear of any competition from Natal while the present state of things lasts.

"ASSAM PLANTER" writes:—

With "Nemo's" article on "Natal Tea," as a planter of long experience with one of the largest tea companies in Assam, I fully agree. Natal planters will not have an experienced Assam. Indian, or Ceylon planter on their estates as I found to my cost when I arrived, thinking that with long and up-to-date experience and first-class references I should have no difficulty in obtaining a billet. I was offered the handsome salary of £8 per month! Having a trade to fall back upon, I preferred to work at it, rather than

give my experience and knowledge for such pitiful competence. The methods of pruning and plucking, as described by 'Nemo,' would not be tolerated even on a native garden in Assam, and might well be described as murdering the bushes. To hack at a tea bush with the 'largest size pruning knife available' can only result in a large percentage of the 'new wood dying back,' and forming knots, which it should be every planter's object to do away with. Plucking eight leaves and a bud is absurd, as the lower end of the shoot will have formed 'wood' by the time eight leaves are out, and it is not usual to make tea out of wood, although, of course, it will make up the bulk, and help to swell the quantity. Tea, with the quantity of 'sticks' that most Natal teas show, would be almost unsaleable on the London market. I have before me some Natal tea, styled 'Pekoe'; it should be styled Pekoe Souchong, a much inferior grade. Pekoe should be a clean, whole-leaved tea, free from 'sticks' and red leaf, and with a few 'tips'; this is partly made up of sticks and red leaf, the balance being a broken and coarse Souchong leaf—it would not be considered on the London market even a fair Pekoe Souchong. 'Nemo' is quite right in stating that, by plucking two or three leaves and a bud, the quantity is not sacrificed; this has been proved by experience, and the old custom of plucking four or five leaves and a bud has long been discontinued by up-to-date planters.

### COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

**Jamaica.**—The annual report of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture and Department of Public Gardens and Plantations for 1901-02 states:—

A number of different varieties of coffee are grown (in Hope Experiment Station) rather from the interest attaching to them than from any expectation of their being of economic importance. The plantation of common coffee is maintained chiefly for purposes of instruction

### CINCHONA IN JAVA.

The yearly report of Government cinchona plantations in Java for the year 1901 states that the expectations that after a number of years remarkable for the amount of the rainfall the year 1901 would prove a dry one were disappointed. The quantity of rain was indeed below the average for the previous four years, but the number of wet days was very nearly equal. The easterly, monsoon can hardly be said to have set in at all. From the beginning of January to the end of February heavy winds prevailed, and on the 12th and 13th of the latter month a storm of unparalleled violence raged throughout the whole of the island, and created great havoc in the plantations by the uprooting of trees and the breakage of branches, besides doing much damage to the nurseries and buildings on the various estates. In the report a number of photos are given showing the disastrous effects of the great storm. The unusual violence of the tempest caused the greater portion of the natives to desert some of the plantations, so that there was not sufficient labour to collect the broken branches immediately after the storm, though this was very desirable. In order to give some idea of the damage done the report states that 203,343 half-kilos. of wet bark were gathered. The year was, on the whole, too wet, and the nurseries suffered from the excess of rain.

The number of plants in the ground amounted at the end of the year to 2,609,000, compared with 2,567,000 and 2,562,000 for the two previous years 1899 and 1900. This is an increase of 47,000 upon the number of the year before. In the nurseries there was estimated to be about 17,465,000 plants, compared with 1,707,000 and 1,731,000 for the two years that preceded. The whole of this number of plants will be transplanted by 1904. Owing to the unfavourable weather the blossom was scant, so that only a comparatively small quantity of seed could be put upon the market.

During the year under consideration fresh ground was not opened; on the contrary, owing to some of the plantations being dug up the land under cultivation diminished to the extent of about 18 hectares. The total area cultivated was 1,162 hectares (= 2.47 acres). The cinchona bark gathered in 1901 amounted to 1,426,953 half-kilos. Of this quantity 738,177 half-kilos. were shipped to Holland, 685,577 half-kilos. were delivered to the factory



at Bandoeng to be utilised for the manufacture of sulphate and hydrochlorate of quinine, and 3,159 half-kilos. were supplied to the army medical service of the Dutch East Indies. Of the total quantity delivered to the factory 124,827 half-kilos. were used to make 3,112 kilos. of sulphate of quinine, and 600 kilos. of the hydrochlorate, both destined for the Government stores. The remainder of the bark was employed for the manufacture of quinine to be sold by auction at Batavia by the firm of Tiedeman and van Kerchem. The amount of bark gathered in 1900 was 1,123,530 half-kilos., so that the year 1901 showed an increase of 303,423 half-kilos. Of the total shipped to Holland 602,371 half-kilos. consisted of *Cinchona ledgeriana*, with an average contents of sulphate of quinine of 6.63 per cent.; for the previous year the quantity was 558,149 half-kilos., and the quinine contents 7.04 per cent. The average contents of the bark used for the quinine sold publicly was 4.88 per cent., and for that supplied to the Government it was 7.06 per cent. The average contents for the whole of the bark consumed was 5.32 per cent., compared with 4.37 per cent. in 1900. The total crop of *Cinchona ledgeriana* was 1,182,156 half-kilos., with an average contents of 6.27 per cent., which is equivalent to about 37 metric tons of sulphate of quinine, compared with 26 metric tons in 1900 and 25 tons in 1899. The land devoted to the culture of this species of bark was 885 hectares (2.47 acres), and taking the average about 42 kilos. of sulphate of quinine were obtained per hectare, the average yield of bark being 1,335 lbs., of which the quinine contents were estimated at 6.27 per cent. Of *Cinchona succirubra*, or pharmaceutical bark, 135,806 half-kilos. were shipped to Europe, and 3,159 half-kilos. delivered to the army medical service in Java. About 275 hectares of land are devoted to this variety, and the yield was about 240 lbs. per hectare. Of the consignments shipped to Holland of *C. ledgeriana*, the highest quinine contents was 9.10 per cent., and the lowest 3.10 per cent. For the goods supplied to the Bandoeng quinine factory the figures were 10.70 per cent. and 3.10 per cent. respectively. As in former

years, the plantations at Tjibeureum produced the largest quantity of bark, supplying Europe with 194,575 half-kilos. and Batavia with 125,723 half-kilos. The total, therefore, was 320,298 half-kilos., equal to 1,840 lbs. per hectare, or 61.7 kilos. of sulphate of quinine, compared with 1,285 lbs. per hectare, or 44 kilos. of quinine, in 1900. In the 10 public auctions in Holland during the year 1901, of the bark gathered in the previous twelvemonth the average price realised was 0.51fl. (= 1s. 8d.) per half-kilo., compared with 0.68d. in 1900 and 0.48fl. in 1899, and the total gross receipts on sales effected was 395,933fl., compared with 437,919fl. the year before. The report states that a large American firm has entered into a contract for five years with the Bandoeng quinine manufactory for a supply of cinchonidine at 24fl. per kilo. During the year in question, notwithstanding the extra arrivals from Java at all the public auctions held at Amsterdam, the bidding was brisk, and the prices, though slightly lower than last year, were fairly satisfactory. The total amount sold was about 6,599 metric tons of bark, which was 1,362 tons more than was disposed of the previous year. Of this quantity less than 400 tons were consigned by the Government cinchona plantations in Java. The latter cannot, therefore, be accused of glutting the market or lowering prices, as the bulk of the bark sold was shipped by private planters. During the year nine public sales were held in Java of the quinine manufactured by the Government manufactory. The average price realised was 21.31fl. per kilo. At London, during the same period, the markets' rates fluctuated from 22.92f. (= 1s. 1d. per oz.) to 28.66f. (= 1s. 4½d. per oz.). The prices obtained at Amsterdam were practically nearly the same. The report, in conclusion, states that the manufacture of quinine in Java is to the advantage of the private planters, since an equivalent quantity of cinchona bark is kept off the European market, and the diminution of the exports from Java has a tendency to cause prices to rise abroad. The Government therefore proposes to increase the capacity of production of the Bandoeng quinine factory.

## AFTER DINNER

thirty drops of Seigel's Syrup ensure complete digestion, and prevent the pain and torpor consequent on indigestion. Seigel's Syrup builds health on good digestion, for 'tis not what you eat, but only that which you digest nourishes your body and sustains your life.



# SEIGEL'S SYRUP

"For several years,"  
says Miss Ethel Williams,  
of 9, Wemyss St., Sydney,

N.S.W., "my life was rendered miserable by indigestion and general debility. I could not sleep at night and was often afflicted with severe sick headaches and bilious attacks.

An old friend recommended Mother Seigel's Syrup.

Within a week I discovered it was doing me substantial good. Eight bottles completed my cure."

## AIDS DIGESTION.



MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated March 13th, 1903, says :—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903 .. ..	1,225,738	885,225	61,263
1901-1902 .. ..	1,356,973	928,065	63,935

32,084 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 56,824 packages were offered in public auction  
23,253 „ CEYLON } this week.  
1,487 „ JAVA }

Now that practically the whole of last year's Indian Tea crop has been shipped and we know the extent of it, the industry is naturally concerned with the probable size of next season's supply, not only from India but also from Ceylon. In considering this it must be borne in mind that very little increase has taken place in the cultivated area since the year 1899. The total acreage in the two countries in the former year was 893,658, and in 1901—911,767, and it is probable that a good deal of that may at the present time comprise many vacancies. It must also be remembered that there will probably be from 10 to 20 million lbs. of Green tea manufactured during the coming season, and as this is supplied mainly by estates at low elevations, the supply of common tea will be proportionately reduced. In addition, the labour difficulty in India may tend to reduce the outturn.

Taking all the above points into consideration, and remembering that consumption has steadily increased both at home and abroad, it seems doubtful whether we shall be overweighted with tea next season, unless planters make the fatal mistake of going in for coarse plucking, a system which was attended with such disastrous results some two or three years ago.

INDIAN.—The slight reduction in the auction has had a somewhat beneficial effect, the weakness noticed in common teas having disappeared, while there was also improved competition for other grades, finest kinds especially marking firm prices. 20 “last of the season” invoices have already been sold.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 27,177 pkgs., av. 8-28d. 1902, 35,909 pkgs., av. 7-48d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 934,912 pkgs., av. 7-42d. 1901-2, 1,067,721 pkgs., av. 7-77d.

CEYLON.—The market was perhaps a trifle less animated than last week, although there was no quotable alteration in price, bidding being fairly well distributed; the quality of some invoices showed a tendency to fall off. Average for week 7-60d, against 7-02d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 194,481 pkgs., av. 7-61d. 1902, 238,909 pkgs., av. 7-17d.

JAVA.—The auction passed steadily with good general competition.

CINCHONA.

Rather larger supplies than usual were offered at the London auction on Tuesday, of which about half consisted of South American bark, chiefly Calisaya. There was a brisk demand, and practically everything was sold at a further advance compared with the last London sale, the average unit being fully 1½d, against 1¾d per lb.

The following table shows the quantity of bark offered and sold:—

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
Calisaya cinchona .. ..	1,272	1,272
Soft Colombian cinchona .. ..	557	511
East Indian cinchona .. ..	601	530
Java cinchona .. ..	317	190
Ceylon cinchona .. ..	69	60
	2,816	2,563

The following were the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	Lbs.
American factories .. ..	114,322
Messrs. Howards & Sons .. ..	59,904
Imperial quinine factory .. ..	52,560
Frankfort and Stuttgart factories..	44,508
Brunswick factory .. ..	27,596
Mannheim and Amsterdam factories	25,624
Paris factories .. ..	3,000
Druggists, brokers, etc. .. ..	29,134
Total quantity sold .. ..	356,648
Bought in or withdrawn .. ..	111,690
	468,338

The prices paid for sound bark were as under:—

JAVA.—Ledgeriana, original stem chips, 5½d to 9¾d, and root 7¾d to 7½d per lb.; Succirubra, 4¾d to 8½d, and root 4½d to 7½d.

CEYLON.—Succirubra, original stem chips, 3d to 3½d, root 3½d; Crown, original stem chips, 6¼d, and branch 3d.

SOUTH AMERICAN.—Soft Colombian (511 bales) imported in 1882 and 1883 (Z.O. and UU) sold at from 2d to 4d per lb., 46 bales being bought in. Bolivian cultivated Calisaya quill sold at from 4½d to 10½d, and broken quill and chips 3½d to 7½d per lb.

EAST INDIAN.—Red stem chips and shavings 2½d to 3¾d, renewed ditto, 3d to 5¾d, root 3¼d to 5d, and siftings 2½d; Ledgeriana, original stem chips and branch, 3¾d; Officinalis, stem chips and shavings, 2¾d to 5¾d; renewed 5½d to 7½d; root 6½d to 7¾d; and branch 4d to 4¾d per lb.

We understand that the soft Colombian bark (Z.O.) referred to above was valued at 4s per lb. when imported in July 1882, and contained 3 to 4 per cent. quinine sulphate. The UU's were

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S LTD.

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to

His Majesty  
The King.

CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.



valued at the same time at 2s to 2s 6d, and contained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 per cent. q.s

At the end of the month it is expected the London stock will have been reduced to about 5,000 packages, only half of which is manufacturing-bark, the remainder being druggists' grades, etc. The shipments from Java for the first half of March amount to 646,000 Amsterdam lbs.

### QUININE.

The market closed flat and lower last week with sales of second-hand Germans sulphate in bulk at 1s  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d per oz, the depression being due to "bear" influence. This week prices opened firmer, with moderate sales of the usual German brands at 1s 1d to 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d, spot, May delivery at 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d, and August 1s  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. Since then no transactions of importance have occurred, spot value being 1s 1d. To-day the market is quiet, owing to rather heavy shipments of bark from Java.

### CARDAMOMS.

There has been a better demand than is usually the case between the auctions, especially for the larger sizes. For good seed up to 1s 6d is wanted. The annual report of the Planters' Association of Ceylon for the year ending February 17, 1903, states that the crop shipped during 1902 was 615,922 lbs., and, but for the prolonged wet weather during the last quarter, it would in all probability have been much larger. The difficulty of curing on the estates in wet weather delayed despatch, and led to large quantities being cured in Colombo. The shipment during the earlier months of 1903 will be heavier, and, in consequence, add considerably to its crop-despatch account. Prices have been generally lower than last year, but growers, who are fully aware of the danger of the supply exceeding the demand, will, it is expected, take steps for making their produce better known throughout the world. The estimate of crop for 1903 is 650,000 lbs.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF FEBRUARY AS SHOWN BY CUSTOM HOUSE RETURNS.

	IMPORTS.			DUTY PAYMENTS.			* EXPORTS.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Indian	140,100,281	147,669,138	151,344,780	104,895,653	103,488,725	115,691,772	10,130,201	9,548,815	9,010,333
Ceylon	75,868,436	76,552,518	85,881,770	63,275,548	65,000,960	76,178,254	13,300,596	12,973,260	11,110,349
China	15,623,086	20,795,624	19,362,386	7,844,505	7,875,583	8,575,142	10,599,212	7,563,237	10,503,726
Other Countries	8,574,044	8,706,725	7,693,772	5,970,656	6,328,484	5,107,889	1,069,996	766,049	843,867
Total lbs.	240,165,897	253,724,032	264,282,708	181,986,362	182,693,752	205,553,057	35,100,005	30,851,361	31,468,275

\* Analysis of above export of tea from U. K. during the last three years (not including transshipments).

	INDIAN.			CEYLON.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Countries in Europe	5,291,462	5,141,318	5,297,587	6,519,770	6,934,089	6,727,622
United States	1,222,742	932,435	555,676	1,868,798	1,928,681	867,930
British North America	1,114,993	878,954	1,243,557	2,025,995	1,534,241	1,400,820
Newfoundland	68,231	92,338	81,345	228,870	265,851	238,861
Other Countries	2,432,773	2,503,770	1,832,168	2,657,163	2,310,398	1,875,116
Total lbs.	10,130,201	9,548,815	9,010,333	13,300,596	12,973,260	11,110,349

	CHINA.			OTHER COUNTRIES.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Countries in Europe	5,180,108	3,801,144	6,178,078	874,930	672,955	689,807
United States	838,104	342,541	224,908	36,561	19,238	17,052
British North America	350,607	165,023	254,363	52,395	14,213	24,717
Newfoundland	52,745	37,989	163,675	5,098	5,796	2,101
Other Countries	4,177,648	3,216,540	3,682,702	101,012	53,847	110,190
Total lbs.	10,599,212	7,563,237	10,503,726	1,069,996	766,049	843,867

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8'28d., MARCH 13TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek.		Pekoe and Unassorted		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry Prospect	85½c	8	85½c	†7½ 8½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore	909	6'81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glenmary	165	6½	75	†6½	...	...	50	†6½	20	†5½	...	...	20	6½
Isfield T Co Isf	9	5½	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6½	...	...	1	2
Kan Dev H Co G	339½c	7½	111½c	7½ 7½	82½c	7½	67½c	8	57½c	6½	...	...	22½c	6½
" Nullatanni	3½c	5½	...	...	60	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...	3½c	5½
" Periaurrai	263 p	7½	50	7½ †7½	...	...	37	8½	77	6½	...	...	39 p	†5½ 6½
" Sevenmallay	2 p	6½	1½c	7	...	...	...	...	1	6½	...	...	...	...
S T T Co Venture	128 p	6½	...	...	84	†6½ †6½	...	...	29	†6½	...	...	15½c	5½
Wynaad	218	6'99	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walkers Achoor	104 p	7½	...	...	31	7	49½c	7½ †8½	24	6½	...	...	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per	114 p	6½	...	...	32	†6½	41½c	†7 8½	20	†6½	21	†6	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1903.

[No. 15.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 17th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

**Coorg.** POLLI BETTA, 8th April.—*Weather*—It has been constantly cloudy, but no more rain on this side, though other parts seem to have got some. *Crop*—The rain already reported has brought out a sprinkling of blossom to-day which appears quite healthy. There is more labour than is required in the District. *General Health*—Very fair.

#### CLEAN TEA.

AFTER dealing with the subject of withering and its influence on enzymes, Mr. MANN remarks in his latest treatise that his investigations have shown that there exist, in practice, in fermenting tea-leaf two classes of fermentation. Of these the first is the natural fermentation caused by an enzyme, which is that which it is desired to obtain; the other is caused by microbes, which is harmful, causes the souring or putrefaction of the leaf, and which results from the introduction of organisms from the air, from the hands of the coolies during the various manipulations which the leaf has to undergo, and from dirty benches, cloths, floors, etc., with which the leaf may come in contact. These, he observes, "it is wished to eliminate as far as possible, if not entirely, as to these microbes the various taints which the tea may take on are due." The reason assigned is a good one, but there is another quite as forcible. In these days of dread germs and microbes anything that is suggestive of dirt is suggestive also of disease. Mr. MANN states that there are three possible methods of eliminating or very largely eliminating this latter class of fermentation, while retaining the former.

The first of these is either by reducing the temperature of fermentation, or by raising it; the second by the addition of antiseptics which can be afterwards driven off in the firing, and which will prevent one and not the other; the third is by such careful manipulation that the minimum of organisms are introduced from various sources. If it were possible, he says, the third or *aseptic* method is infinitely the best. But under present conditions of working, a complete avoidance of microbes is impossible. Nevertheless, he thinks most strongly that a great deal more might be done than is done to obviate the introduction of outside organisms.

"Right here," as our American cousins would say, comes the suggestion of dirt, and this in terms that do not quite harmonise with advertised announcements as to the cleanliness of Indian (and Ceylon) methods of manufacture, as contrasted with the dirtiness of the Chinese process. Mr. MANN states that from the time the leaf is plucked it is open to contamination from various sources. The bags which are hung round the waists of the coolie women, during plucking, are a fruitful means of contamination, which can be and *is* avoided on some properties by the use of baskets instead of bags to pluck with. That is all right, if the baskets are kept clean. However well done, washing will not always remove objectionable germs entirely. Boiling, at this stage, is out of the question in regard to the leaf, but not so in regard to the various articles used during the process of manufacture. As Mr. MANN remarks, "if a roller, if a fermenting floor, if a wheelbarrow used to carry leaf from one part of a factory to another be merely washed, however thoroughly, it will retain enough microbes to carry the taint on for any length of time. That such a remark should be deemed necessary, is evidence that Mr. MANN has seen that cleanliness is not always seen to as it should be in tea factories. He says that periodically, say once a week at least, during the season all the articles mentioned above, and others of a similar sort, should be scalded and scrubbed with boiling water. Then he goes on to say that the most fruitful sources of taints are the wet cloths that are still used to cover the fermenting leaf in many tea-houses. These cloths he describes as one of the most abominable institutions in a tea factory. After a single day's use they become simply putrid owing to the tea juice, which they absorb, forming a breeding ground for numberless



bacteria. In some places they are scalded and cleaned every day, but although this removes a large part of the objection, it does not entirely eradicate it. The reason for their use, of course, is the necessity of keeping the atmosphere round the fermenting leaf saturated with moisture, and this the wet cloths undoubtedly accomplish. But the same object would be served by keeping the cloth right away from the tea by a slight bamboo framework as was first suggested three years ago by Mr. BAMBER.

A still better system for those factories is that the fermenting beds are separated by cement partitions, the frame with its wet cloth being simply supported on the cement. The same purpose would be served by having wet cloths or "tatties" hung round the outside of the walls of the fermenting house, these walls, of course, being partly open, so that a draught is always playing through the wet hangings. Whichever method is adopted, says Mr. MANN, the wet cloths in contact with the tea, should be regarded as things of the past which can have no place in a factory which aspires to make the best possible tea out of its grade of leaf. What he pleads for is *clean* methods, and any planter who thinks the matter over will admit that the plea is a sound one. No taints are wanted in tea; nothing is wanted that may affect adversely either the flavour or the purity of the leaf. From beginning to end the manufacturing process should be of the cleanest, and the practice of absolute cleanliness should be so universal in Indian tea factories as to justify every statement made to the public, to the effect that the methods adopted are above suspicion. In many factories this is fully understood, but it should be so in all. Hence we venture to lay special stress on Mr. MANN's remarks on this point, which is one that may easily have escaped the notice of a few, at least, among tea-planters.

## THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

FEBRUARY 1903.

**Cocoa (raw).**—There was a sudden contraction of supplies of cocoa in the United Kingdom during February, and the bonded stock ceased to accumulate.

In the first two months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	11,200,785	17,511,895	10,363,440
Home consumption	...	6,819,820	15,146,209	12,353,876
Exports	...	2,130,688	2,088,688	1,706,065
Stocks in bond	...	12,711,000	13,024,000	13,296,000
Value of imports	...	£331,237	£515,138	£318,576
Do. exports	...	70,475	57,966	59,798

**Cocoa (prepared)** has been abundant in most positions.

In the first two months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	1,676,032	1,367,665	1,387,573
Home consumption	...	1,569,710	1,372,656	1,342,060
Exports	...	78,544	139,065	137,130
Stocks in bond	...	107,000	86,000	243,000
Value of imports	...	£170,353	£140,260	£133,900
Do. exports	...	9,267	14,457	15,000

**Coffee** has again come plentifully to hand, and stocks have further widened out.

In the first two months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	315,781	144,467	159,743
Home consumption	...	46,055	61,969	79,093
Exports	...	92,424	27,537	65,602
Stocks in bond	...	701,000	318,000	327,000
Value of imports	...	£810,113	£404,161	£512,038
Do. exports	...	231,926	81,327	196,733

**Chicory.**—Movements here continue on a limited scale.

In the first two months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	14,119	19,649	21,365
Home consumption	...	13,839	16,351	17,749
Exports	...	20	33	268
Stocks in bond	...	7,000	11,000	15,000
Value of imports	...	£6,716	£8,924	£10,053
Do. exports	...	19	35	277

**Tea.**—The month's entries, both inwards and outwards, were lighter than in 1902, and a great deficiency in the bonded stock still existed.

In the first two months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China	...	2,683,388	3,527,855	2,469,341
Do. British East India	...	24,381,332	31,784,937	34,137,154
Do. Ceylon	...	15,199,129	19,426,656	21,954,066
Do. Other countries	...	2,981,457	2,810,085	2,396,266
Total imports	...	45,245,306	57,549,533	60,956,827
Home consumption—China	...	1,997,321	2,546,264	2,610,417
Do. do. B. E. I.	...	24,597,529	31,969,762	50,833,954
Do. do. Ceylon	...	12,457,045	14,664,925	22,744,397
Do. do. O. C.	...	1,350,202	1,573,142	1,480,420
Total	...	40,402,097	50,754,093	77,669,188
Exports—China	...	2,025,213	1,555,197	2,144,478
Do. British East India	...	1,911,462	2,524,260	2,419,432
Do. Ceylon	...	2,524,625	2,219,952	2,583,392
Do. Other countries	...	224,111	228,649	289,553
Total	...	6,685,411	6,528,058	7,436,855
Stocks in bond	...	105,408,000	114,385,000	95,629,000
Value of imports	...	£1,363,450	£1,855,199	£1,953,739
Of which British Indian	...	741,041	1,062,742	1,113,078
Do. Ceylon	...	458,525	608,697	678,821
Value of exports	...	287,838	271,629	294,592

## A TEA CESS IN TRAVANCORE.

**A Tea Cess.**—It is officially notified for general information that His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore has been pleased to sanction the levy of a cess of one-fourth pie per pound on all tea exported by sea from the 1st April, 1903.

We must compliment the Travancore Government upon their promptitude. Presumably, it is intended that the proceeds of the cess shall be placed at the disposal of the Tea Cess Fund Committee that is to be formed in Calcutta.



## COFFEE NOTES.

**The Coffee Market.**—The coffee market is quiet all around, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 11. The volume of business has diminished very much, and as the present time naturally is a season of dullness the lull need surprise no one. Besides, it is only a natural reaction from the excessive activity that prevailed during January and February. Meantime, prices remain unchanged, and should remain so. The lower grades are quite scarce and in demand, and hence warrant the confidence that they will approximate more and more to the price demanded for the higher grades, which are so superabundant.

The market this week has been paying considerable attention to affairs in Brazil. Sterling Exchange has shown an upward tendency and there seems much dissatisfaction among the planters. It is thought now that the proposition to destroy one-quarter of the coffee crop in Sao Paulo by legislative order may be seriously entertained. The enforcement of it, much doubted, would be interesting to watch.

In Brazil the market closed firm at Santos and easier at Rio, where Rio No. 7 was offered at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. c. and f. In spot invoices in New York the market closed firm for Rio No. 8 at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. and Rio No. 7 at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Rio No. 4 closed 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. and Santos No. 4 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

The option market has been under the influences noted above. Transactions have been moderate in volume and at the close at rising values, especially for July. The expectation is that the world's visible supply will show a considerable reduction at the end of the fiscal year in June. Bull sources estimate it at 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 bags.

In Milds a slow business has been noted. The expectation is that presently much mild coffee must come forth from Mexico, Columbia, and Venezuela. But on top of this belief comes the report that Venezuelan growers are indisposed to send out their coffee because of the high export duty the Government has imposed upon coffee. They say that this is prohibitive. So, all in all, the limited supplies in the market find no eager buyers. Good Cucuta last week was to be had from 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. East India coffees are unchanged.

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**A Coffee Trust.**—An international coffee trust, containing Brazilian, English, and Italian capital, is said to be in process of formation, says the *Merchants' Review*. Its object is the increase of the value of coffee, as a consequence of a reduction of the production. At the back of the trust will be the Brazilian Government, and the promoters hope to advance prices 30 per cent.

It is a large programme the trust has been set, and we fear that many a day will go by before success perches upon its banners. About \$60,000,000 would be required to permit any combination to control a year's production of coffee, and about \$50,000,000 more would be required for the control of the visible supply. Of course as soon as it is known that a combine with abundant capital is in the field for the purpose of bulling coffee prices, there will be a series of hot races between the planters of the various kinds of coffee for the honour of turning out the greatest possible quantity every season. There will be every inducement for planters all over the world to double their output, for will not a heavily-financed syndicate be standing ready to absorb the supplies as fast as they come to market?

We believe that the people who are anxious to see something done for the coffee market will have to "guess again."

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**U. S. Coffee Tax Advocated.**—A correspondent of the *Sun*, writing from Schenectady, argues in favour of a reimposition of the coffee import tax, which finally disappeared in 1872. The correspondent is, says the *Merchants' Review*, one of those Bourbonian intellects that believe that a nation is never so well off as when it is well taxed, and he has a notion that our sacrifice of the duty all these years was a simple-minded move which caused the transfer of the duty from the treasury of Uncle Sam to the Brazilian treasury. It is strange how ill-informed people are so eager to rush into print. A little knowledge is indeed a dangerous thing.

The duty on coffee prior to 1870 was five cents a pound; the average import price in this country is about six cents—and that includes all kinds. Now, according to the *Sun's* Schenectady correspondent, Brazil took advantage of the repeal of our coffee duty to slap an equal tax on the export outlet, and consequently the Brazilian planters are furnishing their product free. If five cents goes to the Brazilian Government, at least one cent must be set aside for bagging and freight charges, hence it is obvious from the Schenectady view that the coffee-growers of Brazil have been for years producing coffee free of charge. It is up to the Schenectady genius, a Walter Ballard, to tell the waiting world how the planters manage to live.

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**Coffee 250,000 Bags Less.**—The world's visible supply of coffee March 1 was, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*, 12,517,266 bags, and decreased, therefore, 251,148 bags, the visible supply February 1 having been 12,769,414 bags. The decrease was accurately gauged as March 1 drew near, but is far from the guess ventured February 1. It was then expected that the shrinkage would be fully as large as that during January, but it develops that it is 200,000 bags short of the January shrinkage. It would have been 300,000 bags short had not the Arbuckle Bros. at the end of the month come into the market purchasers of 100,000 bags of coffee.

The coffee movement on the whole was satisfactory. Europe, however, has never before held such a supply of coffee in stock. In the eight principal ports this was 7,451,662 bags on March 1, against 7,346,873 bags on February 1, a top notch figure. The arrivals during February were only 803,587 bags against 961,069 bags during January. The deliveries of coffee during February were 698,798 bags, against 782,345 bags during January. The deliveries during February 1902 were 418,155 bags.

In the United States stocks March 1 were not so large as on February 1. There has been a decrease of 175,000 bags during the month closed. The figures are 2,324,304 March 1 and 2,500,241 February 1. The arrivals were 359,158 bags Brazil and 86,621 other kinds, a total of 445,779 bags; the arrivals during January were 524,593 bags. The deliveries were 541,619 bags Brazilian, 80,097 bags other kinds, a total of 621,716 and very nearly reaching the totals for January, which were 624,778 bags.

The Brazil receipts during February increased from 9,170,000 to 9,770,000 bags. The 10,000,000 bags mark will be passed very soon.

In options, while there was a considerable advance in prices during the month, occasioned by the large movements in actual coffee trading, prices on March 2 were exactly the



same as on February 2, March for instance on either date being 4.30 to 4.35.

In invoice lines Rio No. 8 has advanced from  $4\frac{7}{8}$  to  $5\frac{3}{8}$ ; No. 7 from  $5\frac{1}{4}$  to  $5\frac{5}{8}$ ; No. 5,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  to  $6\frac{1}{8}$ ; No. 3,  $6\frac{5}{8}$  to  $6\frac{7}{8}$ . Brazil package coffee roasted has become 1 cent dearer.

The visible supply of coffee on March 1 in detail, as compiled by the New York Coffee Exchange, was

Against February 1	...	...	12,769,414
Against March 1, 1902	...	...	11,179,643

Duuring & Zoon, Rotterdam, Holland, estimate the decrease in the world's visible coffee supply at 327,000 bags. They exceed the American estimate by 75,000 bags.

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Coffee does not appear to be doing well in Cochin. From the Administration Report for the year 1901-02 (August 16 to August 16) we learn that the total area assigned for Coffee cultivation in the State is 8,502 acres, of which only  $3,937\frac{1}{4}$  acres were under cultivation during the year. Of the cultivated area  $2,901\frac{1}{4}$  acres were under mature coffee, as against  $3,232\frac{1}{2}$  acres in the previous year. The most depressing feature of the report is, however, that which relates to production. The total yield of coffee in 1901-02 was 197,020 lbs., which represents an average of only 67 lbs. per acre of mature plants. In 1900-01 the average yield was 394 lbs. Seeing that in 1901-02 a quit-rent of Rs.12,700 was paid, planters cannot have had a happy time.

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Reporting on the trade of Brazil for the first half of the year 1902 the British Consul-General observes that coffee exports continue low. He adds that the world's consumption of coffee is about 16,000,000 bags; the visible supply on January 1, 1903, was 13,213,000 bags, against 10,871,000 bags in 1902. The Rio and Santos crops of 1901-02 were the largest known (yet), amounting to 15,500,000 bags. The 1902-03 crop is calculated at about 11,000,000 bags. The 1903-04 crop is very uncertain owing to frosts, and estimates range from 10,000,000 to 12,500,000 bags.

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In consequence of the representations of the Brazilian Government, who threatened to impose the maximum tariff on Italian goods landed in Brazil, the import duty on coffee in Italy, which was formerly £6 has been reduced to £4-15-3 per 100 kilos. (220.4 lbs.)

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Messrs. Hills Bros., dealers in fine coffee on Market street, note that San Francisco has been receiving lately some particularly fine coffee, grown on American soil, *i.e.*, the Hawaiian Islands. These coffee are called Kona or Hawaiian and have been held on the island and aged as Javas are. They are particularly fine in the cup, similar to Private Estate Java coffee in flavour, but much heavier bodied, as they do not become flat by standing after being drawn, and are better for blending than Private Estate Java. They are commanding almost as much money as the latter coffee, but they are fully worth it in actual intrinsic value in addition to being American coffee.

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Messrs. Werlin & Willits, San Francisco, report that trading in coffee for the past month has been light. The arrivals of coffee in this port from Central America have been much larger than usual this year and dealers are

holding off, believing that when stock accumulates they will be able to buy to better advantage and make better selection. Good, unwashed Salvadors as well as Superior Salvadors are in demand, and are being taken up as quick as they arrive.

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**Split Sales Vetoed.**—Recent frequent violations of important rules of the New York coffee exchange impelled President O'Sullivan to ascend the rostrum to announce that the sins of omission, which the trespasses in the main were, would not be countenanced. It seems that sales effected have not always been reported, to the vexation of the executive management of the exchange, and that there have been not a few "split" sales made on another basis than the official one founded on 5 points. A change in this basis has been agitated but is not generally favoured. It has been practised in a quiet way however. The rules which will now be enforced rigorously are as follows:

"Rule 3.—All offers to buy or sell coffee for future delivery shall be on cents and decimal fractions of a cent, and no transactions in contracts shall be permitted wherein the difference in price shall consist of a smaller fraction than five-hundredths of one cent per pound for each pound of coffee represented by such contract or contracts, nor shall any additional moneyed consideration whatever be allowed.

"Rule 4.—All contracts for the future delivery of coffee, under sections 88 or 89, shall be reported promptly to the Superintendent of the exchange, giving the exact time and terms. It shall be the duty of the seller to see that this report is made."

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**Values of January Importations.**—The value of the coffee imported into the United States during January last was \$4,567,077 compared with \$7,423,648 in January 1902; tea was valued at \$1,271,876; January 1902, \$1,105,564; spices, 722,659; January 1902, 720,675; cocoa, \$1,023,416; January 1902, \$624,090; sugar, \$4,582,254; January 1902, \$3,154,612.

Total stock in United States March 1, 2,324,314 bags against 2,188,974 bags March 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States March 6, in store and afloat, 2,737,787 bags against 2,437,368 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 219,077 bags, against 264,623 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York March 6, 2,093,387. Stock in New York in other coffees March 6, 154,956, in San Francisco, 58,959 bags and in New Orleans, 5,162 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, March 1, 12,517,266 bags.

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**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market is rather mixed says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 4. For the better grades a flat market is noted but for the lower grades there is better tone and even higher prices. The recent improvement in the prices of package coffees, amounting in all to one cent, is sufficient evidence, as also that Rio No. 8 has advanced to within  $\frac{1}{8}$ c. of Rio No. 7. The consuming demand in this grade of coffee is in consequence interpreted to be large. It has, apart from its own immediate sphere, no profound influence in the market, for the surplus of the great world's surplus of coffee is in the higher grades, which are practically unsaleable. There quantity is so overwhelming. Relatively, then, these coffees are cheap and are the specially discouraging feature of the trade.

They are also the special bane of the speculative market, and were the cause last week of the heavy switching of March contracts to the more distant months. About 70,000 bags were tendered but they were nearly all returned to the issuers, who preferred to pay the heavy premium, 50 to 55 points for September, rather than accept the tenders of spot high grade Brazil coffee, which cannot be sold very well. The speculative market closed quiet and easier. Abroad the markets have no special strength, and Brazil continues to report receipts daily above 40,000 bags, and not infrequently the Santos interior receipts are above 20,000 bags. Brokers wish them to be near the 15,000-bag mark at this time.

Interest now is centered in the probable world's visible supply as it shall be proved to be on March 1. The deliveries in the United States have been about 575,000 bags and those in Europe



have been normal. The supplies from Venezuela still having to come in, it is expected that the visible supply of the world will have shrunk about 250,000 bags, which is 200,000 less than the shrinkage during January. Unless the visible supply shall show a marked change from the estimates stated, the report as it shall finally prove to be will have been discounted in the market.

In invoices the Brazil market closed with no changes of any moment. Santos, averaging No. 6, was offered at 6c. c. and f. In spot the market closed firm for the lower grades. The quotations for Rio No. 7 were  $5\frac{5}{8}$  to  $5\frac{11}{16}$ c., for Rio No. 8  $5\frac{3}{8}$ c. Rio No. 4 was  $6\frac{3}{8}$ c. and Santos No. 4  $6\frac{3}{4}$ c.

In Milds buyers are waiting for developments expected on the arrival of coffees from Venezuela this week. The market was flat. Good Cucuta was to be had for  $9\frac{1}{2}$ c. Coffees of East India growths are showing an upward tendency. Again the demand seems to have crept up to production.

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**The Blending of Coffee.**—Mr George P. Power writes in *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*:—"Do not some coffees need blending?" This is a large question to answer and for the sake of an argument I answer "yes."

Any one plantation will produce in different years many different characters of coffee owing to the climatic changes of each year being different. A buyer of a certain chop mark of coffee under that same chop mark another year, but should buy in the cup from his stock sample. Granting also that some coffees are too rough and others of the same nature or section too insipid. In the hands of the expert they are properly balanced and put out for what they are. But the patented or flim flam blender forgets its arithmetic as learned in school and instead of saying 1 Bogota and 1 Bogota equal Bogota, says 1 Bogota and 1 Bogota equals Java and sells to the grocer at Java price. In fact his arithmetic gets so bad that he figures that 1 Santos and 1 Bourbon equals Mocha and Java and away he goes to the Grocery Trade with his *ne-plus-ultra* Mocha and Java but remembers his arithmetic well enough to ask the Mocha and Java price. I could quote numerous examples on this subject but these two will do. An actual case I will quote: A certain retail firm asked me to come, draw and grade their line of (5) five coffees. I did so and stated to the head of the firm that I should judge the five coffees to be all about the same nature, four of them being of a Santos nature, the other being Santos and Bourbon, all ought to cost about  $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. roasted. Mr. Buyer flew mad at once and said he paid 26-20-17-15 and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  for the different grades. My answer to him was: My dear man, you did not send for me to have me tell you what you paid for your coffees as that is beyond the power of any mortal, but what you ought to have paid for the coffees I can tell you and that is from 12 to  $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. roasted." Give my grocer a chance and he can sell coffees but when he is flim-flammed when he gets his goods how can he develop business. Some firms even try and foist their product into the public at a fictitious price because their being wiser than there fellow men have removed all the poisonous elements from the coffee bean.

How anyone with any brains can be deceived with such an argument puzzles me. Green coffees I grant contain certain elements of a decidedly purgative nature when treated with cold water and let stand twelve hours, in fact, this being an old French remedy for constipation, 1 cup coffee to 6 cups water being the proportions. But remember the dose is only 1 tablespoonful if you wish to try it. Green coffees after they pass the fire and become roasted contain nothing injurious except what will be brought out by hard boiling more than five minutes.

All anyone in making coffee wishes to extract from the ground bean is the essential oil which mingling with the boiling water produces the so-called coffee used at the table. By hard boiling you go farther and extract what you do not wish, the acid or alkaloid which nature placed there to protect the germ from the ravages of insects during the process of reproduction. It is a well known scientific fact that nature surrounds the germ of any seed with acids or alkaloids to protect it from insects or worms during the time which it is placed in the ground to reproduce or germinate again, and when by misuse you bring these down into your solution you find the result bitter and unpalatable and condemn the coffee. Then also poor, aged cream will spoil any cup of coffee. The majority, in fact all coffees are more or less acid and combined with cream of course are very palatable, but let anyone who is under

the impression that coffee is injurious to their system educate their taste to *café noir* or clear coffee and they will find it just what it is guaranteed to be, a light stimulant and decidedly not a detriment to any system, no matter how delicate. Combine the acid coffee with poor semi-sour cream and of course it curdles in the stomach and will produce harmful results. All grocers should provide themselves with special bags for their coffees with practical directions for making coffee and the care and cleaning of the utensils used, plainly printed on them.

TEA NOTES.

**Tea Consumption in the United States in 1902.**—The *American Grocer* says:—The following statement shows the quantity of tea imported, re-exported, and in warehouse at the beginning and end of the year 1902:

		Pounds.
In warehouse January 1, 1902	...	47,606,789
Imports	...	108,750,464
Exports	...	927,544
Nett imports, 1902	...	107,822,920
Total supply	...	155,429,709
In warehouse, December 31, 1902	...	90,971,210
Deliveries, counted as consumption	...	64,458,499

The above shows the extent to which tea was held in warehouse prior to the removal of the duty January 1, 1903. Evidently, stocks in the hands of jobbers and retailers were unusually small toward the close of 1902.

The average annual consumption for three years ending June 30, 1902, was 80,501,993 pounds.

That statement, showing requirements, taken in connection with the very small deliveries during the latter part of 1902, makes it certain that the actual consumption of tea in the United States is less than one pound *per capita*; it used to be over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. There is plenty of chance for an active campaign for the restoration of tea to its former standing.

Foreign and colonial markets continue to take increasing quantities of India and Ceylon tea. The increase last year, as reported by Gow, Wilson & Stanton's London circular, was nearly 11,000,000 pounds over 1901, which in turn was 12,000,000 over 1900; in fact, ever since 1890, when only 14,000,000 were used, the quantity has steadily increased every year. The exports compare as follows:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian	41,496,070	36,080,151	33,442,970
Ceylon	64,146,967	58,797,549	49,259,693
Total lbs.	105,643,037	94,877,700	82,702,663

Probably now that green tea is being largely manufactured, the field abroad will be still wider, and may lead to the development of additional markets.

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In a supplementary report on the trade of Odessa in 1901 the British Consul-General states that the tea-packeting industry has been fully established, and that Odessa is now a centre of distribution. Tea reaches there both from London and the East. In 1901 there was a considerable increase in the quantity of tea that passed through Odessa to Moscow. This was due to the fear of complications in China. The main increase in the tea import was in Ceylon tea, which now forms from 25 to 30 per cent. of the whole quantity imported at Odessa. The total amount of tea that passed the custom house was 4,100 tons, of which 3,900 tons was cleared at Odessa.



The tea supply in Japan this season to date runs about equal to the total for last year during corresponding period, but there is a heavy shortage in low and medium grades, with of course a corresponding increase in the supply of fine Japans. A shortage in low grades is felt in this market, where nine out of ten dealers are continually tempted to buy "tea for price." Dynasties and empires may change, but there is no variation in this custom of preferring the low-priced teas to the better kinds. To the average grocer a tea-leaf by the tea cup's rim a simple tea-leaf is to him, and it is nothing more or less, one tea-leaf being as good as another. A change would put many dollars into grocery pockets.—*Merchants' Review*.

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**The U. S. Tea Tax.**—The *Merchants' Review* observes:—The use of the taxing power for the protection of special interests, as illustrated by the treatment of the oleomargarine industry at Washington, came up for discussion in the meeting-room of a transatlantic grocer's association recently, being brought to the surface by a resolution favouring the taxing of tea-dealers. In the discussion that ensued it was suggested that a nominal impost would fail to effect the purpose of the friends of the scheme, namely, a reduction of the number of retailers of tea, and that a considerable tax would hurt the grocers. It appears that there is a perfect saturnalia of tea-selling in nearly all walks of life in Great Britain, impoverished professional men, widows, tobacconists, the Salvation Army, workmen in factories, and several other classes of people, taking up the sale of tea either as a last resort or as a side issue to eke out their regular earnings. Whether the grocers have sufficient influence to prevail with the Government in the matter of a tea tax is doubtful, but there is more chance of their triumph over the opposing hosts by the exercise of legitimate competition than by appeals to a grandmotherly government. The British grocers must reduce the margin of profit sufficiently to squeeze out the parasites in the trade, and must also see that the quality of their own blends is, if anything, a little better than that of the tea peddled by superannuated clergymen, disconsolate widows, and workmen in factories who act as agents for tea companies.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—More business but at as firm prices as heretofore is the description of the tea market for the past week, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 11. The noticeable lull of a fortnight ago surprisingly lifted itself, and there was more to do. The inquiry was chiefly for the teas that are so hard to obtain, the greens, Formosas, Japans and the like. The absorption by the country of the vast stock imported is astonishing and the continued call for more tea amazing. It is apparent that not all consumers have fared the same. The early bird seems to have caught the worm. We have heard recently several reports of traders out in the country having supplies of tea on hand to last nine months and greens at that. Evidently they have the teas others intended having and now have to do without except on payment of fancy prices. Moreover, the holders have confidence that their large stock will in no way be injured in value by whatever may be the price of next season's teas. They even think that they will own a cheap commodity in comparison with these teas.

There has been no change of importance in the quoted prices of the teas mentioned. Being scarce, the prices of them are always well maintained.

The Congous have been much on the carpet lately. The country has been absorbing more than usual of them, but notwithstanding they do not tend to become dearer. The talk of heavy exports has not in the least moved the tea to demonstrate an upward tendency. It is a comfort, however, to note that the tea is at last receiving some attention worthy the name. It will not require much now to start a considerable movement.

In Foochow there has also been more doing. The tea has been poor in quality this year, and hence not a little avoided by buyers. Indeed, the United States Government has been not infrequently called upon to exercise its authority in rejecting for entrance the tea offered, and in the past fortnight has shut out some 12,000 packages. This has tended to improve the market for Foochow teas but at no advance of course. Indias and Ceylons are in fair demand. More and more encomiums are heard for the green teas and it is evident these have established a reputation which should serve them well next season. The prospect is that India and Ceylon will increase their exports some 300 per cent. next season and this should have a decided impression on the green tea market in general.

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**Tea Consumption in France.**—Mr. J. J. Marcel writes from Havre to the *Ceylon Observer*:—Mr. Renton's method of dealing with figures is as fantastic as that which he employs when describing the sayings and doings of Ambassadors whom he has never seen. In his report of 31st December, 1902, he gives a table of the imports of tea into France per French returns, from which he makes it appear that the imports from British India and Ceylon were

1899	1900	1901
124,698 kilos.	144,002 kilos.	152,943 kilos.

He makes two egregious mistakes. The first is that the figures quoted are not the quantities imported but the quantities "mises en consommation"—taken into consumption—i.e., the quantities upon which duty has been paid. The quantities imported are very different, viz.:—

1899	1900	1901
kilos.	kilos.	kilos.
Indes Anglaises.—317,855	336,629	728,815

(N.B.—The kilo. is equal to about 2.2 lbs.)

This brings me to his second mistake.

The disparity between these figures and the quantities actually sent to France as shown by his letter, viz.:—

1899	1900	1901
From Ceylon.—98,952 lbs.	326,800 lbs.	317,866 lbs.
Do. India.—17,759 „	23,983 „	23,983 „
116,709 „	350,783 „	341,849 „

is sufficiently striking to arrest the attention of the man in the street and a careful statistician would have inquired into the cause of such extraordinary differences. Mr. Renton finds it more convenient to discard them and he puts in their place a set of figures which apply to a different matter altogether. I have been at the trouble of investigating the question and I give you the explanation. It is this. The section "Indes Anglaises" in the French statistics includes all the British Possessions in Asia, not India and Ceylon only, but also the Straits Settlements, Hongkong, and British Borneo, so that China and Java teas shipped from Hongkong or Singapore are placed to the credit of that section.

It follows, firstly, that the quantities which he represents as the importations are in reality the quantities taken into



consumption, and, secondly, that they do not refer to India and Ceylon teas alone, but include the teas from Hongkong and Singapore.

The inference which he draws therefore, *viz.* :—"That India and Ceylon are the only countries that show an increase in imports in 1901 over 1899 and 1900" is absolutely unfounded and misleading.

Bearing the above facts in mind, *viz.* that the exports of British-grown teas to France were about the same in 1900 and 1901 it must be evident that what the French statistics really do reveal is that the enormous increase in the importations under the heading "Indes Anglaises"—in 1901, 728,815 kilos, as against 336,629 kilos. in 1900—must represent China teas shipped at Hongkong, and, perhaps, some Java shipped at Singapore.

I wonder if Mr. Kingsford will consider this piece of intelligence as "encouraging" as the famous Reuter telegram which he quoted in his letter of 22nd of September last, to the effect that the use of tea was steadily increasing in France. The French official figures of the total consumption of tea *from all sources* do not bear out that view, *viz.* :—

	1899	1900	1901
	kilos.	kilos.	kilos.
Total consumption ..	884,926	1,093,326	861,818

The spasmodic increase in 1900 may be explained by the Paris Exhibition of that year, but in 1901 the consumption fell below even the normal year 1899. The figures for 1902 have not yet appeared.

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**Grow Tea to Chew it.**—Tea trees grow spontaneously in Siam and on large areas in most of the higher valleys of the chain that divides the waters of the Meping and the Me-Lao and Woung, as well as between these rivers and the Me-Ing and the Mekong. These forests of tea trees, known as "Va-Mieng," are cropped principally between the Me-Ing and the Me-Lao. But everywhere the natives crop only a small quantity, for which they pay a slight due, by no means legal, to the village chiefs.

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Importations of tea at San Francisco during the month of January were 248,954 pounds; China, 90,978 pounds; Japan, 94,666; British East India, 63,310 pounds. The withdrawals for consumption were 5,910,403 pounds. The amount remaining in warehouse January 31 was 387,000 pounds.

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**China Tea Trade.**—No more interesting statistics regarding China have been published than those relating to the export of tea during the year 1901, says Boyd's *Commercial Guide for China*. The figures reveal a parlous state of affairs and show plainly that unless active measures be immediately taken the once staple industry of China will be catalogued among the things of the past. Several reasons are advanced to account for the enormous falling-off in the exports of this once eagerly-sought-for product, the prime reason being, of course, the live competition of tea from Assam, Ceylon, Japan, and Java. Everyone is aware that the supremacy in the world's markets of tea from the two first-named countries is in the main due to judicious advertising and the employment of up-to-date machinery in the manipulation and preparation of the leaf. This has been an acknowledged fact for years, yet those whose interests are immediately concerned in the production and export of China tea have been content to let things take their course with a complacency that is deserving of the severest censure. There seems to be a touch of fatalism in the way the industry has been allowed to work out its ruin.

A recent retrospect of the gradual decline of the industry has been cleverly sketched by an expert recently, from which we learn that 30 years ago the exports of tea from China aggregated 141,000,000 lbs. From that time it has gradually diminished until

it is estimated, and with very good reason, that the figures of the present year will barely reach 12,000,000 lbs. Prices, too, during the last 20 years have fallen nearly 50 per cent. Almost simultaneously with the publication of these facts Mr. Playfair, the British Consul at Foochow, sounds a note of alarm regarding the almost moribund state of trade, and urges with an earnestness that is highly commendable the necessity for remedies being applied without delay towards revivifying the dying industry. So that it is with no small degree of pleasure that we have received evidence within the last few days that at last a really live effort is being attempted in this direction.

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High-priced tea which has lost its bouquet and has otherwise become flat from long storage either at home or in warehouse is made pungent again and the delicious aroma restored by spreading the tea thinly on a flat tray and laying it before a fire for a few minutes.

### NOTES.

#### German Quinine.

The exports of quinine and quinine salts from Germany during the twelve

months—

		1900.	1901.	1902.
Kilos.	...	184,800	195,400	232,200
Marks	...	8,316,000	8,207,000	9,752,000

#### Ceylon Tea Shipment.

Estimate of Ceylon's tea shipments last month was 8,500,000 to 9,000,000 lbs. Total shipments were only 7,500,000 lbs., as compared with 8,198,179 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1902, and 7,932,090 lbs. in 1901. Estimate for the current month is 8½ to 8¾ millions.

#### Otto of Rose.

From Bulgaria it is reported that a few delegates from Eastern Roumelia have presented a Bill to the National Assembly now in Session, proposing the protection of Bulgarian otto of rose from adulteration. It is also proposed to obtain the legal regulation of the production, sale, and export of the article.

#### Coffee and Tea in Java.

In the Districts around Batavia coffee-planting is said to be on the down-grade owing to low prices, disease among the plants, and exhaustion of the soil. Should prices continue to be low for the next few years, very few estates will be left to profit by any considerable rise in quotations. Tea-growing has met with a check owing to low prices and over-production. Rubber-growing is extending there, and bids fair to prove profitable.

#### China's Tea Exports.

The season is closed, and it appears that exports for the last two years

compare as follows :—

		1902-03.	1901-02.
		lbs.	lbs.
Europe	...	8,771,036	12,761,212
Australasia	...	1,138,697	2,169,218
North America	...	11,229,821	6,643,262
South Africa	...	1,016,423	1,741,639
Coast	...	8,727,203	8,249,449
		30,883,180	31,564,780

The North American (United States and Canada) figures show a rapid recovery in China's trade with that part of the world.

#### Indian Tea Exports.

The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries, and received periodically from Chittagong, are issued



by the Indian Tea Association : Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the second half of March 1903 : Calcutta, 364,863 lbs ; Chittagong, *nil* ; quantity entered during the corresponding period last year : Calcutta, 264,423 lbs.; Chittagong, *nil* ; total from 1st April 1902 to 31st March, 1903 : Calcutta, 125,522,243 lbs.; Chittagong, 19,987,100 lbs.; total 145,509,343 lbs.; total from 1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, 152,631,147 lbs.

#### West Indian Kola.

The January Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, states that inquiries made in well-informed sources with regard to the low range of prices for kola, show that the chief cause of the decline is the fact that France (formerly a large buyer in London) now imports direct from Africa. Another fact is that kola has not "caught on" either in Great Britain or the U. S. A. to the same extent as in France. It is stated that the larger proportion of the kola received from Jamaica is mouldy, so that it is necessary to impress upon shippers from Jamaica the fact that kola should be prepared in such a way that it arrives in London absolutely sound. At the present time good sound West Indian nuts are very scarce in London, and up to 5d. per lb. would probably be paid for them.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 2nd instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for good liquoring Pekoes are easier, while the market for teas for price is dearer. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (the same as last week) and the average 7¾d. (¼d. down). The average for the same period last year was 7d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is firm and that Broken Pekoes and Orange Pekoes are rather irregular, while Pekoe and Pekoe Souchongs are firm and steady. Fair Pekoe Souchongs are quoted at 6½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7¾d. (¼d. down). 25,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 23,000 disposed of ; while of the 36,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 32,000 were sold at an average of 8½d. (¾d. up). Common qualities of Indian tea are rather dearer, and Broken Pekoes irregular.

#### The St. Louis Exposition.

The contract for the completion of the Agriculture building at the St. Louis World's Fair, where will be shown the tea, coffee, sugar, and spice exhibits, has been let for \$529,940. This building is to be fifteen per cent. larger than any other building at the Exhibition and is to be the largest structure erected for the reception of a single department. It is to be 500 x 1,600 feet, thus containing a floor space of nearly 20 acres. This building and that to be built for Horticulture will probably be the only ones in the Exposition bearing colour on the outer walls. The Agriculture building will have used upon it green with points of brighter colour. The building will probably be the best lighted on the grounds. Its front are practically successive series of windows each 75 feet long and 27 feet high. These windows are placed 14 feet from the floor so as to allow the use of the wall space inside for exhibits. The grand nave 106 feet wide, which runs through the 1,600-foot length of the building, rises to a height of 60 feet and supplies the grandest vista of installation space of any building ever designed for exposition uses. The building is to be completed by September 1st.

#### Java Government Cinchona.

The official report of the Government cinchona-plantations in Java for the December quarter of 1902 states that the phenomenal drought of 1902 continued without interruption until the middle of November, when a few showers gave rise to the hope that at last the monsoon would burst, but these expectations were not realised. The number of days on which rain fell remained considerably below the average of the last five years. The continued drought proved far from advantageous for the young plants, and the plantations laid out in January and February 1901 have suffered greatly. The growth in the older plantations also left much to be desired, but here an improvement rapidly followed the showers which fell in November. The harvest of 1902 amounts in all to 757 tons of bark, of which 392 tons were shipped to Europe, 364 tons were sent to the Bandong quinine factory, and about one ton was supplied to the Medical Service of the Dutch East Indies. The small quantity of seed which was available was disposed of at one single auction, when a total amount of 2,145*l.* was realised. The series of analyses made with the view of ascertaining what, if any, effect the weather conditions had on the alkaloid-content of the bark—that is to say, in what season the bark is richest in alkaloid—were continued, without, however, yielding any definite result. For this reason these experiments, which had been carried on since 1898, have now been concluded, and it may be accepted as an established fact that the harvest-time is a factor which exerts no influence either way on the higher or lower content of alkaloid. The "Combination of September 22"—by which several planters agreed to limit the unit-price to 6*c.*, as in their opinion there existed no over-production of bark—had the desired effect, as has been proved by the result of the bark-auctions held at Amsterdam on October 2, November 6, and December 11 last

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday 16th at 11¼*d.* and closed this evening at 11¾*d.* to 11¾*d.*

There is nothing new to chronicle about exchange. The situation is evidently that of equilibrium between the natural factors of demand and supply, and as speculation has not been particularly active oscillations have been unimportant. Until the end of March shipments of rubber on a large scale may usually be counted on, whilst coffee-continues to go forward satisfactorily, on an unexpectedly heavy scale, the value of shipments being £485,000 last week as against £432,000 on the previous week and £371,000 last year.

Something is evidently going to be tried at São Paulo to help coffee-planters which may give a fillip to prices and exchange if only for a time.

Forecasts are particularly difficult just at present. On the one hand we have natural factors pretty evenly balanced but threatening disequilibrium very shortly, and war expenditure for arms, ammunition and other stores to be provided for. On the other, some loan or credit at any moment may be arranged in London, where our credit is steadily improving and as a last resource Government could draw against part, at least, of the Guarantee Fund, whilst a rise in coffee prices is not impossible. Any one of these might readjust the threatened equilibrium or turn it decidedly favourable. For these reasons we think that though a fall of exchange in April or May might be looked for, if no outside



influence be brought to bear, it cannot be counted on with any certainty, though of the two a fall and not a rise is the most probable.

Declared sales fell off heavily being only 197,000 compared with 299,000 the previous week and 117,000 last year.

**Coffee.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, *February 21, 1903.* Joint Entries at Rio and Santos fell off somewhat, chiefly at the latter, being 15,654 bags less than the previous week's and 42,796 less than the corresponding week's last year, of which they represent 14.5 per cent. For the crop entries up to 20th instant were 2,768,774 bags less than last year's of which they represent 77.4 per cent.

Shipments (*embarques*) were 88,724 bags over the previous week's and 94,401 more than last year's.

Consequently, stocks fell off again and were 59,657 smaller than on the previous Friday.

Declared sales, however, were 102,000 bags under the previous week's, but still 80,000 more than for the corresponding week last year.

It is very doubtful what measure will be ultimately adopted, but the Government of São Paulo seems sincere in its determination to meet the views of planters. How the idea of reducing stocks can be licked into practical form so as not to be evaded we confess we are at a loss to understand and will, therefore, wait for something more definite before offering an opinion. At first sight however, proposals seem to us utterly impracticable. Still something must be done. Planters on some plantations are practically prisoners of their colours and, in addition to an economical and financial crisis we are threatened with a social and international one, unless some measures be found to satisfy their claims and save the planters.

SANTOS, *February 20, 1903.*—Weaker advices and smaller orders from consuming markets brought about a decline here of about 200 réis and limited transactions during the week. Commissarios gave way but slowly as their holdings have been greatly reduced and business for the exporters was very difficult. The declared sales are 56,000 less than last week and the coffee market was not much interesting. The demand here is specially for soft coffees which are principally Superiors and Goods and are relatively scarce. These command a premium of about 200 réis above hard coffees. European markets are also offering up to 1s. more for the description *Soft*. Qualities also very scarce are ready good roasters. Primes fetched from 4\$900 to 5\$100. Superiors 300 réis and Goods 600 réis below. The latter two qualities being still most in demand. Regulars rule between 3\$800 to 4\$100. Low coffees are quiet again and about 300 réis lower than last week. A good business was done in fine Peaberry but also lower qualities down to Goods find ready buyers, Superior Peaberry at 4\$700 to 4\$900, according to types and Good Peaberry about 300 réis less. Washed coffees still continue neglected. Low washed are really difficult to sell at all at reasonable prices, and only for fine washed color a few orders are in the market, but these orders are, with great difficulty, obtainable. Orders for Superiors ruled between 29s. and 30s. and for Good Averages 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. less. Receipts and *Passagen* do not show much difference against last week and are not likely to fall off much in the immediate future. Shipments were considerably smaller than expected amounting only to 64,000. This is evidently due to the delay which some steamers, specially for New York, had. Our stock came down to 1,008,000 bags, being 58,000 less than last week. It is taken for granted that not more than 400,000 bags are in first hands.

The Pauta went up 20 réis on Saturday last, and is now 460 réis. The new crop is expected early and if the weather is favourable we may have now coffee in Santos in May.

**Profits.**—A correspondent of the *Jornal do Commercio* makes out the roasters' and retailers' profits on coffee in France, Italy, and Spain to be as follows:

Per 60 kilos. (bag).	France frs.	Italy lira.	Spain pes.
Cost f. o. b. ...	39	42	50
Duties and Expenses ...	124	128	130
Selling Price ...	240	240	300
Profit per 60 kilos. ...	80	70	120

The only wonder is, with such profits, how retailers and roasters are not all millionaires!

A correspondent writes from Santos as follows:

"Unless your market is very oversold on account of Sorocabana, I do not believe in a great fall just yet although I think the supply of coffee will a good deal fall short of expectations, but meanwhile the Sorocabana ought to be disposed of and drawn for. Coffee is picking up at last and it seems to me the whole position of the article has been put in a false light for many weeks through bear sales here and at Rio. Fortunately they have been caught and I should not be surprised if the month of March prove to be badly covered in both Europe and the States. Havre is evidently the leading market and will be so for many months if not years, no other market, our own included, holding much of the current qualities generally sought after. A large part of the 2,000,000 bags forming the New York stock and the 1,000,000 bags at Hamburg consists of the accumulated rubbish of years which the trade will take only on compulsion.

Here in Santos the bulk of the unsold stock consists of fancy qualities and low grades, current goods getting scarcer day by day. As regards your Ribeirao Preto correspondent's estimate of 7 to 9 million bags, they seem to be based exclusively on experience of that district, and not even the whole of it, as reports from other parts of the country are very different. With regard to marketing 1,000,000 bags of next crop during the current season, he is altogether wrong as though every year we hear of crops being abnormally early, only on one occasion, 1896-1897, did it really happen and even then entries were nothing like that figure.

One or two weeks of rain during gathering will upset all calculations, and retard preparation by 3 or 4 weeks. Besides premature maturity is often a sign of disease and realized at the expense of development.

## SOUTH CAROLINA TEA GROWING.

Mr. T. R. Tighe writes in *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* :—

I.

Among the most attractive points in the South to the intelligent tourist in search of knowledge as well as entertainment is the tea gardens of Pinehurst, just beyond the corporate limits of Summer-ville. The enterprise operated there, and success attendant thereon, has fascinated and attracted the attention of tea growers, not only in this country, but throughout the British Indies, Ceylon, Japan, and the remote Orient. The gardens have been visited by the Chief Magistrate of the land, members of the Cabinet, the observant and interested Takihari, minister of Japan; Chinese and Japanese students, and by distinguished representatives of the American press who, with two exceptions, have sung their praises and lauded the efforts of the man who, in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties and adverse conditions, has achieved success for one of the most important undertakings in behalf of the American people. The interest manifested has not in the least abated and Dr. Charles U. Shepard, the owner of the tea gardens, has just cause to be proud of the results of his labours and researches. He has begun work for the coming year with renewed hope and vigour. Many of the obstacles to the establishment of a productive tea farm have been removed through continuous labour and unremitting attention.

When I visited the gardens, the avenues were crowded with tourists admiring the beautiful growth there in mid-winter. The tea plant attracted the visitor by its healthy look and peculiar, verdant foliage.

The season of 1902 at the Pinehurst tea gardens, it may be stated, was not only agriculturally successful, but has furnished much valuable information. In point of production—more than 8,000 pounds of dry tea—a notable advance was made by almost doubling the crop of 1901. That this was not wholly due to the coming into bearing of new gardens is shown by a comparison of the yield of tea gardens of different ages in 1902 with that of 1901, the season of 1901 having been generally disappointing, not only for tea but other crops.

Thus a group of five of the oldest gardens (about 10 years old) gained 42 per cent. in two seasons; three gardens of middle age (about 7 years old) 90 per cent., and five younger gardens (about 5 years old) 215 per cent. Nor is the comparison of the Pinehurst crops with those of the Orient unfavourable. Thus, in leaf from the Assani hybrid variety the Rose gardens afforded in



1902 at the rate of 460 pounds dry tea to the acre, which is decidedly above the average in British India and Ceylon; from the highly-prized Darjeeling sort, the Lincoln garden yielded at the rate of 290 pounds to the acre, which fully equals the out-turn of the Himalayan provinces, and from the choice Chinese Dragon's pool seed, the South Fraser garden gave over 250 pounds of dry tea to the acre, which would be regarded as quite extraordinary in China or Formosa. The Japanese and Kangra gardens have not as yet attained a production of one ounce of dry leaf to the bush per annum; but they are doing as well as at home, and with a reasonable prospect of a decided improvement in both varieties.

These results are entitled to greater weight in estimating the success of the Pinehurst experimentation than an off-hand comparison of the total acreage and yield, as the conditions of many of the local gardens are far from being ideal. And necessarily so, as it seemed at the beginning of the work most desirable that the experiments should cover as wide a range as possible not only as to varieties of tea seeds, but also as to differences in sort of soil, exposure and surface and cultivation. It was known in advance that many of the conditions were unfavourable for a large production, but in the absence of all experience as to whether quality or quantity should be aimed at in a future American tea industry, impossible to avoid the trial of all conditions.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

The bulk of the coffee offered at auction this week has been East India, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of March 14, and, as a whole, may be described of such poor quality that the home trade were not interested in it. The few marks of really fine quality fetched more than correspondingly high prices, but as has been before mentioned, the quantity of fine is so small that there is very keen competition for it. Even the commoner sorts are not being taken freely for export, and consequently there is greater difficulty in disposing of them. Values are, however, too low to allow the merchants to accept any reduction. Rather more Central American descriptions are coming forward, but this week only a few have been offered. Good prices were obtained, and we look for a better business in them during the next few weeks if rates continue at the present moderate range. In the terminal market the tendency is to higher quotations, but the interest shown last week has very much diminished, and only a moderate business has been done.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The *Produce Markets' Review* of 14th ultimo reports:—The bidding was less animated at the public auctions this week, with an easier tendency prevailing, but, with few exceptions, no quotable change in values was established. Importers are evidently still of opinion that the visible supply of teas is only about on a par with the consumption, and, as they refuse to entertain any concession in prices, there is not likely to be any immediate change in values. The demand from the retailers is, and has been for several weeks, only of a moderate character, and it is fair to assume that the stocks held in the country are much smaller than is usual at this period. When, however, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement is made known, which will probably be at the beginning or the middle of April, a considerably improved demand will follow, and, should there be a reduction in the duty, an upward movement in prices is practically certain. Of the 31,947 packages catalogued for auction, 7,069 failed to change hands, and a small quantity of the latter has been sold by private contract since the public auctions. For the teas of a fine autumnal character and for some fine Darjeelings there was brisk competition, and high prices were paid, while the other grades show no change of importance, although the market was inclined to be easier.

CEYLON TEAS.—At the public sales on Tuesday the quantity brought forward was again moderate, and, although a quieter tone prevailed, no material alteration can be quoted. Teas for "price" remained firm, and where bids were made under recent rates the lots were withdrawn, but occasionally the better Pekoes, about 7d. to 7½d. sold in favour of buyers. Broken Pekoes under 7½d. are still diffi-

cult to obtain, but the medium kinds from about 8d. to 9½d. were a little easier, and now show exceptional value, as most of the teas were of very good quality and style. The supply of Dusts remains small, and very little sold under 5½d. per lb. At the public sales 23,250 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,400 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—At the public auctions held on Wednesday some 1,132 packages were brought forward, the bidding was slow and prices offered were in some cases slightly easier; holders, however, refused to sell anything except at rates fully equal to those previously ruling.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—The market for Green Tea continues firm for all descriptions, and a fair business is reported. Capers are unchanged, with only a limited enquiry. At the public sale of Green Tea held on Thursday 1,521 packages were brought forward, of which 165 failed to find buyers.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

On the subject of green teas generally and a sample of Indian green tea recently made by the Drummond, Deane, and Judge machine, sent to us from Calcutta by Messrs. Heatley and Gresham, we have received the following from Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton. We invited the opinion of this firm on the tea, and they write: "We have carefully examined and tasted the sample of green tea that you have to-day submitted to us. We have given it special consideration in connection with the remarks contained in your issue of last Saturday. It is truly said in that article that the tea has not been made from selected leaf, as it certainly has a somewhat bold appearance. In liquor we find it a fairly representative parcel of the bulk of British-grown green tea now coming forward. It possesses pungency, good flavour, and fine quality, and, above all, it appears to us to be absolutely pure. The only point against the liquor is that it is scarcely strong enough. The good qualities of the tea are quickly discerned when tasting it against the green teas from China, which are now realising some 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. higher price than those from India and Ceylon. It is then that the coarse, common character of the great majority of the Chinese article presents itself, and on examining the leaves after infusion one cannot be always certain as to their purity, besides which a visible scum frequently comes over the liquor as it cools down, and this is attributed to the colouring matter employed. After these remarks one would wonder why the superior British-grown article should be realising 30 per cent. less price than the inferior China article. The reason is to be summed up in one word—prejudice, or, shall we call it 'trade usage?' The prejudice would, to a certain degree, be overcome if traders felt confident that they could replace their purchases by a similar article, similarly packed, and delivered in their warehouses under similar conditions, or, as they term it, 'a follow.' Until quite recently the packages of British-grown green teas have been of all sizes and shapes, with an entire want of uniformity. On the other hand, China packages are all about the same size and similarly 'got up.' It should be easy to obviate disadvantages such as these. Prejudice was rife twenty-five years ago against Indian tea in this country, but the superiority of the article told in the end. The green tea trade in America is now in much the same position as the black tea trade was in this country about that time."

The visit to India in December last of the Hon. John Barrett, Commissioner-General for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, is being followed up by a visit from Mr. Palmer R. Bowen, one of the Commissioners for Europe, who is now on his way to Calcutta. Mr. Bowen will endeavour to visit the native states and chief centres of population with a view to obtaining exhibits for the St. Louis Exhibition. Should any subscriptions on behalf of the leading industries of India be forthcoming Mr. Bowen will, we understand, endeavour to get the Government to supplement the amount subscribed, and by this means to arrange for an Indian pavilion at the Exhibition. Mr. Bowen is anxious to get the Government to assist in the same manner as the Ceylon Government has done, and to arrange to have Indian tea served at the Exhibition as well as Ceylon tea. The fact that St. Louis is the centre of the green tea trade will, he believes, indicate its fitness for a demonstration of the superior merits of the green tea now being made both by India and Ceylon.—*H. & C. Mail.*



## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports :—

TORONTO, March 5, 1903.

The markets are remaining decidedly firm. London is showing a disposition to further advance. The strong statistical position described in our last issue, is having a marked effect on the markets. An active demand has revealed itself, resulting in an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. on some grades, in both Indian and Ceylons. We learn that British-grown greens and Oolongs are receiving more attention in the London markets and are meeting with ready sales. It is expected this will appreciably influence the imports of black tea into that market from now on. The local markets are low in both Indian and Ceylon greens on spot, for which there is some demand. Business on the street is somewhat slow, wholesalers being reluctant to increase their stocks until further exhausted.

MONTREAL, March 5, 1903.

The tone of the market for teas is strong, though prices locally are unchanged. In Ceylons and Indians on the primary market an advance of over 1c. is reported, and this is likely to be followed here. Wholesalers are quoting from 18c. up for green Ceylon and Indian teas. Japans are firm and unchanged in price, jobbers here quoting 18c. for mediums and 24c. for finer grades. It is as yet early to prognosticate anything in regard to the next crop of Japans, though one authority points out that in view of the favourable weather conditions, and of the fact that growers are taking better care of the plants than in former years, a larger crop is looked for, and better quality than last year is likely. The market, our informant added, is bound to open high, since the demand for the finer grades for United States account is very great.

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

*Record of 3 years' Exploration.*

BY CAPTAIN H. H. P. DEASY,

*With Appendices, Maps, 80 Illustrations.*

The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed, and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and a following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experiences of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan.

Demy 8vo, cloth gilt, Rs. 7-14-0.

APPLY TO—**G. A. NATESAN & CO.,**  
[w. 21-2-03.] **ESPLANADE, MADRAS.**

## THE PRODUCTS OF THE BEE.\*

By S. T. FROST.

Propolis is a substance employed by bees for stopping cracks and crevices in the hive, and generally as a cementing medium. It is of a very dark-green, almost black, colour, of a highly resinous and tenacious character, and is collected by the bees principally from the buds of plants and the horse-chestnut, and from the bark of certain other trees. "Propolis" was the name given to an old galenical preparation made from the leaf-buds of poplars, birches, and other trees. This preparation was found to be extremely useful in the diarrhoea of children, and it was also employed for the treatment of wounds, for anointing various eruptions of the skin, and in seborrhoea and other complaints; but propolis in its crude state, as a by-product of beekeeping, does not appear to have been adapted to modern therapeutical requirements. Recently, however, a preparation made from crude propolis had been introduced under the name "Propolisine." This new preparation is an oily liquid of characteristic and pleasant odour, which was reported to have gained considerable recognition in therapeutics as a disinfectant and antiseptic.

## HONEY

In the first instance a sweet liquid—nectar—secreted by flowers, is extracted from the nectary of flowers by the bee and is passed from its mouth to the honey-sac, and in passing receives the secretions of a system of glands at the root of the tongue, which convert the cane-sugar of nectar into the grape-sugar of honey. On returning to the hive the bee disgorges the honey and stores it in the cells of the honeycomb. The heat of the hive causes a certain amount of water to evaporate, and the ripe honey contained in the cell is then sealed over with a thin cap of wax. The author having referred to the composition of honey and the characteristics of the pure and sophisticated articles, also to its properties as a food and a medicine, quoted the following formula for making *mead*, recommended by the Rev. Gerard W. Bancks, M.A., of Hartley Rectory, Kent, who has made a special study of honey and its uses :—

To every gallon of water put 2 lbs., 3 lbs. or 4 lbs. of honey (according to quality of mead desired), with the peel of two lemons. Boil for half-an-hour, and then pour into a cask. When lukewarm add a little yeast, and to a 9-gal. cask 2 oz. each of ammonium phosphate and cream of tartar. Tack cream-cloth or muslin over bung-hole. When it has ceased working bung up tightly, and let it remain in the cask six months; bottle and cork at once.

With regard to the ferment, Mr. Bancks states that it is important that a suitable one be introduced immediately the temperature of the liquid reaches about 90° F., and that it should develop as quickly as possible, so as to prevent the possibility of undesirable ferments making any progress. "Honey-vinegar," which is more wholesome and of far superior flavour to ordinary vinegar, was also described. Dealing with the commercial side of the subject, Mr. Frost pointed out that the honey and wax market of the United Kingdom is largely dependent upon foreign countries for an adequate supply. The amount of honey imported during the past five years had been roughly estimated at about 2,250,000 cwt., value about 31,000l., or about 3½d. per lb. Among the principal countries supplying the British markets or the United States of America (chiefly California), Chili and Peru, British West Indies, France, Italy, Australia, and Germany. Occasionally honey is also imported from New Zealand.

California comes easily first as a honey-producing country, the crop in 1886 (the last date quoted) being 4,500,000 lbs. With its opulence of bloom, practically all the year round, California is an ideal home for apiculture, as many as three crops of honey being available. Beekeeping is carried on most extensively along the southern coast, where the sage brush hills furnish the whitest, most delicate honey in the market. By moving the bee-colonies about three crops of honey are secured, the bees being kept active during nine months of the year. Notwithstanding the large yields of honey that are obtained in California, adulteration is sometimes practised, and Californian, as well as honey from other countries, is often mixed with glucose. One method, said to be adopted in California, is to fill the 4-gal. can in which honey is shipped about

\* Abstract of a paper read to the Chemists' Assistants' Association.



one-quarter full with glucose of a fairly thick consistency, and the honey is then poured on the top of the glucose.

Chili probably ranks next to California as a honey-producer, although the industry there is only about twenty-five years old. Good thick white Chilean honey is especially esteemed for medicinal purposes. Chilean and Peruvian honey and wax are much of the same class. The principal markets in Europe for Chilean honey are Hamburg and Liverpool, it being very rarely offered in London. Hamburg has, of late years, considerably developed as a port for Chilean and Peruvian wax and honey. For instance, of 2,178,000 kilos. (1,000 kilos. = 1 ton) of honey imported into Hamburg, more than half was shipped from Chili and Peru, while of beeswax 1,376,000 kilos. was imported in 1899, against 1,262,300 kilos. in 1898. The imports of Chilean honey and wax into Liverpool during the past few years are shown in the following table of figures, supplied by Mr. T. H. Wardleworth, of Liverpool:—

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Chilian honey :—	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.
Stock, December 31 ...	910	1,545	790	600	5,750
Imports ...	3,163	5,995	4,422	5,257	11,515
Chilian beeswax :—	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
Stock, December 31 ...	170	60	80	190	117
Imports ...	723	755	914	734	995

French honey is mostly shipped to London from Dieppe, and the new crop generally comes in about August and September. About 6,000,000 kilos. is an average crop, the bulk of it being consumed in France. It is seldom offered for sale in Mincing Lane, as the imports usually go into the hands of wholesale druggists direct.

Dealing with Jamaica honey, Mr. Frost said it had been much in evidence in the London market of late years, where it has become one of the cheapest varieties of honey sold. In Cuba it is said to be produced at a cost of 2c. per lb. Mr. A. J. Root (an American), one of the greatest authorities on the subject, had expressed the opinion that Jamaican "logwood" honey compares favourably with anything that can be produced in America. The author also referred to Mr. W. K. Morrison's pamphlet, recently discussed in the *C. & D.* (April 5, 1902, page 532.)

Australian honey is frequently offered in Mincing Lane, but its flavour is not greatly appreciated, probably owing to the bees having gathered nectar from eucalyptus-flowers; it is also flavoured, sometimes said to be perfumed. In South Australia beekeeping and honey-production are rapidly growing. The amount of honey produced in 1899-1900 was estimated at 523,000 lbs., while in 1900-1 that amount was more than trebled, the total output being 1,700,000 lbs. Most of this honey is consumed locally, very little finding its way to Mincing Lane. If the colour and flavour of South Australian honey can be got to suit the requirements of buyers in the European markets, it ought to be possible to work up a large trade, as sufficient could be obtained to supply all the honey-importing countries.

New South Wales is also a large producer of honey, but very little comes to London.

Russian honey is never seen in the London market, although there is an estimated production of about 320,000 cwt. annually. That amount, however, is evidently not sufficient for home consumption, as both wax and honey are imported into Russia.

The Emperor Menelik, it is said, has a garden planted with kousso-plants, and stocked with beehives. After the flowering season, some of the honey is taken from the hives. A teaspoonful of this honey dissolved in water is said to be a very effective remedy for tapeworm, and free from any objectionable effects.

The price of honey depends upon flavour and colour. If the honey is light in colour, the chances are—speaking particularly of Californian and Jamaican honey—that it has been gathered from the right class of flowers. The amount of honey used in pharmacy is insignificant in comparison to the total consumption.

The author, having dealt with poisonous honey, proceeded to speak about

#### BEEWAX,

which is formed in the body of the working bee of fluid honey and pollen—not involuntarily, as well-nourished animals form fat, but whenever the bees wish to form it. When they take fluid honey and

pollen, in a larger quantity than they needed for their own nourishment, the surplus is retained, further digested, and allowed to pass into the blood-vessels, in order to be chemically distilled there, and to exude upon what are termed the ventral plates, on the under part of the abdomen. The wax leaves the secreting glands in a fluid state, and solidifies in the form of small transparent white scales, five-cornered, resembling mica, and shining like mother-o'-pearl. The variation in the colour of the comb has been found to be due to the pollen used by the bees. The pollen from different flowers gives the wax its distinctive colour.

It is generally considered that in order to produce 1 lb. of comb from 10 to 20 lbs. of honey is consumed. This is the reason why the modern beekeeper endeavours to keep his combs in good condition from year to year in order that the bees may commence to store honey as soon as the season begins.

Mr. Frost next dealt with the various ways of melting down the comb and clarifying the wax. Coming to adulterants, he stated these to be chiefly resin, tallow, stearin, goats' fat, paraffin, and vegetable and other inferior waxes. The only satisfactory test for beeswax is to determine the amount of cerotic acid and the non-volatile fatty acids present, but the following simple tests suggested by Mr. J. Dennler, are useful:—

1. When wax is chewed there should be no unpleasant taste and it should not stick to the teeth. If wax is adulterated with other ingredients the taste alone will detect them. If it sticks to the teeth the admixture of resin can be assumed.

2. Pure beeswax may be distinguished from adulterated by dropping a small piece of beeswax, of known purity, on a hot iron plate. The odour given off is noticed. Then a piece of the suspected wax is burnt in the same way. If it contains ceresine a disagreeable fatty white smoke is given off, which differs the more from the smell of wax the more ceresine there is mixed with it.

Having described the uses of wax in pharmacy its commercial sources were mentioned.

Imported wax varies greatly in colour and quality, ranging from white, through all the shades of yellow and brown, to black. Perhaps the article for which there is the greatest demand in the open market is Jamaican wax, which is shipped in barrels, casks, and cases weighing from 2 to 4 cwt., and always finds an unlimited sale in London on account of its, undoubted purity. The prices range from 7l. 10s. to 8l. 15s. per cwt. and occasionally there is very active competition for it. The total exports from Jamaica in 1898 were valued at 10,294l., against 4,823l. in 1888, while the value of the honey exported from Jamaica during the same years was 2,103l., against 1,341l. The United States has increased her imports of wax from Jamaica, while the amount coming to the United Kingdom has decreased.—*Chemist & Druggist.*

## ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY.

### THE SCALE INSECTS AND METHODS OF COMBATING THEIR ATTACKS.

Mr. E. P. Stebbing wrote some little time ago in the *Pioneer* :—

During the last eighteen months and perhaps more especially during the past season, a considerable advance has been made in our knowledge of the *Monophlebus* scale insects and their methods of operation. Owing doubtless to a mild and dry cold weather they increased in enormous numbers in many parts of the country between January and April last and committed considerable havoc amongst fruit trees in orchards, etc. It was not, however, until the attack was culminating that any steps were taken by owners and others towards obtaining the identification of the insects with a view to introducing means of combating the infestation. It was then too late. The damage for that season had been done and the ensuing monetary loss was a certainty. It is with the object of affording the owners of orchards an opportunity of making an effort to rid their trees of these pests that I propose writing a simple account of the insects with a few notes on methods of combating them.

The *Monophlebus* scale insects belong to *Monophlebinae*, a sub-division or sub-family of the family *Coccoidea*—insects whose mouth



parts consist of a sucking tube or proboscis, with which they first pierce into the tissues of plants and then suck out the sap from them. As far as is at present known, the *Monophlebinae* confine their attacks to woody plants. Until recently but five species of the sub-family had been recorded from the Indian region. Of these, four had been described from the male insects alone, the females being still unknown. Now, as we shall see, it is the female insect which does the damage to the tree and therefore it may be said that up to the commencement of last year, but one species of the group was known as a pest in the Indian region. It might have been, and probably was, thought by scientists that these scale insects were rare on this continent, and yet this is by no means the case. From forest, orchard, desert scrub and jungle, specimens of these scales have been received or personally obtained, and the information collected has shown that the part they are capable of playing in localities infested by them is one of very considerable importance and one which can by no means be neglected. Four new species have been added to the group, the females of all of which are known, as is also the damage they do. In addition several other females, which may prove new species, with the trees they live upon, have been found.

During the past season mango orchards in various parts of the country have been reported as infested with the scales, and this note is confined to the consideration of the protection of orchards from the scales. From the Shalamar mango gardens in the Panjab and the public gardens at Bareilly, to mention two instances, insects were reported which on examination proved to be a variety of one of the *Monophlebus* scales which has appeared in large numbers during the last few years in the sal forests of the Siwaliks and adjacent areas. The life history of this insect, as well as that of a predacious ladybird beetle which feeds upon it, has been worked out sufficiently during the past eighteen months to enable the knowledge so gained to be made practical use of in orchards infested with closely allied species of this group. Before stating how this can be attempted it will be necessary to consider shortly the life history of a *Monophlebus*. The active and aggressive period of life of a *Monophlebus* scale in Northern India may be said to occur between November or December and April; but the period will of course vary to a certain extent in different parts of the country. Early in the cold weather in Northern India a careful examination of infested trees will show very minute yellow objects, the size of a pin's head, clustered round the brims or ribs of the leaves, generally upon the underside. With a lens it will be seen that these minute dots of colour are insects, each being furnished with two pairs of short legs, two yellowish feelers and each having its beak or proboscis buried in the tissue of the rib of the leaf. These are the young immature *Monophlebus* female scales, which have already commenced their attack. Some six to eight weeks are thus spent feeding upon the leaves, the insects only moving but little at this period of their existence. It is probable, however, that whilst in this very minute condition they are a good deal blown about and spread by wind, thus infesting fresh areas. The insects feed almost continuously whilst on the leaves and the latter become thickly coated with a sticky sugary material which is exuded by the scales. In fact these latter may be looked upon as animated siphons, the sap of the leaves passing in a continuous stream through their bodies, where it probably undergoes some modification before being exuded. Late in January or in early February leaves and twigs begin to look as if they had been highly varnished and owing to the successive coats of sticky liquid poured out upon them all the transpiration pores are clogged up. Thus even when quite young the scale has already made its presence felt upon the tree, although the damage is small as yet since the trees are not actively growing and the leaves affected are only the old ones. Somewhere about February the little scales, which have already shed their first skins upon the leaves, descend to the young twigs and from this time onward till they have attained full growth they spend their time sucking the sap of the branches. They collect in masses round the twigs, several inches being often closely covered with the insects, and remain on them till they have drained out most of the sap, or the best of it, and then proceed to a fresh twig when they again congregate together. It is this power of moving about at will (at no time does the insect come to rest permanently on the tree and secrete round itself a covering or scale as do many of the *Coccidae*), added to its enormous fertility, which renders the *Monophlebinae* most dangerous pests

and renders it imperative that their life histories should be understood. March, April, and perhaps a portion of May are spent upon the twigs and branches, the insects moving down to the latter as they increase in size, and at least two further moults or sheddings of the skin take place. In the shedding of the skin the latter splits down in front both above and below, a certain distance and the insect then crawls out of the old covering. The cast skins are white and papery and will be found sticking to the leaves, twigs, and bark of the infested trees, being attached thereto by the sugary excretion. From the minute yellow dot of colour found upon the leaves in December, the insect will have grown to about  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch in size and have changed to a dark orange or orange-brown in colour when leaving the leaves for the twigs and after the 2nd month it begins to get covered with a dry white powdery substance which can be rubbed off with the finger. The female scale may be now from a quarter to half-an-inch in size, elliptical in shape, white, flattish, with transverse ridges running across it marking the segments of the body. At its front end it has a pair of black feelers and beneath 3 pairs of black legs will be visible. Between the feelers and pressed close to the under surface of the body the long black proboscis or sucking tube, by means of which all the damage is done, will be observable. No further change in appearance takes place save in size and by the end of March or middle of April when the insect, which, as I have said, is the female, will be full grown, it may be from one half to three quarters of an inch in length and about half this at its greatest width, i.e. across the middle. It is wingless and no wings ever develop. At this stage of their life history there is no mistaking the pest, the large, white, thick, puffy-looking scales being very conspicuous. During bad infestations they are to be seen in numbers marching about up and down the trees or feeding in serried masses upon the twigs and branches, giving to these latter the appearance of being encrusted with snow. The exudation of the sugary liquid from these insects is at this period enormous and coats leaves, twigs, and branches, dropping like rain or heavy dew on to the ground beneath. It is this stage of the insect which has been observed and sent from various parts of India. As I have said, it is easily recognised and the falling off in the condition of attacked trees or the non-ripening of fruit is at this period rightly attributed to the scales. The damage done by it in its earlier stages has been, however, generally attributed to more easily visible insects which may have happened to be in the orchard at the time and it is therefore to their earlier stages that it is necessary to draw attention. In April, when the mature insect is seen walking up and down the trees or on the ground below, it has finished its feeding operations, has paired with the male, and is on the lookout for a suitable place in which to lay its eggs. The damage in the orchard has been done for that year and all that can be then attempted is to prevent its re-occurring in the succeeding one. This obviously can only be effected by preventing the insect laying its eggs or by destroying them when laid. So far, present observation has shown that these are deposited in a loose silken net-like bag, considerably over a hundred being laid by each female, crevices under bark at the foot of the trees, or stones, pieces of wood or bark, etc., on the ground being chosen for this purpose. The eggs are dry, shining and pink in colour and oval in shape, being  $\frac{1}{32}$ nd of an inch in length.

The female dies after laying her eggs. I have said little about the male insect as it is not of importance in the attack except of course for the part it plays in the perpetuation of the pest. It is totally unlike the female, being a little two-winged fly having a reddish body, one pair of small black wings, two long feelers set with whorls of hair, and some small tassels at the end of the body. No mouth parts are present. It pairs with several females and is often covered to a certain extent with the white powdery substance from contact with the female. It is only about  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch in length but has a wing expanse of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch. It appears about the end of March and may be seen flying over serried rows of females on the branches. Its black appearance makes it easily recognisable. It is not improbable that there may be a second or rains stage of this insect, a subcortical one in which the insect lives in tissues of the bark layer of the tree. This stage, however, does not particularly concern us here. After egg laying the female scales die, and the insect completely, or almost completely, disappears from the orchard about the middle of May, if not sooner. The damage has been done for that year and the attack is over. It behoves us now to consider what can be done



towards combating the pest next season so as to prevent its re-occurrence in ever increasing numbers in future ones. Should the present cold weather not prove an exceptionally bad one and so kill off a large number of the young larvæ which are now, or will shortly be appearing upon the trees, the insect is likely to re-occur in infested localities in numbers and will not improbably spread to new ones.

Two methods are worthy of consideration here. The one involves calling in the aid of another insect, the other the employment of man's aid alone. The first method is to introduce a predacious ladybird beetle (the small oval beetles, generally bright shining red or yellow in colour, with a series of black spots on their wing covers, are ladybird beetles) into the orchards affected, and this method, which if carried out on the proper lines, is assured beforehand of success, involves the short description of the life history of such an insect before the manner by which it can be impressed into the service of man can be considered. The beetle we will consider, a species of *Coccinella*, is predacious upon the *Monophlebus*, whose life history has been described above, and its life history has been worked out in connection with that of the scale. On issuing from the egg towards the end of February or beginning of March (it may be later) the beetle grub is about  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch in length, black in colour and narrow. After two moults of its skin, it becomes more elliptical in shape and the colour changes to a white and black or reddish, later on becoming purple. When full grown it is broadest in the middle, pointed at both ends, with four rows of small tubercles down its back, the colour varying from white and black in streaks to red or dark purple-blue; length  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd inch. It is exceedingly active, running rapidly over the trees in search of its food. The last segment of the body is formed into a kind of sucker-pad and this is of great use in its feeding apparatus. When on the feed it dashes at its prey, the female scale, with great velocity and buries its mouth parts in the soft skin, at the same time attaching itself to the twig by means of the sucker-pad. Although the scale insect is several times its bulk, its struggles to escape from the deadly grip of the larva are quite futile and the grub remains in its position for several hours without moving, being only attached to the twig by the sucker-pad at the end of the body, until it has sucked out completely the soft juices of the coccid and only a shrivelled skin remains behind. From three to four weeks are spent by the grub in this stage, and the number of scales got rid of in this time is considerable since it is a voracious feeder. When full-fed it attaches itself to a leaf or twig by means of the sucker-pad and remains sticking out at an angle from the surface. Within 24 hours the larval skin splits down at the top and shrivels or gets drawn back upon either side and the bright red, almost spherical, chrysalis is disclosed, sessile upon the leaf or bark; it is about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in size. Eight to nine days are spent in the pupal stage and then the crimson skin bursts at the upper end and the beetle crawls out. The beetle is a small, almost spherical, orange-red insect covered with white down at first, but soon loses this and changes to a darker red, having six black spots on each wing cover. It is convex above and flat beneath; length  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. The ladybird beetle spends some days, perhaps as much as a fortnight, in this state before pairing. It also feeds upon the female scale insect. Although equally voracious it has not the swallowing capacity, strength or staying power of the grub and it never kills off a scale at one meal. The scale insect does not appear to feel the beetle's attacks either to the same extent, as the former may be seen walking about or feeding unconcernedly upon the twigs, whilst a beetle is sucking out its juices. The ladybird beetles may in fact be said to 'tap' the scales, never feeding for more than half-an-hour at a time. Scales so tapped show numbers of small white and yellow spots, the places where the beetles have pierced them and in time they become much shrivelled, are dirty-brown or whitish-black in colour, and move slowly. Even if they do not eventually die as a direct result of the attacks, there can be little doubt that their egg-laying capacity must be considerably reduced and it is more than probable that eggs laid by these 'tapped' scales do not hatch out. The ladybird beetle commences egg-laying at about the same time that this operation is being performed by its host.

From the above short account of the life history of this beetle it will be seen that we have in it a powerful ally and one which if properly made use of, should enable us to rid our orchards of these

*Monophlebus* scale pests. It will be asked how this is to be done. The answer is simple.

(1) By a careful inspection of all orchards infested with the *Monophlebus* scales in order to ascertain whether the predacious ladybird beetle is present in them or not and, if so, whether it is in sufficient numbers to be able to keep the scale in check and so reduce the damage done by it.

(2) By the introduction, either in the form of eggs, grubs, chrysalids, or beetles (the two first being of course the most useful), of the predacious ladybird beetle into gardens when it does not exist with a view to clearing the orchards of the scale pest.

Once sufficient collections have been made of the beetle grubs their distribution over the Continent would not be a matter of difficulty since it would always be possible to enclose with them a sufficiency of scale insects to provide them with enough food for the journey, as the former will live for days without feeding. Of course all scales remaining alive on reaching their destination would be killed as soon as the box was opened and the coccinellid larvæ liberated upon the infested trees.

The other remedy I have alluded to consists in painting each infested tree, or all the trees of an infested orchard, with a broad band of some sticky substance at a height of four feet from the ground. A good material is a mixture of tar and glue as, if properly mixed, it will remain sticky for several months. Any convenient and easily procurable substance may, however, be used it being remembered that the desideratum is that the band should retain its stickiness and be well put on. If the substance now used quickly, the band must be continually renewed. The trees should be banded in this way about the middle of March or when the scales begin to obtain their white covering. The object of the sticky rings, which should be about 2 feet deep, is to entrap all the wandering scales. These endeavouring to cross, the band, will stick fast and eventually die. The band is, however, more especially useful later on when the female scales, having paired, descend the trees in search of suitable places of concealment in which to deposit their eggs and die. With good sticky bands on all the trees it should be possible to capture and kill off a large percentage of these females before they egg-lay. It is very probable that many when they find themselves entrapped by the band will oviposit there. It will be advisable therefore to visit the bands fairly often and remove and burn the scale insects sticking to them. In the case of a severe attack it will be necessary to visit the bands daily and clear off the insects sticking to them; if this is not done they may in time bridge the band with dead bodies over which the living will cross. In putting on the bands deep furrows or inequalities in the bark should be scraped down so that the sticky substance used may form a continuous ring round the tree. This is absolutely essential as any channel left unbanded will certainly be found out and used by the insects to escape the ring. When the attack is over the bands should be carefully scraped off and the scrapings burnt. The reason for this is that each band will almost certainly contain a number of eggs laid by the entrapped females. As long as these eggs remain in the band they are safe, but it is probable that the monsoon rains would soon wash them out and many might thus reach a place of safety and hatch out in the ordinary course.

My recommendations for the coming year therefore are:—

(1) Examine the orchard carefully at the commencement of January and have identified any minute insects on the leaves at all resembling the early stages of a *Monophlebus* scare.

(2) Keep a sharp look out for any grubs or beetles resembling the ladybird grub and beetle described above and if any appear have them identified. To find out if they are feeding upon the scale insect put some of the latter into a box with the beetle grubs and beetles. If these latter are predacious upon the scale they will not long leave you in doubt.

(3) Take steps to procure a consignment of a ladybird beetle predacious upon the *Monophlebus* scale if you have not one in your orchard.

Without fail band all the trees in your orchard at the time stated if they are badly infested with the scale. This will not diminish much the attack of the year in which it is done, but it will, if properly carried out, reduce to a minimum subsequent ones in succeeding years by killing off a large percentage of the females in the orchard before they have laid their eggs.



## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

## SHEVAROY.

Proceedings of a Committee Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, held in the Victoria Rooms, on Monday, the 6th April, 1903, at 1 p.m. PRESENT:—Rev. T. M. Kempff, Messrs. C. Lechler, W. J. Lechler, W. Rahm, and R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. The notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.
2. Read letter from Messrs. Jules Karpeles & Co. enquiring whether we require any more dried blood manure.

*Resolved*, that they be informed that the trees manured with it here showed no effect whatever and therefore we regret that we do not require any more.

3. Read Secretary's Circular No. 23/03 of 11th ultimo saying that Chairman requests the opinion of the Committee on the New Labour Bill as passed.

*Resolved*, that as the Secretary is about to supply printed copies of the Act as passed, their receipt be awaited.

4. Read Secretary's Circular No. 30/03, dated 31st March, 1903, in which Chairman suggests that Honorary Secretaries should open a subscription list in their districts towards the expenses of the Brazil delegate.

*Resolved*, that Honorary Secretary be requested to reply that this Association has already agreed to subscribe and that the list will be started as soon as we hear that the idea has been accepted by other Associations.

5. Read Secretary's Circular No. 31/03, dated 1st April, 1903, enquiring whether the 3rd August would be a convenient date to open the next Annual General Meeting.

*Resolved*, that the Honorary Secretary be requested to say that that date will do as well as any other.

The books and papers received during the month were laid on the table, and a number of letters which had been already circulated to the Committee, were read and recorded.

ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

## NELLIAMPATHY.

Proceedings of a Meeting held at Nelliampathy Meeting Room, March 27th, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. G. L. Duncan, H. M. Hall, A. R. Jones, G. Murray, W. L. Ranking, P. W. E. Watts, G. H. Welchman, and J. C. Abbott, *Honorary Secretary*. Mr. H. M. Hall in the Chair.

**Hospital.**—Read letters re state of Apothecary's Bungalow and removal of Apothecary and Hospital, to which no reply had been received. After some discussion it was resolved, that a list should be circulated asking members to subscribe towards the maintenance of the Hospital and a proposal made to the Sircar offering to share some of the cost of upkeep of same provided a habitable Bungalow was built for the Apothecary.

**Labour Bill.**—Papers were read and recorded.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—The Association expressed its opinion that this step was unnecessary.

**Roads.**—Read letters re state of road from Palghat to Wallagy to which no reply had been received.

The Association expressed its sympathy with the Memorialists re linking up of Palghat, Cochin, and Dindigul by broad gauge railway.

Mr. C. Hall was elected Honorary Secretary in place of Mr. J. C. Abbott who is leaving the district.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) H. M. HALL,  
*Chairman.*

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GARDEN.	Total.		Average.		Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore Ladrum	...	112	6½	19	7¼	46	6½	17	7¾	...	..	10	6	20	6½	



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1903.

[No. 16.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 24th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*April 14th.—Weather—*Westerly breezes. Hot days. Blossom showers have set in, but have been very local, some estates have had nearly two inches, some half an inch, some a quarter, and some nothing. *Works—*Pruning and manuring. *Coffee—*Healthy. *Labour—*Sufficient. *Health—*Good. *Interesting item—*We give our congratulations to the estates which are getting such fine prices, but it would be interesting to know, why the prices vary in neighbouring estates under the same proprietor, coffee being cured under the same conditions.

#### IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

##### COFFEE AND ELEMENTARY SCIENCE.

THERE has been a certain amount of correspondence recently in the *Central African Times* with reference to Coffee and the Coffee Bug. The latest letter before us bears the signature of Mr. JAMES INGLIS. It contains some interesting information about coffee cultivation in these parts, and a certain amount of elementary scientific instruction. If about the latter there is some flavour of the copybook headlines whereby moral precepts were imparted to us in our youth, there is also a flavour of knowledge which, however elementary, has to be borne constantly in mind by every planter who wishes to be more than a mere sower of seeds and waiter for crops. We learn from Mr. INGLIS' remarks that it is a well-known fact that coffee is not doing well, not only in the district of Cholo, but to a more or less extent all over the country. Under these circumstances, it should, as he remarks, be considered to the interest of every planter to listen patiently to each theory, especially when none of the former schemes to produce healthy plants and paying crops has been of much service. We would add: "always

provided that too much time is not devoted to listening to theories, to the detriment of practical effort, investigation and experiment." In Central Africa, it is said, the cultivation of coffee is very primitive, and little is done to make the physical properties of the soil anything but what Nature has made them. Things are very different in India, where manuring is largely resorted to, and where there has even been a reaction towards a more primitive method of cultivation—as exemplified in the Leeming system.

Branching off into the world of science, Mr. INGLIS alludes to another well-known fact, a fact in Nature, *viz.* that every plant is controlled by its surroundings, and more or less adapts itself to environments; but if those are not congenial the plant suffers in health, and is thereby unable to resist the first attack of any disease. *Apropos* of this he reminds us that plants are living things, and in many ways resemble the animal kingdom, in fact, so close has been the resemblance that the classification of the lower organisms are still a source of dispute between them. The simple rule of distinction is that plants live and grow, while animals move, live and grow, though in many cases the lower organisms of plant life also move, a well-known example being the *Protococcus*, to be seen in water when left standing in a vessel for some time. Plants, like animals, require food, but they, as a rule, possess the power of obtaining it from the mineral kingdom, whilst animals require for their food either vegetable or animal substances. Plants being dependent, to some extent, on the mineral kingdom for their existence, the physical properties of the soil on which they live are, to a greater degree, more important than the mineral composition, because these properties act and re-act on each other in determining the quality of any given land. Cohesiveness or tenacity is the resistance offered by a soil to penetration, and is important in relation to air, moisture and warmth, beside the resistance to be overcome by the root-system penetrating into and ramifying the soil in quest of food. It is further remarked that there is a relation between the root-system and the size of leaf-surface in plants which is effected by the nature of the soil on which they grow. If there is a large leaf-surface on the plant there is usually a large root-surface required to supply the food. But as the food is taken up by the roots the upper growth entirely depends on them, and, to a large extent, the leaf-surface tell us what the roots are doing. In the case of shallow and cohesive subsoils, even when there are



no visible signs of the former by stony outcrops, the want of depth and obstruction of subsoil to perfect root-system is noted by the stunted appearance of the plants and the production of numerous small shoots.

Referring again specially to Central Africa, Mr. INGLIS states that the leading characteristics of most of the cohesive subsoils there are weak hygroscopic power and impermeability to moisture. These soils are, however, strongly retentive of moisture when once saturated, and are apt to become waterlogged. In porous or sandy subsoils the root-system of some plants go down to a great depth, but in cohesive subsoils the inter-spaces containing air are very small, and when such soils become saturated all the air is driven out, resulting in a very insanitary condition to the functions of the roots of plants. Such conditions of soil are productive of unhealthy plants, their system is weakened, and they cannot resist disease attacks, spores (seeds) of which are always floating about in the atmosphere and alight on any wounds caused by insects, etc., and unless the plants are in good health the disease will get the upper hand and show itself in the offspring (seed) and later in the death of the plant. He then adds:—"That the soil is not the only cause may be inferred from the fact of a sucker producing good crops, which would tend to show that there is also something wrong with the upper parts of the plant as well as the lower." In all this there is nothing new, there is little that is not elementary. Nevertheless these words from Central Africa should not be dismissed lightly. In India, as well as in Central Africa, there is need for planters to remember facts such as those here touched upon, and to try to adapt conditions of culture to the necessities of both plants and soils.

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

The following is the full text of the

#### Madras Planters' Labour Act

as finally passed by the Legislative Council of Fort. St. George:

MADRAS ACT No. OF 1903.

*An Act to regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Presidency of Madras.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the conditions of labour in the planting districts of the Presidency of Madras; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

#### CHAPTER I.

##### PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be called the "Madras Planters' Labour Act, 1903."

Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall extend to such local areas within the Presidency of Madras as the Local Government may by notification direct.

Provided that the Local Government may, in like manner, at any time, direct that such provisions shall be withdrawn from any such local area or any part thereof.

(3) Such provisions shall come into force and shall cease to be in force in any local area or part thereof on the dates specified in the notifications relating thereto.

2. When the provisions of this Act have been extended to any local area, the provisions of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, shall cease to apply to contracts with regard to estates in such area between a planter and a maistry, or a planter and a labourer or a maistry and a labourer, but shall apply to such contracts as aforesaid so soon as the provisions of this Act are withdrawn.

Effect of extension and withdrawal of Act.

Provided that the extension of this Act to any local area shall in no way affect the enforcement of any contract entered into before such extension and that the withdrawal of this Act shall in no way affect the enforcement of any contract entered into before such withdrawal, but such contracts shall continue to be enforceable under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, and this Act respectively.

Interpretation-clause.

3. (1) In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "Employer" means the planter or maistry for whom a labourer is bound under a labour contract to work.

(b) "Estate" means land not less than ten acres in extent whether held by one person or by more persons than one as co-owners and whether in one or more blocks and situated within any local area to which this Act has been extended which is being prepared for the production of, or actually produces, tea, coffee, pepper, cardamom, or cinchona or such other products as the Local Government may by order duly notified specify.

(c) "Labour contract" means a contract penally enforceable under this Act to labour for hire on an estate otherwise than as a domestic servant.

(d) "Labourer" means any person who enters into a labour contract with a maistry or a planter.

(e) "Magistrate" means a magistrate of the first or second class, and includes a magistrate of the third class when he is specially empowered by the Local Government to perform the functions of a magistrate under this Act.

(f) "Maistry" means any person entering into a contract with a planter for the supply of labourers to work on an estate.

(g) "Planter" means any person owning, managing or superintending an estate or the chief person for the time being in charge of an estate.

(2) All words defined in the Indian Contract Act, 1872, and used in this Act shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them by that Act.

CHAPTER II.

#### LABOUR CONTRACTS GENERALLY.

4. (1) Every contract between a planter and a maistry, and every labour contract shall be in writing and shall be in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Local Government may by rules made under this Act direct, and every labour contract shall be signed in the presence of a magistrate, or of some other person expressly authorized by the Local Government by name or in virtue of his office.

Execution of contract between planter and maistry and of labour contracts.

Provided that a contract for a period not exceeding two months may be signed in the presence of two witnesses, if the labourer's home is not more than fifteen miles from the estate, or if the labourer

Provided that a contract for a period not exceeding two months may be signed in the presence of two witnesses, if the labourer's home is not more than fifteen miles from the estate, or if the labourer



neither is nor is about to be accommodated in coolie lines permanently maintained on the estate.

(2) It shall be the duty of the magistrate or other person before whom such labour contract is signed to see that its terms are fully explained to and are understood by the parties.

(3) Where the magistrate or such other person as is expressly authorized as above considers that the labourer is not in a fit state of health to undertake the journey to the estate or that he is incapacitated by reason of any obvious bodily defect or infirmity for labour on the estate, he shall not permit the contract to be signed in his presence.

Power of magistrate when labourer is unfit.

Maximum term of labour contract.

Contracts purporting to set aside this Act are invalid.

be of any effect.

Contracts not in accordance with section 4 are unenforceable.

entering into it.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Indian Contract Act, 1872, it shall be competent for any person of the age of sixteen years and upwards to enter into a labour contract.

Persons aged sixteen may enter into labour contract.

Provided that no labour contract entered into by a woman without the consent of her husband or guardian (if any) shall be enforceable under this Act, if such husband or guardian objects to its enforcement.

Proviso.

9. Either party to a labour contract may determine it on giving at least three months' notice in writing of his intention to the other party, and, if objection be taken to the notice, on showing to the satisfaction of a magistrate that he has reasonable grounds for determining it, and on repaying any sum found by the magistrate to be due by him to the other party in respect of such contract.

Determination of labour contract upon notice given by either party.

10. A labourer may determine his labour contract at any time without notice on showing to the satisfaction of a magistrate that he has reasonable grounds for determining it, and on repaying any sum found by the magistrate to be due by him to his employer together with a further sum of three annas for every working day of the unexpired period of his contract or a period of three months, whichever may be less.

Determination of labour contract by labourer without notice.

11. (1) If a labourer is alleged by his employer or claims to be disabled from completing his labour contract by reason of accident or illness, and is unable to agree with his employer as to the terms on which the contract should be determined, the employer may, and if the labourer so desire, shall, send the labourer if he is able, to travel, and if not, send notice to the nearest magistrate who if on enquiry he finds the labourer to be disabled from, completing the contract, shall declare the contract to be determined, and such order shall be final.

(2) The magistrate making such declaration shall likewise make such order as he may deem fit regarding the repayment of any money found by him to be due by either party to the other and may also direct that the employer shall bear the

whole or a part of the cost of the labourer's journey to his home.

(3) In any case in which the magistrate shall find that the accident by which the labourer was disabled was due to the negligence of the employer, he may order any sum not exceeding three months' wages to be paid by the employer to the labourer as compensation.

12. When the labour contract of a labourer is or has been determined under section 11, the magistrate may, if he thinks fit, on the application of such labourer's wife, husband, father, mother, son, or daughter who may have entered into a labour contract to work on the same estate as such labourer, cancel the labour contract of such wife, husband, father, mother, son, or daughter.

### CHAPTER III. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ESTATES, MAISTRIES AND LABOURERS.

13. (1) Every planter shall keep such registers of all the labourers and other persons employed on his estate and of their dependants in such form as the Local Government may by rule or special order prescribe.

(2) Such registers shall always be open to examination by the officers mentioned in section 16.

14. Any labourer who is incapacitated by illness or accident from work shall during such incapacity be entitled to food or subsistence allowance at the rate of two annas a day and to lodging as well as medical care, at the expense of the planter upon whose estate he is employed.

Maintenance of registers of labourers and dependants.

Provided that such labourer shall not be entitled to receive during such period his wages in addition.

Provided further that nothing herein contained shall prevent the employer from taking steps for the determination of the contract under section 11.

15. Every planter shall at his expense provide for the labourers employed on his estate such house accommodation, water-supply, sanitary arrangements and medical attendance as the Local Government may by rule or special order prescribe.

Planter shall provide house accommodation and other conveniences for labourers.

16. The District Magistrate, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, the District Surgeon, and any other officer specially empowered by the Local Government in this behalf by name or in virtue of his office, shall have power to enter and

Power of certain officers to inspect estates.

inspect all lands and houses wholly or partially used by or for labourers, and may require that all such labourers, or any particular class or classes, or individual or individuals of them, shall be brought before him, and that a copy of the labour contract of any labourer shall be produced, and may make any enquiries which he thinks proper touching the condition or treatment of such labourers, and the employer shall be bound to comply with every requisition and to answer every enquiry so made to the best of his ability.

17. (1) If it appears to the Local Government upon the report of a District Magistrate that any estate or portion of an estate is unfit for the residence of labourers or of any class of labourers, by reason of any sanitary defects which can be remedied, they may call upon the planter to remedy such defects within a period to be stated.

Power to call on planter to remedy sanitary defects,

(2) If the planter neglects or omits to remedy such defects within the period so stated or if the estate or portion of the estate has been reported as unfit for residence from causes which it

or to declare estate unfit for residence.



is impossible to remedy, the Local Government may declare the estate or portion of the estate to be unfit for the residence of labourers or of any class of labourers.

(3) After such declaration has been made and so long as it remains in force no labourer, or no labourer of the particular class to which such declaration relates, shall be bound by any labour contract to work on such estate, or portion of such estate, as the case may be.

18. Any labourer desiring to make a complaint that his employer or any person acting on his behalf has personally ill-used such labourer, or has been guilty of a breach of any of the provisions of this Act or any of the rules made thereunder, or desiring to make an application under section 21, may without forfeiting his wages during his absence but subject to the provisions of section 19 absent himself from his work for the time necessary for the purpose of proceeding to the nearest magistrate and making his complaint to such magistrate.

19. If after such enquiry as the magistrate thinks fit, he is of opinion that the complaint is frivolous or vexatious he shall dismiss the complaint, and shall specify in his order the number of days during which the complainant has been absent from his work in consequence of such complaint, and may direct that the labourer shall forfeit to his employer a sum not exceeding double the amount of his wages for these days.

Provided that the magistrate shall not take any action regarding the payment of compensation to the accused under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or other law for the time being in force.

20. If after such enquiry the magistrate finds that there is sufficient ground for proceeding with the case, he shall dispose of the case according to law.

21. (1) If upon the application of any labourer, it is proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate that the wages of such labourer are wrongfully withheld, the magistrate may award to such labourer the amount which appears to be then due to him, and also, by way of compensation, such further sum, not exceeding that amount, as to the magistrate seems just.

(2) A magistrate making such an award may, if the labour contract has not already determined, on the application of the labourer, declare such contract to be cancelled, without prejudice however to the continued liability of the employer in respect of the amounts awarded.

22. Whenever it is proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate—

(a) that any planter or maistry has been convicted of any offence causing injury to the person or loss or damage to the property of any labourer working under a labour contract for such planter or maistry, and under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, triable exclusively by the Court of Sessions, or

(b) that any planter or maistry has been twice convicted of any such offence against any such labourer and under the said Code triable by a magistrate, or

(c) that any such labourer has been compelled by the planter or maistry for whom he works or by any person placed by such planter or maistry in authority over him to perform any work while he was unfit for it, or has been subjected to ill-usage by such planter or maistry or person,

such magistrate may, if he thinks fit, on the application of the labourer aggrieved, cancel the labour contract of such labourer, and award to him compensation not exceeding thirty rupees.

23. When on complaint made it is proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate that any maistry who has received from a planter an advance of money in consideration of his contracting to supply labourers to work on an estate has failed duly to supply or to maintain the supply of such labourers, the magistrate may direct that the maistry shall repay to the planter, within a reasonable time to be fixed by the magistrate in the order, such portion of the advance as, taking into consideration the number of labourers, if any, supplied and the period during which they have been-supplied, the magistrate shall deem proper.

Provided that if no labourer has been supplied the magistrate may direct that the whole of the advance shall be repaid.

#### CHAPTER IV.

##### PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE.

24. Any maistry who

(a) fails without sufficient cause to present himself at an estate upon the date specified in his contract; or

(b) having contracted to remain upon an estate for a specified time fails without sufficient cause so to remain; or

(c) fails to account for the money advanced to him by a planter in consideration of his contracting to supply labourers to work on an estate;

shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may amount to five hundred rupees or with both; and the magistrate may award to the planter out of the fine such compensation as he may deem fit.

25. Any planter, or any person acting under his orders, or on his behalf who wilfully obstructs any inspection or enquiry made under this Act or omits to comply with any requisition made under section 16 shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

26. Any planter or maistry and any person placed by a planter or maistry in authority over a labourer, who compels any labourer to perform any work knowing that he is at the time unfit to perform such work shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

27. (1) Any planter who wilfully omits to provide house accommodation, water-supply, medical attendance, or sanitary arrangements in accordance with the provisions of this Act or of any rule made thereunder shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees and the convicting magistrate may order him to comply with such provisions within a reasonable time to be fixed in the order.

(2) If the planter wilfully omits to comply with the order within the time so fixed, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty rupees for each day during which the omission continues.

28. Any labourer who without reasonable grounds absents himself from his work, or neglects or refuses to work, shall in addition to forfeiting his wages for the days during which he has been absent or has neglected or refused to work be liable, on conviction by a magistrate, to pay to his



employer a sum not exceeding four annas for each such day, and may also be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven days.

*Explanation.*—Ill-usage of such labourer or failure of the employer to fulfil any condition of the labour contract is a reasonable ground within the meaning of this section.

**29.** Whenever an employer or a person acting on his behalf complains to a magistrate that a labourer has deserted from the estate upon which such labourer has contracted to work or without reasonable cause has failed to present himself on the estate at the time specified in his contract, such magistrate may, without previously examining the complainant, issue summons for the attendance of such labourer, or a warrant for his arrest, and fix a day for hearing the complaint.

**30.** (1) Every labourer who deserts from an estate upon which he has contracted to work, or without reasonable cause fails to present himself on the estate at the time specified in his contract, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine not exceeding fifty rupees, or with both.

(2) Out of any sum received on account of the fine levied under this section shall be paid to the employer any money found by the magistrate to be due to him by the labourer.

**31.** If it appears to the magistrate trying a labourer for deserting from an estate that such labourer was arrested without sufficient cause, such magistrate may impose a fine, not exceeding fifty rupees, on the person at whose instance such labourer was arrested, and the magistrate may award to the labourer out of the fine such compensation as he may deem fit, and may, if he thinks fit, on the application of the labourer, cancel the labour contract of the labourer.

**32.** When any labourer is convicted under section 28 or section 30, the magistrate so convicting or sentencing him shall, on application made on behalf of the employer, endorse on the labour contract the period of absence from his work in respect of which such labourer has been convicted or the term of imprisonment, if any, to which he has been sentenced or both, and the period so endorsed shall be added to the term for which the labourer contracted to serve, and such labourer shall not be deemed to have completed his labour contract until he has served for the period so endorsed in addition to the period specified in such contract.

Provided that the additional period so endorsed shall not exceed the unexpired period of his labour contract on the date of the offence.

Provided also that no such endorsement shall be made if more than twelve months have elapsed since the date on which his original labour contract would have determined.

**33.** (1) When any maistry has been sentenced to imprisonment for an offence under section 24 or when any labourer has been sentenced to imprisonment for any offence under this Act the planter with whom such maistry has entered into a contract or the employer of such labourer or any person authorized to act on this behalf for the planter or employer may apply to the magistrate at any time previous to the expiry of such sentence that such maistry or labourer be forthwith made over to him with an order to complete his contract or his labour contract as the case may be.

(2) On such application being made the magistrate may, if the maistry or labourer consent, cancel the remainder of such

sentence and may direct the maistry or labourer to be made over or forwarded to the applicant together with the order applied for.

**34.** Every person who obtains an order of a magistrate under the last preceding section for the making over or forwarding of any maistry or labourer shall be liable to defray the expense (if any) incurred in such making over or forwarding; and shall, before the order is issued, deposit with the magistrate such sum as is in the magistrate's opinion necessary to defray such expense.

**35.** On the expiry of any sentence of imprisonment on a maistry or labourer for any offence under this Act the maistry or labourer shall, if the planter or employer so requests, be produced before the magistrate, who shall direct such maistry or labourer to complete the performance of his contract on pain of further prosecution and punishment in case of his refusal to do so, and no conviction under this Act or imprisonment under such conviction shall have the effect of releasing any maistry or labourer from the terms of his contract, or labour contract, as the case may be.

Provided that no such direction shall be given, in the case of a labourer, if more than twelve months have elapsed since the date on which his original labour contract would have determined.

**36.** (1) Whoever, knowing that a labourer is bound by his labour contract to labour for any employer, voluntarily entices or attempts to entice the labourer to leave his employer, or harbours or employs any labourer who has, in contravention of the terms of his labour contract, left his employer, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both.

(2) The convicting magistrate may award to the employer with whom the labourer has contracted the whole or any part of any fine levied under sub-section (1).

**37.** Any employer who without reasonable cause fails within a reasonable time to comply with the provisions of section 11 shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

**38.** Whoever abets any offence against this Act shall be punishable with the punishment provided for such offence.

**39.** Whoever commits any offence against this Act shall be triable for such offence in any place within the Presidency of Madras in which he may be found, or in any other place in which he might be tried under any law for the time being in force.

**40.** Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, offences under sections 24, 26, 28, 30 and 36, and the abetment of such offences, may be compounded at the option of the complainant.

**41.** Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prevent any person from being prosecuted under any other law for any act or omission which constitutes an offence against this Act, or the rules made thereunder, or from being liable under any other law to any penalty higher than that provided by this Act for such offence.

Provided that no person shall be punished twice for the same offence.



## CHAPTER V.

## RULES.

42. (1) The Local Government may after publication make rules—
- Power to make rules.
- (a) prescribing the form or forms in which labour contracts shall be made;
- (b) specifying the particulars which shall be stated in such labour contracts;
- (c) prescribing the registers of labourers and of other persons employed on the estate and of their dependants which planters shall be bound to keep and the returns which they shall submit;
- (d) regulating the accommodation, water-supply, sanitary arrangements and medical attendance which planters shall be bound to provide for the labourers;
- (e) for the guidance of officers appointed under section 45; and
- (f) generally, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In making any rule under this Act, the Local Government may direct that every breach thereof shall be punishable with fine not exceeding in any case five hundred rupees.
- Power to fix penalty for breach of rule.

## CHAPTER VI.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

43. Any money ordered to be repaid under section 11, or section 23 or any sum awarded under section 21 or section 22, or any sum payable to an employer under section 19 or section 28, may be recovered on application to a magistrate having jurisdiction where the person from whom the money is due is for the time being resident, by the distress and sale of any moveable property belonging to that person which is within the limits of the magistrate's jurisdiction.
- Recovery of sums due under Act.
44. The Local Government may, by notification, order that processes issued by the courts, or by any specified courts, in a Native State under any Act for the enforcement of labour contracts in force in such Native State shall subject to such conditions and restrictions as may in such notification be prescribed be executed within the presidency of Madras as if they were processes issued under this Act.
- Power to direct execution in the presidency of processes of courts of Native States.
45. The Local Government may authorize any officer by name or in virtue of his office to make any enquiry necessary under or for the purposes of this Act and such officer shall be guided by such rules or special order as the Local Government may prescribe.
- Power to authorize officer to make enquiry.

## COFFEE NOTES.

**Heavy Shipments of Mexican Coffee.**—A Press dispatch from Vera Cruz says that large shipments of Mexican coffee are being made from that port to New York. The steamship *Havana*, of the Ward line, is said to have carried a record-breaking cargo of 1,350,000 pounds of coffee and the *Esperanza* of the same line is to leave for New York with nearly an equal amount. Developments in the coffee market, the dispatch adds, have convinced merchants there that there is no immediate hope for a rise in prices, but on the contrary, the tendency will be lower, and the merchants, hence, are making all haste to unload their surplus.

**Ruinous Export Duties on Coffee.**—Dispatches from the Island of Curacao say that steamers are leaving Maracaibo

empty of coffee. The merchants of Maracaibo are reported as saying that they cannot pay the present export duties, which, they add, are more ruinous to them than was the blockade of the Venezuela coast by the fleets of the allied Powers.

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**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The situation in the coffee markets is unchanged, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of the 18th ultimo. Quietness prevails generally and no improvement may be expected immediately. The statistical situation is pleased to indicate that all that the most pessimistic bears forecasted for 1902-03 is going to eventuate. Prices are low and will not probably sink lower, but buyers seem more the less disinclined to come out. The trade, evidently, supplied its wants well in the recent actions. Exchange in Brazil is higher which should induce a freer movement of coffee and be tempting for exporters. Offers from Brazil are, however, at about the parity of values in New York and trading, hence, is not disposed to make connections. Rio No. 7 was offered at 5½c. c. and i., Santos Nos. 3 to 9 5.85c. c. and i. and Santos Nos. 3 to 7 at 6.20c. c. and i. Rio and Santos receipts hover around the 30,000-bag mark. The spot market for invoices closed firm for the lower grades, the quotations being 5½c. for Rio No. 8, 5¼c. for Rio No. 7, 6¼c. for Rio No. 4 and 6½c. for Santos No. 4.

The market for futures is uninteresting. Prices fluctuate a little, according in the main to whatever chances to be the strength or weakness of Havre or Hamburg, and these are unimportant. Amusement only greets the various reports that come to hand of the attempts of the Sao Paulo planters to improve their situation, chiefly by harum scarum and impossible financial legislation.

In milds, the market is sharing the quiet condition general with the trade. Quotations are unchanged though steady for both West India and East India growths. It is reported that the export duties on Columbian coffees are to be removed, but as the waters on the rivers are very low the movement of the coffee will not be accelerated any thereby. Good Cucuta was quoted at 8½ to 8¾c.

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**Coffee Trust Idea Amusingly Received.**—A report from Rome that a group of English, Italian and Brazilian capitalists are busily engaged in forming a trust to corner Brazilian coffee is ridiculed in Mincing Lane.

## THE AMUSING SIDE.

The rumor that an amalgamation is being formed to control the output of coffee from Brazil is discredited in London. The report has its amusing side. Emanating from Rome, it credits English and Italian merchants with the promotion of the combine. Now England deals less in coffee than probably any other leading country except Switzerland, and it consumes by far the lowest quantity in comparison to population. Italy's consumption is not very much greater. If all the coffee importers in Italy and England were combined their influence on the world's coffee market would have, it is said, an insignificant effect. But English coffee merchants say that they are totally unaware of any suggested combination. They are inclined to think that the rumour which was set about a year ago to the effect that a "combine" was in course of formation, has only just reached Rome and been retailed in the report to hand. London, except from the financial point of view, and Rome are about the last places in the world where the promotion of an important "coffee" combine would be looked for. The principal markets are New York, Havre and Hamburg, and if a serious attempt were to be made to control the coffee output of the world it would in all probability start in one or other of all three of these places. Alike at New York, Havre (which is the speculative market), and Hamburg attempts have been made at "corners" in



coffee, but they came to nothing. Brazil, to which the reported "combine" is said to have turned its attention, is the largest coffee-producing country in the world. It turned out over fifteen million bags—a bag represents about a cwt.—last year, and this year the estimated production is put down at eleven million bags. The total imports of coffee into Europe from all countries last year was 67,000 tons, of which 357,000 were distributed. The consumption in Germany was 171,430 tons, in France 85,750 tons, while England consumed less than 15,000 tons. Very little Brazilian coffee is used in this country, Englishmen who drink this kind of beverage preferring the finer coffee of Central America and India.

The United States, however, is by far the best customer of Brazil with regard to coffee, and the greatest coffee-drinking nation in the world. It consumes no less than 380,000 tons last year—more than was consumed in the whole of Europe. The prospect of a coffee "combine" in any part of the world is regarded (says the *St. James's Gazette*) as extremely improbable at the present time. There is a visible supply in the market to last ten months, and to gain any benefit a "combine" would have to lay out several millions sterling to buy up the greater part of the immense stock in the markets. In view of the over-production which is taking place in Brazil and other parts, the advantage even if this course were reverted to could be only of a temporary character, and would not pay.—*Manchester Review*.

### TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Although the volume of business in tea is much diminished and shrinking fast, the market continues strong, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of the 18th ultimo, and such, the indications are, it will remain. This is not without disappointment to the American trade. An easier market is now desired, and that, too, by first hand men, who have some of the tea more or less in demand still unsold.

They are looking into the future, and a weaker market here would prevent higher prices in the East at the opening of the markets, now not so far distant. It may be taken for granted that the traders are planning to bull prices, and they will be assisted in this if the American market shall persist in showing the strong position it for some time now has been presenting. The effect in America would be to disarrange the usual and wished-for procedure of business. It is to be expected that buyers would hesitate to buy the new teas, preferring to use the old ones in stock, and this would tend to throw the new teas into the hands of the few who can afford to make purchases not based on orders. A weaker market, hence, means a clearer situation all around for the trade at large; the continuation of the present situation, a muddled one.

Meantime, prices are firm for Greens and Pingsueys and steady for all the other kinds. The exportation of Congous continues in good volume, but while the situation of this tea is thereby improved, it has not, so far, affected the price quotations for the tea. The less desired grades are very cheap.

**Decision in Tea Coverings.**—The classification Board of the United States General Appraisers has sustained the F. F. Jaques Tea Company of Chicago regarding the classification of certain tea coverings. The question was whether the tea in dispute was packed in usual or unusual coverings, within the meaning of section 19 of the Customs Administrative Act of June 10, 1890, and, if unusual, subject to an additional duty of 45 per cent. as manufactures of metal, under paragraph 193 of the Tariff Act of 1897. The importers contended that the articles were usual and necessary coverings of imported tea, and were, therefore, free of duty, according to the ruled stated in "Leggett's case."

The United States Circuit Court for the Northern District of Illinois in the case of the Collector *vs.* Jaques held such canisters to be free of duty as usual coverings and affirmed a decision of the Board of General Appraisers to the same effect. The Board, following the decision in the Jaques case, sustained the contention of the importers and reversed the decision of the Collector.

Mr. K. C. Popoff, who recently visited Ceylon, has estates near Batoum covering about 900 acres in extent, and of this about 450 acres are under tea, which is called Russian tea, though it is grown from tea seed obtained from Ceylon, India, China, Java and Japan. The industry is quite in its infancy; but from a climatic point of view it has much in its favour; and Mr. Popoff is the more hopeful inasmuch as all classes of Russia have taken to tea drinking. Of course the tea grown on the Batoum estates pays no duty, which places it at an advantage over imported teas. The best is sold at Rs.3.60 a lb., and the inferior at the minimum price of Rs.1.50 per lb.

As regards the particular kind of tea that Russians generally favoured Mr. Popoff said to a representative of a Colombo paper: "It is very difficult to say, but I personally prefer China tea, because it is not so strong as your tea, and, I think, has a better flavour." But this predilection is explained by the fact that Mr. Popoff only drinks China tea as it was years ago, and not in its present state. Mr. Popoff is not sanguine that tea can be grown elsewhere in Russia, than in the Caucasus, except in departments of Central Asia. But in such places as the Crimea or Bessarabia it would be impossible to grow it.

The Resolution about the Ceylon Tea Cess that is to be proposed at the next General Meeting of the Planters' Association of Ceylon reads as follows:

"That Government be asked to increase the Cess for a period of eight months, from 30 cents to 50 cents per 100 lbs. of tea, the Cess to be reduced at the end of this term to 20 cents per 100 lbs."

The last portion has excited some surprise.

A London correspondent explains that, though answers in regard to the proposed increase of the Ceylon Tea Cess were requested by the 10th March, it was not made a condition that only answers received by that date would be allowed. In the interval that elapsed between that day and the 16th, the day of the Tea and Produce meeting, several more replies were received, and as they were mostly "Yeses" the scale was again turned. Since the meeting one answer, a "No," has been received. Some discussion took place at the meeting as to the exact bearing of the answers which supported another lakh being devoted to greens in addition to the Rs.280,000 already set aside. Technically no doubt they were against the increase, but it was urged that they were in favour of giving additional support to green tea, which was also the object of the proposal of the Thirty Committee. They were in fact a qualified No, but they were also qualified Yes. Eventually it was decided to wire out to Kandy the total number of votes and particulars of the three solutions of the difficulty supported here, and to let the people there thresh them out for themselves.

**Indian Tea in London.**—A special telegram to the *Englishman* reports that 28,166 chest of tea were offered on the 6th instant at the Tea Sale in London. There



was a strong market up to 7d., above which there was no great tone noticeable. A number of Assam Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs were taken out and there was a general enquiry, other grades not getting full attention. Lately there has been too large a proportion of teas between 7d. and 9d. For the moment buyers hold enough of this range.

\* \* \*

Mr. N. Bonaparte Wyse, who returned lately to Ceylon from a visit to the French Far East, to see the Exhibition at Hanoi, and assist at the connected International Congress of Orientalists, states that they grow tea of their own there, and have also easy access to the Chinese article. The conditions are very favourable to the grower of tea and the only interest which Ceylon teas aroused was in the way of provoking a comparison. The comparison was in Ceylon's favour. They were very much interested in seeing what Ceylon had done in this respect. They make very common teas there, which, however, satisfy the natives. The French are not tea-drinkers to any extent as you know, and the natives are perfectly content with the sort of tea they have. But now that they have seen Ceylon teas and know their commercial value, they intend to improve their own quality. They are making arrangements to send out men from Tonquin to Ceylon to study methods of manufacture and cultivation, etc.

\* \* \*

Green tea is less wholesome than black, when drunk in liberal quantities, and it is said that the loss of popularity of the former in Great Britain has been due to the nervous depression and sleeplessness that it caused. Here's a pointer for grocers who wish to rush the sale of black teas. Let them advertise these facts, and also dwell upon the wholesomeness of black tea as a beverage. —*Merchants' Review.*

\* \* \*

**Ceylon Tea.**—There are, according to the *Grocer*, two main circumstances which are now operating with some force in strengthening the position and brightening the outlook for Ceylon tea; and, whatever counteracting influences may be silently at work, it is pretty certain that the Ceylon description, in response to the revival that has been witnessed elsewhere, is commanding much greater attention than it did a short time ago. This improvement is entirely due to the demand and supply being more evenly balanced than before, or, more correctly speaking, the change for the better is owing to a reversal of the movements in tea generally by consumption, both here and abroad, overtaking production. For a long time previously, the tendency of supply and demand was quite the other way, until producers were almost despairing of any relief in the shape of brisker markets. Recent advices have been very favourable to this view of the situation, in making it clear that the exports of tea from Colombo to the United Kingdom during February were only 7,750,000 lbs., against 8,000,000 lbs. in the same period last year, and did not amount to more than 15,750,000 lbs. for the first two months of 1903, in contrast with 17,250,000 lbs. in 1902.

Whilst shipments from that quarter to this side have been going on at a diminished rate, the landings of Ceylon tea here have naturally been very much lighter than in the preceding year, comprising only 14,752,400 lbs. in the first two months, against 19,246,200 lbs. in 1902; and, although the deliveries at the port of London at the same time have been curtailed to 15,150,900 lbs. this year, to February 28, as compared with 16,607,000 lbs. in 1902, the stock by the above date was reduced to 19,482,550 lbs., as opposed to 22,349,800 lbs. in the year just named. The statement, however, that the clearances of Ceylon have lately been increasing, comes like a contradiction to our opening remarks, where it is asserted that consumption is "overtaking production"; but we refer there more particularly to the rapid strides in the export of green tea to North America and Canada. Home deliveries last year were, moreover, artificially swollen by anticipatory duty payments on tea as the time for the delivery of the Budget approached, which have helped to make the entries for 1903 smaller than they really

are; and it also deserves to be mentioned that, according to some authorities, the quantity of "green" tea to be manufactured during the coming season is likely to comprise about 12,000,000 lbs., whereas in 1902 it was comparatively trifling, viz., only 2,000,000 lbs.—amounts which, under ordinary conditions, would be turned out and shipped from the island solely as black tea of the commoner grades.

Thus it would seem that the Ceylon tea industry is in a more healthful condition than for two or three years past, as with an extending consumption and no greater area of lands under cultivation, prices in future are not unlikely to be of a more remunerative nature to producers; and should a reduction in the Customs duty take place here, a double relief would be afforded to the trade. Messrs. George White & Co. observe:—"London clearances of Ceylon tea in 1902 were rather over 101,000,000 lbs., or, say, nearly 8,500,000 lbs. per month; while, should only the estimated quantity of about 94,000,000 lbs. calculated to be available for this country during 1903 reach us, it would give under 8,000,000 lbs. per month for our requirements. Climatic and other reasons, both in India and Ceylon, have combined to place British-grown tea on a much sounder basis of value than for some time past, as with an increasing consumption we have arrived at an almost stationary supply, and the future appears more full of promise than it has been for a long while. An expansion in our total deliveries of all tea may reasonably be expected during 1903, and if Ceylon is not well represented on this market, which, after all, is her principal customer, the wants of buyers will be supplied from other sources."

## NOTES.

### The British Tea Duty.

A London correspondent telegraphs that Lloyds are quoting insurance against a reduction of the tea duty at 45 per cent., which shows that a reduction is considered far from impossible.

### The Ceylon Tea Cess.

The Meeting of the Ceylon Planters' Association to decide the question of whether the tea cess in Ceylon should be raised or not, which was fixed for the 25th instant, has been postponed till 2nd May.

### Java-Quinine Tender.

The result of the annual tender held at Batavia on March 25 is as follows:—Of 2,508 kilos. Ed. II. offered, 93 kilos. were sold at an average of 20fl. per kilo. (about equal to a unit of 7½ cents Amsterdam), against 18fl. per kilo. at the previous tender. The next tender will take place on April 29.

### London Company Dividends.

The Eastern Produce and Estates Co., Ltd., pays a final dividend of 1½ per cent., making 3 per cent. for the year; and carries forward £6,620. The South Wanjah Tea Co., Ltd., pays a dividend of 5 per cent., and carries forward £37.

### Indian Labour for Ceylon.

The Madras Government have passed the following Order:—Messrs. Edgar Turner and John Hill, Tea Planters of Ceylon, are visiting the Madras Presidency as the representatives of the Planters' Association of Ceylon to report on the labour market for Tea Estates in that Colony. All Collectors and District Officers will be requested to render them such assistance as may be possible in carrying out their mission.

### Quinine Auction in Batavia.

Consul B. S. Rairden reports from Batavia, January 6, 1903, that the last public tenders for quinine for the



year 1902 were received at the office of the agents of the Bandoeng quinine factory, in Batavia, on December 30. The entire quantity (about 2,145.12 kilograms, or 4,729 pounds) was sold for 16.65 florins (\$6.69) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds), or a unit price of 0.0607 florin (2.44 cents), as against the unit price of 0.06 florin (2.4 cents) realized at the sale of the 27th of November, 1902.

#### The St. Louis Exposition.

Foreigners who intend to send exhibits to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be held at St. Louis are desired to bear in mind the following regulations which have just been issued by the Secretary of the Treasury :

1. In order to secure entry free of duty, every package destined for the Exposition should have affixed to it by the foreign shipper one or more labels, which should be about 8 x 12 inches in size, and should bear across the face, in plain letters, the inscription, "Louisiana Purchase Exposition Co."
2. All packages should be plainly marked as follows :
  - (a) The President, Louisiana Purchase Exposition Co.
  - (b) Name of consignee or agent at port of first arrival in the United States.
  - (c) The shipping marks and numbers.
  - (d) Name and address of the exhibitor.

#### The London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 8th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that buyers are operating very cautiously and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (the same as last week) and the average 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (the same as last week). The average for the same period last year was 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is steady, Broken Pekoe irregular, slightly easier in some cases, while Pekoe Souchong is firm and steady, Fair Pokoe Souchong is quoted at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (same as last week). 18,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 15,000 disposed of; while of the 30,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 23,000 were sold at an average of 8d. ( $\frac{1}{8}$ d. down). Common qualities of Indian tea firm, others irregular.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—February 28, 1903.—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday at 11 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. and closed this evening steady at 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ d.

Business all over the country was much interrupted this week by Carnival but a good supply of rubber bills is reported from the Amazon, which will probably last all month, and if much rubber were to arrive from the Acre, perhaps into April. In spite of the holidays the value of coffee shipments (*embarques*) for the week ended February 27th was £35,000 larger than for the corresponding week last year, amounting for the four weeks ended on 27th February to £1,446,000 as against £1,302,000 last year.

Declared sales were 39,000 bags more than for the corresponding week last year but show a falling off compared with the previous week, of 57,000 bags.

The boom in cotton to which we refer elsewhere will also assist the market but against it must be put the payment for the Bolivian Syndicate and probable heavy expenditure for war material.

For the present we see no reason to anticipate any alteration in the conditions ruling exchanges. The supply of bills seems to be ample to satisfy demand and so long as coffee prices keep up and shipments of coffee and rubber continue on the present scale, which will probably be for four or five weeks at least, will be maintained.

There is some talk of the port scheme again, but, whatever may be determined, it is likely that some time will elapse before much can be actually drawn for on this account.

A correspondent writing from London lately explains the rise in Brazilian and other securities as follows:—"there has, he says, been a large business done in Argentine and Brazilian stocks in consequence of the Religious Association law passed in France, which resulted in very large sums being diverted from French to other securities particularly Argentine and Brazilian, for which the market is now much wider than formerly." Since the date of this letter we note, however, that Brazilians have weakened a little.

RIO DE JANEIRO, February 28, 1903.—Joint Entries at Rio and Santos for the week ended February 27th were again very large being 14,644 over the previous week's and only 15,586 less than the corresponding week's last year of which they represent 92 per cent.

Up to 27th February the total entries for the crop at the two ports were 2,784,360 less than last year's of which they represented 77.6 per cent. There seems, therefore, every probability that even without the early entries looked for in May the total crop for Rio and Santos will be nearer to twelve than eleven million bags.

*Embarques*, in spite of carnival, show no falling off, on the contrary, they were 18,300 bags more than the previous week's and 41,556 over last year.

Stocks at Rio and Santos consequently fell off and on 27th February were 69,579 bags less than the previous week's.

Declared sales fell off again being 57,000 less than the previous week's but still 29,000 more than last year's.

Currency prices declined, the average for the week for Rio n. 7 being 4\$575 per 10 kilos. as against 4\$705 the preceding week and 4\$608 last year.

New York spot prices average the same as the previous week 5.61c. compared with 5.71c. last year.

SANTOS, February 28, 1903.—A quiet market, firm on the part of Commissarios and little interest shown by exporters, that was the position during the week, only yesterday and to-day a better feeling and a stronger market being noticed, owing to better news from consuming centres principally Havre which went up 1 fc. The better feeling abroad is attributed to a telegram from Messrs. Prado Chaves and Co reporting good prospects for the steps to be taken by the State Congress which is called for the 5th March.

The requirements are practically unchanged. Primes, Superiors and Goods in good demand. Low coffees more difficult to sell at fair prices. Primes quoted to-day from 4\$900 to 5\$000. Superiors 300 réis and Goods 600 réis below. Peaberry and washed coffees more or less unchanged against last week. The business during the week is a medium one, declared sales being 101,000. Orders for Superiors ruled between 28s. 9d. and 29s. 6d. and for Good Average 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. below. The disparity between our market and Europe amounts to about 200 réis. Various sailing vessels are loading cargoes of choice Superiors upwards.

Entries 104,000 and *Passagens* 100,000, were, considering one holiday this week, heavier than the previous week, and keep the market in Europe and States down, although the quantity for sale is really moderate. As regards the March entries it is generally believed that they will match at least February entries or perhaps, be bigger.

Shipments are very fair, amounting to 157,000 and our stock is decreasing being to-day 942,279 and may be expected to figure shortly at some 800,000 bags.

The *Pauta* went down last week 30 réis and is now 440 réis again.

The business of the month was during the first fortnight a good one and the greater part of the exporters made reasonable profits on their holdings, but the latter part of the month was dull and business was not pleasant for exporters in general.

**The Coffee Crisis.**—The first stage of the crisis, says Dr. Pinto in an interesting article published in the *Estado de Sao Paulo*, was devoted to the study of its causes. But now that it is everywhere recognised that the only cause of depreciation is "over-production" or disequilibrium between demand and supply, it only remains to apply that knowledge and take steps to re-establish equilibrium. Innumerable schemes, more or less visionary or impracticable, have been proposed and rejected, until opinion has at last crystallised



round the proposal of the Planters' Congress to eliminate 20 per cent. of production by means of an export tax payable in kind. This, in principle, is identical with the measures recommended by the New York Coffee Congress.

The reasons why elimination of the coffee at the port of shipment, with the consequent heavy loss incurred for transport, was preferred at the Sao Paulo Congress to elimination at the plantation itself are enumerated as follows:—

- (a) Because it is easier to execute and more difficult to evade.
- (b) Because it ensures publicity and the exact quantities dealt with being known and certified to.
- (c) The measure does not depend on arbitrary classifications, as difficult to establish as impossible to enforce.
- (d) No classification could be established that would permit of the precise elimination of any predetermined quantity.
- (e) The elimination of lower grades by means of prohibitive taxation would be a direct burden to planters and, moreover, would not be uniform, because in no two plantations are the percentages of low grades the same, especially in some districts of the State.
- (f) Mere prohibition to export low grades would not necessarily result in their elimination. Inferior grades would then be stored on the plantations for export later on and there would be no real decrease in the supply but only a dislocation, or conversion of a visible into an invisible supply.
- (g) The decrease of 20% in the volume carried by the railways would prevent any hope of reduction of their tariffs.
- (h) Finally, the taxation in kind will raise prices of low grades for which a demand will naturally spring up for payment of the tax.

A session of Congress has been called to consider the most practical means of carrying out the recommendations of the planters by whom the following question must be decided:—

Should the percentage to be eliminated be fixed at 20 %, or should it be variable?

It may be counted on as certain that the price of coffee will rise immediately the measure is voted, stimulated by the moral effect such a measure must produce and by the immediate demand that will spring up for shipment before the measure comes into effect. For that reason, Mr. Pinto says, it would be advisable to limit the *interregnum* as much as possible and prevent coffee from being unduly accumulated in the consuming markets with consequent fall of prices later on.

The tax should, Mr. Pinto believes, be progressive and not absolute, because the suppression of 20 per cent. of each year's crop cannot guarantee a corresponding reduction of the world's supply. If crops should exceed 14,000,000 bags, as had already occurred, the elimination of 20 per cent. might be insufficient to secure equilibrium. A progressive tax would have the advantage of being less burdensome to the planter, as its increase would correspond to advantages already realised. Mr. Pinto proposes that the tax should commence at 15 per cent., and be raised to 20 per cent. in 1904, 25 per cent. in 1905, and 30 per cent. in 1906 and so on, until supply and demand be balanced. Supposing 15 per cent. to be adopted, the percentage of value paid by exporters will not, he says, really exceed 10 per cent., because the 15 per cent. payable in low-grade coffees would not represent more than 10 per cent. on the value of the higher grades really shipped.

The rise in prices that must, Dr. Pinto thinks, necessarily accompany a decrease of quantity, would stimulate the holders of stocks abroad to hold out for higher prices too, and the speculation for the rise that would infallibly follow would help to force prices up.

**Note of the Editor, B. R.**—Unless the coffee eliminated be actually destroyed the effect on consuming markets will be neutralized or, at least, very much attenuated.

Economically, such a measure cannot be defended. To wilfully destroy the fruit of so much labour is to destroy wealth and is unpardonable. Moreover, we venture to predict that in the long run it will not produce the desired effects as far as planters are concerned, for several reasons.

In the first place is it certain that the measure will secure the requisite contraction of supply? In 1901-1902, the supply of Brazilian coffee was over 15,500,000 bags, and consumption only 10,000,000. To merely secure equilibrium 5,500,000 would have to be eliminated, or over 28 per cent.

In view of the enormous visible supply that on 1st February amounted to 12,769,000 bags, equivalent to 80 % of the world's total

consumption is it certain that mere equilibrium between supply and demand could secure the certainty of a rise in prices in proportion to the quantity sacrificed?

The condition of 1901-1902 may be repeated at any time. *The coffee trees are there and only require favourable climatic conditions to give fifteen millions again or more!*

Besides, will not the payment of the tax in kind act as a stimulant to production of lower qualities and by bringing more coffee than ever into the market counteract partially, if not wholly, the effect of such a measure?

Until a rise of both gold and currency prices really take place the planters alone would pay the tax, which would be deducted from the price paid for exportation.

Apart from the uncertainty of a proportional rise of price abroad, it seems more doubtful still whether currency price would rise at home in proportion and, indeed, impossible. Should it even happen that sterling prices abroad rose in proportion to the reduction of supply, since the aggregate value of the coffee exported would be the same, exchange perhaps might also remain unaltered and prices at home rise also in a similar ratio. Planters, however, would be paid only for actual export and not for the part that had been burned and so in spite of the rise of prices, the higher value would be counteracted by the loss in quantity and planters would receive precisely the same in currency and sterling as before. Should, however, prices rise more than 20 per cent., exchange would inevitably rise too and, perhaps, more than coffee and react on currency prices, which might not rise at all, so that, instead of the same value, planters would then get positively less than formerly.

If, then, with less quantity the same sterling value, or more, be realized by whom is the cost of the production, transport and destruction, of the part eliminated to be borne and paid? Clearly by consumers. But the rise of prices must in the long run affect demand and, upsetting the equilibrium with supply, provoke a fall of prices once more.

Again, the scarcity of lower grades would raise their prices and level those of higher grades downwards and thus destroy the ratio between the value of the tax in kind and of shipments estimated by Dr. Pinto at 10 per cent.

It is impossible to interfere with the working of natural law without causing disturbance somewhere and, with an inconvertible currency such as ours to deal with that reflects its own instability on every single phase of National life, no scheme that fails to take account of all its phenomena can have any prospect of success.

The proposal to eliminate and destroy coffee is not only repugnant on the face of it because it entails the wilful destruction of wealth, but is impracticable, because, do what we will, it is impossible to touch production without influencing exchanges and provoking reaction and *vice versa*.

To burn coffee only to find ourselves in precisely the same or worse position than we now are would be too ghastly a result for such an experiment, but after all only what we should deserve.

A genius writes to the *Jornal* saying that if only Government will buy up all the coffee and store it in cases prices must go up because orders cannot be executed. Precisely, but where's the money to come from? It's wonderful what a lot of rot is written over this subject and published by papers that should know better.

*O Estado de S. Paulo* says that Dr. Padua Salles has returned unsuccessful from Minas, the Government of that State refusing to entertain the idea of eliminating coffee at all. The Government of Minas and Rio will not undertake to do more than create prohibitive export duty on low types. *O Estado* says that the Government of S. Paulo now proposes to ask for authorisation to raise an internal loan of 10,000,000\$ to be loaned to planters for security of the coming crop.

From Parahyba it is reported that large numbers of retun gunny bags are arriving, 60,000 having come in one ship alone. At one time such bags were allowed in duty free, but this was put a stop to by Dr. Murтинho, when Minister, when the bags were abandoned and bought in at auction at nominal prices. It does not seem quite fair to either the jute factories or to the Revenue as these bags have been practically sold with their contents, when exported and are consequently as much a fresh import as if they had never entered the country. Did exporters allow for the re-importation and pay producers the equivalent it might be admitted, but, as it is, it means so much taken from manufacturers and the Treasury which suffers.



## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

"*Experto Credo*," writing to an evening contemporary upon the importance to the tea producer of a reduction of the duty, imparts some hints to consumers of tea. He writes: "As a practical tea-taster I can tell consumers how to avoid paying so much duty on the tea they use. The fine Indian teas which are sold at 2s. 6d. and 3s. per lb. pay no more duty than the common teas sold at 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. per lb. One pound of fine tea will yield as many cups of good strong beverage as 2 lbs. of the common and cheaper sorts, and if you buy it you have only paid 6d. to the Revenue instead of 1s.; the other 6d. is spent on the tea itself, and you have a fine-flavoured, delicious beverage instead of a tasteless one. In consequence of the persistent advertisement in shops that there is no higher price than 1s. 8d. or 1s. 9d. per lb., the great majority of consumers are totally unaware of the existence of the fine qualities produced in Ceylon and India, and do not know how much more economical and palatable they are than the cheap kinds pressed upon their attention. Those who would like to try them should ask for Orange Pekoe or Broken Pekoe, guaranteed pure Indian or Ceylon. The bulk of it goes to Ireland, where the finest teas are used, but it can usually be obtained from old-fashioned family grocers of good repute."

A series of lectures to grocers' assistants are in course of delivery at the Heliot-Watt College, Edinburgh. Last week tea was discussed, and Dr. MacDougall, who lectured, gave the following particulars on the subject. He said tea was introduced into Europe about 1610, and was first drunk in England about 1660. It was at that time imported from Holland at some 60s. a lb. In 1670, the East India Company began to import it, and many thousand pounds weight were brought into the country. In the following century the imports had increased to millions of pounds. In the first quarter of the eighteenth century green tea cost from 12s. to 30s. per lb.—black from 13s. to 20s. It was long thought that green and black tea grew on different plants, but the only difference was in the mode of preparation. In black tea the leaves, when pulled, were thrown together in a heap, a slight fermentation resulted, which caused the darkening in colour. A similar darkening from an exactly similar cause might often be seen in hay. The leaves of green tea were at once exposed to a high temperature, which checked all tendency to fermentation. By the end of the eighteenth century the use of tea had become general, and since then the imports, as he need hardly tell them, had increased enormously. In 1800 the weight imported was upwards of 23,000,000 lbs.; in 1880 above 208,000,000, and in 1899 more than 289,000,000, the value of that year's imports being ten-and-a-half million pounds sterling. Of the 1899 imports 86 per cent. came from British colonies. Up to 1850 the price was very high—from 6s. to 8s. per pound—and, as a result of this, imitations were very plentiful. The leaves of the willow and blackthorn were dried, a little tea added as a flavouring, and the mixture sold as tea; into the question as to who was responsible for this wholesale adulteration he did not intend to venture. But it was appalling to think of what people in those days drunk under the name of tea; the consolation was that the consumers fondly imagined the mixtures to be tea, and there was great power in imagination. The duty per lb. was first 2s. 2d., then 1s.; in 1865 it was lowered to 6d., and in 1890 to 4d.; now he believed it again stood at 6d. The traveller Bruce found more than a hundred districts in Assam where the wild plant was growing under the very noses, as it were, of the residents. In 1840 the Assam Tea Company commenced its cultivation, and sixty years later, in 1900, there were more than 300,000 acres under cultivation, the industry giving employment to half a million persons: in that year the exports were 107,000,000 lbs. From about 1840 to 1880, coffee plantations had flourished in Ceylon, but in 1881 the coffee plant was attacked by disease, and since then tea had practically taken its place. In 1867 the area under tea in the island was ten acres; in 1891, 230,000 acres. In 1873, 23 lbs. of tea were sent out of Ceylon; in 1901, 70,000,000 lbs., and the latest return was 139,000,000 lbs. The tea-growing countries of the world were China, British India, Ceylon, and Japan—that Great Britain of the East, which in 1898 exported 61½ million lbs., chiefly to the United States. In 1899 Natal produced 10,000,000 lbs., and each succeeding year had added about 300,000 lbs., so that South Africa had a future before it as a tea plantation.

America, too, had to be reckoned with, for experiments in tea-growing had already been made in South Carolina.

The amount of coffee consumed in the United States continues very large. February deliveries were 621,716 bags, a gain over February, 1902, of 111,207 bags. The imports as reported by the United States Government for seven months of the trade year were 518,796,866 lbs., against 695,820,456 lbs. for corresponding period in 1902, and 430,798,494 lbs. in 1901. America is now importing close to a thousand million pounds annually. The tea consumed is less than one-tenth of the coffee consumed, or, say, approximately, about 86,000,000 lbs. The imports for seven months ending January, 1903, were 90,953,228 lbs., against 59,344,573 lbs. same time in 1902, 75,388,986 lbs. in 1901. In some cities and towns the consumption of tea may be increasing, but throughout the country it does not appear to be so.

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co., in their last report on the coffee market, state that another dull and uninteresting series of markets has been experienced, with an almost total want of speculation owing to the absence of anything calculated to induce operators to take a view. Receipts have been on a large scale, and would seem to point to a total of about twelve million bags Rio and Santos for the present season, which would compare with 15½ million bags in 1901-2. The demand in Santos has slackened, and the stock there, which decreased rapidly to 946,000 bags by the 4th instant, increased again to 1,012,000 bags on Friday. Nevertheless, holders have evinced but little inclination to reduce prices, believing that the law to eliminate 20 per cent. of the Rio and Santos receipts, when it comes into operation—if it can ever be applied—will work wonders. A cable received in Havre on the 10th instant reported that the law was passed at the second Meeting of the States Congress at Sao Paulo. This measure, which is the invention of the planters themselves, is not likely to accomplish the desired result, for the knowledge that the 20 per cent. is to be eliminated will encourage individual effort to make up the quantity in some way or other. Receipts in Santos last season were 10,166,000 bags; destroy 20 per cent., and on that basis there is left a quantity still in excess of consumption. The present season will probably reach eight million bags reduced by drought, but eliminate the 20 per cent. from this and the balance is still too large. Last August frost was reported to have seriously damaged the crop on which the whole future turns—namely, 1903-4 season—and it is difficult to decide what figure to adopt as a basis, for allowance must be made for increased yields from maturing trees. The future is dark and uncertain, but from all accounts the Santos producer is really feeling the pinch of low prices, and the new crop may be reduced owing to a partial abandonment of plantations, or inability of others from want of means to maintain proper conditions of cultivation.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## INDIAN AND CEYLON TEA SHARE VALUES.

BY MR. G. SETON.

*Further appreciation during February.*

From the following figures, compiled, as usual, by Mr. George Seton, of the Indian Tea Share Exchange, 120, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., it will be seen that the market value of the shares of the forty-five representative companies has again advanced to a moderate extent. With one or two exceptions, the advance has been "all along the line."

Face value of 45 companies' shares	...	...	£9,500,000	
Market value	...	1st July, 1897 (top point)	...	12,000,000
"	...	1st January, 1902	...	7,000,000
"	...	1st September, 1902 (lowest point)	...	6,050,000
"	...	1st January, 1903...	...	6,600,000
"	...	1st February, 1903	...	6,800,000
"	...	1st March, 1903	...	7,000,000

So that the recovery has been just to about the level of the beginning of 1902. As the grand total of the share and debenture capital of the one hundred and seventy tea companies registered with sterling capital, in the United Kingdom (exclusive of private-owned estate and companies registered, with rupee capital, in India and Ceylon) amounts to about £19,000,000, the fluctuations



of the entire volume, based on the above figures, may be thus roughly estimated:—

Face value of (about) 170 companies ...	£19,000,000
Highest market value, 1st July, 1897 ...	24,000,000
Lowest market value, 1st September, 1902 ...	12,100,000
Present market value, 1st March, 1903 ...	14,000,000

This shows a rise in value from the lowest point of nearly 16 per cent., but there is still a depreciation from the highest point of nearly 42 per cent., or, taking 100 as representing the top value, the lowest level would be represented by just over 50 and the present level by 58.

Notwithstanding the present, rather uncertain outlook as regards dividends for the producing year 1902, Mr. Seton considers that, with the restoration, or partial restoration, of public confidence in the stability of the industry, a further moderate hardening of values is to be expected. It may be noted, however, that the better prices now ruling in Mincing-lane, coming, as they have done, late in the selling season, are just barely compensating for the very low prices at which the first half or two-thirds of the crops were sold during the Summer and Autumn of last year.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

Large supplies of Central American kinds have been offered, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 21st ultimo, and the pressure at the auctions is becoming heavier than it has been for two years. The Costa Rica crop is coming forward very much earlier than usual, and 55,000 bags have already passed the hammer compared with only 17,000 bags at this date last year. The crop of 1902 was, however, very late, but this year is abnormally early, and it is evident that the end of the heavy auctions must come much before the usual time. On this account those who wait for the heavy pressure and consequent low markets in May or June will very possibly find all the best Coffees sold and the lowest point passed. Moreover, this year the export demand is quite the reverse of last year; large parcels of fine quality are being shipped to the continent. East India has not been so freely offered, but better supplies are promised next week. Prices have advanced 1s. to 2s. from the very low rates of last week. In the terminal market quotations have gradually eased off, but are only about 6d. lower than a week ago.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—There is no change of importance, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of March 21, 1903, and prices on the whole remain steady with a slightly easier tendency for some of the medium grades. The deliveries up to date are, as was generally anticipated, smaller than at the same period last year, while the demand continues moderate, but this inactivity in buying has made no material impression on prices. Practically the lowest quotation is from 6d. to 6½d., and only a limited quantity is obtainable at the former rate, as holders still refuse to accept any reduction in prices for the common descriptions, a quantity of which was withdrawn from the public auctions. As the market is closed in Calcutta with shipments to the United Kingdom of 145,000,000 lbs., which is between 7,000,000 lbs. and 8,000,000 lbs. short of last season, it is more easy to ascertain the actual supply to meet the consumption. The bonded stock now stands at about 63,000,000 lbs., or, taking the consumption at an average of 12,000,000 lbs. per month, about five months' deliveries. At the same time, it must not be overlooked that the quantity of tea held by the trade is considerably smaller than last year. At the public sales 30,616 packages were catalogued for public auction, 22,408 were sold in the room, and the balance has been somewhat freely dealt in, especially the lower qualities.

CEYLON TEAS.—Moderate supplies again prevailed at the auctions on Tuesday, and with stronger competition, a distinctly better tone was noticeable, and firm to higher prices resulted. The lower grades of Whole Leaf were in more demand, and in many cases showed an advance of ¼d. per lb. on last week's rates, while very ordinary Pekoe Souchongs fetched 6½d. Broken Pekoes, however, occasionally showed weakness in the medium and finer descriptions, but the lowest kinds remained firm, 7½d. still being practically the lowest quotation. The supply of Fannings has been very moderate, and they continue to realise high rates. At the public sales 20,560

packages were brought forward, of which about 1,900 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—At the public auctions held on Wednesday 1,222 packages were offered, and, although the bidding was not brisk, fully recent prices were obtained in all instances where sales were effected. There has been a considerable enquiry for the lower descriptions of Black Leaf kinds, and a steady business has been done in them at firm rates.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—The demand for Caper continues quiet, and there is little of interest to report. A fair business has been transacted privately in Green Tea, but there is no alteration in prices to quote.

### TEA AND SPOONS.

A correspondent writes to the *Grocer*:—

Whatever is the "tea trade" coming to? I received this morning enclosed circular, with spoon and reply-paid telegram. How very considerate the senders are! We have only to forget sending reply telegram, and I presume we should soon have this special offer with the spoons and liberal advertising matter at our doors. I prefer leaving such generosity alone, and to sell "Own Blends."

[Enclosure.]

London S. E.—Dear Sir,—Owing to the astonishing success of our "Tea," we are making special efforts to secure at once agents everywhere, and we therefore beg to make you the offer for your district. Subject to your full approval we are sending 30 lbs., at 1s. 8d. per lb. (to sell 2s). carriage paid (100 lb. orders will be 1s. 7d). With this we will send a plentiful supply of advertising matter (specimens by this post) and also twelve solid nickel silver tea-spoons free as per enclosed, to give the first twelve buyers of a quarter-pound packet. Thanking you in anticipation.—We are, yours faithfully.—Tea Company. To save carriage we send a reply-paid telegram form, but please only use if the tea is not to come on.

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan.

Record of 3 years' Exploration.

BY CAPTAIN H. H. P. DEASY,

With Appendices, Maps, 80 Illustrations.

The task of surveying Western Tibet and Chinese Turkestan to the extent of some 40,700 miles of country, which was accomplished successfully by Captain H. H. P. Deasy, was naturally fraught with much peril from the climatic conditions of the country, the character of the districts to be traversed and the hostility of the natives; so that the Founder's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society which was presented to Captain Deasy last year, was but a fitting recognition of his important and extensive work. Captain Deasy who is a son of the late Lord Justice Deasy, is well known in Dublin circles. He left Srinagar in April 1896, accompanied by a sub-surveyor, an orderly lent by the Indian Government; a collector, and following of servants. The most important work was done in Western Tibet and in the valley of the Yarkand River, where large tracts of previously unexplored country were surveyed. Besides this, about 250 peaks were triangulated including the giant Muz-Tagh-Ata which is calculated to be 24,400 feet high. In the concluding chapters the author sums up his experience of the squeezing of the natives by the Chinese and deals at length with the civil and military administration in Chinese Turkestan.

Demy 8vo, cloth gilt, Rs. 7-14-0.

APPLY TO—G. A. NATESAN & CO.,  
[w. 21-2-03.] ESPLANADE, MADRAS



## TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, March 12, 1903.

There has been decidedly more activity in business done in tea during the past week. Wholesalers are showing more disposition to buy, and a fair trade has been done at fully advanced prices. The London market is very strong. In Indian teas there has been great activity and the prices are fully 1½d. per lb in advance of what they were two months ago. The great boom, which has been in activity of late, had its origin in the concerted action on the part of importers to feed the market rather under than over requirements, and to the shortage in crop. The visible supply of all tea on January 31 was 17,000,000 lbs. less than the year before, and 27,000,000 lbs. less than two years ago. Ceylon expects to send 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 lbs. less in 1903 than it did in 1902, and India will not send much more than last year, owing to the scarcity of labour and the stoppage of extensions. It is anticipated that the crops will be stationary for the next four years, but consumption will naturally increase.

MONTREAL, March 12, 1903.

The movement in teas is quieter this week, though prices on all grades rule firm. A lot of Japans was secured by one house at a price which allows them to offer it to the trade as low as 16½c., but the market price ranges from 18c. for medium to 24c. for finer qualities. Ceylons on the foreign markets advanced 1c. per lb. last week. There has been a fairly good demand for Ceylons, principally from western buyers, and in this way the business done was of fair proportions.

## ABOUT JAPAN TEA.

In the *Spice Mill* Mr. Alfred Adelsdorfer gives some "Expert Testimony" on the Art of Buying and Firing for the U. S. Market. He writes:—The total average consumption of all kinds of teas in the United States is about 90,000,000 lbs. per annum, of which 40,000,000 are Japan teas.

China teas, including Congous and all green teas, are fired on the plantations and are packed there in chests, ready for export after being stenciled or labeled. As every European and American buyer has access to and sees samples of finished stock, the buying of China teas is comparatively simple. It takes, of course, expert knowledge and judgment, but no very large premises and no factory.

In Japan, however, it is different. Large firing plants with modern machinery are necessary in order to make the satisfactory teas required by present demands.

Japan teas are shipped from the interior to native commission merchants in the settlements of Yokohama and Kobe. The teas come down from the country in a half fired state, called "raw" tea. Samples of these are first shown to foreign firms by native brokers about May 1st, and from then on until June 15th the first crop teas, which cannot afterwards be equalled in quality, must be bought.

The best teas (in the cup) grown in Japan come from Hachioji and Enshu. The style of the former is rather poor, but the style of the latter is fair, and in my opinion Enshu teas are the best teas grown in that country, taking draw and style into consideration.

The teas from the Suruga district have excellent style but only fair cup. The low grades come from Ise and other lowland districts.

One can acquire the buying, blending and firing, only by actual experience in Japan after having had a previous thorough training in fired Japan teas, knowing the requirements of various sections and customers in the United States.

After having bought the raw stock, the firing and blending is peculiar to each establishment. As the larger buyers of the United States want the same firing every year under their own chop marks, import orders are given to be filled as near the previous year as the season will permit.

The work required to buy the raw leaf, to examine same, to fire and blend to suit the taste of each customer, is enormous. Some idea of the immensity of the undertaking may be had when I state that our firm (M. J. Brandenstein & Co.) alone have over a thousand special orders to fill every season, nearly every customer having his own labels. Some buyers want very stylish goods

others are very particular on cup, some again want style and cup; some want light firing, others, well toasted teas, etc., etc.

It is comparatively easy to satisfy buyers who have educated their trade to good goods, but mighty difficult to pick out goods that will eventually suit the tea drinker when dealers think that "any old thing" will do as long as it is cheap; it is just the same in teas as it is in roasted coffees.

Notwithstanding, that anyone, to do this business in Japan, must live in a foreign country away from Europeans and have a thorough knowledge of the tea business, with the hardest kind of work and worry, there have been more failures than successes. Even the few firms who have made a success, have very little profit to their credit as compared to any business of the same volume in the United States. There are now only nine European firing houses left in Japan and they buy and manufacture about 90 per cent. of the teas exported from that country. "With only a few of us left" in Japan we all hope that this part of the tea business in the future will, for the hard work involved, show better results than in the past, especially to those firms who buy and make the best goods possible and have the interest of the future of the article at heart.

## THE INDIAN TEA MARKET.

MESSRS. CARRITT, MORAN & CO.'S REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

The following passages are taken from Messrs. Carritt, Moran & Co.'s Indian Tea Market Review, season 1902-3:—

Season 1902-3 has closed with an actual crop through Calcutta and Chittagong of 175 millions, of which shipments to the United Kingdom have totalled 145½ millions; the corresponding figures for last year were 174¼ and 153 millions, respectively. The quantity sold on the Calcutta market totalled 47½ millions or 27¼ per cent. of the crop. In respect of quality the crop has been barely up to average standard, and taken all round has not been equal to that of last year. Assams have, in some measure, been disappointing: at no period during the season have they stood above ordinary average quality, and like last year the supply of good Autumn teas has been small. Cachars and Sylhets have, as a rule, been good, Terais fair, and Darjeelings, with the usual exceptions, have been attractive. Dooars teas in the early months were plain and somewhat indifferent, but towards the close of the rains they rapidly improved, and this district was fortunate in producing a particularly good Autumn crop which commenced early and was consistently desirable until the close.

From Southern India supplies have again found their way to this market in small quantities; the offerings throughout the season have totalled 2,000 packages, which have realised an average of about 5¼ annas. The teas have been well received, considering that they are strangers to this market. The system of manufacture, in Travancore, more especially, seems to be chiefly directed towards cup character, in which a colory liquor is apparently the desideratum, and aimed for consequently at much expense of style and appearance. London having hitherto been the exclusive market, this tendency is explained, and the teas are doubtless right for that centre. In Calcutta, however, much importance is attached to make and shape, and generally stylish appearance in teas of the same level of value, and Travancore teas could undoubtedly be made a great deal more attractive than they are.

The effects of weather as affecting supply have been phenomenal; the cold season set in early, and at the same time so earnestly that a few days sufficed to upset all calculations, and a continued shortage became evident as the season grew older. The local market responded immediately to the altered conditions and prices advanced appreciably and steadily from sale to sale. London, however, was slow to recognise the changed aspect, it eventually broke away from its dead level of value, but only for a time, and in spite of a heavy shortage in supply, not only from here but also from other countries of production, it again set back. The sullen and sensitive tone which existed in the home market for many weeks, difficulty in moving up values, and a non-responsive trade generally must at the time have been a great disappointment to sellers and productive of serious reflection on their part.

The relations between buyers and sellers in London in the latter months have, perhaps, never been so pregnant with suppressed antagonism as indications seemed to pourtray, and in this was



probably seen the inconsistency of the position of the home trade. Sellers, however, have since had the balance all in their favour, they have seen their opportunity to force the market and have taken advantage of a position which, though new to them, was assured and justifiable. They have had to carry the stocks, but it has paid them to do so, and it has been no burden to them. Buyers have retaliated by holding aloof and relying upon hand-to-mouth dealings to see them through, but it could not last long enough and they were unable to keep pace with consumption.

At the close of the twelve months therefore the producer finds his position strengthened very considerably, but it should be recognised as the outcome of a short yield and a still further deficient supply, so far as London is concerned owing to the increased off take in Calcutta by new markets. These are the factors that have formed the backbone of the sellers' position, enabling them to carefully nurse the home market in a way that has not hitherto been experienced in the trade, and with results so satisfactory to themselves.

To producers, the season, though full of encouragement at the close, has again shown disappointing results. The position on their side is undoubtedly stronger and a brighter future is before them, and it is not difficult at present for them to appreciate both, seeing that the recent recovery in prices has imparted financial encouragement to some slight degree.

Although the crop this year has been short of estimates and expectations, the supply has been sufficient. The total outturn was actually in excess of last year; had this excess gone to London the position there would have been one of extreme anxiety; outside markets, however, saved the situation, for they not only absorbed the increase through Calcutta, but a great deal more, and their worth has never been brought home to the producer so strikingly as during the past season. The history of the past seasons' trade with countries other than the United Kingdom is extremely satisfactory.

The supply placed on the local market for disposal in 1901-2 showed a very marked decrease on previous figures, and, consistently, Indian tea lost much ground in the markets of the world outside London. Last year, however, Calcutta received a somewhat larger proportion of the crop, the increase was small, but it gave these markets the opportunity to recover lost ground and new ones to come in. The progress made in the twelve months necessitates an extension of last year's figures and comparison with those of Ceylon, which will once more substantiate the assertion that the more reasonably liberal the supply to this market, the more will our fresh outlets expand and afford relief to London.

The figures for America are particularly good, but the most noteworthy increase has taken place in our trade with Russia. This demand is not a new one for Indian tea, but it is new to this market and the transfer from London of a very large portion of these interests is the most welcome and satisfactory feature of our dealings with foreign markets. The quantity she has taken has been very considerable and she has been a more reliable and consistent customer than the Colonies.

The past year has seen a definite start made in the manufacture of green teas, and in respect of value these types have, as a rule, compared favourably with ordinary blacks from the same garden. A fair quantity has been made totalling about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds, and in the Calcutta market  $\frac{3}{4}$  million pounds have changed hands at an average of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  annas per pound.

The class of green tea chiefly produced has been the unfinished type, which has met a ready demand for certain outlets. That more attention will be given to green tea in India seems probable, but at the same time there is some hesitation in taking up and providing for its manufacture. This is to be understood, as in the present state of the industry producers do not see their way to increase their outlay by the cost of additional and necessary machinery, and to embark on a new enterprise without having some inducement, which, as in the case of Ceylon, might take the form of a bonus. The manufacture of greens in India would not have been started last year had it not been the Association's bonus that originally induced it; the American and Canadian markets can take greens freely, and if India does not make them she cannot hope to push her trade with these centres to any appreciable extent.

In anticipating the ensuing season's events during the past year furnish useful indications. At the moment the producer's position is strong and his prospects good, better than they have been for some years; home consumption is free, stocks light, (they will probably be abnormally low in July next) and buyers carry no burden

in the shape of dear tea and difficulty in moving it. To maintain their position and further improve it the producers' policy is clearly suggested in keeping the crop within reasonable limits and in being fully alive to the certainty of a return to starvation prices as a result of the taking of any liberties in the direction of supply.

The recent bed-rock level of value has in some measure influenced better and less tea, but there is no disguising the fact that weather has been the prime mover. At this juncture it would be extremely unwise if the recent advance in value should be met by converse working and reflected in a freer system of plucking, the drawbacks of which may be further aggravated by weather favourable to yield.

In contemplating the approaching year's crop there is nothing to convey an impression that it will be a heavy one beyond the assumption that two moderate yielding seasons are likely to be followed by one of abundance or that growers will be persuaded by the advance in value to aim for quantity. The ensuing season can, therefore, be anticipated with much confidence; prospects are exceptionally favourable from every point of view, and with careful working in the districts and judicious handling in the markets, there is every reason to look forward to a prosperous year.

### “OUR INFANT TEA INDUSTRY.”

Dr. Charles U. Shepard, Special Agent, Tea Culture, U. S. Department of Agriculture has favoured the *Spice Mill* with “An argument in favour of the Restoration of the Duty on a Bounty on a Merchantable Article.”

The United States now form the only exception among civilized tea-drinking nations, and, indeed, among all civilized countries. (Belgium, alone and consuming very little tea, excepted,) where imported tea is not subject to a duty. Free trade Great Britain imposes a tax of 12 cents. per pound on all teas, although they come almost wholly from her own colonies. In France the duty is over 20 cents. per pound, and latterly there has been an effort to increase it to over 40 cents. In Russia the duty on medium to good teas is 45 cents. per pound. Not that these countries—unless the last mentioned—desire to encourage any infant industry, but the tax on tea constituting only about  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on a cup of that beverage is easily borne and collected, and the revenue therefrom proves very welcome to distracted ministers of finance and generous Congresses.

So far as Pinehurst interests extend it is a matter of little concern whether foreign tea be dutiable or not; the novelty of the product is sufficient to insure the sale of its drop in the bucket. But as regards the establishment of a national tea industry, it can never be brought about except by the imposition of such a duty on foreign teas as shall counter-balance the difference in the price of American and Oriental labour. This fact was abundantly demonstrated on the occasion of the repeal of the war tax on foreign teas. A number of moneyed men had been seriously entertaining the thought of embarking in tea planting to a very large extent; but on the revocation of the duty immediately dropped all consideration of the subject. Unfortunately the tea industry, like those of the cane and beet sugar, requires a rather large initial expenditure and the services of an experienced director—one versed not only in agriculture and manufacture, but a good tea judge and a general business man. It is almost needless to indicate that one who can fill these desiderata is always worth a good price in the markets of the world and that it must take a great many acres of tea gardens to contribute enough profit to retain his services.

Aside from the fact that an immense number of at present unemployed people, men, women and children, might find remunerative occupation, and large areas of now useless land be profitably cultivated, a new factor in diversifying our resources might be among the advantages of starting an American tea industry. An example may be taken from a portion of Texas, whose phenomenally fertile prairies have been rendered comparatively valueless by the ravages of the cotton boll weevil, and in which the United States department of agriculture will establish a tea experimental station, with a view to afford the planters of that section a new and hopefully profitable avenue of labour.

It may be well to introduce a short historical sketch of recent efforts, *pro* and *con*, in regard to a duty on foreign teas in the



United States. For several years previous to the Spanish war the leading importers and large distributing houses in the tea trade became more and more convinced of the necessity of the restoration of the duty on tea as had obtained during and for several years after the war between the States. They claimed that there existed a steady decline in quality and price, whose effect was to inundate this country with the sweepings of Oriental factories and to rob all trade, except in the cheapest sorts, of a reasonable profit. Opposed to them were the handlers and retailers of the inferior grades, who contended that a duty must prove a hardship on the poor—the consumers of the cheapest commodities sold under the name of tea. The struggle was carried year after year to the committee on ways and means of the House of Representatives but neither political party dared to propose the bill for a duty on tea.

Then came the Spanish war, with its attendant enormous expenditures, which were promptly met by war taxes, and among them was the duty of 10 cents per pound (about one-twentieth of a cent. on each cup) on foreign teas, introduced by that fearless statesman, the Hon'ble B. R. Tillman, Senator from South Carolina. It found very little opposition and became law. But its object was wholly to raise the "sinews of war" and by no means to protect an infant industry.

Last spring, the war being long past and a large treasury surplus on hand, it was natural that the provisional war taxes should be repealed, and it was done by Congress; the duty on foreign tea ceased with the expiration of 1902. An important body of large importers opposed the repeal; they demonstrated that the effect of the duty had been to exclude the cheapest, rubbishy, sorts; that the Oriental tea producers had been obliged, in order to keep the American prices at about those ruling before the duty was established, to contribute the greater part of the tax on the cheaper varieties and a considerable portion of that on the better grades. In other words, the duty had protected the stomachs of the poorest classes from sorts of tea which never should be allowed entrance into this country; but had otherwise hardly affected the price of the poor man's beverage.

The importers predicted that the repeal of the duty must necessarily be followed by the flooding of the country with wretched teas, at, of course, very low prices, but the maintenance of the former prices for the medium grades. And such, I believe, has been the result.

So far as Pinehurst is concerned, I would quote from an editorial in the Colombo (Ceylon) *Observer*, the leading British commercial journal of Asia, of December 23, 1902: "There is probably no more interesting tea growing experiment in the world at the present moment than that of Mr. Shepard, at Pinehurst, South Carolina, which is now brought under the auspices of the United States department of agriculture."

Why this kind notice, and why the unremitting attention of other notable journals, not only of the British Indies, but of Great Britain and other countries pecuniarily interested in the production of tea? Surely not from any personal favouritism nor any other scientific or other interest in a little farm of less than 100 acres in tea. No, there is an ominous "cloud on the horizon no bigger than—Pinehurst."

Every now and then there creeps to the light the expressed fear lest the Americans may awake to the possibilities of tea production at home; that the present prodigious effort to unload on our shores the surplus of the Indian and Ceylon tea crops, backed by the subtle influence of more than \$70,000 each year from the purse of the Ceylon "Cess" and probably, shortly, by a yet larger sum from the Indian Association, may have to be doubled in the future, and that the effect on the tea shares of Mincing Lane, now bolstered up by the hope of an enlarged American trade, may be disastrous.

And what intervenes to prevent the consummation of an American tea industry? Simply the difference in the price of labour and cost of supervision in the Orient and the United States. This may be calculated at 12 to 15 cents per pound of made tea. Should this obstacle be removed, either by a duty on foreign teas or a bounty on the American ones, there can be no doubt of the successful inauguration of this new industry with all its attendant advantages, both to the labouring classes and the owners of now waste lands in the Southern States.

There is another feature which should command attention. Our country has recently plunged into the duties and dangers of a world power. Our navy is, perhaps, the fourth in efficiency. But it might not be able to protect our foreign trade if drawn into an

ocean war with one or more of the large naval Powers. Whence, then, could come our supplies of tea and coffee? And as coffee cannot be largely produced in the United States, on account of climatic conditions, what other resort can there be for the enlarged demand for tea but in American gardens? Finally, should a plant disease attack and destroy the Asiatic tea gardens, as was the case with the Ceylon coffee estates this emergency might be met by the production of abundant American tea plants.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### NORTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

We extract the following from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the North Mysore Planters' Association held at the Kadur Club, Chickmagalur, on the 18th ultimo:—

PRESENT:—Messrs. C. H. Godfrey (*President and Acting Honorary Secretary*), in the Chair; H. Pilkington; F. Clifford; J. L. Stewart; W. P. Allardice; H. G. Bonner; Proxies received from Messrs. C. H. Browne; O. Scot-Skirving; F. J. Parton.

#### THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Honorary Secretary presented his report in the course of which he said:—

*Accounts and Working.*—I beg to lay before you the Annual Report and Accounts for the past year.

The expenditure on the Casket presented with address to H. H. the Maharajah on the occasion of his installation slightly exceeded that voted at last Annual Meeting—it was when on view in Bangalore greatly admired and the Committee trust you will not object.

A saving has been effected by the abolition of a peon; even if necessary the post owing to plague was a difficult one to fill.

*Crops.*—Surely this may be recorded as the Bumper year, in the advent of which many of us had I fear begun to lose faith. The quality would no doubt be good enough but for the over stocked state of the market.

*Plague.*—This fearful epidemic is slowly but surely gaining an assured grasp of our District—and in some parts has caused an appalling loss of life. In considering the measures employed to meet it, it must be remembered that despite wide world endeavours for the past six years to discover a sure means of effectually combating it; none has been found and we can only trust to Government doing its best in the way of an unstinted aid to those who have to evacuate their homes and it might be suggested an increase of the Medical staff and necessaries in affected areas.

*Coffee-Stealing.*—Only one case has been brought forward and a reward of Rs. 50 paid the informer.

*U. P. A. S. I.*—At the Annual Meeting of this body we were represented by the then Acting Honorary Secretary and myself.

(a) It is to be regretted that the Resolution they brought forward on the Currency incident of 1901 was not carried, but no doubt the firm attitude assumed helped greatly to carry through the Resolution brought forward by the S. M. Association and ably supported by Wynaad.

(b) *Cess.*—Your representatives refused to commit themselves in any way to the much talked of voluntary cess; it should be noticed that a Standing Sub-Committee was elected to deal with this and perhaps if they are unable to put anything practical before us this year—the subject may be dropped.

(c) A subscription of £150 to the Paris Shop (which had really been promised in 1901) was agreed to—but there is considerable diversity of opinion as to whether any practical benefit will arise from this source.

(d) *Brazil delegate.*—An application for a grant-in-aid was made to the Government of India and they have just replied agreeing to a third of the sum asked; whether under the circumstances the project can be prosecuted with a thoroughness and speed sufficient to enable it to be satisfactory is, I fear, doubtful.

(e) *Differential duties.*—The support of the U. P. A. S. I. to this project has been solicited by Sir H. Vincent, M.P., as far as we are concerned, this will I hope meet with your approval.

(f) *Planting member.*—It should be remembered that at the next Meeting the election (or re-election) of some one to fill this two years' post will come up again.



(g) An alteration was made in the voting of the Council your representatives agreed, but subsequent events made me at least doubtful of this—a return to the former usage, but with the Chairman having additional powers of voting might meet the original difficulty sufficiently.

*Labour Law.*—This has at last been passed through the Madras Council and while giving the Madras Government every credit for its good intentions it is to be deeply regretted that chiefly through the uncompromising attitude of the Government (note Government of India) the result is a measure which appears likely to be of little if any benefit to this District, and might easily be the reverse. A large mass of correspondence relating to the measure is placed upon the table.

*"Graham Anderson Memorandum."*—I met the S. M. Association representation and agreed to the conference between ourselves—and the Durbar Representatives be held at Mudigeri; Messrs. Stewart, Allardice and myself were elected to represent us; unfortunately the two former were unable to turn up and the same being the case with two of the S. M. Representatives, the burden fell upon Mr. Harris and myself.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. C. H. Godfrey, the President, in the course of his Address said:—

I think the Report you have just heard tells you as much as you will care to hear in most matters but on one or two points I wish to add a few words.

*Rule 5. U. P. A. S. I.—Currency.* To a certain extent your representatives were hampered by having to bring forward our Resolution as an amendment instead of an original motion and being thus confined to speaking once—when introducing it—and losing the right of reply. (It might be noted for future guidance that of two or more Resolutions sent in that which reaches to Secretary first claims precedence.)—Considering the side issues raised on the one hand and the attitude of indifference arising from a feeling of hopeless impotence on the other; I trust that the ultimate result may be considered sufficiently if not entirely, satisfactory.

*Cess.*—I would propose that at the next meeting we support the dropping of this subject if no really practical scheme is brought forward by the Sub-Committee.

*Differential dues.*—I would also ask you to consider the probable wisdom of supporting these.

*Brazil delegates.*—I much regret that my absence from the country will prevent my taking an active steps in pushing this project—already a terrible delay has occurred in starting the same—however an exhaustive list of questions prepared originally for Mr. A's friend is ready—and it only remains to select a suitable delegate and last but not least provide the necessary funds.

Unfortunately the grant-in-aid of the Government of India amounting as it does to less than the average Member of our Association pays it annually in the way of a veiled tax—the result of the success of its currency policy—is but a poor "send off."

Possibly on further representation the amount may be increased—also the various Local Governments may generously assist as they did in the matter of the Paris Exhibition, but it must be remembered that they suffer with us rather than the reverse from the depression in our industry; and it is the Government of India (which is I am told about to declare another huge excess of income over expenditure) from whom we have a right to ask and expect assistance.

*Labour Law.*—I now pass to this most important subject (please see letter for Chairman of U. P. A. S. I. and portion of my reply as per letter book.) You will see that as Councillor for this Association I thought it right to protest against the terms of practically unqualified approval, in which the Planting Member spoke at the final introduction of the Bill in the Madras Council.

I believe I shall voice the general sentiment of the District in saying the Act, even in its amended form, is a bitter disappointment to us. I have received several letters on this subject from members who were unfortunately able to attend.

*"Graham Anderson Memorandum."*—The subjects touched on in this covered a very wide range—the object of all was however the same, viz. obtain assistance through our Local Government in tiding over these terribly hard times.—I fear we were hardly able to come to any definite conclusion—but, however, that may be—we may rest assured that we have the full sympathy of the Government and may count on its aid if any practical scheme can be laid before it. At the outset it could hardly go further than it did in promptly responding to our application by sending so eminently capable an official as Mr. Madhava Rao, who by his courtesy and keen appreciation reduced the difficulties of such a meeting and discussion as far as possible. His report will shortly be considered by the Government and the result no doubt communicated to our Associations. Meanwhile I think I am at liberty to say that we can count on the Government consulting us before introducing any Labour Act—a proposition on the subject will shortly be laid before you. One pleasing announcement Mr. Madhava Rao was able to make, viz. that the Anjur bridge was to be taken in hand almost immediately.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

Two subjects were formally discussed as the result of the above Report and Address resulting in the passing of two Resolutions.

1. Proposed by Mr. J. L. Stewart.

Seconded by Mr. W. P. Allardice.

That the following Resolution be brought forward by our Representatives at the next U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting:—

"That the system of voting in the Council revert to that in use prior to 1902—with this exception:—That the Chairman shall have a vote equivalent to the largest voting Association, but he shall not vote for the Associations which he represents."—Carried unanimously.

*Labour Law.*—Proposed by Mr. H. G. Bonner. Seconded by Mr. C. H. Godfrey.

That (1) "This Association addresses the Mysore Government with a view to retard the introduction of a Labour Act (such as

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

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**CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.**



at recently passed in Madras) for the present. The Act as passed the Madras Council being apparently eminently unsuitable for District.

(2) This Association requests the co-operation of the S. M. P. A. with the above.

Carried *nem. con.* Proxies for the management of a large number of Estates were recorded in support of above.

The Committee having resigned—the election for office-bearers 1903 resulted as follows:—*President*—Mr. O. S. Skirving; *Honorary Secretary*—Mr. F. J. Parton; *Committee*—Messrs. W. P. Illardice; C. H. Browne; L. King Church; J. L. Steward and C. H. Odfrey.

The Proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. C. H. Odfrey.

## MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.

It is remarkable how greatly our estimate of ourselves and our abilities differs from the estimate formed of us by others. If the thing were practicable, many folks would realise heavily by selling themselves at their own valuation (if they could find customers), and afterwards buying themselves back on the basis of other people's notion of their worth. The more numerous and the harder the blows aimed at our self-conceit in the days of our youth, the better for us. They pulverise, as it were, the worser part of our nature, and nothing survives the process but what deserves to endure. "And what are you?" asked a Lord Chief Justice of England of a witness who had just given some rambling and discreditable evidence. "I employ myself as a surgeon," said the witness. "But does anybody else employ you as a surgeon?" "Are you a surgeon?" asked the judge. And thereat the witness collapsed.

It is claimed for all medicines that they effect cures, though the fact is that some do and some do not. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup has been very extensively used for thirty-five years, and is to-day the principal domestic medicine in sixteen different countries. The number of cures it has effected (especially among persons suffering from indigestion and bilious diseases) is quite

incalculable. Of the many thousands of testimonials as to its efficacy voluntarily given, here is an interesting one from a mother and daughter. "For several years," writes Mrs. Hutchison, of Newcastle Road, Jesmond, N.S.W., on October 19th, 1902, "I suffered agonies from indigestion and liver complaint. I could neither eat, sleep, nor work—in fact, did not know what it was to enjoy a single hour of freedom from pain. I was attended by two of the cleverest medical men in the Newcastle district, but their treatment failed to bring me any relief. Indeed, I went steadily downhill, and began to fear that my case was beyond the aid of medicine. I grew weakly and thin, and became dejected, when, two years ago, I was advised to try what Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup could do for me. It was a happy decision, for before I had taken a quarter of the first bottle my health was much improved. I continued to take the medicine according to the directions for five weeks, by the end of which time I was cured. The cure is evidently a permanent one, for I have remained well and sound to the present day."

"This is good testimony—testimony to be proud of. But it don't stop here. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup not only cured Mrs. Hutchison of her indigestion and liver complaint, but, in the case of her daughter Agnes, arrested the progress of an insidious and dangerous malady which, if allowed to range unchecked, might have had fatal results. Here is Mrs. Hutchison's own description of her daughter's case: "My daughter," she says, "was in a very bad way. She was suffering from severe nervous debility. She wasted away to a skeleton, and appeared to have no blood in her body. She was so weakly that she could not walk without assistance, and was often compelled to keep to bed for days together. The doctors seemed to be much in the dark as to her ailment, and as impotent in treating her case as they had been in their treatment of mine, so I determined to experiment on her with the medicine which had proved such a boon to myself. The result was that within two months a few bottles of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup changed her from a helpless invalid into a hearty, healthy, happy girl. She remains as well as one could wish her to be."

Mrs. Hutchison is well known in Jesmond and Lambton, and has lived in these places for twenty years. She is a native of Scotland, and came to Australia in 1872.



# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

**CURES**  
**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,**  
**SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,**  
**LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



## MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated March 27th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

		Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	...	1,286,835	923,632	66,822
1901-1902	...	1,438,239	976,113	66,231

30,481 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 51,106 packages were offered in public auction  
17,846 " CEYLON } this week.  
2,779 " JAVA }

In view of the nearness of the Budget, which is expected to be taken immediately after Easter, it is natural that duty payments should be upon the smallest possible scale, as buyers would protect themselves against possible reduction in duty by taking only small quantities from Bond. Under these circumstances it is surprising that duty payments continue so little below the normal. Although clearances are smaller than in March last year, it must not be forgotten that they were then comparatively heavy. They are now sufficiently large to indicate considerable shortness in the invisible or duty-paid stock, which doubtless accounts for the steady market ruling at the present time.

A year ago duty was paid upon probably 15 to 20 million lbs. above requirements in anticipation of the Budget, this quantity afterwards proving a serious incubus over the market;—from which this year it is entirely free. Thus the real strength of the statistical position only becomes apparent when this reduction in duty-paid stock is considered in conjunction with the shortage of nine million pounds in the bonded stock in the United Kingdom.

NEW MARKETS.—The quantities of Indian and Ceylon tea sent from Great Britain to various countries is an indication of numerous fields to which the attention of shippers might be drawn.

The markets of North America are partially supplied direct from India and Ceylon. Much of the tea consigned from England to Germany is probably destined for Russia, which also takes large quantities from the countries of production. The Argentine Republic shows an increase in the use of both Indian and Ceylon

tea, while progress in South Africa is encouraging. Many of the minor consuming countries show satisfactory increases.

INDIAN.—General animation was the chief characteristic in the week's auctions, bidding being stronger for all grades except perhaps broken descriptions. Common teas showed an advance of about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., while medium and better grades were also somewhat dearer market. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Ass. Fron. T Co. Ledo,"  $1\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{4}$ ; "Seeyok,"  $1\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{4}$ ; "Ass. Fron. T Co. Lattakoojan" and "Ass. Fron. T Co. Sookerating,"  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 27,579 pkgs. 8·08d. 1902, 32,669 pkgs., av. 7·01d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 989,011 pkgs., av. 7·46d. 1901-2, 1,133,184 pkgs., av. 7·74d.

CEYLON.—The market showed a decidedly improved tone, a rise of about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d to sometimes  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. taking place in all whole leaf teas up to 8d, while broken descriptions also showed a steady market, and teas with special point met with good attention.

Average for week 7·95d, against 7·01d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date 229,842 pkgs., av. 7·64d. 1902, 279,570 pkgs., av. 7·16d.

JAVA.—With good competition the market showed occasional rather dearer prices, especially for the lower grades. 108 packages "Goalpara" averaged 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Some interesting figures have been issued showing the area under tea cultivation in Java in the year 1900 to have been about 38,900 acres, while total exports from Java during the five years ending 1901 are given as follows:—

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Lbs.	8,771,499	9,734,587	12,615,661	16,617,949	17,323,877

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' slight discount. Calcutta  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{4}$ . Colombo  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{4}$ .

## QUININE.

Last week the market closed with a small business at 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d for second hands on the spot, and 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d for May delivery. This week, however, the market has been very quiet, and on Wednesday there were spot-sellers at 1s 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per oz., but no business is reported.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8·08d., MARCH 27TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
Seaforth	233 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	...	...	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7
Travancore	1255	6·75												
Atchencoil	66 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	8	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	6	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6
Cherian Mallay	42 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	6	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ellangy	55 p	6	...	...	22	6	...	...	20	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6
Invercauld	29	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	8	6	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
Isfield T Co Isfi	10 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lockhart	80 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malabar	16 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	16 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merchiston	96 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	28	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	47	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mount	168 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	26	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	33	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	66 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7
S I T Co Kud Ka	125	7	41	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	47	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	14	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Stagbrook	148 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	72 p	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	16	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...
S T T Co Venture	100 p	7	...	...	27	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	41	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6
T T E Co Bon Am	70	7	24	7	26	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Kolie Kanam	95	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	31	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	48	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vembenard	155	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	54	7 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	77	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	7
Wynaad	341	6·95												
Askein	77	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	26	7 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	23	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kanambyle & Cher.	41	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	20	7	21	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mootoomulla	34 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	15	6	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
Pootoomulla	69 p	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	7	...	...	...	...	20	7	...	...
Richmond	25	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	8	6	...	...	...	...
Tanga Mulla	95	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	35	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	9	6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

[VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1903.

[No. 17.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 1st proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—Extremely hot, about 90 in the shade. Extraordinary shortness of rain. *Crop prospects*—A fair blossom has set, and there is more to come out with the next rain. *Works*—Pruning and manuring. *Health*—Generally good. *Labour*—Sufficient. *Interesting item*—The want of rain is delaying the sowing of the paddy fields, so the paddy will be late and interfere with labour at gathering time.

#### Kotagiri.

*22nd April.*—*Weather*—Very close and hot for the last two weeks. Yesterday and to-day slight showers with a lot of thunder, but the air has not cooled much as yet. *Blossom* came out very irregularly owing to the very local nature of the showers, but the little that has blown seems to be setting well. Spike for a second blossom is rapidly forming. *Crop*—We have seen the very last of this now, and all Estates that have not undertaken Leeming's system are nearly through with their pruning. All low-country labour has been paid off and there is a general dearth of work, and most managers are away on holidays. A few Estates have done a certain amount of manuring. *Labour*—Plentiful, for the little work on hand. *Health*—Fair, considering the time of year. *Interesting items*—The Annual General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association is called for the 8th proximo. The annual inspection of the Kotagiri and Coonoor Volunteers on the 24th instant. A wedding took place at Kotagiri on the 14th instant, Mr. C. H. Brock to Miss Scott; the seventh wedding that has taken place in Kotagiri during the past 40 years.

### AGRICULTURE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

THE Central Provinces Department of Agriculture is setting an admirable example to the rest of India. It is giving increasing attention to the development of agriculture on scientific lines, to agricultural education, and to crop and other experiments. Planters may not concern themselves very much about agricultural education, but it must be clear to them that India's chances of prosperity are greatly advanced by anything that tends to lead agriculturists generally to discard inferior in favour of superior methods. To them it may matter nothing whether their estate coolies have or have not been taught the rudiments of agricultural science; but at least they will note with interest any indication that the official world in this country is awaking to a sense of its duty in regard to the points we have specially referred to above. In the Central Provinces Experimental Farm work has hitherto been concentrated in Nagpur; a process of decentralisation has now been begun. The foundations are being extended, the establishment is being enlarged, the scope of operations is being widened, and there is evidence that a Department of Agriculture worthy of that name is likely to be established in the Provinces within the next few years. Naturally, the products that have to be dealt with include neither tea nor coffee; but it is no small thing to have one Administration holding up the light for the guidance of others. We can but hope that the Madras Government will profit by this light, and that Southern India will soon have a larger number of scientific experts and a better organized Agricultural Department. We do not overlook the fact that some improvements have been attempted of late; but, judging from Madras reports and those from the Central Provinces, work in the latter is being conducted more systematically, more enthusiastically and vigorously, and according to a better considered scheme than in Madras.

The idea is to train young men for employment in these Departments of the Government where a knowledge of agriculture is desirable, and to train the children of agriculturists in practical agriculture. Then again, two new experimental farms have been established, making a total of three. It is proposed to form District Agricultural Associations and to issue a Vernacular Agricultural Journal. Demonstrations are to be carried out in the villages by a trained staff; cultivators are to be induced to imitate the experiments that are made.



It is admitted that progress must be slow, it is realised that sporadic efforts will be of little avail; the hope is expressed, however, that if demonstrations of carefully selected practical experiments are carried on continuously for some few years, some ultimate success will be achieved. Probably many of our readers are imbued with the belief that the conservation of the Indian agriculturist cannot be shaken. To judge from indications of various kinds this is not the case. Even the poor ryot and the poorer farm-labourer have cast some of their old habits, and among the more enlightened classes there are indications of still greater changes. From the Central Provinces comes news that the training of sons of agriculturists in practical farming has "caught on." Some District Councils have granted scholarships. Similar support has been given by some of the Feudatory States. There is much evidence to show that there is a distinct movement amongst the more enlightened native gentlemen towards agricultural improvements. The Director of Agriculture reports that the old attitude of distrust and doubt towards any suggestions for improvement of local systems of cultivation has very largely disappeared, new proposals being now welcomed and given a trial.

Experiments in manuring were made, and experiments in regard to preventing "smut" in wheat. Details of these would have no special interest for our readers. Certain Indian edible gums and tanning materials were investigated. *Paspalum dilatatum* was tried, and is regarded as having failed. As for the aloe and its fibre, it is remarked that the results of the inquiries of District officers show that there is no regular cultivation of the aloe plant in the Provinces. In some parts, however, the aloe plant has been grown as hedges round small fields or gardens. Some Deputy Commissioners are of opinion that caste prejudices would interfere with the industry if it could be successfully started. In Damoh, where the Deputy Commissioner had aloe fibre extracted in one of the estates under the Court of Wards, the work, it is reported, was very distasteful to the people, and is looked upon as a degrading form of labour. One of the drawbacks to the extension of the industry is that the manufacture of the aloe fibre is a tedious process, and the contact of the juice and pulp with the body causes irritation. It is very doubtful whether in these Provinces aloe will ever be grown on a large scale. The plant takes four years to come to maturity, and is not such a profitable fibre crop as san hemp (*crotilaria juncea*). Some interesting allusions are also made to inquiries into the rearing of tassar-silk worms, and Deputy Commissioners have been asked to make a detailed inquiry during the camping season into the state of tassar cultivation in their districts, and the steps which it is necessary to take in order to give effect to the wishes of the Administration.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

The ad. of a coffee firm in a London contemporary says: "The large consumption of coffee in the United States of America and on the Continent in comparison with the United Kingdom is owing to the fact that the coffee trade is more studied there, and, consequently, a more palatable article is produced. In this country, unfortunately, the grocer is tempted to buy his coffee from the colour and size of the raw berry, and not for its intrinsic liquoring qualities—consequently most of the pure coffee sold does not satisfy the

consumer, chiefly because the liquor is thin, washy, and flavourless."

\* \* \*

**Coffee Market of San Francisco.**—C. E. Bickford, of San Francisco, in his last coffee report says: "The market has been generally quiet in tone, but deliveries for the past thirty days show the demand for local consumption to be fast approaching its normal level. The shipments overland are increasing and to this date are larger than for some years past. Prices have undergone practically no change, with the exception of Salvador, which, for good, unwashed, has improved  $\frac{1}{4}$ c. under a temporary scarcity of that particular grade, sales going freely at  $7\frac{3}{4}$ c. Other qualities of Salvador have not been affected. First hand stock consists of 5,579 bags Costa Rica; 1,066 Nicaragua; 14,232 Salvador; 22,985 Guatemala; 2,470 Mexican, and 11,506 various; in all 57,838 bags."

\* \* \*

Some very inanè propositions have been broached in Brazil by way of reducing the coffee supply, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 25, and a jewel of a dream among those dreamed by the dreamers there proposes the prohibition of the export of low-grade coffees except when sent out as concrete propagandas to accustom the world to drink coffee. Anent this proposition an English source comments in a pat way: "We read that it is low grades that are to be eliminated, and that two-thirds of the 20 per cent. are to be destroyed, and the other one-third to be roasted and exported by the Syndicate Agricoles, free of duty, in order to educate the taste of coffee-drinkers throughout the world for Brazil coffee! A curious proceeding to send out your worst sample, and one not calculated to accomplish the desired object one would suppose."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The market in coffee is exceedingly quiet and apathetic, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 25, and so provoking is the listless state that traders are impatiently calling for the coming of such price conditions that the Brazilian growers may feel to the quick the consequences of their over-production.

In other words, let prices fall below the cost of production and then perhaps the disturbing superabundant crops will have their end. The trend of events is that way. In the speculative market there has been a drop of about 25 points, and the tendency is towards the 4·10 record mark of January last and one year and a half ago. The market is within 5 points of this nadir now, and it would not be a surprising event if it should quickly register a new lowest record.

In actual coffee prices are a little easier for the lower grades and unchanged for the upper. The spot mark for invoices closed dull at  $5\frac{1}{4}$ c. for Rio No. 8,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ c. for Rio No. 7,  $6\cdot10$ c. for Rio No. 4, and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  to  $6\frac{3}{8}$ c. for Santos No. 4. The Brazil markets are easier; an offering, resulting in no sale, was 25,000 bags of Santos Nos. 3 to 7, averaging No. 5, at  $5\frac{5}{8}$ c. & f.

The market for futures is depressed by the heavy statistical position, which grows worse with each succeeding day. The movement of Brazil is large for the season, and therefore extra discouraging as indicating a 1902-03 crop in excess of 12,000,000 bags. All the same, it is strange, incomprehensible to many, that despite the low prices, the contract market should be so repelling to investment. Not in a long time



business has been so dull, and for so long in duration. A return to activity has been the hope and the expectation, but it seems as far off as ever.

In Mild grades quiet conditions also prevail. Stocks are increasing but interest has not developed among buyers, who seem to look for lower prices out of the growing stocks. Prices are steady, however. Good Cucuta is quoted at  $8\frac{1}{4}$  to  $8\frac{3}{4}$  c.

Mr. Seligsberg, of Lewisohn Bros., says: "Although there is talk of a large growing Brazil coffee crop, I would not be surprised, from what I have gathered during my visit in Brazil, if crops hereafter should be smaller."

Among the funny story tellers in the New York down-town jobbing circles, Mr. William Bayne, Jr., is credited with leading the list. Mr. Bayne is of the opinion that coffee futures will sell at 4c. per pound before the end of this year, and there are few who care to argue the matter.

A dispatch from Venezuela states that merchants of Maracaibo declare that the export charges on coffee are more ruinous than the blockade of the Venezuelan coast by the fleets of the allied powers.

Mr. Edward Bleeker, who is one of the best-informed mild coffee brokers in New York says, the fancy grades of Sumatra coffees are wanted less every year, owing to the high prices asked. About fifteen years ago the monthly deliveries of East India coffees were on an average of 25,000 mats, and now it is only one-third of this amount.

### Visible Supply of Coffee

on April 1st,		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		442,600	364,700	229,850	231,400	228,050
to Europe	{ afloat — Brazil ...	16,940	32,120	17,510	6,640	17,450
	{ loading — do. ...	2,180	3,120	1,230	...	...
	{ afloat — the East ..	1,680	2,140	1,750	2,900	1,250
	{ do. — U. S. A. ...	1,880	1,470	1,290	1,470	1,060
		465,280	403,550	251,630	242,410	247,810
Stocks U. S. of North-America		147,180	143,060	67,880	66,240	71,180
to U. S. A.	{ afloat — Brazil ...	29,120	18,710	29,530	23,000	22,650
	{ loading — do. ...	1,000	1,710	4,590	...	...
	{ afloat — the East ..	760	1,820	880	1,940	1,410
		643,340	568,850	354,510	333,590	343,050
Stocks in Rio ...		29,240	40,410	18,350	18,000	15,410
Do. Santos ...		57,700	57,060	67,700	22,880	27,060
Do. Bahia ...		1,940	2,820	2,880	940	1,350
Total ..		732,220	669,140	443,440	375,410	386,870
On March 1st...		737,440	661,110	434,730	388,020	387,370

An ounce of ground coffee to a pint of water should make an infusion to suit the average consumer, but when the coffee blend is made of strong sorts, as, say, Rio or Santos and Maracaibo, less coffee should be used to the same quantity of water.

The following is an American story:

Coffeyville, Kansas, was known not so many years ago as a town of strong men and weak beverages. An eastern traveller who happened to be in the place during its pioneer hotel days, astonished the proprietor of the "Eagle House" there by the number of cups of coffee he consumed at one sitting.

"You seem to be very fond of coffee," remarked the proprietor as he set the fifth cup of the beverage before his guest.

"Only fairly so," replied the traveller gravely. "I never take more than *one* cup of it for breakfast. I am still in hopes of obtaining that quantity before I finish my meal. Will you kindly permit me to have a couple more cups of *your* preparation?"

Tributes to coffee from great master minds must continue as from the beginning when man discovered the berry, and the latest genius to acknowledge his indebtedness to coffee is Josiah M. Ward, the novelist, whose "Come With Me Into Babylon," brought out by Frederick A. Stokes & Co., New York, is one of the few permanent historical novels brought out during the Autumn season of 1902. Mr. Ward "owns up" to the sustaining power of coffee in the arduous research in Assyriology that the scope of his novel dictated, and confesses his debt to the stimulating power in the fragrant liquid in marshaling the facts and ideas and weaving them into a coherent plot that should augment interest as the story grew, fire the imagination into fascinating description and narrative, and in all be true to the times when Nebuchadnezzar flourished, Babylon ruled, and Nineveh fell. Critics are agreed that the work of Mr. Ward is a panorama of those ancient times done with telling effect, and we hasten to claim for coffee all the credit voluntarily granted. Nor is this a mere moiety. Great minds are generous and honest, and besides Mr. Ward's no other testimony is needed than that of Balzac.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon's Monthly Market-Report dated Rotterdam, March 31st, 1903, says:—In the Dutch Trading Company's sale on March 17th, 24,023 bags sold at a further reduction of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cents for Malang and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents for Panarekan and Madioen, good ordinary being quoted  $26\frac{1}{4}$  cents, against 28 cents last month, which being more in proportion to other descriptions encouraged the trade to buy with less reserve.

Next Trading Company's sale to be held May 5th.

First hand sales were of much less importance, the Java crop is getting exhausted. There was no pressure to sell and values both of Plantation and Liberian kinds were well maintained. Second hand business was particularly uninteresting, consisting almost exclusively of Santos Coffee for actual requirements, closing  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents cheaper for the month.

Arrivals in our market were very moderate indeed, both from Java and Santos. The latter amounting to 77,300 bags, against 73,200 bags deliveries, our stock exhibiting a trifling addition of 4,100 bags this month.

Afloat from Santos to Rotterdam:

22,500 bags per ss. *Halle* ... sailed March 11th.  
28,000 " " " *Prinz Waldemar* ... " " 26th.

50,500 bags,

against 115,500 " in 1902.

" 79,500 " " 1901.

" 22,000 " " 1900.

Loading ss.: *Bonn*.

Afloat from Java to Holland:

<i>Bali</i> ...	sailed Feb. 20th.	<i>Gede</i> ...	sailed March 11th.
<i>Merapi</i> ...	" " 25th.	<i>Bogor</i> ...	" " 16th.
<i>Solo</i> ...	" " March 2nd.	<i>Magdeburg</i> ...	" " 17th.
<i>Koningin Regentes</i> ...	" " 4th.	<i>Prinses Amalia</i> ...	" " 18th.
<i>Myrmidon</i> ...	" " 5th.	<i>Ixion</i> ...	" " 24th.
<i>Flores</i> ...	" " 10th.	<i>Oengaran</i> ...	" " 25th.

Loading ss.: *Timor, Koning Willem III, Sindoro, Madura, Rhipes, Prins Hendrik and Teucer*.

Terme has been very slow during the month under review and values have been gradually giving way  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent, closing  $16\frac{1}{4}$  cents per May,  $16\frac{3}{4}$  cents per September, and  $17\frac{1}{8}$  cents per December. Dealings only amounted to 55,500 bags or 234,000 bags since 1st January. March contracts 214,000 bags, tenders 56,500 bags.

A dull tone has pervaded this market, buyers holding off, under the influence of general flatness and the full volume of receipts in Rio and Santos. Reports concerning next crop are not favourable and much stress is laid on the falling off of blossom. Some expect an early crop, which is contradicted by others. After the experience of so many years, but little importance is attached to Brazilian crop reports, the trade acting upon facts, not upon prognostications. Meanwhile the position of fazenderos seems to be getting very critical indeed and especially difficult to get the necessary advances. This is the only way to reduce coffee cultivation and to abandon



estates, no longer paying, which may ultimately lead to an improvement in values, as much looked forward to by the producer as by the trade. It is however of paramount importance to await developments, as any advance at present would necessarily stimulate production.

Some Central-American crops are expected to yield less than anticipated, as for instance *Costarica*. 200,000 bags were shipped with every indication of suspension of further shipment; estimates were 325,000 bags.

European stocks were 6,800 tons, more, but visible supply further decreased by 19,280 tons as against an increase during both last years. The diminution was caused by large deliveries.

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**Coffee in New York.**—A prominent mild coffee broker remarked that, notwithstanding the fact that this market is the lowest in the world for all grades of coffee, the demand still drags. The discouraging state of affairs here is shown by the fact that importers are now shipping their supplies of Sumatra coffee to Holland, and sales made recently included some 2,000 mats of Kroe at 14½c., 2,500 mats Timor at 14c., and 1,000 mats of second quality of Padang interior at 4¾c. per pound.

Mr. William H. Bennett, commenting on the situation of Central American coffee, said: "There is abundance of coffee in the interior, but the drawback is that it cannot be shipped. Notwithstanding the fact that jobbers are anxious to do business, there is no desire shown by them to market their holdings, unless they can replace same at less money."

Mr. Herman Sielken, of W. H. Crossman & Co., one of the largest coffee operators here, who has taken the bear side of the market for several years past, said: "We are bound to see lower prices for coffee under the present conditions of supply and demand. The ruse to eliminate 20 per cent. of the Brazil coffee crop is dying out. It is known that the coffee-planters met and, after passing a number of resolutions of an impracticable character, the matter rests and will rest for good."

It is estimated that about 70 per cent. of the population of the United States are habitual coffee-drinkers.

Venezuela, as was generally expected here, levied an export duty of 40c. per 100 pounds on all coffee.—*American Grocer*.

### TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market is quiet, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 25, and in first hands sales are so few, owing to the exhaustion of stocks, that quotations are nominal, and these are unchanged from those ruling in the last two weeks. The expectation is that some activity will be again noted in a fortnight.

Except for the continued exportation of Congous the market is without feature. It is computed that nearly 20,000 packages have been exported, but time only will tell in the custom house figures. It is said as large a quantity again will be exported if the price bid will be accepted. This is below the asking price generally ruling in New York, and in view of the improving statistical position of the tea, will probably fail. The price of the tea in other respects has not improved, though in several quarters a hardening tendency is broached. It is but a symptom, seemingly an inspired one, and the fact remains that Congous have utterly failed to develop any buoyancy, to the surprise of the market and especially of certain speculative circles, which expected that the stringency and high cost of tea in general would react favourably on the superabundant Congous. Evidently the tea is more plentiful than anyone has dreamed.

Green teas and Pingsueys continue in unsupplied demand and therefore in strong position. Beyond doubt the Eastern markets will open much higher this year, and the combinations there, so well handled, will be able to dictate their own terms unless the possible but improbable coming together of American tea men, to abstain from buying for a month or

more, should eventuate or the stock of more than 100,000,000 pounds of tea now in the United States should compel consideration.

Advices from London say that in China teas inquiry continues strong for all common to good common Congous, and a fair quantity has changed hands at firm to better rates—low common to common Blacks 3½d. to 4d. per lb.; fair to good common 4½d. to 5d. per lb.; sweet Panyongs 4d. per lb. The little doing in better grades has been chiefly for export—medium to good medium Ningchows and Keemuns bringing 7d. to 10d. per lb., and Panyongs up to 7d. per lb. Canton Scented Capers are quiet, but firm—Foochow Scented Pekoes have sold from 9d. to 1s. per lb. Green teas continue to meet with good competition at firm rates. In Indian teas medium and better teas are tending to harder rates. In Ceylons all grades under 7d. are in fair demand and realized prices previously ruling. Broken Pekoes are irregular.

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**Dr. Shepard as a "Publicitician."**—*Tea, Coffee and Sugar* New York, continues to print articles in regard to Dr. C. U. Shepard, and his connection with the infant phenomenon tea industry in South Carolina.

Tea raising in America is one of those chimerical stories which, although interesting, can never make itself known and felt under the line of actual profitable results.

We must admit without argument that Dr. Shepard, as an advertiser stands equal to none other in business history or fiction, and as the one lone raiser of tea in the States, he has a unique opportunity, which he uses to the best of his ability.

The agricultural department at Washington could greatly benefit South Carolina, by using some of the money which has been so lavishly expended for the pleasure of Dr. Shepard's tea cultivation in instructing and aiding the average farmer of that State to raise native crops that would pay and bring profit to the State.—*Trade Press List*.

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The heavy rejection of Foochow and Congou teas recently has again brought the standard act into notice, says *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* of March 25, and there is renewed rebellion, especially in New York, against its enforcement. It is, of course, unfortunate that the teas in question should have had such hard luck, but being under the quality as established by law, they had no right of entrance into the land, and if the owners hewed too close to the line, they, with eyes wide open, took their chance, and it has proved they have lost. Not all of those injured pecuniarily have protested the law, and these even have acknowledged that their punishment justly fits their crime. We are pleased to record so much sincerity. The so-called indefinable definition of "quality" is a broad question, but most of the trade is agreed that the detracting effect of low-grade teas is something the country should be spared, and so the agitation of a few tea-men, interested in tea only so far as its sale brings them a commission, is not to be countenanced. Too few are benefited in the one case and too many harmed in the other. At the same time the complaint is well taken that recently the law has not been observed in the matter of the full attendance of appraisers in cases of appeal. It is true that a decision is more easily reached by two than by three judges in this special examination of tea, but the importance of the issue at stake should allow the appellant the benefit of every element allowed by law, entering into the final judgment.



**Japan Tea Shipments.**—Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co.'s statistical sheet, Yokohama, February 27, contains tables for the season 1902-03 regarding tea shipments from Yokohama and Hiogo. The shipments included 165 sailings, which, beginning May 2, 1902, closed February 24, 1903.

In that time 39,418,628 pounds of tea were exported. Of this quantity 4,563,858 pounds were shipped to New York by steamer or sail and railroad and 8,827,769 pounds *via* Suez Canal; 3,868,612 pounds were shipped to San Francisco; 17,544,930 pounds to Chicago (against 12,830,270 pounds during the preceding year); 4,363,884 pounds to Canada (against 6,480,964 pounds in preceding year), and 48,575 pounds to Europe, etc. The total exportations during the preceding year were 35,726,102 pounds. A handsome increase is thereby proved.

The exportation of Japan tea to New York remains unchanged from a year ago, 13,000,000 pounds. A change seems to be taking place, however, in the route used in shipping the tea. In the 1901-02 period 7,120,000 pounds were shipped *via* Pacific United States ports but the shipments have shrunk to 4,563,000 pounds, while *via* the Suez Canal they have increased from 5,900,000 to 8,827,769 pounds.

Chicago is becoming more and more the head-quarters for Japan tea distribution. The city gained in this respect nearly 5,000,000 pounds during the year closed. Canada called for less of the tea, a shrinkage of nearly 2,000,000 pounds being recorded.

The total arrivals at both ports were 301,987 piculs, against 292,223 piculs one year ago; settlements were 300,158 piculs, against 289,556 piculs one year ago.

May, June, July, and August were the heavier shipping months. The largest cargo at any time was that of the steamship *Iyo Maru*, 959,382 lbs.

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**Comparison of Ceylon Tea Siftings.**—A decision by Robert B. Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, dated March 10, 1903 to United States Appraiser, New York, runs as follows:—

"SIR,—The department duly received your letter of the 21st ultimo, in regard to the comparison of Ceylon tea siftings with standard 10, Japan dust or fannings (art. 19 of the regulations of February 11, 1903, T. D. 24223).

"In reply, I have to state that the department has consulted with the Chairman of the Board of Tea Experts, and he recommends that department's instructions of January 22, 1903, regarding such comparison, be continued in force for the present. The language of such instructions telegraphed you on the date mentioned is as follows: 'Instruct tea examiner to compare Ceylon tea siftings with standard 10, Japan dust or fannings.' You will be governed accordingly."

\* \* \*

Merchants in New York, who were hard hit by the rejection of a large quantity of Foochow teas, have appealed to the Secretary of the Treasury from decisions by the Board of General Appraisers in which only two members instead of three take part. The large block of tea rejected and the loss involved make it worth while to test the efficacy of an appeal from the technical violation alleged. The question of standard as governed by quality has again been brought into notice by the appeal. Word has been received from the Treasury Department that hereafter three appraisers must attend hearings on tea appeals.

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**Tea in New York.**—Messrs. Wisner & Co. received advices from Shanghai stating that no further supplies of green teas can be obtained from the country, as the whole of this season's crop has

been marketed. The point is of particular interest when the large size of this season's production of green teas is taken into consideration.

Offerings of small lots of fairly good Congou teas are made at 9½c. per pound.

London has again been in this market as a buyer of Congou teas. Recent sales for export to above place amounted to about 9,000 packages. The supply shows a further material decrease.

The deliveries of tea from New York warehouses during the month of February, it is estimated, were about 7,000,000 to 7,200,000 pounds.—*American Grocer*.

## NOTES.

### Cocoa and Chocolate in the U. S.

Cocoa and chocolate are great favourites with American consumers, the use of the articles increasing in a

marked manner year by year.

### New Quinine-Factory.

A factory has been opened in Maarssen, near Utrecht, under the style of Niederländische Chininfabrik, for the extraction of alkaloids from cinchona. It is started for "its own and foreign account."

### Tea and some Rivals.

According to the British Consul, imports at Coquimbo (Chile) in 1901 included 43 tons of Coffee, 59 tons of Tea, and 234 tons of Maté, the last representing a smaller value than the quadruple quantity of its Paraguayan rival.

### Old Ceylon Coffee Companies' Results.

The Madulseema Coffee and Cinchona Company, Limited, pays 8 per cent. of its preference dividend arrears; and carries forward £2,005. The Haputale Coffee Company, Limited, pays 4 per cent. of its preference arrears; and carries forward £1,689.

### Tea and Coffee Testing.

The art of testing tea is looked upon as a mystery, says the *Merchants' Review*, whereas coffee testing is essayed by grocers of not much experience. Yet tea reaches the wholesaler's salesroom in a finished condition, while coffee has to be subjected to treatment by the roaster before it is fit for the consumer's hands, and during roasting it may change in character completely. Coffee-testing is the real mystery, beside which tea-sampling is a cinch.

### Cocoa in the U. S.

The increased use of cocoa in the United States is shown by the importations for the last seven months. They were 37,819,315 pounds, while the figures for the same period one year ago are 28,976,817 pounds and two years ago 23,779,941 pounds. The supply is mainly derived from the British West Indies, from which 11,324,969 pounds were imported in the last seven months under review. From Brazil came 9,643,742 pounds and other South America 8,566,506 pounds. Of manufactured cocoa 555,353 pounds were imported, against 501,528 pounds one year ago.

### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 21 (31 mars 1902): Rendement du caoutchouc de l'Hevea sauvage.—Vin d'ananas—Serpes à cacao (av. 5 fig.)—Cassage des cocos.—Cueillette mécanique du coton.—Articles et notes agricoles intéressantes*



la destruction des sauterelles et des termites, le cheval, le gambier, la canne, le café, la ramie, le bananier, la datte, les agaves textiles, les Citrus, l'Acrocomia, etc.—Etudes commerciales et statistiques concernant le caoutchouc, le thé, le café, le riz.—Contributions inédites de MM. H. Neuville, Hecht frères & Cie, A Couturier (Paris), Ch. Rivière (Alger), P. Cibot (Rio-Beni), A. R. C. Lockhart (île Dominique), D. A. Majani (île Trinidad), W. Krüger (Halle sur Salle), A. Padroso (Cuba).—Bibliographie.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending March 6th, were  $11\frac{23}{32}$ d.—12d. for 90d/s Bank paper and  $11\frac{25}{32}$ d.— $12\frac{1}{16}$ d. for private.

The average Bank 90d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at  $11\frac{5}{8}$ d. the corresponding sight rate being  $11\frac{17}{64}$ d. against  $11\frac{3}{16}$ d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

*Naturday, January 6th, 1903.*—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday 2nd at  $11\frac{1}{16}$ d. rose to  $11\frac{3}{8}$ d. on Wednesday, relapsed to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. on Thursday and then rose again, closing this evening with foreign banks drawing at  $12\frac{1}{16}$ d. and the Republica at  $12\frac{3}{32}$ d.

Whatever the cause of the intemperate rise of exchange may be there can be little question that it is ill timed, coming as it does just at the moment when planters are clamouring for higher prices and for renewed issues of paper money. What is the use, they will ask, of burning coffee if nothing is done to check exchange. Instead of more they are to get less paper money than ever. It is useless to point out to them that the money they will receive is of higher value. It is not so as far as payment of back debts and mortgage interest is concerned; and if allowed to continue will furnish a powerful and indeed logical argument for fresh issues of paper to keep exchange down and ensure stability. The inelasticity of a paper currency of determined quantity is one of its chief objections.

The causes of the present rise of exchange appear to be complex. In the first place bills are much more abundant than was anticipated, both rubber and coffee continuing to furnish comparatively heavy supplies, whilst good prices for cotton also add their mite. In March of last year when conditions of supply of bills was about the same or perhaps somewhat less favourable than now, exchange oscillated between  $11\frac{1}{16}$ d. and  $12\frac{3}{16}$ d. and no considerable advance was registered until May when selling for the new crop set in. In February last year there was, a decided bear movement to which the rise in March was only the natural reaction. This year, too, there has been a heavy bear movement and it is possible that the rise now witnessed is merely the rebound accompanying its unsuccessful liquidation.

By others the improvement is attributed to drawing against some operation realized in Europe, whilst, to others, again, it appears purely and exclusively speculative.

It is the lookers on who proverbially see most of the game, and for our part we believe that speculation has certainly heightened effects, the supply of bills enhanced as they have lately been by better prices and larger shipments than were counted on of both rubber and coffee, has certainly something to do with it and the effect is not entirely speculative nor attributable to outside influence.

The action of the Bank in covering periodically all it draws and particularly the fact that £114,000 were taken in this market for payment of the acre indemnity, does not look as if it were drawing against any extraordinary credit. The fact is that so long as there are more bills than money, with such huge sums at its disposal, the Bank is practically the arbiter of the situation and can virtually put exchange up or down as it chooses.

At closing, the movement appeared to be the genuine outcome of excess of supply over demand. Besides unexpected supplies of rubber and coffee bills, dealers took fright at the persistence of the rise and hurried to get rid of their holdings. Whether it will continue during the present week seems, however, questionable. It is possible that, to avoid possible surprise, coffee will be hurried

down as rapidly as possible and shipped out of the country before the new law comes into effect. Very large shipments may, therefore be looked for until July and perhaps a rise of prices here and abroad. All this would tend to add to the supply of bills and to keep rates steady, if not to send them up, at a time when it is usually at its weakest.

It is, however for many reasons impolitic to allow exchange to rise if by exercise of a little pressure it can be kept steady, and unless the current is unmistakably and irresistibly upwards, this is, we believe, the course that will be followed by the Bank and that rates will not be permitted to rise much over 12d. or to fall below  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d.

During the past week *Embarques* of coffee fell off considerably their value being £28,000 less than the previous week's and £32,000 less than last year.

**Coffee.**—Joint Entries at Rio and Santos were again very large stimulated no doubt by the higher prices and desire to escape the surtax of 20 per cent. Compared with the former week they showed an increase of 31,013 bags and of 21,240 compared with the corresponding week's last year of which, on 6th instant they represented 111.6 per cent.

For the current crop Entries on 6th instant were 2,763,070 bags under the previous crop's, of which they represented 78.1 per cent.

*Embarques* (shipments) were 23,563 bags less than the previous week's and 3,241 less than last year's.

Stocks fell off somewhat being on 6th instant 24,075 bags less than the previous week's and 360,733 less than last year's.

Declared sales increased being 26,000 in excess of the previous week's and 45,000 over last year's.

Interest is centred at present on the decision of the S. Paulo Legislature, where in spite of the general desire to do something considerable opposition may be expected to anything in the shape of wilful destruction of coffee. The bill presented by the executive offers two methods for consideration, "Elimination," or payment

## RUSSIAN QUESTION IN ASIA,

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kind and subsequent destruction of the coffee, and payment in money of a heavy *ad valorem* tax on lower grades. Of the two there is no doubt the latter is preferable, the chief objections being the difficulty of enforcing it and distinguishing between grades, and the facility with which it can be evaded. It would of course lead to an enormous accumulation of stocks on the plantations which, in case of the measure failing to produce the desired effect and being repeated as probably would be liable to occur, could swell stocks so suddenly and to such an extent as to drive prices probably lower than they ever were before. From whatever side it is looked at the project seems beset with difficulties and pitfalls.

SANTOS, March 6th, 1903.—During the whole crop year we have not seen as dull a coffee market during the last week nor so little disposition to buy on the ruling market prices. The favourable feeling which the decrease of the world's visible (according to New York 252,000 and to Dunning & Zoon 19,000 tons) caused, was soon spoiled by the large entries here on Thursday (27,479) and at Rio. In consequence "Commissarios" who really do not hold a large stock, did not put more coffee than absolutely necessary on the market and the sales were relatively small 112,000 only being declared.

Yesterday the State Congress met at S. Paulo and the "Governor's" message, which was looked forward to with great interest, was published. The most important factor of it is the proposition to authorise the Government to impose the further export tax of up to 20 per cent. on all coffee exported from the State, payable *ad valorem* or in kind. Opinion here about this new law is very much divided. Whilst on the part of the commissarios great benefit is expected from it for all Brazilian interests. Exporters look at it very coolly and wait for some decision to be taken by the "Congress." The business done during the week consisted to a large extent of specialities, as Bourbons, etc. Bourbons fetched up to 5\$300 in very fine qualities old yellow coffee from 5\$800 up to 6\$500 and even higher. Fine washed are scarce. Fine Peaberry are in good demand, flinty fine demand up to 5\$400. Moka basis rules between 4\$600 to 4\$900 according to types.

Low coffees keep very quiet, Primes down to Regulars continue in the same position. Primes were sold from 4\$800 to 4\$900, superiors 300 rs., goods 600 rs., and regulars 900 rs. below.

The disparity between Europe and our Market is still some 200 réis and business is, by the high exchange, which closed to-day at 12½ d. private, only rendered more difficult still.

Orders from Europe and States came forward scarcer. Superior orders are running from 28/6 to 29/3, Good 1/3 to 1/6 lower.

Entries are large for the season amounting to nearly 136,000 and about 32,000 more than last week and so the receipts for this month point to over 500,000.

Shipments were, considering that the *Sabina* alone received over 80,000 bags, very poor from the general exporters and our stock remained practically unchanged, being to-day 933,357 bags. The engagements on the near steamers are also small.

The "*Paula*" remained unchanged last week.

**The Coffee Bill.**—The bill presented by the Government of Sao Paulo to the legislature accompanied by a long preamble expounding the motives of this extraordinary measure, are as follows:—

Art. 1°. The Executive is authorised:

I—to levy a tax from 1 July next not over 20 per cent. in kind on all coffee exported, or *ad valorem* on the lower grades which shall be appraised on the basis of the *pauta* or official valuation, in addition to existing duties. In the first case all the coffee received will be eliminated by a process to be determined.

II—to punish with fines, equivalent to ten times the value of the goods, all admixture made with intention to elude the stipulations of this law.

III—to grant subsidies up to 200:000\$ to shipping companies willing to reduce freights on coffee between Santos and other non-producing Brazilian States.

IV—to create official types of coffee with the object of regulating the execution of this law and ensuring taxation of higher types being less than that of lower.

V—to provide for the roasting of coffee for purposes of propaganda in those States of the Union where roasted coffee is admitted free of inter state duty.

VI—to promote the creation of commercial and industrial establishments for sale of Sao Paulo coffee abroad, granting favours to same.

VII—to fiscalise the trade in roasted and ground coffee in order to prevent admixture or falsification.

Art. 2. The Executive is hereby authorised to expend up to 10,000:000\$ in aid to planters and to undertake the necessary credit operations entailed thereby.

Art. 3. In case the Banco de Credito Agricola be not organised within the period determined by the respective law of December 1902, the product of the transit tax shall be applied to the service of the loan or payment of differences of exchange of and the subsidy mentioned in art. n. III.

Art. 4. Aid to planters shall take the form of loans on first mortgage, agricultural mortgage (*penhor agricola*) with collateral guarantee, on collateral securities alone, and be realized through the agency of Banks or agricultural syndicates approved and fiscalised by the Government.

Art. 5. No loan to any planter can exceed 50:000\$, on which interest at a rate not exceeding 8 % per annum shall be paid.

Art. 6. Loans on mortgage are not to exceed three years, with payment of interest annually and amortisations in three instalments of 20, 30, and 50 % of the loan. Loans on the other specified classes of security shall be for one year only, renewable for one year more on amortisation of at least 50 %.

Art. 7. The Executive is authorised to treat with the Union Government to promote the Meeting of an International Congress of Coffee Planters in this city, to determine the best manner to defend the interests of producers and consumers of this article.

Art. 8. The Executive is also authorised to come to an agreement with the Governments of other producing States of the Union for the protection of this product and execution of the stipulations of this law.

Art. 9. All dispositions to the contrary are hereby revoked.  
Signed: *Bernardino de Campos*.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Although with the exception of a reduction of the income-tax nothing is generally anticipated from the Budget in the way of relief from taxation, a faint hope is still expressed in some quarters that tea may possibly benefit. Hoping for the best, while expecting the worst, may, however, be described as the attitude of this small but sanguine band. There always is a degree of uncertainty about Budget proposals, and until people know the best or the worst they will indulge in conjecture. Traders are never quite easy at this time of year in view of a possible surprise.

The diminished supplies of tea indicate a more healthy condition of the markets. The shipments of tea to the United Kingdom from Calcutta and Chittagong for the season (twelve months) which ended on March 31 last were 145½ million lbs., as compared with 152½ and 162 million lbs. respectively in the two preceding years. The shipments of Ceylon tea to the United Kingdom for the first three months of the current year were 23¼ million lbs., as compared with 25¼ and 29 million lbs. respectively in the two preceding years. A finer character of tea is, therefore, to some extent assured if consumers will only have the good sense to give the preference to the higher grades instead of the coarser variety—in other words, if they will only pay a reasonable price for their tea, which it is always to their interest to do, as the better tea pays no more duty than the inferior varieties.

There seems some scope for the "tea pusher" in New Orleans. In a report recently received at the Foreign Office, His Majesty's Consul at New Orleans mentions that the inhabitants of this conservative city are beginning to succumb to the charms of tea. At present they are surprisingly sparing in their purchases, and only 10,238 lbs., valued at £391, were imported during the past year, but the prospect is evidently hopeful.

It is satisfactory to observe that notwithstanding the adverse conditions under which the tea industry has been conducted during the year 1902-3, some of the old Calcutta concerns, many of which are handicapped by heavy capitalisation, and have suffered both from labour difficulties and low markets, have succeeded in showing a respectable margin of profit. The Central Cachar Tea Company, Limited, with a capital of 10 lakhs of rupees and a cultivated area of 1,195 acres, i.e., nearly £56 per acre of tea, produced a crop of



nearly 8,000 maunds, which realised a profit of Rs.29,930, or nearly £2,000 sterling. The average price realised for the tea was only 4 annas 5 pies per lb. With the aid, however, of a balance carried forward from the previous year the Directors have been able to declare a dividend of 4 per cent. on the capital (thus making the average dividend for the last eight years 3 per cent.). Not the least satisfactory feature about the company is the prompt way in which the results of the year 1902 are laid before the shareholders. On the whole the Central Cachar Tea Company's shareholders may be congratulated on having some return for their money in these times of depression. We are glad to see that the Teesta Valley Tea Company, Limited, has declared a dividend of 5 per cent., the Pashok Tea Company, Limited, and the Margaret's Hope Tea Company, Limited, a dividend of 7 per cent. each; the East India Tea Company, Limited, 4 per cent., while the South Cachar Tea Company, Limited, have given their shareholders the handsome dividend of 15 per cent., a very creditable result to all concerned.

Continuing his lecture to grocers' assistants at the Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, last week, Dr. MacDougall, referring to tea, described the rainfall in the Indian tea-growing district, and also the process of manufacture. Referring to coffee he said it was first brought from Abyssinia to Arabia, and in the middle of the sixth century was known as a beverage in Constantinople. It spread to Western Europe, and first appeared in London about 1652. That was the date of the first London coffee-house, the history of which was interesting. A Smyrna merchant had brought home with him a Greek maid-servant, who understood the preparation of coffee. She subsequently married the coachman, and together they started the coffee-house. Coffee spread to the West Indies and America, and was now also grown in India, Ceylon, Brazil, and British Guiana. In Ceylon and India it had lately been the victim of a fungus, which, as in the potato plant, choked up the breathing cells of the leaves, destroyed the plant, and spread itself by means of "spores" carried by the wind. So far there was no apparent cure for this disease. It first appeared in Ceylon in 1869, and in Southern India the following year. In 1876 it spread to Sumatra, and three years later to Java. In Dominica, and to a less extent in Jamaica, the "white fly" was a great enemy of the plant. So was the "scale" insect; while in Africa a beetle, nearly an inch long, tunnelled its way right up the stem of the tree. These facts induced the consideration of how far cultivation was actually beneficial to plants. It was an undoubted fact that the wild ancestor of the turnip, for instance, was a more healthy plant than the great swollen roots now grown. Yellow charlock was a similar plant to the turnip; yet "finger and toe," which so often ruined a turnip crop, had no power against the wild, vigorous growth of the charlock. In the same way, the fat stock seen at cattle shows were far more liable to disease than hardy, vigorous specimens. In any case, results proved that where either animals or plants were, so to speak, pampered, disease invariably appeared amongst them. It was the first outbreak of disease that should be watched for and vigorously fought; hitherto it had been too much the habit of planters and growers in all countries to neglect disease till it was out of their power to check it. Then they folded their hands and said, "It is the will of the gods." About 1880 Liberian coffee was discovered in West Africa. It contained, however, less caffeine than that of Arabia. Liberian coffee thrives best below an elevation of 1,500 feet: Arabian coffee above that height. That, he was inclined to believe, was the reason of the outbreaks of disease in places where it was grown below the 1,500 feet level. In the same way the larch of which the native home was the hill country of Central and Southern Germany, was constantly attacked by "cancer" when grown below a certain level in Scotland.

The Hull and District Grocers' Association recently discussed the question of pension tea, which according to the secretary is rapidly extending to every town and village in the country. The *Grocer* remarks *apropos*: "We can hardly say this squares with our own information, but there seems no doubt that the system is spreading, and no one who knows the lives of the poor needs to be told how powerful an inducement the prospect of a pension must be to them. Possibly it may be said that the working men have too much common sense to swallow all the bunkum that is told, and must know that to buy tea for the sake of a problematical pension is a very costly way of insuring. But recollect that it is not usually

the male head of the household who buys the groceries, and that there are vast numbers of poor women who have no time to try to read newspapers, and are apt to put too much faith in other printed matter that offers a specious suggestion appealing to them at the very point where they feel their weakness and danger and the need of some kind of insurance. Thus in the less enlightened village and towns it may be quite possible that the pension tea craze should spread, and soon reach the point it has at Barton-on-Humber, where the Hull chairman says the whole tea trade is now in the hands of the pension people. If the staple article of tea is to be taken out of the hands of the trained grocer and the trade transferred to an nondescript trader who can sell a packet the position certainly deserves the earnest attention asked for it by the Hull Association. The suggestion is to amend the Life Assurance Companies Act to meet the case. It is a question, however, whether more than this ought not to be done to keep the trade in tea and other foods in the hands of traders who have the technical knowledge necessary for the due protection of the public."

Recently M. Bertrand, of the Pasteur Institute, has analysed nine kinds of coffee with interesting results. The beans of one species (*Coffea humblotiana*) contained no caffeine, and in another species (*C. mauritiana*) only 0.07 per cent. was present. These two varieties are thus for all practical purposes free from the stimulating alkaloid. In Arabian coffee (*C. arabica*), obtained from various sources, the caffeine present varied from 0.83 to 1.60 per cent. Liberian coffee (*C. liberica*) yielded between 1.06 and 1.45 per cent. The new African coffee (*C. stenophylla*) appears very rich in caffeine, 1.52 and 1.70 per cent. being the result of two analyses recorded. *Coffea canephora* gave the highest caffeine content 1.97 per cent.—*H. & C. Mail*.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

The *Produce Markets' Review* of March 28 says:—The auctions have been abundantly supplied with all descriptions, and the demand though rather more fluctuating than during the last few weeks has on the whole been good, and values have been well maintained. East India in particular, which had fallen to a very low level, has attracted more attention, and, though in plentiful supply, prices are from 1s. to 2s. dearer. Very full prices were paid for some of the choice marks of Mysore, the quality of which was quite equal to the best of recent years, and in that respect is a great contrast to most of the crops this year. The demand for Costa Rica has centred mostly on the medium size, and values are fully 2s. higher; but the bolder size has had to be sold at slightly easier rates. Of Guatemala and other export descriptions supplies have also been plentiful, and values have been rather irregular, closing a trifle cheaper. In the terminal market the heavy daily receipts have continued to depress values, which have fallen nearly 1s. per cwt., and are once more within 1s. of the lowest record.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The *Produce Markets' Review* of March 28 says:—With an improved general demand the bidding at the public sales was fairly active, and with few exceptions last week's prices were firmly maintained. As the financial statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not be made until the second or third week in April, there may not be any material increase in the enquiry for duty-paid teas at present, as the trade will be inclined to reduce their stocks as much as possible. This does not apply, however, to teas in bond, as it is probable, owing to the statistical position, that a stronger market will prevail when buyers find it necessary to replenish their stocks. The prospects, therefore, appear favourable to holding a reasonable quantity in bond until after the Budget as a protection against a further upward movement in values, which it is generally anticipated will take place when the uncertainty of the duty question is cleared away. At the public auctions 30,265 packages were catalogued, and 4,936 were withdrawn. The common qualities were in good request, 6½d. being practically the lowest quotation for clean sweet tea, and the market closed firm at this price. For the medium grades, excepting some poor liquoring parcels which were not much sought after, prices were steady, with an improving enquiry, while the finer descriptions were readily taken at fully former rates.



**CEYLON TEAS.**—Supplies continue on a very moderate scale, and strong demand was evident at the auctions on Tuesday for all descriptions, but more particularly for the lower Whole Leaf kinds. Pekoe Souchongs and Pekoes up to 7½d. were well competed for, and sold at advancing rates, a further rise of ¼d. to ½d. per lb. being established, while only a few lots were knocked down under 7d. More attention was paid to medium Broken Pekoes than of late, although not quotably dearer, a firmer feeling prevailed. With the present strong statistical position, and the trade throughout evidently bare of stock under 7d. per lb., it is anticipated that when the duty question is settled, prices will advance still further. At the public sales 20,890 packages were brought forward, of which about 1,800 were withdrawn.

**CONGOU TEA.**—At the public auctions held on Wednesday only 7 packages were offered, while a fair business has been done privately. Prices generally are steady, low Black Leaf especially being wanted at fully previous rates.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—There was but a poor demand for fine Souchongs at Thursday's public auction, and the market continues dull for these descriptions. Gunpowders were well supported, and a firmer tone was noticeable, especially among the finer sorts, and Young Hysons were unchanged. There is no alteration to quote in the Caper market, and only a limited business is reported. The following are the public sale figures for the week:—1,484 packages of Green Tea were brought forward, of which 680 were taken out, and 314 packages of Fancy were offered, about 200 being withdrawn.

## CEYLON TEA IN RUSSIA.

### WHY IT HAS TEMPORARILY DECREASED.

The amount of Ceylon tea exported direct to Russia since last September has shown a distinct falling off. The figures for the last three-and-a-half months as compared with the figures for the first three-and-a-half months of 1902 are as follows:—

From 1st January to April 14th:

1902.	1903.
2,607,437.	1,398,656.

These figures show a falling-off this year of 1,206,781, or nearly 50 per cent. Carrying the figures back to the 1st of September, we find that in 1901-02 6,038,112 lbs. were exported in six months to Russia; and in 1902-03 3,778,357 lbs.; showing a falling off of 2,259,755 lbs. It is interesting to record at the same time that the black tea—chiefly dust for brick tea purposes—exported from Ceylon to China has been up to April 14th this year 1,477,671 lbs., compared with 756,341 lbs. for the same period last year; on the other hand this week's "Price Current" shows that, while 4,210 lbs. of green tea was sent to Russia in the first three-and-a-half months last year, none is down for this year so far.

Our representative this morning made inquiries in authoritative quarters as to the cause of this, and a Russian tea merchant went exhaustively into the subject. He explained that the falling-off was noticeable in common Pekoes only. Of this quality, the Russian tea-drinker consumes sixty or seventy per cent., the rest being higher grade tea. Since September the price for Ceylon common Pekoe has gone up from about 32 cents in Moscow to 39 cents per lb.; and the result of the increase in cost at once resulted in a sudden drop in quantity. China common Pekoe, with which Ceylon tea is blended in the proportion of about 30-70 per cent., cost at this time in Moscow only 23 cents per lb.; and, though against their will, Russian tea merchants were obliged in their own interests to purchase China common Pekoe more extensively, the quantity of Ceylon tea blended with the China dropping from 30 and 35 per cent. to 20 per cent. At this juncture it may be well to mention why China tea—though necessity and cheapness cause the Russian tea merchant to purchase it—does not meet with favour, and would be much less used than Ceylon tea if the latter could be had at a low enough price. The Hankow season is in the early summer only, and the year's stock of China tea has then to be laid in. It is stored up during the Russian winter, and, when the cold weather breaks up again in January, the China tea—after going through a staling process for nine months, loses flavour and strength, and it is then more particularly that the Russian merchants like to sell Ceylon tea into requisition, for, with its freshness, and strength—as it is sold week by week—it helps to save China tea from insipidity.

Even this means of salvation was denied the Russian this year.

So dear was Ceylon tea that orders were general that less than ever should be blended with the China tea. And no doubt the tea drinkers were the sufferers. According to our informant, there is an obvious moral in this. "Planters," he said, "may be jubilant at an increase in their price they obtain for common Pekoe, but the argument hits both ways, and, according as the price rises, the quantity of Ceylon tea exported to Russia must inevitably decrease, and thus you will lose the hold you already have on the market." The speaker, however, sees better times at hand, and he thinks the price will become more reasonable. He stated explicitly: "We have nothing against the price of Ceylon common Pekoe in Moscow at 34 cents per lb.; but 39 cents is impossible."

### INDIAN TEA IN RUSSIA.

With regard to the satisfaction expressed in the Calcutta press because of the increase in Indian tea to Russia, there was nothing for Ceylon to be alarmed at, our informant said. On the face of it it seems unaccountable that Indian tea should have increased, because it costs the same as, or more than, Ceylon; but there is this to take into consideration—when Ceylon common Pekoe took a sudden rise in the market from 5½d. to 6¼d per lb., Indian tea was not similarly influenced, and Russian merchants gave orders for a more extensive, but temporary, purchase of Indian tea.—*Times of Ceylon.*

## FEBRUARY COFFEE MOVEMENT IN THE U. S.

Deliveries last month were large in the United States and only 3,062 bags behind January, although there were only 22 working days in February, against 26 days in January, so that they were really heavier. In Europe they were lighter. The visible supply March 1 again shows a reduction, leaving it 716,018 bags below the highest point which was reached November 1, 1902. A notable fact is the light deliveries of mild coffee, constituting little less than 13 per cent. of the total.

The receipts at Rio and Santos were the lightest for any month since June, 1902. Prices improved slightly during the month, but at the moment the market is working lower, especially mild sorts, which are in larger supply.

The receipts at Rio for the first eight months of the trade year 1902-03 were 3,034,000 bags; at Santos, 6,660,000 bags; at both ports, 9,694,000 bags, against 12,355,000 bags in 1901-02; 8,487,000 bags in 1900-1901. During three previous semi-annual crop years the receipts for this period averaged 81 per cent. of the total crop. On this basis the total receipts for the year should be about 12,000,000 bags.

The total visible supply of the world on March 1 was 12,517,226 bags, or just about the estimated total 1902-03 crop of Brazil coffee. Highest visible, 13,233,284 bags, November 1, 1902. On March 1, 1901, it was 7,276,668 bags, so that we have an increase in three years of 5,240,598 bags. This indicates the overwhelming production in spite of annual requirements of 15,000,000 bags.

The following statement shows the February movement in detail:

Stocks, February 1, 1903—	Bags.	Bags.
United States ...	2,500,241	
Europe ...	7,346,873—	9,847,114
Receipts during February—		
United States ...	445,779	
Europe ...	803,581—	1,249,366
Total supply, March 1, 1903 ...		11,096,480
Less stocks, March 1, 1903—		
United States ...	2,324,304	
Europe ...	7,451,662—	9,775,966
Deliveries, February, 1903—		
United States ...	621,716	
Europe ...	698,798—	1,320,514
Deliveries, February, 1902 ...		928,664
Increase as compared with February 1902 ...		391,850
Deliveries, July, 1902 ...		1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902 ...		1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902 ...		1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902 ...		1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902 ...		1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902 ...		1,183,298
Deliveries, January, 1903 ...		1,407,123
Deliveries, February, 1903 ...		1,320,514

Total deliveries, eight months, 1902-03 ... 10,607,771



Total deliveries, eight months, 1902	...	10,445,973
Total deliveries, eight months, 1901	...	9,316,222
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902	...	15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901	...	14,329,925
Average deliveries, monthly year, 1902-03	...	1,293,051
Average deliveries, eight months, 1902-03	...	1,325,971

The February sales of options were 808,750 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 4'65 cents for February and March; the highest, 5'45 cents for December.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 541,619 bags were Brazil and 80,097 bags of all other sorts. Over 87 per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 13 per cent. of all other kinds.—*American Grocer*.

## MANUFACTURES OF RHEA.

The Bengal Rhea Syndicate sent some time ago a small quantity of the fibre to Germany and Switzerland and have just got out a shipment of goods made from Rhea. A visit to Messrs. Jules Karpelès & Co., No. 1, Pollock Street, who are the agents in Calcutta for the Bengal Rhea Syndicate, amply repays one for the trouble of the journey through time-worn Radha Bazaar, and its purlieus. Mr. Ballarin, the energetic Manager of the firm, takes the keenest delight in showing the visitor, as Mr. Ballarin puts it, "What can really be done with Rhea." He lays before the astonished gaze of the visitor a number of articles from fine white Rhea cord up to a suit of clothes made out of Rhea cloth. It is undeniably a marvellous selection: the most delicately coloured and finely worked ladies' shawls, gentlemen's guernseys and other underclothing, cellular shirts, velvets of different kinds and colours, tray cloths, ladies' trimmings, finely-worked laces, incandescent gasmantles and even fancy imitation straw, the latter commodity being extremely pretty and cleverly manufactured. There is put before you a bundle of long dirty yellow and green fibre, coarse and hard, and it is almost impossible to believe that this is the article from which are manufactured all these beautiful wares. The texture of the articles is fine and closely resembling in many cases silk, but the goods appear to be somewhat heavier than silk, but at the same time give the impression of being delightfully cool. Another very great thing in favour of them is that they are absolutely dhobi-proof. The latter consideration cannot but carry weight in the "land of regrets," where one of the most regrettable things is the ruthless destruction of clothing by the pernicious dhobi. The yarns made from Rhea are exceedingly strong and clean, and in quality quite surpass the ordinary yarns.

So far only the manufacture of fine kinds of clothing has been attempted owing to the syndicate not at present being in a position to send to Europe larger quantities of Rhea. They have got about five thousand acres now under Rhea cultivation and are continually extending it.

"It will be about two years before we can hope to bring the goods into the market in any large quantities," said Mr. Ballarin, "and then the syndicate hope to flood the Calcutta market with cheap, durable and dhobi-proof goods."

It is expected that Rhea will take the place of both silk and cotton in the modern markets. It is cheaper than silk, though closely resembling it, and equal in price to fine cotton, but almost fifty times as strong as, and easier to work into cloth than the latter commodity. The present price of Rhea is about the same as American cotton, and decidedly below that of Egyptian cotton. The fight, however, is expected to be chiefly with the former cotton, as it is more largely used at present.

"Silk, hemp, and linen manufactures" said Mr. Ballarin, "will be principally affected by Rhea, which never rots. You can leave it for years in water, and it will never rot. The natives use it for nets. It is marvellously strong, and is in fact supposed to be the strongest fibre in existence."

It is quite possible that the syndicate will get out a machine in the near future for the manufactures of ropes, ordinary clothes and yarns, but the majority of the finer articles of wearing apparel will have to be made in Europe.

The consignment that Messrs. Jules Karpelès & Co., have got out is not for the market, but simply to show the public the value and extreme adaptability of the fibre. The goods are on show at Messrs. Jules Karpelès' premises, where the public are invited to inspect them.—*Englishman*.

## SOUTH CAROLINA TEA GROWING.

Mr. T. R. Tighe writes in *Tea, Coffee and Sugar*:—

### TEMPERATURE VEXATIONS.

In the matter of climate, the tea plant requires an equable one. Although the Pinehurst experience shows that under otherwise favourable conditions some sorts of tea may be exposed in mid-Winter to a temperature of 20 F. and even 15 F. without serious injury, the occurrence of comparatively slight falls of temperature in the Summer season materially interferes with the production of leaf. And as the practice prevails here of plucking the suitable leaf every one to two weeks throughout the season, i.e. altogether fifteen to twenty times, (and not only three or four times, as is done in China and Japan,) the interruption to the regular periodicity assumes importance, particularly as it appears to more or less seriously affect the subsequent flushing.

With further regard to the influence of climate, the results for the past few years have shown a marked advance in production, in spite of a deficiency in rain. The observation at Charleston have exhibited a steadily decreasing rainfall from 1897 until this Winter. In 1901 this deficiency amounted to almost two-fifths of the average yearly rainfall (about fifty-six inches). In Summerville the rainfall during the season of plucking leaf, April to October (inclusive,) steadily declined from 41½ inches in 1899 to 30 inches in 1902. When this precipitation is compared with that of the Oriental tea-producing countries for the same period, viz., sixty to one hundred and more inches, it becomes quite remarkable that the production of leaf in South Carolina should be as large as it is. Perhaps the comparison may also serve as a sufficient justification for what some critics have regarded as rather too elaborate and expensive a system for the conservation of water at Pinehurst. The inequality in respect to rainfall between this section and the Eastern tea regions naturally gave rise at the beginning of the Pinehurst experimentation to the hope that an artificial equalization of the water-supply by irrigation might successfully cope with an unusual deficiency in rainfall; and with the generous assistance of the United States department of agriculture an experiment involving the planting with tea of several acres of land, the construction of a cemented reservoir capable of holding 150,000 gallons of water and the equipment of a thorough system of sub-irrigation, by open-jointed earthen pipes, a well and pump was undertaken to test this supposition. Unhappily for the value of the conception, but most fortunately for the possible deductions, it has been found that the seepage from adjacent hills has exercised a greater influence on the production of leaf than did the frequent artificial application of water; although, as the plants are yet quite young, future observations may alter this conclusion. Those of the past are termed "fortunate for possible deduction," because if tea gardens do not necessarily demand irrigation in this climate a large outlay may be spared.

### IMPORTANCE OF DRAINAGE.

Of apparently as great importance to tea cultivation, and particularly to young tea gardens, is the perfect drainage, whether naturally or artificially, of the land. Tea plants will not tolerate stagnant water at their roots for more than a brief period, (say a fortnight,) without serious injury, perhaps destruction. It therefore behoves every would-be tea planter to take the most effective steps for avoiding such a calamity, primarily by the selection of a naturally well-drained site and thus avoiding the enormous expense of artificial drainage. Again, fertility must not be lost sight of. Otherwise the expense of providing proper supplies of plant food may constitute 20 to 25 per cent. of the total cost of the crop; that is a handsome profit in itself.

As regards the local climate and its effect on different sorts of tea plants, some progress has been made in estimating their value for industrial purposes. The greatest difficulty is experienced in getting in good order tea seed from the far Orient, not more than one consignment in four or five being, on arrival, susceptible of germination. Most of the Ceylon and about one-half of the British-Indian come safely. The cause of this loss may be found in the careless preparation and packing of the seed, or in the long distance to be traversed and the exposure to extremes of heat and cold. Should the fond hope of an American tea industry be realized, it must rest on seed raised in special groves which should be cultivated for seed only; i.e., not pruned beyond what is requisite



healthy growth and whose leaves should not be plucked. In reference to Ceylon seed it may be said that it is a waste of time and money to introduce any from the lower estates; and it yet remains an open question whether that from the higher altitudes (about 6,000 feet above the level of the sea) may be profitably imported. The Assam indigenous is also very tender and unable to stand the rigors of our Winter climate, at least in the open.

#### VARIETIES OF TEA PLANTS.

The Darjeeling variety, from the slopes of the Himalayan mountains, is rather difficult to get started, but is fairly hardy; it produces well, especially in the Autumn, and makes a fine tea, preferably black. There is none better among the British-Indian teas. The Kangra, which comes from a higher altitude along the same range, is a hardy dwarfish plant and produces only small crops; it is especially adapted for the manufacture of green. It makes a very fragrant tea. Among the various tea seeds from China, the most success has been obtained with that from the "Dragon's Pool" estate, near Hangchow. It is easily grown, fairly hardy; affords remuneratively large pluckings, especially in the spring and early Summer, and may be used for the production of either green or black tea. The tea is fragrant and delicate.

The Japanese variety is quite hardy and not difficult to establish. The plants, obtained from seed received from the Japanese Government, are not dwarfish, but not free producers of leaf. At some the yield per bush of dry tea hardly exceeds one ounce per annum. It is better adapted for the manufacture of green tea, which is fragrant and very delicate. That made at Pinehurst has in its cup qualities equalled the best imported.

#### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, March 19, 1903.

The market since our last issue has not been marked by great activity. Prices, however, maintain a resolute character. The London market reports of recent date denote increased strength and firmness, the stock of Indians on February 28 being 12,125,000 lbs. less than at the same date the previous year. Exports from Calcutta to the United Kingdom will close with a deficit on last season of about 8,000,000 lbs. In Ceylons there is a good general demand and the prices were maintained at full up basis. Many of the Ceylon gardens are much below their estimate and the shipments in consequence, during March must, of necessity, be somewhat limited. The development of Ceylon green teas has been advancing with remarkable rapidity and it is estimated that upwards of 12,000,000 lbs. will be manufactured during the current year, as compared to 2,000,000 lbs. in 1902, with a probable consequent decline in black Ceylons.

MONTREAL, March 19, 1903.

The movement on the local market continues light, and prices are firm. A few orders have been received for shipment after the opening of navigation.

#### TEA IN AUSTRALASIA.

The *Australasian Grocer* reports:—

SYDNEY, March 19.—The month under review has witnessed some new developments in the tea department. Strong and exciting conditions at producing centres have practically failed to be reflected in this market. Consequently importers have made a new departure by re-exporting teas to London for sale. It has been admitted that while better class Ceylons have advanced 4d. in London, this market has remained at a similar difference below cost. During the past week a rather better feeling has been experienced, and at the moment of writing buyers are operating more freely in finer descriptions ranging up to 13d. The cardinal feature of the month, however, in tea circles has been the attempted formation of a "Tea Merchants' Association." At the outset this venture gave promise of a successful issue, but, strange to say, as soon as its objects were published, a "rift in the lute" occurred, and a number of leading importers signified their intention of withdrawing. The work of formation, however, is still going on, and at an adjourned Meeting, to be held ten days hence, some

further developments may be expected. Among the objects of the Association have been suggested a recognition of certificated brokers; the limitation of sampling at public auction sales; the regulation of public auctions; the limitation of credit; the control of imports; and other questions more or less desirable or practicable.

MELBOURNE, March 19.—The tea market may, in view of the recent long spell of low prices, be fairly considered "booming." Costs of arrivals are very high, but something nearer covering rates are being generally obtained. The better class of teas are at present paying importers, and late shipments include but few commons, the majority being of higher qualities. A slight general falling-off in quality is apparent, and it is predicted that this is likely to continue. Although the teas, generally speaking, look well, the flavour is not up to what it was some time ago. In Ceylons, Pekoe Sonchongs, costing about 7½d. to land, have fetched from 6¾d. to 7d. being against importers. Some teas improve during the voyage, and others deteriorate. On the latter the importers always expect to lose, while, of course, they have the advantage in the former. Pekoes are very firm, and prices range at late sales from 7½d. to 11d. Common Orange Pekoes sold at 9½d., while fine brought 1s. 4d. The quantity of Indians offering is small, prices being from 6½d. to 1s. It is not expected that there will be much more Indian offering before July next, when the market here opens. At Calcutta, the first sales of new season's tea take place about the end of May. The Chinas that were on the market have been nearly all cleared up, and few are left in first hands. Prices show an advance of fully ½d. on December rates, and little has been available at under 6d.

ADELAIDE, March 19.—Tea has seen good business and import figures are satisfactory. The usual demand for desirable blending sorts has been met by constant arrivals from Ceylon and India. Clean desirable teas have found purchasers at fair rates.

BRISBANE, March 14.—Our market has not yet advanced in keeping with the cabled increases from Ceylon. Some good teas are offering at 8½d. to 10d. This seems to be the limit with some members of the trade.

DUNEDIN, March 7.—The market has been very firm and with cabled reports of shortage in shipments from Ceylon, all fine teas have been held for high prices. Business is largely confined to the various blends packed by wholesale merchants, some of whom advertise extensively. Many of the retailers, however, pack very good blends themselves. The demand for pure unblended Ceylons is growing steadily.

#### ANTICIPATING THE BUDGET.

##### TEA MERCHANTS PREPARE FOR REMISSION.

The *Daily Mail* writes:—

Tea merchants are at present afflicted with what might be termed "Budget scare." They are placing great faith in a report which has been privately circulated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will remit the twopence which was added to the tax on tea in 1900, and again make the duty fourpence instead of sixpence on every pound.

The fact is hopefully recalled that when Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was in office he stated that while he could promise nothing with reference to spirits, he hoped when he was in the happy position of being able to relieve taxation to decrease the duty on tea.

Tea in bond being exempt from duty, merchants are now adopting a waiting policy, and frantic efforts have been made to lower the supplies in hand. Merchants declare that should their expectations be fulfilled a corresponding decrease will be promptly made in the price of tea sold in the shops.

Growers have been complaining that the extra duty rendered it impossible for them to continue planting with adequate profit. The following figures indicate the consequent decline in importation:—

INDIAN.				
1902-3	...	...	...	145½ million lbs.
1901-2	...	...	...	157 "
CEYLON.				
1902-3	...	...	...	96½ million lbs.
1901-2	...	...	...	99 "
1900-1	...	...	...	114½ "

Merchants allege that the remission of taxation will avert ruination of the growing trade and prevent an all-round increase of



prices to consumers. The fact that 17,000,000 lbs. of tea are sold by grocers monthly is substantial indication of the popularity of reduction.

The following are the duties imposed upon tea during the last sixty-seven years :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	s. d.		s. d.
1836 ...	2 1	1857 ...	1 5
1840 ...	2 2½	1863 ...	1 0
1850 ...	2 2½	1865 ...	0 6
1853 ...	1 10	1890 ...	0 4
1854 ...	1 6	1900 ...	0 6
1855 ...	1 9		

Sugar merchants are also transacting business cautiously, and the market shows remarkable fluctuation. In financial circles in the City there is almost unanimous belief in the Government's intention to relieve income-tax payers, if only sufficiently to show practical sympathy.

### SOUTH CAROLINA TEA GROWING.

Mr. T. R. Tighe writes in *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* :—  
II.

The Experience at Pinehurst has not been sufficient to definitely determine various questions as to growth and manufacture of tea, as well as of public taste. Not only do different parts of the same country require different styles of tea, but in the same section changes in taste occur—if slowly. For many years there has been a steady decline in the quality of tea imported into the United States, the result of a constant struggle to cheapen the price and yet to maintain the profit to both wholesale and retail dealers. All the tea world knows that the American market does not attract the better class of Oriental teas; they command so high a price that they are consumed at home, or are sold to Russia or other purchasers, who are willing to pay handsomely for luxuries. Again, there is not one American tea drinker in a thousand who could conscientiously say that he prefers the almost colourless and tasteless liquor of the highest priced teas of the far East to the common or inferior teas, which are deficient in neither astringency or colour. But the antipathy towards delicate teas is not universal, as the Pinehurst experience shows. There seems to be a growing class in this country not unwilling to pay generously for fancy teas, provided they feel convinced that their price is not unreasonable. And thus it may prove true that the product of a garden yielding a decidedly smaller crop of very delicate tea may be more profitable than a very much larger yield from the same area of an inferior quality.

Again, other things being equal, the value and cost of tea are determined by the size of the leaf plucked, viz, the younger, smaller and tenderer the leaf the finer and costlier the tea. So far as the cost is concerned, it takes many of the smaller leaves to equal the weight of a single older and tougher one. To gather enough of the tenderest part of a tea shoot to make one pound of dry tea costs as many dollars as it does cents to pluck all the leaves, as is done at the great early Summer tea gathering in China.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### SOUTH MYSORE.

The Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association was held at the Munzerabad Club, Saklaspur, on Monday, March 30th, 1903. PRESENT :—Messrs. Anderson, C.I.E., Harris (*President*), E. M. Playfair, H. M. Playfair, J. H. Robinson, Russell, Taylor, Scholfield, Pittock, Butcher, C. Lake, W. L. Crawford, J. G. H. Crawford, Dennis, de Salis, Captain Foster, T. Hunt, T. Anderson, F. Norton (*Honorary Secretary*), and P. W. Whetherall (*Honorary Member*).

Messrs. Dennis, de Salis and J. Anderson were elected members. The President then addressed the Meeting as follows: GENTLEMEN,—The past year has been an eventful one. The majority of us can congratulate ourselves on picking record crops, and though prices have struck a very low level, all estates I trust will

on the year's working finish upon the right side and many show good profits. The passing of the Madras Planters' Labour Bill by the Legislative Council of Fort St. George is an event of great moment to our community, and is the consummation of many years of struggle. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth had a difficult task to perform, as the opinion of District Associations differed considerably, and as some of them were strongly opposed in Council. With the assistance of Sir George Arbuthnot however he succeeded in carrying many points of importance, and in no way spared himself in his endeavour to shape the Bill into workable form. I feel sure this Association will, by acclamation, pass a warm vote of thanks to him. The hostility with which the Bill has been received in some quarters, and the latent, not to say belated affection, shown for Act XIII, which during the years of agitation was so strongly condemned, have been not a little remarkable. There has been a tendency to regard the Bill from an individual standpoint forgetful of the varied conditions of Labour in S. India. Doubtless anyone could suggest improvements, but taking a broad view, I recognize that what we have ever aimed at is not so much punishment for breach, as enforcement of, contracts; and also that it provides for reciprocity as regards execution of warrants, I cannot but think that we shall find it an instrument better suited to our requirements than Act XIII. I will not delay you by referring to all the objections which have been raised to the Bill, but as it is necessary for us at this Meeting to come to a definite conclusion regarding it I will draw your attention to a few of the more important. The Mysore Government has assured us that it will not introduce it without first conferring with us. We must therefore decide—

- i. whether we will pronounce in favour of it;
- ii. what modifications we shall suggest.

The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth has pointed out most clearly that though Local Governments will be allowed to make alterations to suit local circumstances, if anything opposed to the principles of the Bill were inserted, or if Act XIII were allowed to run concurrently with it, the Government of India would certainly disallow reciprocity regarding processes. We must therefore decide between the old Bill and the new, and in weighing their respective merits and demerits we must bear in mind, that though the circumstances of labour at present are easy they may again become strained the shortcomings of Act XIII as fruitful of loss and annoyance and the need of some form of extradition as urgent, as previously. Opponents of the New Bill will say let us wait till this state of things is reached, and then ask for it—but there is this to be said that by accepting it when labour troubles are few we should be able to test it dispassionately, discover its defects, endeavour to get them remedied, and thus be in a better position to meet the pinch whenever it may come. The constant attendances in Kutcherry will doubtless be vexatious and tedious, but this as far as the planter is concerned has been met by it not having been made obligatory for an agreement between a planter and a magistrate to be signed before a magistrate. No doubt the Bill is unsuitable to local labour, and though the proviso added to section 7 is an improvement it does not go far enough for us. I think, however, it should be possible without running counter to the views of the Government of India, to get our Local Governments to introduce certain clauses which would enable us to deal satisfactorily with this class of cooly and obviate his being subject to unnecessary vexation which he might be under the Bill as it stands. What I may call the inquisitorial sections 12—15 are probably anticipated with the least satisfaction. Under section 41 however rules may be made to regulate accommodation, sanitary arrangements, etc., and it should be our endeavour to induce our Local Government to frame such a will be in accordance with existing customs. It will not, I fear, be possible at this Meeting to discuss the Bill in detail, but I trust we shall come to a definite conclusion regarding the main issue as to whether we should ask for its introduction or not. This done I would suggest, should we decide in favour of it, the appointment of a small Committee to draw up a memo. of such modifications as may be desirable for submission to Government.

**Coffee Cess.**—You will have noticed that the Standing Committee have, owing in a great measure to lack of support, temporarily counselled the abandonment of this matter, not however without hope that it may be resuscitated at the Annual Meeting. Several firms of standing have expressed willingness to undertake the sale of our low-grade coffees, and what is now required is unanimity among ourselves. Many have expressed willingness to support the cess if a workable scheme be formulated, but if success is to attend



our efforts we must go further, and if I may presume to offer counsel it is this—

- i. decide definitely whether a cess is desirable or not;
- ii. and, if in favour of it, what the rate should be;
- iii. appoint a representative Managing Committee and give it *carte blanche* to deal with the funds as it may deem best.

I believe it only requires a sufficient balance in the Bank to set the matter going, but if we continue to refuse support till a cut and dried scheme is laid before us we shall never get any further.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—The Government of India has offered to subscribe Rs.5,000, provided we can raise the rest of the amount required, and it is for us to say to-day what this Association and what each of us individually are prepared to do in the matter.

**Plague.**—This terrible disease has unfortunately been very prevalent in what I may call the *maidan* portions of the Coffee districts, and has, to some extent, penetrated into the Mulnaad. The greatest possible credit is due to the officials in the Hassan District for the manner in which they have combated it, and especially to our subdivisional officer, Mr. Wetherall, who, by constant watchfulness and by wise and prompt measures, has kept Saklaspur entirely immune from it and prevented it from devastating Belur.

**Interview with Mr. Madhava Rao.**—Accounts of this have been circulated, and it only remains to record our thanks to Government for the sympathy it displayed and for sanctioning the Anjur Bridge which Mr. Madhava Rao announced at the interview. In conclusion, I beg to place my resignation in your hands, while thanking you for the support accorded me during the past year.

The Honorary Secretary read his report as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—Having kept you well informed by means of circular letters on all topics that have been of general interest to you throughout the year, I have left myself but little to report on, and so will be as concise as possible. I have to congratulate you on having picked big crops—in some instances record ones—and though prices have not so far been high, they have not been so poor as one time we feared they would be. I think the most marked feature has been the adverse brokers' reports on the quality and appearance of the first arrivals of East Indian coffee, but these are simply the result of damage caused by heavy rain occurring during the early picking. I recommend that you send to Dr. Butler, Cryptogamic Botanist to Government of India, inquiries on all points on which scientific assistance is required, and whose paper on "Stump Rot" and its Treatment I lay on the table. Prospects I believe point to fair crops for the coming year. Our members, I regret to say, have fallen from 33 last year to 28 this year. Among our losses, we have to deplore the sadly premature death of Mr. Elder, of Sumshay Estate. Plague has been a source of anxiety to all of us, but I am glad to say that I have not heard of a single case on any Coffee Estate in our district.

The New Labour Law has been prominently before us during the past few months, and has been finally passed by the Madras Legislative Council. There can be no doubt that the Bill so passed is a very great improvement on the Bill as it was first printed. This has been largely due to the conciliatory attitude of the Madras Government, no less than to the marked ability of the Planting Member, to whom I think the cordial thanks of this Association are due, for the successful and tactful manner in which he helped to bring a by no means enviable task to a satisfactory conclusion. Before the New Act is introduced into Mysore, I feel assured that we shall have an opportunity of suggesting modifications and representing our views before the Government of Mysore. Our thanks are due to H. H. the Maharajah for having deputed Mr. Madhava Rao to confer with the representatives of the S. M. P. A. and N. M. P. A. on questions affecting our industry, but as the outcome of that conference is still under the consideration of the Government of Mysore, I cannot enlarge on the subject, but we may rest assured that our suggestions will receive the most earnest attention, and a remedy applied where possible. No more courteous or sympathetic official could have been selected to confer with us.

As regards weights and measures you will be glad to hear that the Government will shortly frame rules to regulate them.

The thanks of this Association are due to Mr. W. L. Crawford, for his able and interesting, and I venture to say convincing, report on the Leeming system. The Anjur Bridge has been sanctioned and will soon be put in hand and finished.

The postal arrangements of this district have shown an improvement lately, and members will only have themselves to blame if

they allow them to lapse into the state from which they have lately emerged.

This Association has to be congratulated on the election of our President as Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Coffee Cess is still in abeyance, and I have circulated the latest information on the subject, but the knowledge that Brazil is exporting coffee to India, and underselling us in what ought to be our own markets, should stir us all to action.

The Delegate to Brazil has not yet made a start, and we shall no doubt be called upon to subscribe and supplement the grant of Rs.5,000 from the Government of India. The Shevaroy Hills Association has already set us a good example.

The accounts are placed on the table and show a cash balance of Rs.129-8-3. I would draw the attention of members to the fact that Rs.315 are still due on the subscriptions for 1902-03.

I beg to place my resignation in your hands.

The accounts were audited by Messrs. J. G. Crawford and E. M. Playfair.

Mr. J. G. Crawford proposed that the Reports and Accounts be passed.

Captain Foster seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Graham Anderson then spoke as follows:—

I desire to refrain from saying anything which would in the remotest degree lead anyone to believe that after all the trouble which has been so unsparingly bestowed on the New Labour Ordinance we did not know our own minds during the 30 years denunciation and campaign against Act XIII of 1859 which latterly had become so encrusted with judge-made law as to frustrate the very objects for which it was originally extended to the planting districts of Southern India.

The Planters' Inquiry Commission exactly explained the position, when, after the most careful investigation, it announced its matured opinion that it was eminently desirable that some equitable arrangement should be made.

In regard to Mysore, it pointed out that the Province "was under British Administration when the planting industry developed . . . . . and that the paramount power is morally bound, especially in the case of Mysore, to extend to the planting industry in Native States as full a measure of its consideration and protection as in the case of British territory. This duty seems to us to rest on a three-fold basis;—the claims of the "States concerned, the claims of the planters and the necessity for removing from the recruiting tracts in British India a temptation which is found to be creating a special class of crime."

All that the Mysore planters asked for was, in fact, that they might be accorded reciprocity in regard to the extradition of persons guilty of criminal breach of contract, which had latterly assumed a form more closely resembling cheating and embezzlement than a simple failure to fulfil contract engagements.

"The very essence of the planters' appeal was for the introduction of simple improvements which would enable them to act with patience and leniency towards those who by giving a portion of their time to work at certain periods of the year are the means of supporting industrial enterprises which have congenial employment constantly available."

The Government of India, however, has already pronounced in no uncertain manner its unalterable determination that certain specific principles must be maintained if any alteration of the existing law is to be made, and it now appears that in view of giving effect to this decision, a very complicated Ordinance is unavoidably necessary.

I cannot but think, that it is a great pity that we must now accept this new and complicated law or resign ourselves to the certainty that neither reciprocity in the matter of the working of warrants and processes emanating from Mysore Courts, nor any form of extradition can ever be conceded.

If the Labour Ordinance in Assam had a moral restraining effect, so that Act XIII was found to work far better than it ever worked in Southern India, it may reasonably be presumed that convictions arising under the New Ordinance in one part of a district may have a salutary effect on unscrupulous persons in the other portion where the Ordinance is not in force. Although this would be a very slender protection to rely upon, it is worthy of some consideration before repealing Act XIII, however unworkable that Act has been found hitherto.

We must always regard Mysore as both a labour-recruiting ground for estates in portions of British territory and also as a



Province having very large labour requirements of its own. If the New Ordinance is introduced into those planting districts of Southern India which are situated in British territory our position in Mysore, as large employers of labour, will be rendered worse than it was before, unless we elect to ask for the introduction of the New Ordinance also and as I said before, if the New Ordinance is not introduced into Mysore we can never hope for any form of reciprocity or extradition.

The Planters' Inquiry Commission accurately stated our case in the following sentence:—"The gradual disappearance of the chief difficulties under which the British planter laboured and of which he complained for a long series of years from 1865 downwards, is, in our opinion, due to his power of enforcing Act XIII of 1859, imperfect as it is, in all the tracts from which he draws his labour, while the inability of the Mysore planter to enforce the Act in British India from which he draws nine-tenths of his labour has correspondingly been the source of his ever-increasing difficulties and the just cause of his complaints."

It has often been urged by those who know nothing about the unalterable and peculiar requirements of the country, that the best solution of the planters' difficulties would be to abolish the system of giving advances.

Such persons can never have read the finding of the Planters' Inquiry Commission which was as follows:—

"We find, therefore, that however much the planters would be benefited by the abolition of the advance system, its abolition is impossible under existing circumstances and that this method of meeting the planters' difficulties cannot be regarded as practicable."

In some old letters recently published by the *Madras Mail* it was recorded that the Duke of Wellington during the time when he was conducting military operations in Mysore and Coorg had actually to give out advances for horse-gram.

The advances given by Southern India planters have been the only means by which the working peasantry have been emancipated from agrestic slavery and from the clutches of usurious money-lenders.

Even now, it is a well-known fact that the coolies in South Canara are so tied down that they can only come up into Mysore for work at certain seasons of the year and frequently have to leave their wives and families behind as security for their return in a specified period.

From a perusal of the records of the United Planters' Association of Southern India which are laid on the table, it is quite evident that several Associations are not prepared to accept the New Labour Ordinance as a satisfactory solution of their difficulties.

One position in Mysore is a very peculiar one; we are greatly dependent on labour imported from British territory to compensate for the amount of Mysore labourers which is absorbed by the requirements of estates situated in British territory. Our brother-planters in the Madras Presidency have the security of being able to demand the extradition of offenders who abscond and return to Mysore; whereas the Mysore planter is absolutely unprotected owing to the fact that warrants and processes emanating from the Courts in this Province are wholly inoperative in British territory. If extradition is ever to be conceded to us we must accept the conditions under which it can alone be granted.

However undesirable a complicated Labour Ordinance may appear to us to be, we have no alternative but to accept it if advances are to be given to maistries and coolies in British territory and we must continue to remember that even Mysore maistries and coolies who may defraud us are quite safe if they once cross the frontier line. Surrounded as this Province is by the territories of the paramount power and owing to the facilitise of railway communication, the liability to loss and constant annoyance is an ever-increasing evil which we have to contend against.

When considering the order of the Government of Madras, dated 28th November, 1893, I had the honour to point out that in Mysore the plantations are generally dotted over an immense area which is cultivated with other crops with numerous villages, the inhabitants of which have their own industries to attend to, and it would be impossible to have an Ordinance which would only affect persons residing on estates and in no way influencing the conduct of those just outside their boundaries. In some places in Southern Mysore there are large bodies of local labourers who, living in the vicinity of the plantations, attend work occasionally or regularly, but return to their own homes either daily or weekly.

It would be obviously absolutely impossible to bring such people under any complex system of arrangements.

We have absolutely nothing to do with their houses, their water supply or sanitary arrangements. They are perfectly free to arrange for their own comfort and welfare as they please, but we do everything possible to help them when ill or in difficulties as they are so useful to us in helping to maintain our industry. Many thousands have thus been emancipated from agrestic slavery, have received advances to enable them to marry and settle down and become small peasant cultivators who give a portion of their time to us on our plantations.

The majority of labourers are honest, hard-working people, but there are many unscrupulous persons in every community and while wishing to treat everybody with leniency and patience, we have all had reason to deplore our utter helplessness to protect ourselves against the special class of crime which the Planters' Inquiry Commission found was prevalent wherever advances were given out.

After what I have said, I most sincerely hope that whatever resolution we may come to, we will not be regarded as an unreasonable or unappreciative body of men.

We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Hon. Mr. Acworth and Sir George Arbuthnot for their powerful advocacy on behalf of Southern India planters generally and for their untiring exertions to do everything that was possible to insure protection alike for the labourer and the employer.

I also venture to believe that I am only expressing the sentiments of all my brother-planters in Southern Mysore when I say we most fully appreciate the care and attention which the Government of Madras has generously bestowed on the preparation of the New Act, which, although it requires certain modifications to suit the special requirements of the Mysore planting districts, is a great improvement on anything of the sort that has ever been framed.

The *Madras Mail* has rendered conspicuous service to both the planter and the cooly and we will ever gratefully remember how cordially both the Government of Madras and the leading journals of the Presidency and Bangalore have endeavoured to place the planting industry on a better footing in regard to its labour arrangements.

We cannot, of course, be expected to express any definite opinion on the provisions of the New Act until it has been most carefully studied by the combined Mysore Planters' Associations in conference with the Durbar so as to arrange for those modifications which will be essentially necessary to make it suitable for application to the planting districts of this Province.

Mr. T. Hunt alone was not in favour of the Bill at present. As more local labour was being employed, he considered that Act XII was best for us; and that we should wait and see how the new Bill works before asking for its introduction into Mysore.

Mr. Harris proposed the following Resolution: "That this Association while recognizing that the Bill as finally passed by the Legislative Council of Fort St. George in a great measure meets the requirements of the planting community, it is aware that certain modifications are desirable to meet the peculiar circumstances of labour in this Province, and it takes this opportunity of thanking the Durbar for its gracious offer to confer with us regarding such modifications, by the introduction of which the Bill is capable of being made acceptable to us."

Seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried. Mr. Hunt alone objecting.

Proposed by Mr. Hunt—"That Messrs. Anderson, Harris, Playfair, W. L. Crawford and Norton be appointed to draw up a memorandum of such modifications as may be deemed desirable."

Seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. J. G. Crawford—"That this Association desire to offer its cordial thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth for the able manner in which he assisted the passage of the Bill through the Council, and for the successful way in which he represented our interests throughout the deliberations."

Seconded by Mr. E. M. Playfair and carried unanimously.

**Reduction of Wages.**—Whose wages inquired Mr. Pittock?

Mr. Robinson proposed that one rate of wages should be paid throughout the district by members of the Association, for, as it at present stood, any member could pay what he chose. The system of groups of estates agreeing to pay the same rates had been a failure therefore he proposed one rate for the district.

Seconded by Mr. Pittock. Lost: 15 against, 4 for.



**Coffee Cess.**—Proposed by Mr. E. M. Playfair—"That those members who are not able at present to give a definite reply be requested to consult their Proprietors and Agents with a view to giving the required information in time to instruct the delegate to the next U. P. A. S. I. Meeting."

Seconded by Mr. G. Anderson and carried unanimously.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—Mr. J. G. H. Crawford proposed—"That this Association subscribe Rs.100 to the Fund and circulate a subscription list with a minimum of Rs.5."

Seconded by Captain Foster. Carried: 17 for and 2 against.

**Roads, Railways and Communications.**—Mr. W. L. Crawford hoped that the question of the railways would be kept before Government and if the main railway from Arsikerrri to Mangalore could not be undertaken, the Durbar be requested to consider the advisability of constructing a loop to connect Arsikerrri, Hassan-Saklasapur, Mudigere, Chickmagalur and Kadur.

Mr. E. M. Playfair expressed gratification that the Anjur Bridge had been sanctioned and pressed for its speedy completion, he was also pleased that the Arehully-Chickanhully had been finished, but all the Bridge across the Hessaragutta is constructed communication during the rain will continue to be suspended; and that the Honorary Secretary be directed to urge the early sanctioning of this undertaking, and draw attention to the bad state of the Arehully-Saklasapur Road and that the Belur-Gonibede Road requires re-metalling.

Mr. G. Anderson read an interesting letter signed by the leading merchants and land-owners of the district, asking him to gain the support of this Association to their urgent request for the extension of the Railway system.—Letter and reply recorded.

**U. P. A. Business.**—As the Bangalore Races are to be held unusually early this year it was resolved that this Association consider that the Annual Meeting should not take place till the first week in August.

Proposed by Mr. Robinson—"That Mr. J. G. H. Crawford should represent this Association at the next U. P. A. Annual Meeting."

Seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Mr. G. Anderson then read the following memo. on Stump Rot and Diseased beans, after which Dr. Butler's letter on Stump Rot and its Treatment was read.

I have read with great interest and attention Dr. Butler's monograph on "Stump Rot," and beg to thank the Honorary Secretary for having favoured me with a copy.

The subject is a most important one and I am naturally very glad to find we have been doing what is right in order to check the damage resulting from the pest. The soil on Coffee Estates may be said to be parasitic as it contains decaying roots and vegetable debris which are preyed upon by numerous varieties of fungi.

We are now told that the fungus which causes "Stump Rot" has been identified at Kew as *Rosellinia radiciperda* (Massee).

I recently had the pleasure of sending extracts from the Kew Bulletin for 1895, to the Wynaad Planters' Association, which gave information relative to the Pepper disease in Munzerabad. I ventured to express the opinion that the information afforded pointed to the probability of the Pepper disease being caused by some form or variety of "Stump Rot."

The description of the scourge as forwarded to Kew was as follows:—

"It is not the Pepper alone that is attacked, but even saplings and undergrowth of the forest trees which spring up very rapidly, suffer also. All over the plantation, at various points, this disease attacks these young saplings in patches of from 5 to 10 or 15 yards square and I may say kills them outright. This has led me to think it must be of a fungoid nature."

The Kew authorities in reply said:—

"The disease singularly enough is closely allied to that causing serious damage to vines and orchard trees in Europe;—*Dematophora necatrix*."

As some parts of this Pepper Plantation were formerly affected by Anbury or Club-root, it is interesting to note that the use of quicklime is recommended for both diseases.

In regard to Club-root the investigations already made at Kew have proved;—

"That the development of the *Plasmodiophora* is favoured by the presence of acids and checked by the presence of alkalis."

The action of certain manurial applications is thus specified;—  
—Worthington Smith.

**Manures used.**

	Total diseased plants.
Ground coprolite	11
Do. do. and bone ash	16
Superphosphate	51
No phosphate	45
Steamed bone flour	16
Coprolite and steamed bone flour	3

I venture to think this is very interesting and may possibly account for the good results noticed after the application of Basic slag to coffee.

At page 35 of my list of "Forest Trees in Southern Mysore" (1888), I stated as follows:—

"When this tree (*Murragad*) dies or is felled, a lot of coffee is generally killed out around the decaying stump. A similar occurrence is noticeable with the Charcoal, Yellegah, Kenjaree, Taree, Marglee and Cul Sedlay."

Professor Marshall Ward has recently published several valuable papers in "Nature" on "Timber and some of its diseases" in which he draws attention to the fact that the fungi *Agaricus melleus* and *Trametes radiciperda* travel from tree to tree by means of the roots in contact and he recommends that a ditch be cut around the affected area so as to prevent the wanderings of the rhizomorphs in the soil.

Deep digging and frequent renovation pitting in Mysore, with the application of lime have also been found to have a beneficial effect.

An American plan of getting rid of stumps is worthy of a trial where circumstances permit. A hole is bored with a large auger in the stump in a diagonal direction and filled with nitrate of potash and a little water and then plugged with clay. The following season the hole is cleaned out and filled with kerosene oil. After a day or two, fire is applied and every root, however deep in the soil is burnt out. Dr. Butler sounds a note of warning about *Grevillea robusta*. We have some of the oldest in the Mysore Mulnad planted nearly 30 years ago. They are still in perfect health, but the danger occurs when they are cut down.

It is a fact that the *Grevillea* is killed out sometimes by Stump Rot, but as far as local experience can be trusted, the disease is communicated to it from the decaying stump of some old forest tree.

In one place recently examined by me there were dead *Grevillea robusta*, *Cedrela microcarpa*, and *Artocarpus integrifolia* trees all near the decayed stump of a *Carruga pinnata*.

It is indeed fortunate that substances are only food for fungi during certain stages of decomposition and after they have become thoroughly disintegrated they form manure or food for the higher orders of plants. The great object therefore appears to be to hasten complete disintegration and in regard to decaying stumps this is best effected by deep disturbance of the soil and the application of lime as indicated by Dr. Butler. Dr. Butler says it would be useful to obtain a list of such trees as are found commonly to start the disease and also one of these trees which are good for shade and exempt from the pest.

As a humble contribution to these lists, I beg to specify some of those which are known in this district.

**Subject to Stump Rot.**

Yellagah	Cinnamomum iners.
Gwodan	Garruga pinnata.
Howligay	Acrocarpus flaxinifolius.
Rarman Adeca	Myristica magnifica.
Raree	Terminalia belerica.
Goorcul	Sponia Wightii.
Mundhupa	Canarium Strictum.
Kul Geragay	Soymida febrifuga.
Beetee	Dalbergia latifolia.
Davegherry	Chickrassia (?)
Murragad	?
Cul Sedlay	?
Marglee	?

**Good Shade Trees for Coffee.**

Gonee	Ficus mysorensis.
Kurry Busree	Do. infectoria.
Cub Busree	Do. Tjakela.
Uttee	Do. glomerata.
Mullay Gerguttee	Do. (P)
Wartee	?
Whotungay	Albizia (P)



Hulsen ... .. Artocarpus integrifolia.  
Gobra Nairul ... .. Bischoffia Javanica.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure to read an extract from a letter which Dr. Butler has very kindly favoured me with from which you will learn that the spotted coffee berries about which so much has been written and imagined are not caused by hail or leaf-disease but are probably the result of some alteration in the nutrition of the embryo.

As the silver skin is not formed until the substance of the bean is partially developed the check caused by the sudden shedding of the leaves of certain undesirable shade trees just about the period when the silver skin is being formed, may possibly be one of the causes of such alteration of nutrition. This, however, is only an opinion which I have ventured to entertain.

I beg to invite inspection of samples of Grevillea and White Cedar wood affected by a stump of Garruga pinnata. Although all the wood of the decayed stump has entirely disappeared the bark of its roots was still present in the soil. I have also prepared some specimens of the fungoid filaments from which the damage results.

I have the honour to propose a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Butler, the Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India, for his great kindness in helping our community with such useful scientific information.

#### Stump Rot on Tea and Coffee.

The history of the ordinary cases of stump rot as I have seen it on one Coffee estate in Coorg and on numerous Tea gardens in Assam and Dehra (there being little doubt from what I have seen that the Tea and Coffee diseases are for all practical purposes identical) is as follows:—

A shade tree is cut down or more commonly "ringed" and the stump left to rot in the ground. Some time afterwards, it may be in a few weeks or perhaps not for eighteen months or more, the tea or coffee bushes next adjacent to the site of the stump begin to wither and die off. Then a circle further out dies, and year by year the circle grows. On exposing the roots, the old stump is seen to have undergone a peculiar rot which results in a condition by which the outer layers become converted into a soft mass of earth and bark in which whitish cobweb-like patches can be seen here and there. This rot, which usually begins at the base of the tree stump, extends out along the main roots to where these adjoin the roots of a tea or coffee bush. These latter take the rot and if they are dug out before quite dead, it will be noticed that a knife can be driven in quite easily for an inch or so into the bark of the "collar," with which earth and white patches are found intermingled just as on the tree stump. Having once attacked the coffee roots the rot can pass from root to root even across a few inches of earth and can apparently extend indefinitely. The cause of the disease is a fungus which has been identified at Kew as *Rosellinia radiciperda* (Masse). Though it is possible that this may commence its destructive action by directly attacking a living coffee root, no such case has yet been proved, so far as I know, and certainly the usual thing is that the fungus requires to start on a dead root of some shade tree until having acquired a certain vigour by living on the dead roots, it can then pass on to attack living ones. What you refer to as "mealy bug" may be instances of direct attack without any intervention of a rotting stump, since from your description it closely resembles the condition produced by *Rosellinia radiciperda* in some cases which I have seen.

The evil appears to be on the increase and instances have been reported from Assam of the stumps left on clearing the jungle in opening out new gardens, taking the rot and killing off much of the tea two or three years after the clearing was effected.

In dealing with the matter the first thing to be borne in mind is that certain trees only serve to originate the rot. In the tea districts these trees are gradually getting known and there is a tendency to avoid them as much as possible. Two which have been found very commonly to start the disease are the silver oak (*Grevillea*) and the Bor (*Ficus elastica*). It would be of great value to obtain a list of such trees for the coffee districts by circularising the planters whose estates are known to be affected. Where the tree is not known specimens of leaves, flowers and fruit, pressed between blotting paper and sent to me, will serve for identification. Unfortunately the *Grevillea* is of value on account of its copious leaf production. Still if, as I suspect, it be found as dangerous in South India as in Assam it will have to be abandoned and I cannot

but think, taking into account the great richness of the Forest flora of India, its replacement by an equally good shade tree will not be a difficult matter. The Dalbergias should be avoided, for even if they do not affect coffee, the Sheisham (*Dalbergia latifolia*, Kanarese *Biti*, Tamil *Iti*) itself suffers from a root fungus very similar to *Rosellinia radiciperda* which kills many trees in Dehar and which I saw destroying trees in a Coorg coffee estate.

I do not think you could fail to have opinions of great value from planters whose estates are badly diseased for some years as to what trees may be recommended as insusceptible to rot, and I am clear that the question of what shade to employ is one of very great importance not alone as regards stump rot, which I repeat is increasing, but also from the influence certain trees exert on the coffee growing under them.

When the disease has appeared the treatment is to run a trench two feet deep and one foot wide around the infected area remembering, since the rot commences some time before the bush shows signs of it above ground, to include one row of healthy bushes within the trench. If this measure be taken immediately the disease is detected a loss of not more than half-a-dozen bushes may be secured. Where large lateral roots from the stump are encountered on running the trench it should be carried further out but small roots of an inch or two in diameter are not likely to start the disease if the trench be early made, and when divided by the trench may safely be left to rot beyond its limits.

The longer the disease be left to progress the greater the danger of the fungus getting established from the centre along the smaller roots of the stump and the greater the need to carry the trench far enough out to include these roots. The trench should be drained, as it appears probable that the fungus can pass across it if allowed to remain full of water.

Once the trench is made and the bushes within it have ceased to bear they should be pulled out and the ground well turned over to a depth of at least two feet, several times, and lime mixed with it. If lime cannot be used (it appears to be harmful to tea and may be so to coffee) a little sulphur or a solution of iron sulphate which is cheap and may be used in 5 per cent. solution (1 oz. to the pint) can be relied on to destroy the fungus. Then after a year the diseased area may safely be replanted.

E. J. BUTLER,

*Cryptogamic Botanist to the Govt. of India.*

A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Anderson and Dr. Butler and carried unanimously.

The following Resolution was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously:—"We deplore and indignantly repudiate the insolent insinuations made by Mr. Shapurjee the Chairman of the Native Shares, Stock, Exchange and Bullion Brokers of Bombay, as being wholly unmerited by Tea, Coffee and Indigo planters, and as being a lamentable departure from the admirable traditional characteristics of the Parsee community to which he belongs."

The Ballot papers were opened and the following gentlemen were elected:—Messrs. Harris (*President*), F. Norton (*Honorary Secretary*). COMMITTEE—Messrs. G. Anderson, C.I.E., J. G. H. Crawford, W. L. Crawford, T. Hunt, E. M. Playfair.

The following placed on the table:

Shevaroy Hills Planters' Association Proceedings.

Do. do.

Coorg Planters' Association Proceedings.

Nelliampathy Planters' Association Proceedings.

Wynaad Planters' Association Proceedings.

Central Travancore Planters' Association Proceedings.

After a vote of thanks to the President, who replied the Meeting closed.

#### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

Extract from Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on 7th April, 1903.

*Correspondence with Indian Tea Association, London.*—Letters dated 6th, 13th, and 20th March, from Mr. Ernest Tye, Secretary. Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration and disposal after previous circulation. The principal matters dealt with in these letters were:—

*Insurance against Hail.*—In his letter, dated 30th January, Mr. Tye mentioned that the London Committee were endeavouring to obtain information respecting damage to tea crops by hail in



order to form a basis on which to effect Insurance against this risk. A copy of a circular which had been issued to Proprietors in London was also forwarded for information.

In his letter of 6th March Mr. Tye stated that the returns received in response to the circular had been summarised, and arrangements had been made to include this risk for an additional half per cent. on the current rates of Marine Insurance, the whole premium being subject to a discount of 10 per cent. in the usual way. The Insurance clause was worded as follows:—

"In the event of any crop being damaged by Hail, the Assured's Garden Manager shall forthwith summon two neighbouring planters who shall certify to the area so damaged (in acres) and furnish an estimate of the loss consequent thereon (in lbs.—4 lbs. green leaf being considered the equivalent of 1 lb. made tea), and within three calendar months shall furnish the Insurers with a statement showing the actual outturn from the affected area, also from the areas of similar dimensions on each side (or as near thereto as possible) of the affected area. The Insurers will then be liable for the loss in outturn reasonably attributable to the hail-storm, not exceeding 1 maund per acre of the whole area insured, and will further pay a survey fee (as per scale) to each of the two planters who shall have certified to the damage.

"The Assured omitting or neglecting to give notice to the Insurers by next ensuing mail of any damage occurring through hail shall forfeit all right to claim under this insurance."

With the London Committee's letter of 20th March an amended clause was forwarded stating that Gardens would be allowed to submit their statements of outturn at the end of the season instead of within three calendar months of the occurrence of the damage.

**British Import Duty on Tea.**—In the letter of 20th March reference was made to a statement appearing in the *Westminster Gazette* of 16th March to the effect that twopence per pound of tea during the next financial year was as much as could be hoped for, though it was doubtful if so much could be taken off.

The General Committee were pleased to note that there was a likelihood of some relief being afforded to the Tea Industry. And,

as the Imperial Budget would in all probability be placed before the House of Commons during the present month, the Secretary was instructed to address an urgent reminder to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, soliciting early consideration of an action being taken in regard to the copy of the Memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer submitted to them in January last.

It was decided to address an enquiry to the Government of India as to the correctness or otherwise of this information, as, if true, it would mean a serious differentiation against Indian tea.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated April 3rd, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	1,323,185	949,395	69,825
1901-1902	1,438,239	976,113	66,231

36,350 pkgs. INDIAN }  
25,763 " CEYLON } Total 65,116 packages were offered in public auction  
3,003 " JAVA } this week.

Nearly ten million lbs. less Indian tea arrived in this country from the commencement of the season to the end of March than during the same period last season, while the arrival of Ceylon tea was nearly one million lbs. less. Indications point to a further shortage in the latter growth, and, of course, very little more Indian Tea can come over this season.

The Budget is to be taken on the 23 instant.

INDIAN.—The slightly increased quantity brought forward was readily absorbed by the Trade at improving rates, all descriptions selling well, an advance of about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. being established on

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# CONQUERS PAIN



the lower grades. Only 29,766 packages are advertised for the 6th instant, which will be the last sale before Easter. Exports to U. K. for 2nd half of March 365,000 lbs., against 264,000 lbs. last year; total from 1st April, 1902, 145,469,000 lbs. against 152,515,800 lbs.

Southern India has been well represented in the auctions during the last fortnight or so, 2,601 packages being brought forward this week, and 1,596 last week; these teas are deriving considerable benefit from the recent advance in the market.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 30,238 pkgs., av. 8'00d. 1902, ——— pkgs., av. ———d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,019,255 pkgs., av. 7'47d. 1901-2, 1,133,184 pkgs., av. 7'74d.

CEYLON.—The sale was rather a heavy one, comprising 25,763 packages, against 17,846. In spite of this the market was strong for all descriptions up to 8d per lb., the lower grades showing a further advance; medium and better teas were somewhat irregular, good Broken Pekoes being a rather weak market. Only 17,941 packages are printed for the 7th instant, the last auction before Easter. Exports to U. K. for March 7,500,000 lbs., against 8,500,000 lbs.; 1st January to end of March 23,250,000 lbs., against 25,750,000 lbs. last year.

Average for week 7'79d, against 7'01d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 253,894 pkgs., av. 7'65d. 1902, 279,570 pkgs., av. 7'16d.

JAVA.—The comparatively large quantity sold with good competition at full prices. The next auction will be held about the 23rd instant.

### CINCHONA.

Of 25 bales Maracaibo 5 sold at 8d to 9d per lb. for good bright flat, being dearer; 19 bales fair bright silvery Calisaya quill sold

at 6½d to 6½d per lb. The N. V. Nederl. Veem. reports the shipments from Java to Europe during March at:—

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	1,050,000	1897 ...	504,000
1902 ...	691,000	1896 ...	557,000
1901 ...	875,000	1895 ...	449,000
1900 ...	650,000	1894 ...	522,000
1899 ...	977,000	1893 ...	626,000
1898 ...	700,000		

### Total Shipments January-March.

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	2,304,000	1897 ...	1,350,000
1902 ...	2,155,000	1896 ...	2,073,000
1901 ...	2,623,000	1895 ...	1,862,000
1900 ...	1,906,000	1894 ...	1,873,000
1899 ...	2,025,800	1893 ...	1,881,000
1898 ...	2,356,000		

### QUININE.

Quinine has been inactive in second hands. For August delivery a few sales are reported at 1s 0½d to 1s 0¾d, and on Wednesday there were sellers at the lower figure.

### CARDAMOMS.

Cardamoms met with a dragging market, and prices were easier inclined, at the following rates:—Ceylon-Mysore: Good bold palish smooth, 3s; bold medium pale, 1s 10d to 2s; fair medium to palish, 1s 5d to 1s 8d; medium pale split, 1s 7d; small and medium pale, 1s 1d to 1s 2d; bold shelly, 1s to 1s 1d; peas, 1ld; brown splits and pickings, 10d to 1s. *Seeds* sold at from 1s 2d to 1s 4d per lb. *Tellicherry*, long brownish three-arched fruit, 1s 5d to 1s 6d; medium ditto, 1s 3d; small and medium, 1s; dark reddish, 10d to 1ld per lb. It is said that India has bought largely of late, but a fair quantity is arriving on the London market just now.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8'00d., APRIL 3RD.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ...	304	7'53												
Curzon ...	99	7			45	7	21	8			20	6½	13	6½
New Hope ...	124 p	7½	51 p	8 9	35	7½			26	7			12½c	7½
Pillay Mallay ...	40	8¾	40	8 9½										
Vellingherry ...	41	7¾			22	7½	15	8½	4	6½				
Travancore ...	2192	7'14												
Arnakal ...	151 p	7½	39	8¾	84	7	17	7½					11½c	6½
Atcheneoil ...	43 p	7	18	7½	9	6¾			3	6½			12½c	5½ 6¾
Cherian Mallay ...	40	6½			14	6½	9	6½	11	6	1	5½	6½c	5½
Ellangy ...	115 p	6½			54	6½	20	6½	29	7½			12½c	5¾
Fairfield ...	130 p	7	25	7½	52	6¾ 7	25	7½	7	6½			21½c	6
Glenmary ...	135	6½	70	6½ 6½			35	7	10	6			20	6½
Kan. Dev. H Co S...	508	7½	152	7½ 8½	164	7½	82	7½	70	6¾			40	5½ 6¾
„ Yellapathy ...	154	7½	41	7½	36	7	44	9	28	6¾			5	5½ 6
Malabar ...	8½c	6½					8½c	6½						
Merchiston ...	76 p	6¾	27	7½ 7½	37	6½ 6½					7½c	6½	5½c	5¾
Riviera ...	47	5¾			35	5½	12	6						
S I T Co Kud Ka ...	90	7	38	7			33	7½	19	6½				
S T T Co Venture ...	124 p	7½			74	7	42	7½					8½c	5½
Surianalle ...	170½c	7½	80½c	7½ 8	50½c	7			23½c	6½			17½c	5½ 6¾
T T E Co Bon Am...	99	7½	44	7½ 7¾	33	7	22	7½						
„ Kolie Ksanum...	92	7½	43	7½ 9	22	7½			17	6½			10	6½
„ Mount ...	96	7	6	7½	31	6¾	33	7½	5	6½			16	6¾
Vembenard ...	114	7	41	7½	56	6¾					5	6¾	17	6¾
Wynaad ...	409	7'05												
Arrapetta T Co A...	94	7½	70	7½ 7½	24	7								
Golesland ...	84 p	7	22½c	8½	16	6¾	20	7	9	6½			17½c	7
Perindotty A T E...	22	6									22	6		
Pootoomulla ...	86 p	7½	31½c	8½			33	7½			22	6¾		
Wynaad T Co Per...	123 p	7			43½c	7	40½c	7 7½	20	6¾	20	6½		

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1903.

[No. 18.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 8th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*April 28th.—Weather*—Breeze set from the South, changing to West. Heavy showers fell last Saturday, gauging .70 to .75, and at Saklaspur .35. These are considered favourable showers for coffee. *Coffee prospects*—Good for an average crop. *Works*—Pruning and manuring. *Interesting item*—Jemmabundi officers are now going round.

#### PUSHING INDIAN TEA IN INDIA.

On another page we give the report of the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission for the first half of the period for which it was formed. This report gives details of work up to 31st March last. It does not strike us as quite so encouraging as earlier reports. There has been expansion, but the rate of progress does not appear sufficiently rapid. With new branches and agencies opening out month after month we might fairly hope to see an ever-increasing ratio of enhanced offtake. The trade is in its infancy, there is a wide field before it, and as the Commission grows stronger and lustier it should increase rather than reduce the rate of progress. We make these remarks with no desire to be pessimistic. Not only is our full sympathy with the Commissioners but we consider that they have done admirable work. Yet, if only to counteract the ultra-optimistic tone of the report under notice, it is as well to note that the success achieved up to the present time has exercised a scarcely perceptible increase in the demand for Indian teas in India. The means adopted for securing the object of the scheme, *viz.*, an increased consumption of Indian tea in India, have been varied, including:—Sale of Dry Leaf in pice

packets, tins, boxes, and chests; sale of Brewed Tea in cup by street hawkers, and at Depôts, Stalls, and on Railway platforms; sale of tea through Branch Postmasters; opening of Tea Shops; demonstrations at Fairs and *Mélas*, where the method of brewing tea has been explained; Travelling Agents; Newspaper advertisement and Pamphlets; prize packet distribution; personal discussion and correspondence; the area covered has been very extensive, tea in some form or other having been put within the reach of over 2,000 villages and towns in India. The number is not very large, if the greater part represents villages. As for the classes reached, we cannot but think that the Commissioners have indulged in clap-trap in placing on record the fact that these “are varied, embracing the Prince, the Clerk, the Student, the Railway traveller, the Theatre-goer, the Policeman, the Collier, the Indigo ryot, the Mill worker, the Jute cultivator, the Dock labourer, the Dweller in the jungle, and the Man in the street.”

The real interest of the report lies in the indications it affords as to the extent to which tea has been already sold by the Commission, and its probabilities as to future development. Summarising the general results obtained, we find them shown as follows:—Development of Official and non-Official sympathy with the Tea Industry; increasing demand for Tea in India; education of the Indian consumer, with resulting lessened demand for rubbish; increased European and Indian trading in Tea in India. It is remarked that the support accorded, viewed in the light of what was promised, is disappointing, but the approaching imposition of a compulsory Tea Cess has probably deterred many would-be supporters from contributing. But the above statement of general results is not so convincing as to stimulate confidence in the methods of the Commission. As a matter of fact, in eighteen months, the Commission disposed of 430,480 lbs. and the cost of working was Rs.80,000. Now, 300,000 lbs. per annum is not a very large quantity, and we must remember that some portion of this probably replaces trade that has been wrested from other hands. A great deal of the demand filled is no doubt new, but not all. Taking it all as new, however, it is not very important, and the most favourable view possible would seem to show that it has cost Rs.80,000 to sell tea of the value of less than Rs.120,000, though only 25 per cent. of this tea had to be paid for. Further Rs.86,000 is still available, so there is a fair prospect of the work being



continued for another eighteen months; and this second period will apply a more reliable test than the first eighteen months.

Our chief dissatisfaction with the present report has its origin in a belief that the glowing view taken in it of results up to date are not justified by the facts recorded. Take the statistics of pice packets as an example. The demand increases as is shown by the following statement:—

	1901-2.	1902-3.
August ...	Nil	1,71,088
September ...	45,901	2,03,580
October ...	82,588	2,03,894
November ...	86,521	2,10,155
December ...	64,327	2,20,107
January ...	1,11,640	2,30,983
February ...	1,35,038	..
March ...	67,298	..
April ...	1,09,761	..
May ...	1,91,660	..
June ...	1,95,743	..
July ...	2,07,589	..

Note how little increase there was between July 1902 and January 1903 as compared with the rapid development in the first seven months of the Commission's work. Omitting the first two months, during which, the organisation of arrangements must have taken up a large share of the Commissioners' time, we divide the remaining sixteen months into blocks of four and show total sales in each block:—

October 1901 to January 1902	... 345,076
February 1902 to May 1902	... 503,757
June 1902 to September 1902	... 778,000
October 1902 to January 1903	... 865,139

The rate of increase has fallen in the case of the last block; even the actual increase of sales is smaller than in any previous instance. As regards Brewed Tea a similar division into blocks shows for the above periods, respectively, 70,525 lbs.; 133,709 lbs.; 175,998 lbs.; and 213,383 lbs.—very similar results to those shown above. The pace has slackened, and it ought not to have done so. The actual increase of sales and even the ratio of increase might well have been expected to grow steadily, and the fact that this has not been the case appears to us to call for explanation, not for the highly-coloured report that is quoted in our U. P. A. S. I. section to-day.

### COLLAPSE OF A COFFEE CORNER.

It is reported from London that on the 4th instant coffee sold on the New York Coffee Exchange at under 2d. per lb., which is certainly the lowest price in the history of the market. The New York *Herald* explains that this means that the famous Lewisohn corner has burst. The late Leonard Lewisohn, banker and copper speculator, in 1901 undertook to create a corner. He was backed by Rockefeller and other Standard Oil magnates, and they 'bulled' coffee, and bought an enormous crop. Surplus coffee, however, is being produced, and Lewisohn's sons are now liquidating, with a loss during a few days of at least a million sterling. A commission, headed by Mr. Percy O'Sullivan, president of the New York Coffee Exchange, is arranging for an active propaganda, for the diffusion of literature in favour of the spread of coffee abroad, and chiefly in the British Empire, where coffee will be pitted against tea. Thus out of evil good may come; but it is to be feared that the withdrawal of the "bull" influence from coffee "futures" will have a temporarily depressing influence on prices.

### THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

MARCH 1903.

**Cocoa (raw).**—A glut of supply in the United Kingdom during March caused the bonded stock of this article to suddenly leap beyond that of last year.

In the first three months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... lbs.	17,867,435	22,434,130	16,280,062
Home consumption ... "	11,264,843	19,702,923	16,795,606
Exports ... "	3,230,359	3,244,660	2,292,702
Stocks in bond ... "	13,742,000	12,360,000	14,200,000
Value of imports ...	£520,987	£665,326	£495,885
Do. exports ...	104,188	90,622	78,732

**Cocoa (prepared).**—Nearly all amounts exceeded those of a twelvemonth back.

In the first three months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... lbs.	2,638,457	2,239,511	2,094,562
Home consumption... "	2,469,089	2,223,492	2,046,142
Exports ... "	114,629	195,029	206,572
Stocks in bond ... "	132,000	72,000	169,000
Value of imports ...	£262,456	£233,583	£205,281
Do. exports ...	13,387	20,270	22,195

**Coffee.**—Deliveries for home use are very poor, and the stock in bond is almost double that in 1902.

In the first three months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... cwts.	492,878	305,652	370,217
Home consumption... "	69,089	85,610	102,401
Exports ... "	146,901	51,148	131,363
Stocks in bond ... "	800,000	429,000	439,000
Value of imports ...	£1,401,507	£896,760	£1,238,172
Do. exports ...	372,706	151,867	396,094

**Chicory.**—Here also the consumption again declined.

In the first three months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... cwts.	22,984	26,566	30,795
Home consumption... "	19,857	24,742	26,447
Exports ... "	50	55	278
Stocks in bond ... "	8,000	10,000	16,000
Value of imports ...	£10,791	£11,815	£14,320
Do. exports ...	53	57	287

**Tea.**—Home clearances came far short of those in March, 1902, as also did the grand total for the first quarter of the present year, and both the landings and stocks were comparatively light.

In the first three months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China ... lbs	3,601,396	4,557,343	3,061,394
Do. British East India ... "	32,737,447	40,322,067	43,412,394
Do. Ceylon ... "	22,824,658	27,809,385	30,756,648
Do. Other countries... "	4,918,994	4,556,486	3,207,185
Total imports ... "	64,082,495	77,245,281	80,437,621
Home consumption—China. lbs.	3,067,340	3,663,189	3,304,224
Do. do. B. E. I. ... "	34,855,103	45,153,204	61,127,554
Do. do. Ceylon ... "	17,438,479	21,201,188	29,885,101
Do. do. O. C. ... "	2,056,866	2,436,759	1,876,181
Total ... "	57,417,788	72,454,340	96,193,060



In the first three months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Exports—China ... lbs.	2,985,482	2,396,307	3,088,449
Do. British East India „	2,863,094	3,395,469	3,694,517
Do. Ceylon „	3,894,330	3,483,758	4,300,274
Do. Other countries „	355,281	281,160	453,100
Total ... „	10,098,187	9,556,694	11,536,340
Stocks in bond ... lbs.	103,654,000	108,788,000	92,094,000
Value of imports ...	£1,977,394	£2,466,915	£2,551,576
Of which British Indian ...	1,019,767	1,337,647	1,400,287
Do. Ceylon ...	707,783	868,715	956,240
Value of exports ...	435,505	398,900	449,540

## U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

INDIAN TEA MARKETS EXPANSION  
COMMISSION.

## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

The Commission having now completed the first half of the period (ending 31st January, 1903), for which it was formed, a brief general review of the working will, it is thought, prove of more interest than a detailed report.

The means adopted for securing the object of the scheme, *viz.*, an increased consumption of Indian tea in India, have been varied, including:—Sale of dry leaf in pice packets, tins, boxes and chests, sale of brewed tea in cup by street hawkers, and at depôts, stalls, and on railway platforms; sale of tea through Branch Postmasters; opening of tea shops; demonstrations at fairs and *mêlas*, where the method of brewing tea has been explained; Travelling Agents; newspaper advertisement and pamphlets; prize packet distribution; and personal discussion and correspondence.

The area covered has been very extensive, tea in some form or other having been put within the reach of over 2,000 villages and towns in India.

The classes reached are varied, embracing the prince, the clerk, the student, the railway traveller, the theatre-goer, the policeman, the collier, the indigo ryot, the mill worker, the jute cultivator, the dock labourer, the dweller in the jungle; and the man in the street

The results obtained may be summarised as—development of official and non-official sympathy with the tea industry; increasing demand for tea in India; education of the Indian consumer with resulting lessened demand for rubbish; increased European and Indian trading in tea in India.

The support accorded, viewed in the light of what was promised, is disappointing, but the approaching imposition of a Compulsory Tea Cess has probably deterred many would-be supporters from contributing. The cost of working is approximately Rs 80,000 for the eighteen months. The resources still available roughly amount to Rs 86,000

**Pice Packets.**—The demand increases; 2,537,873 packets having been sold from August 1901 to January 1903. The packets are sold in any part of India at one pice each, as in Calcutta.

**Brewed Tea.**—The improvement shown in the last report is maintained, a total of 608,625 cups having been reached.

**Delhi Durbar.**—Advantage was taken of the Durbar at Delhi to bring Indian tea prominently before the thousands of people gathered together on that memorable occasion. Temporary depôts, in charge of two Europeans, were opened in several of the camps and in the city, where brewed and dry teas were

on sale, and a large staff of men also vended brewed tea in the streets. The demonstration was a great success, and was referred to by the correspondent of one of the leading papers, as follows:—

“Others were disporting themselves in roundabouts and merry-go-rounds, more were munching sweetmeats which you will be glad to hear they were washing down with copious draughts of tea brewed from the contents of the Tea Expansion Commission's pice packets. This tea enjoys an extraordinary vogue, and I believe there is more tea being drunk in Delhi at the present moment than in any town in Asia. Lord Curzon's motto, ‘Indian tea for Indians,’ appears to be working out most successfully, and I shall not be surprised if the Durbar results in a great fillip being given to the local consumption of tea. The water is not good in Delhi, and besides the people from the plains crave for a hot beverage. Tea is easily and cheaply procurable, and as it is palatable its popularity is spreading, despite of prejudice. The visitors are sure to take the taste back with them to their homes.”

**Calcutta Coronation Festivities.**—On the occasion of the feeding of the poor on the Calcutta *maidan*, the Commission provided brewed tea, free of charge, and about 85,000 cups were taken, an eloquent testimony to the growing popularity of the beverage.

**Official and non-Official Opinion.**—One thousand five hundred copies of the previous report were printed and the greater number distributed amongst subscribers, the Press and others interested in the movement. The following taken from some of the opinions are encouraging:—

**His Excellency the Viceroy.**—“The Viceroy has read, with pleasure, the report on the working of the Tea Expansion Commission. His Excellency has noticed the satisfactory progress made, and wishes you continued success.”

**The Governor of Madras.**—“Read the report with great interest, and considers the progress made highly satisfactory, and the remarkably regular and rapid increase in the sale of pice packets and cups of brewed tea, augurs well for the future realization of the Viceroy's suggestion that you should endeavour to make tea the staple drink of the Indian artizan.”

**The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.**—“Congratulations on the progress which as shown in the report, your Commission has already made.”

**Under-Secretary to Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.**—“Congratulate the Commissioners on the considerable success already attained, and on the expectation the figures give of large increase of sales.”

**Director-General of Statistics.**—“Note, with satisfaction, the great and encouraging measure of success which attended your vigorous and well-directed operations. Trust the business will continue to prosper in an increasing degree.”

**Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London.**—“Read the report with much interest showing the satisfactory progress that has been made.”

**Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.**—“The General Committee note with satisfaction the progress which has been made.”

**Education of Indian Consumer.**—The superior quality of the tea issued by the Commission to that formerly procurable in the bazaars, is slowly but surely educating the Indian public to distinguish between good and bad. Every encouragement is given to independent hawkers and stall-keepers to sell good tea, many of whom have been instructed in the correct method of brewing, and allowed to purchase sound leaf in the smallest quantities to ensure freshness.

**Increased European and Indian Trading in Tea in India.**—Amongst the most successful and far-reaching results of the Commission, is the undoubted stimulus it has given to European



and Indian enterprise in developing the trade in tea within the Empire. On all sides there has been a general awakening to the fact that the trade is worth attention, and that Lord Curzon was not wildly romancing when he described India as "the most splendid market of the world" for Indian tea. The more competition that can be brought into the arena, the sooner will the securing of this "most splendid market" become an accomplished fact.

Messrs. Brooke, Bond & Company, Limited, are now actively competing for the trade in India. Quite recently a Director of the Company interviewed the Commissioners who assured him that they cordially welcomed the addition of his Company to the exploiting power of the Indian market. The well-known Lipton is also pushing Indian tea in India more vigorously than ever, and other European distributing agencies are showing increased activity. Several European-owned Estates are also supplying tea in packets or boxes direct from the garden, and generally a tide of co-operation is setting in, which cannot but be regarded with the greatest satisfaction.

The Commission, however, has not only stimulated European trading in tea, but has aroused the interest of the Indian shopkeeper. This community is beginning to get the idea that it will pay to handle tea. The Commissioners are doing their utmost to foster the trade in this direction, by giving every possible facility to those who make the venture. They are pleased to report that during the past three months a large number have followed the lead given by the Commission and are now vending brewed and leaf tea on their own account.

*Support received to 31st January, 1903.*—Is as follows:—Tea from subscribers 428,888 lbs., valued Rs.1,02,160; cash from the Indian Tea Association, Rs.40,000; cash from subscribers, Rs.32,688. Total, Rs.1,74,849.

Received through the following Agencies:—Indian Tea Association, Rs.40,000; Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Rs.21,739; Macneill & Co., Rs.20,222; Andrew Yule & Co., Rs.18,403; Finally, Muir & Co., Rs.14,664; Balmer Lawrie & Co., Rs.10,652; W. S. Cresswell & Co., Rs.9,730; Williamson Magor & Co., Rs.5,601; Doocars Tea Co., Ltd., Rs.5,012; Messrs. Kilburn & Co., Rs.4,096; Barlow & Co., Rs.4,043; Barry & Co., Rs.4,013; Kettlewell Bullen & Co., Rs.2,153; Doom Dooma Tea Co., Ltd., Rs.2,000; Messrs. McLeod & Co., Rs.1,889; Shaw Wallace & Co., Rs.1,675; Duncan Bros & Co., Rs.1,602; George Henderson & Co., Rs.1,348; C. A. Stewart, Esq., Rs.1,291; Messrs. Begg Dunlop & Co., Rs.1,270; Davenport & Co., Rs.1,215; J. Mackillican & Co., Rs.1,158; Sephenjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd., Rs.500; Planters' Stores Agency Co., Ltd., Rs.300; B. Palchowdhury, Esq., Rs.152; E. R. Durnford, Esq., Rs.112. Total, Rs.1,74,849.

*Purchase of Tea.*—To 31st January, 1903, 131,664 lbs. of tea were purchased at public auction, at a cost of Rs.42,573-11-11, bids being confined to the produce of supporting gardens, who profited by the increased competition thus secured, as although the quantity actually purchased was not heavy, bids were made for a number of parcels, thus assisting towards enhanced values being obtained for same.

*Accounts.*—Audited statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements to 31st January, 1903, is submitted herewith:—The total receipts for the eighteen months amount to Rs.1,65,685; the total Disbursements the eighteen months amount to Rs.1,24,671, leaving balance in hand of Rs.41,014.

Audited statement of Tea Stock is also attached as follows:—Received from contributors, 428,888 lbs.; received by purchase, 131,664 lbs.; total 560,552 lbs.; tea, disposed of in eighteen months, 430,480 lbs.; tea in stock on 31st January, 1903, 130,072 lbs.

Cost of working for the eighteen months is approximately Rs.80,000, and the resources still available may be put roughly

at Rs.86,000—thus—cash in hand say Rs.41,000; tea in stock say Rs.30,000; outstandings say Rs.18,000; total Rs.89,000. Less deposits from Agents say Rs.3,000; total Rs.86,000

So that, with care, the resources available will, it is hoped, enable the working to be carried on for the remainder of the period on the present lines, supposing the tea and outstandings realize the amounts placed against them. If, however, the operations are to be extended, further support is required. The Advisory Committee at a Meeting held on 22nd October last, unanimously adopted the following Resolution:—"The Progress Report to end of September 1902 showing an increasing demand amongst Indian consumers, the Advisory Committee strongly urge all interested in the tea industry to give increased support, so that the work of the Commission may be further expanded." Since this Resolution was passed the Tea Cess has come into force, which may have the effect of causing direct subscriptions to this Commission to fall off.

The scheme, however, was started on the promise of support for three years, and even if a portion of the cess funds be eventually voted towards extension of the tea trade in India (one of the objects advanced in favour of the tax) such assistance will not be available much before the 31st July, 1904, when the Commission terminates. The matter is one that the Commissioners leave to the careful consideration of the contributors to the scheme.

The Commissioners cannot conclude this report without tendering their thanks to the members of the Advisory Committee who have assisted them with their advice during the period under review. The work of the Commission is a difficult one to handle, and the results are not only such as appear on the surface. Whether further support be forthcoming or not, subscribers may rest assured of the continued efforts of the Commissioners to forward the object of the scheme, viz., the development of a market in India for Indian tea.

(Signed) ANDREW YULE & Co.,  
Commissioners.

CALCUTTA, April 16.

#### REGULATION OF TEA SUPPLIES.

The Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, has issued the following circular, dated 25th April, 1903:—

I am directed by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association to publish for the information of Members of the Association, the undernoted Resolution passed at a Meeting of Importers held in London on the 30th March, to consider the market position:—

*Resolved*—"That it is undesirable to hurry the new season's tea Home and this Meeting agrees to recommend Proprietors not to hasten shipments."

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Weaker conditions prevail in coffee, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*. During the past week the spot option sank to 4.05 bid and 4.10 asked, a new low record. December options have never before been quoted so low—4.80. At the beginning of this week the recession was arrested by the cables announcing scantier Santos interior receipts, 13,000 bags daily, but it is doubtful whether this can prove a support of protracted duration. The Brazil crop movement is consequently less full but the expectation of a 12,000,000 bag crop is none the less diminished.

In actual coffee Brazil markets closed easier but the coffers were not low enough to attract orders from New York. In New York spot invoices closed Rio No. 8,  $\frac{1}{16}$ c.,



No. 7,  $\frac{5}{16}$ c., No. 4, 6c., and Santos No. 4,  $6\frac{1}{4}$ c. The decline in the lower grades has been substantial, and has had its effect on the price of package coffee, the Arbuckle brand which has been reduced  $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

In mild coffee a dull market has prevailed for West India growths. The trade seems to be well supplied and a farther influence is the slumping price of Brazil coffee. Good cuta closed quoted  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to  $8\frac{3}{4}$ c. East India growths are quiet.

\* \* \*

Statistics are often misleading, to say no worse thing, and making this observation is the "Statistical Abstract of the United States," quotations from which in regard to the consumption of beverages in the United States are now travelling widely in the newspapers, with many an editorial reason based on the assumption that they are authentic and authoritative. Would that it were true, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, that the *per capita* consumption of coffee in the United States had increased during 1902 from 6.60 to 13.37 pounds, as the "abstract" declares! At that rate, this nation would be increasing its use of coffee at the rate of 1,650,000 bags a year, which would be very satisfactory to coffee-growers as entering substantially to eat up and drink up the surplus of coffee grown. Unfortunately real statistics, authoritatively put forth, tell another tale. Deliveries of coffee in the United States are interpreted as consumption, or as approximating it more nearly than importation, and for the 12 months of 1902, the Coffee Exchange made these 6,488,000 bags or 852,457,000 pounds of coffee. Assuming the population of the United States in 1902 to have been 79,000,000 we realize a *per capita* consumption of coffee in the United States in 1902 of only 10.8 pounds. This is far from the 13.37 pounds, so proudly quoted with approval. And there is worse to come. The abstract makes the *per capita* consumption of coffee in 1901 11.60 pounds, but deliveries of coffee in that year were 720,000 bags or 887,040,000 pounds, and, estimating the nation's population at 78,000,000, we derive a *per capita* consumption in 1901 of 11.36 pounds. Rather than an increase in coffee consumption of 2.77 pounds a decrease has taken place of .56 pound. The bald truth thus stated. In view of the cheaper price of coffee and its impotence to increase its consumption, a surmise that is finding general acceptance is that the poisonous aspersions printed concerning coffee by the cereal coffee humbugs are having their effect in quieting coffee-drinkers, to the advantage of the use of their own absurd concoctions and so of their bank accounts.

\* \* \*

In Brazil, where coffee is the universal drink, it is consumed without milk.

Coffee leaves are used in preference to the coffee bean by many of the natives of Java and Sumatra. The leaves are roasted before they are infused.

Epicurean coffee-planters in Brazil usually drink coffee which has been kept half-a-dozen years in the hull, and it is said that the flavour of this old Brazilian coffee is unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

\* \* \*

Strong coffee is an antidote for cocaine poisoning.

\* \* \*

The great Brazilian coffee industry is a product of but little more than a century. The coffee plant was introduced

from Java into Surinam, and from Surinam into Pará, Brazil. Considering their common origin the coffees of Brazil and Java are entitled to be sold under similar trade names.

When the American Government obtains control of the Panama Canal the coffee industry of the isthmus is likely to experience a boom. The Panama coffee is a rather new variety and the bean makes a strong, heavy liquor, with a rather "grassy" flavour. It is said that it is capable of being improved with careful cultivation.

\* \* \*

**Export Duty on S. Paulo Coffee.**—The Congress of the State of Sao Paulo has passed a Bill imposing, without affecting other duties, a maximum tax of 2 per cent. on exported coffee. The application of the measure is conditional upon its signature by the President. It is to come into force in July.

\* \* \*

The coffee export season is now in full blast in Mexico, the opening occurring about the first week in March. Ships leaving Mexican ports carry as part of their cargoes about 1,350,000 pounds of Mexican coffee, and according to shippers this rush of coffee out of the country, to foreign markets, will keep up for about two months to come, before the entire crop is finally disposed of.

\* \* \*

Advices received from Padang, Sumatra, state, that the next government quarterly coffee auction will be held on June 30, and comprise about 10,000 piculs.

### TEA NOTES.

The National Tea Association of the United States, to the formation of which we have made frequent allusion, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, and which that journal has strenuously advocated, is now a recorded fact, and the tea trade is to be congratulated on this most desired consummation of its hopes and fears and wishes. To give it birth was delicate work but it was done, and much is due to the moving spirits that wrought so nicely and effectively. We are sure this United States Association will be the envy of all tea men in other lands, and we shall be surprised if the organization shall not be an inspiration for emulation elsewhere. The Association stands on two broad grounds, the preservation of tea in purity and quality and the increase of its consumption in the United States. Upon this foundation every member of the tea trade can afford to stand, and without the least fear of any invasion into the business methods of the member, for such interference the Association especially declares as foreign to its purposes. Therefore, all those who might differ in other points have in the National Association no grounds for difference. We understand it is considered by some of the members that, if the public were properly instructed in the preparation of tea brewing, the consumption would be vastly increased without going further. This suggestion will meet with no opposition. It is patent on its face. It is a well known fact that in all public hotels and restaurants in the United States it is impossible to procure tea that is properly prepared; it is either drawn so long that its flavour has become bitter and an extensive amount of tannin developed, or else the water has not been properly boiled, and, therefore, the tea not drawn at all.



The consequence is that the beverage which the American family drinks as tea is a concoction resembling catnip or some other weed instead of having the flavour of the rose to which it is entitled. If the result of the Association shall be to increase the importation of tea from its present amount of 100,000,000 lbs. to 200,000,000 lbs., it will be well worth the trouble of organization. This is not an extravagant proposition, the members urge, for it means a consumption of only two pounds *per capita* while England consumes 6 pounds *per capita*, Australia 7 pounds *per capita*, and Canada, just to the north of us, 4 pounds. Our own has diminished to four-fifths of a pound. By a proper propaganda on brewing tea and the preservation of the present tea standard law at least, this most desired expansion of the tea business will be realized, would seem as a self-evident proposition. It is up to the Tea Association to do it, and for the tea trade to assist the Association in the realization of its ambition. What makes for the prosperity and righteousness of one, makes for the prosperity and righteousness of the other.

In some parts of Asia tea is used in the form of a soup, the leaves being boiled with fat or with sugar; cloves and fennel, and swallowed with the liquor.

Tea, of course, has not escaped attention and handling by the "Abstract." It is perhaps worth while, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, to place the real statistics on a trustworthy basis also, especially, since a contemporary has recently expatiated much on the foundation under notice. The *per capita* consumption of tea, this same authority says, was 94 pounds in 1902. The truth is that it was even less. Tea in warehouse in the United States on January 1, 1902, was 47,000,000 pounds, the net quantity imported during 1902 was 107,000,000 pounds; the quantity in warehouse January 1, 1903, was 91,000,000, leaving the consumption for the year at 63,000,000 pounds or .8 pounds *per capita* on an estimated population of 79,000,000 pounds. It is almost needless to say that the low figure registers the seeming disuse of tea caused by the duty on tea in process of repeal. In tea, consumption and importation are closely interchangeable, and it is a reasonable prediction that the consumption of tea during 1903, will reach 108,000,000 pounds or 1.34 pounds *per capita*, an increase of more than one-half pound. This is important as contradicting the mischievous report of the "Abstract" that tea-drinking is precipitously sliding out of favour in the United States.

About one hundred and sixty importers, wholesalers and retailers of tea throughout the country have united to form the National Tea Association of the United States. The objects of the Association are declared to be the support of the law of 1897 forbidding the importation of impure, spurious or worthless teas, and the promotion of the consumption of tea in the United States by disseminating information in regard to its quality and the proper methods of its preparation.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market is quiet and even dull, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, though prices remain unchanged, inclusive of Congous, which have met with such considerable export demand in the past month. It is estimated that the export of the tea has reached the sum of 30,000 packages, which is a good figure, and should it be

corroborated by the export statistics of the government for the month, there ought to have been more of an improvement in the price of the tea in the market. As it is, the price has come under the influence of firmer rates only a little. Opinion is divided as to whether there is to be a decided stiffening in the quotations of the tea.

More activity in the market is expected shortly on the belief that stocks must need replenishing. Apart from the plentiful Congous, there is little tea in first hands, so that there cannot ensue much trading in this rank of traders. There are 100,000,000 pounds of tea in the country at present a supply sufficient for more than one year. How much of it is in the hands of retailers would be interesting to know. As a general proposition, it has been assumed that from one to two packages extra would be carried this year by the retailers and in the aggregate this means a large sum. If this distribution has taken place, it will explain where the great quantity of tea imported has gone. If not, the matter will have no influence on the next market, to which attention is now being directed. The expectation that the markets in the East will be higher may suffer some revision in consequence. Green teas and Japans are especially expected to open higher responsive to the stringent market in these teas still prevailing in America, but unless the American rush in too soon the market should fall waiting for orders, for it may be accepted that the higher prices which these teas have brought will surely call out larger stocks than heretofore offered, and moreover, the competition next year of India and Ceylon green teas, to be increased from 3,000,000 pounds to 14,000,000 pounds, is to be remembered; they certainly will affect the market, for they have established no mean welcome on these shores.

**Export of tea from China.**—Messrs. Siemssen & Co. Market Report: Hongkong, April 9, gives the following figures:—

	lbs.	lbs.
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.
To England ...	16,544,665	19,136,009
„ The Continent ...	6,845,005	6,594,263
„ Russia ...	25,030,813	30,061,051
„ America ...	57,551,728	36,210,314
„ Australia ...	1,138,697	2,036,969
„ South Africa ...	1,016,423	1,741,639
Total ...	108,735,311	95,789,245

**Ceylon Tea in France.**—A. L. H. writes to the *Times* Ceylon:—

There were a good many evidences in Marseilles that Ceylon tea is making its way in this great French seaport. The tea at the hotel was very drinkable, and in some of the cafés and shops there was evidence that it was to be procured. But, once on board the express for Nice and Monte Carlo, there was proof of Mr. Valentine Webster's energy and outlay. In meadows, vineyards, orchards, homesteads, workyards, and house-gardens notice boards, some four feet from the ground, bore the poster "Drink on Quaker Ceylon Tea," varied with "Buvez le Quaker Thé Ceylan"; and on arrival on the Riviera there were signs in the shop windows that the advertising was bearing fruit. On arrival in Paris, in the very street of the hotel at which I am staying, the Ceylon Tea Pavilion catches the eye prominently and the packets of "Quaker" and "Palamcotta" tea are



ere to be purchased, and a good cup of tea to be pro-  
ured. Those homeward and outward-bounders who wish to  
now of a reasonable hotel in a good position in Paris might  
ake a note of the Hotel St. Petersburg, Limited, 53, Rue  
aumartin. All the attendants speak English, and the rate  
er diem is 10s. 6d., which includes sufficient in the shape of  
eals to satisfy most people, and attendance and bed-room—  
harge which compares very favourably with some of the  
otels one stays at in France. The dining, reception, and  
moking-rooms are spacious, and the best part of Paris is all  
ound the Rue Caumartin. Referring again to the Riviera,  
the time is favourable for a trip to Monte Carlo, it may be  
remembered that on arrival at Marseilles this famed resort  
within a rail run costing under £2 return, but it must be  
oted that the return ticket only lasts for three days. The  
Hotel Geneve at Marseilles is reasonable; all heavy luggage  
an be left there, and the proprietor will give a list of hotels  
t Nice to suit all purses. The run to Monte Carlo from Nice  
short, only costs a franc or two, and trains are constantly  
unning.

**Needle-leaf Japan Teas.**—Recently Messrs. Forbes and  
Walker reported on some samples sent by "T. Gossup,"  
f New York. The *Ceylon Observer's* correspondent said  
ere were 30,000,000 lbs. to be ousted in America; but the  
olombo brokers reported that they were of opinion that the  
Needle-leaf" Japans are hand-rolled; and they added:  
this is where our difficulty lies, and it must continue until  
machine can be found to produce the result required." The  
*Indian Planters' Gazette*, after reproducing the above report,  
ppends the following comment:—

A machine which would produce the result required is Lyle's tea  
oller. This machine was in vogue at one time, but being a bag  
achine (i.e., the leaf was placed in bags and rolled) was given up.  
t is now quite out of date, but there are probably a few lying  
nused in some factory godowns. It would certainly produce a  
traight, flattened-out, long-shaped leaf (also smallish, if of China  
it), and would be just the machine required for turning out tea  
imilar to the Japan samples.

The rejections recently made of Foochow Oolong teas by  
he U. S. Tea Board which brought forth bitter complaints  
rom New York merchants has finally come to a climax.  
mporters are vigorously protesting against the exclusion  
f tea made. They are now appealing, having made appli-  
cations to the Secretary of the Treasury, requesting that the  
epartment, in conformity with the provisions of the Act of  
March 2, 1897, issue regulations relative to the re-examination  
f teas before the Board of United States General Appraisers.

January imports of tea in the United States were 9,611,430  
pounds; for seven months ending January, 90,953,228 pounds,  
ainst 59,344,573 pounds the same months in 1902;  
5,388,986 pounds in 1901.

**The American Campaign—is the Money wasted?**—Mr.  
C. Larkin writes to a Colombo contemporary:—

I was reading to-day the very interesting talk the Dimbula  
Planters' Association had with Mr. Fairhurst, and I noticed that  
Mr. Fairhurst expressed himself as always having been of the  
pinion "that the money spent by the 'Thirty Committee' in the  
Eastern States in pushing Black tea had been simply and abso-  
lutely wasted." Strange to say, Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's  
ircular came to hand immediately afterwards, and I noted that  
he American gain in imports in Ceylon and India tea in 1892, over

the previous year amounted to nine million pounds; that we had  
taken altogether 26,360,206 lbs. in 1892; in 1896 we took only  
9,623,283 lbs., that the increase in 1892 over the previous year was  
actually as large as all the tea we took from Ceylon and India in  
1896. We rather fancy that Mr. Fairhurst will get very few  
planters to agree with him (after looking over the above figures)  
that the money expended in America has been wasted even in the  
exploitation of their Black tea; for there were only two million  
pounds of the figures given that consisted of Green tea, and aside  
from that we all know what a future there is for Green tea. If  
there had been no money spent in America, and if there had been  
no Commissioner representing them in America, not only would  
Canada for instance not be taking practically every pound of her  
Black Tea from Ceylon and India, but the manufacture of Green  
Teas would probably never have been entered upon.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Fairhurst, and I feel  
certain that when he sees the circular alluded to he will be the first  
to admit that he was quite wrong, and that the American campaign  
has been a very wise and ably conducted one indeed.

In the matter of "Oolongs" this is the most important question  
before the Committee at present. I have been agitating it for  
some years, and having had several samples of Ceylon Oolongs put  
before me, I believe that these can be made in Ceylon with as much  
success as Greens have been. There is a large market in the  
United States for them, and if we believed that Ceylon and India  
would not make an attempt, or would prove unable to make better  
Oolongs than are now produced in Formosa, we would at once put  
up a packet of Formosa.

**Blacks and Greens, Indian v. Ceylon Green.**—The ques-  
tion of relative cost of Black and Green Teas and of Indian  
and Ceylon Teas has been discussed recently. A Ceylon  
merchant remarks:—

It will be noted from the weekly sales of greens held in Colombo  
that the average rates obtained for the teas of various gardens  
average from 33 cents to 39 cents per lb., depending upon the quality  
and elevation of the estate. "G. T.'s" statement in a letter ad-  
dressed to the newspapers dated 25th March (which stated that the  
greens cost 4 cents more to manufacture than blacks) cannot be  
endorsed by any but careless manufacturers in Ceylon. As stated  
by one of Mr. Judge's Indian correspondents, the cost of firewood  
is necessarily slightly in excess of the cost of firewood for black  
teas, as there is a larger percentage of moisture to expel from the  
Green Tea. Many estates, however, turn out quite as large a  
percentage of green as of black tea; so that India has no advan-  
tage over Ceylon in this respect. Where firewood is scarce and  
dear, the extra cost for fuel is a serious item. As regards Indian  
Green Tea fetching higher prices than those of Ceylon manu-  
facture in London, a glance at Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's  
circulars for February and March, to take a convenient period,  
will show how prices rule. On February 6th no Green Tea averages  
were given. On February 13th a break of Ceylon Young Hyson  
fetched an average of 8¼, while the average obtained for a break  
of 58 packages including Young Hyson, Hyson No. 1, Hyson  
No. 2, Fannings and Dust got an average of 6¾. In the February  
27th circular a break of Indian Greens, including only Hyson  
and Hyson No. 1, got an average of 7½, while a break of Ceylon  
Tea including all grades—Young Hyson, Hyson No. 1, Hyson  
No. 2, and Fannings and Dust also got an average of 7½ not-  
withstanding that it included two more grades than the Indian  
break. In the March 6th circular a Ceylon break including four  
grades is recorded as having obtained a 6½d. average, while an  
Indian consignment only gets 5½d. while the break only included  
two grades. In March 13th's circular a break of Indian Green Tea  
gets an average of 6d. for three grades, while in the March 27th  
circular a break of Ceylon including two grades got an average of  
5½d.

If these prices can be taken as a criterion, Indian Green Tea is  
certainly not getting higher prices than Ceylons.

**Old-Fashioned Profits on Teas.**—A correspondent writes  
to the *Grocer*:—

The great idea with retailers now-a-days is to obtain every article  
in packet form, so as to save the payment of larger salaries than



are due to those who have not learnt, but merely obtained a smattering of the grocery trade.

Some thirty to forty years since the profits on small goods were 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. on returns, and the grocer who blended teas on his own premises to suit his customers could easily obtain from 2d. to 3d. more than his non-blending competitor, though both of them obtained from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. profit on returns.

Hence it is no surprise to me that failures in the grocery trade are frequent and disastrous, because many young men set up for themselves who have never learnt the difference between putting on 50 per cent. to the cost price and realising 50 per cent. out of the selling price. They and older members seem only to desire a great run of custom, and by keen competition and the hateful policy of the "nimble ninepence," seek to cut out each his neighbour, overlooking the fact that to sell teas from 12½ per cent. to 25 per cent. profit is but to exchange cream for skim milk.

The secret of the tea trade does not lie in giving one's legitimate profits to the general public indiscriminately by listening to the dictation of merchants and manufacturers as to the profits they should be open to sell for, as much of their success depends upon annual returns.

By dictating to the retailer the merchant makes a rod for his own back when he finds that failure results from insufficient profits, especially on tea.

More is expected from shopkeepers than from farmers, and to follow in the footsteps of those who have relinquished the making of butter and cheese to the factory is in the grocery sure to lead to ruin, besides, competition only builds up that which it professes to destroy—viz., monopoly, as the weakest goes to the wall.

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**The Russian Demand for Tea.**—Regarding the Russian demand for Ceylon tea the *Times of Ceylon* while admitting a very serious falling off publishes an article containing the views of a Russian dealer in which it is sought to explain away the circumstance. If the explanation is correct it serves to confirm our contention that dear tea tends to reduce foreign demand and thus brings about a reduction of consumption which again enables home dealers to bring down the price to their own ideas of value. The Russian merchant stated that the appreciation in price of the qualities sought for had deterred Russian buyers. He admitted that the tea-drinkers were the sufferers. At the same time the Russian buyers filled their wants from Calcutta, where for the time they could get what they wanted more cheaply. On this head the *Times of Ceylon* says:—"With regard to the satisfaction expressed in the Calcutta press because of the increase in Indian tea to Russia, there was nothing for Ceylon to be alarmed at, our informant said. On the face of it, it seems unaccountable that Indian tea should have increased, because it costs the same as, or more than, Ceylon; but there is this to take into consideration—when Ceylon common Pekoe took a sudden rise in the market from 5½d. to 6¼d. per lb., Indian tea was not similarly influenced, and Russian merchants gave orders for a more extensive, but temporary, purchase of Indian tea." It is an ill wind that blows nobody good; and we think the Russians as well as ourselves will benefit by their being made acquainted with Indian tea. Having once come here for tea in quantity, they will in all probability continue to indent on Calcutta.—*Indian Planting and Gardening.*

## NOTES.

### The Tea Corporation.

A special cablegram to the *Ceylon Observer* states that in the matter of winding up the Tea Corporation, the liquidator's scheme has been carried.

### Scientific Cultivation.

Plant doctors are coming into demand. In most of the English colonies the official botanical staff is no longer considered to be complete without a specialist in plant diseases. Their researches and reports are invaluable to agriculturists.

### Tea and the Budget.

The London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon* cabled on 28th ultimo:—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the course of his Budget speech, said that his choice in respect of the remission of the two millions sterling was limited to tea or corn. "The former had many attractions; but it cannot be said that it is dear, or that the duty is very excessive on an article that is not strictly a necessary of life." An amendment proposed by Mr. Lough, in favour of a reduction of the tea duty by 2d., was rejected by a majority of 108 votes.

### The United States.

Secretary Wilson, says the *Merchant Review*, wants the United States to grow its own sugar, coffee, and tea and leave nothing for the foreigner to send us in payment for our exports, thus in fact abolishing the foreign commerce of the country and putting us in the position of China before the "foreign devils" broke down the policy of exclusion. Secretary Cortelyou, if his department is to be true to its name, must struggle against all restrictions on commerce, and if he prove as zealous in his endeavours as Mr. Wilson has proved in his, there should be no reason for regret that the new department has been created.

### Indian Tea Exports.

The following figures are published by the Indian Tea Association:—Sailings to Great Britain from Calcutta in March, 1,123,836 lbs.; to Great Britain from 1st April to 31st March (including Chittagong), 145,552,931 lbs.; to Australia and New Zealand in March, 218,860 lbs.; to Australia and New Zealand from 1st April to 31st March, 5,774,407 lbs.; to America in March, 5,671 lbs.; to America from 1st April to 31st March, 8,244,003 lbs.; to other places in March, 338,529 lbs.; to other places from 1st April to 31st March, 14,417,108 lbs.; total sailings from 1st April to 31st March, 173,988,444 lbs.

### A Change of Title.

With this issue, says a New York contemporary, this trade publication assumes the title of the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*. "The altered name from *Tea, Coffee and Sugar* is an evolution growing out from our larger and longer intimacy with the staples represented in the old designation and is the concrete expression of our feeling and opinion that coffee and tea businesses sufficiently comprehensive, substantial, and dignified to support a periodical exclusively employing their names. In other words, we have learned that it is more than worth while to give tea and coffee preferential attention in commerce and information, and the special, and indeed the only weekly chronicle of them we now are."

### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 28th ultimo from Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton to Colombo reports that the demand is running low-priced teas and that the market for medium liquor Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6¾d. (the same last week) and the average 7¾d. (also the same as last week). The average for the same period last year was 8½d. Reuters reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is steady, Broken Pekoe rather irregular, slightly easier in some cases, while Pekoe Souchong is very firm. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted 6½d. (½d. higher than last week) and the average for



week is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (same as last week). 26,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 23,000 disposed of; while of the 29,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 24,000 were sold at an average of 8d. (same as last week). Common qualities of Indian tea very firm medium irregular.

#### Ceylon and St. Louis.

The Committee appointed by H. E. the Governor of Ceylon to make preliminary arrangements for the representation of Ceylon products at the St. Louis Exposition are the following:—The Hon. Mr. H. L. Crawford, acting Principal Collector of Customs (Chairman); the Hon. Mr. Stanley Bois, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, acting Mercantile M. L. C., and prospective Commissioner to the Exposition; the Hon. Mr. Edward Rosling, Planting M. L. C.; the Hon. Mr. John Ferguson, General European M. L. C.; the Hon. Mr. S. C. Obeyesekere, Low-country Sinhalese M. L. C.; Mr. F. W. Vane, Controller of Government Stores; Mr. J. C. Willis, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens; Mr. A. C. Kingsford, Chairman of the Planters' Association; and Dr. A. Willey, Director of the Colombo Museum; with Mr. C. Driberg as Secretary. The notice sent to members states that "a sum of money, the amount of which will be determined after the receipt of a report from you as to what it is proposed to do, will be placed on the estimates of next year to defray the necessary expenses."

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—March 14th, 1903.—Ninety days' rate on London opened on Monday 9th at 12 $\frac{1}{16}$ d., rose to 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. on Tuesday, fell to 12d. on Friday and closed this evening very shaky at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Encouraged by an unusually plentiful supply of bills for the time of year, on the one hand, and by apparently trustworthy reports of large financial operations, on the other, speculators have, with the assistance of the Bank of the Republic, succeeded in booming the rate within a few days from 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d.

Just at the time when a little encouragement to planters was so badly wanted and at the eve of the economically, weakest period of the whole year, when exports and the supply of bills are at their lowest ebb, the rate has been most wantonly pushed, by methods that call to mind the very worst features of the Thompson and Petersen periods. With what object we are wholly unable to conceive! Nothing but the absolute certainty of some important operation having been definitely settled, that would oblige the Bank to draw for large sums without cover, could justify such proceedings and, even so, the weight and influence of the Bank ought to be always employed in steadying rates and not in pushing them. As it turns out there is no truth whatever in the reports that have been diligently circulated with regard to the sale of the Sorocabana, realisation of the Port Works, Loans for S. Paulo, etc., all of which are just as much *in embryo* as ever! Such methods would be improper even in a private Bank but in the Bank of the Republic, which is worked with capital supplied by the Nation and ostensibly in the Nation's interests, gambling in exchange merely to make a profit is absolutely indefensible!

No rise or fall of exchange can occur without prejudice to some class or other. So long as variations are the genuine outcome of the economic factors, the damage caused in one way is made up in another and is endurable. But the wanton oscillations that speculation provokes are irreparable. Were the rise to 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. genuine even planters would find some compensation in the general fall of prices for the depreciation of his own goods. But as it is, they have been obliged to sell at lower rates and will find no compensation whatsoever!

The function of a National Bank like the Republica is to regulate exchange as far as is in its power by utilizing its immense influence and resources to check speculation and allow natural factors full play.

To supplement the supply of Bills when speculation for the fall becomes too active, and withdraw them when a bull movement is on foot is the only practicable or legitimate method of checking speculation in the power of the Bank, but never to turn speculator itself and thereby encourage speculation in others!

For over a year exchange oscillated between the narrow limits of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. and the advantages of a steady rate were fully tested. Under these conditions and the stability that ensued, business of all kinds revived, imports and revenue increased, and employers of labour were able to re-adjust wages to prices. Now all is changed again. The old gambling spirit is reviving and, unless checked immediately, will inevitably undermine the nascent confidence that was assuredly asserting itself, and is so valuable a factor of progress everywhere. What the object of this movement really was we are wholly unable to conceive. If to give a lesson to speculation, as is pretended, it has been most successful because the arch speculator apparently has this time been caught in his toils and taught the lesson that not even the Bank can make bricks without straw.

A proof of the injury inflicted, if proof is requisite, is to be found in shrinking coffee prices which fell to c\$600 and the paralysation of coffee business, the value of *embarques* being only £197,000 as against £332,000 the previous week and £324,000 last year. Declared sales too fell off far from 166,000 for the previous week to only 116,000 and were in spite of the threatened duty at Santos considerably under last years.

With such elements of instability at work no forecast of exchange is possible. The Bank may decide at any moment to push rates up again or down. It depends entirely on their own caprice so long as resources hold out, as the foreign banks are not in a position to resist if they wanted.

**Coffee.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, March 14th, 1903.—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 13th March fell off a bit, being 21,884 less than the preceding week's and 4,802 less than for the corresponding week's last year, of which they represented 17.5 per cent.

Entries for the crop were on the 13th instant 2,767,872 bags less than last season, of which they represent 78.5 per cent. and at the same rates will reach 12,000,000 bags even without the assistance of early entries.

*Embarques* have been much checked by the rise of exchange, to which buyers abroad did not respond to any extent and were 92,824 bags less than the previous week's last year.

Joint stocks at Rio and Santos increased by 52,343 bags compared with the previous Friday and were 332,985 less than on the corresponding date last year.

The average currency price for Rio 7 declined from 4\$584 to 4\$539 per 10 kilos. whilst New York n. 7 spot price advanced somewhat from 5.634 average for the preceding week to 5.69c.

So far neither the threat of burning 20 per cent. of the coffee nor the rise of exchange to 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. seems to have influenced prices abroad to any extent, nor are likely to so long as the rise of exchange is fictitious and there are unlimited supplies of coffee to draw upon in consuming markets.

**SANTOS, March 13th, 1903.**—The heavy fluctuations of exchange from 12 $\frac{7}{8}$  to 12 $\frac{7}{16}$ d. and back to 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. practically stopped a free coffee business during the week. Foreign markets did not consider the exchange rise good enough to raise limits much and commissarios do not care to sell at much lower prices and keep their coffee back until exchange settles. In consequence we had a very dull market and the number of running "Commissarios" lots sold is small, declared sales being only 76,000, which figure is rather over than under the mark.

The small volume of business transacted during the last fortnight is naturally changing the position of our market and first hands' stock is increasing. The stock in first and second hands must be now more or less equal.

"The State Congress" at S. Paulo voted the Government's coffee bill but our market has taken very little notice of it so far.

The principal business during the week consisted of specialities and here and there of some old shipments to be made. Fine Bourbons fetched up to 5\$300, Green flinty Peaberry up to 5\$000. Primes fetched from 4\$700 to 4\$900, Superiors 300 réis and Goods



600 réis below. The latter quality being proportionally scarce. Low coffees are neglected. Peaberry with little demand from 4\$600 to 5\$800 for Superiors according to types. Washed are not in demand.

Limits from Europe ruled between 28/9 to 29/6 for Superiors good average  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{6}$  below.

The disparity between the orders and our market amounted on some days to nearly 400 réis, but is now about 150 réis less.

Entries (119,000) and especially *Passagens* (104,000) showed a decrease during the last few days both are however, very irregular, but are much less than the previous week. People here are astonished at the exceedingly high Rio entries.

Shipments were poor, amounting to 90,070 only and our stock increased again by about 28,070 bags.

The Pauta remained unchanged.

**S. Paulo.**—A petition has been forwarded to the Legislature of S. Paulo from Bananal asking for relief from the late law prohibiting new plantation of coffee on the ground that it presses unduly on such districts. In Bananal the land is very much poorer than in the western districts and easily exhausted. Thus large areas go out of cultivation every year and unless replaced by fresh planting, *fazendas* must disappear. At one time this district produced a million *arrobas* per annum. Now it only gives 50,000! The law was intended to put a limit to, not to reduce production, and should have stipulated that planters might not *increase* plantations.

The opinion of planters at Campinas, says a correspondent of *O Estado*, is not very favourable to the Government initiative. They complain that the money is too little and that the payment of a tax of 20 per cent. by the planters is too much. What planters want is money and not taxation. Tax officials, if some one must be taxed; they toil not neither do they spin, and can stand it!

**The Coffee Crisis.**—Planters are already complaining that the Government measure does not go far enough and demand payment in money for the coffee eliminated. If, as is generally recognized, supply is so much in excess of the demand, what is the use of lending money to planters to enable them to produce more? It will be interesting to see how the consuming markets will act. At present they are under the double pressure of a violent rise of exchange and the threat of reduction of supply. Will foreign prices accompany the improvement of exchange here, or will currency prices drop in consequence? That is one question; and another is whether the threat of eliminating 20 per cent. of supplies, or even its execution will improve prices. Coming together it is rather hard to distinguish what is attributable to one or the other. It seems to us that with the enormous stocks on hand if prices go up much here consumers will be supplied from abroad, and though prices may be maintained here for a time, little S. Paulo coffee will really be sold, although the whole existing stock of nearly a million bags will probably have been shipped abroad on consignment or account of holders here to avoid payment of the surtax of 20 per cent. With such large quantities offering in markets already repleted, the effect of such an intemperate addition will probably be to provoke a fall and not a rise of prices, at the first at any rate, and until foreign buyers are thoroughly convinced that the measure is genuine. Until then the planters will be mulcted for payment of the surtax to the figure of about 12 per cent. on the aggregate value of the coffee shipped, which would be about the last nail in their coffin and result either in bankruptcy or the renewed issues of paper money.

The alterations introduced by the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies are as follows:

Increase from 200:000\$ to 400:000\$ of the appropriation for subsidies to coasting steamers.

Increase from 10,000 to 25,000 contos of the appropriation for loans to planters, which is to be raised by means of an internal or foreign loan!

The report adopted by the minority differed considerably with the Government's proposal and recommended that (a) a tax of 800 réis should be imposed on all coffee shipped as soon as prices reached 7\$000 per 10 kilos., (b) issue of paper money or *apolices* by the Union to compensate the 20 per cent. surtax paid in kind, (c) reduction of export duty from 11 to 8 per cent. for all coffees shipped by syndicates or co-operative societies, (d) tax of 6 to 20 per cent. on all official salaries for the service of a loan of 25,000:000\$ in aid of planters. Some of the recommendations, of

the minority, such as the issue of paper money, go clearly beyond the attributes of the S. Paulo Legislature and were rightly rejected. The Deputy Sr. Alfredo Guedes stated that he would present a substitute on second reading and in the Senate Dr. Antonio Mercado combated the measure as unconstitutional and undemocratic.

The project of Sr. Alfredo Guedes comprised 16 different articles and is too long for reproduction. Its principal points of divergence with the official proposals are (1) restriction of the process to payment of the surtax in kind, (2) indemnisation of planters for the 20 per cent. eliminated by payment in cash or in bonds to be issued by the Union Government until prices reach 6\$000 per 10 kilos. (or 9\$000 per *arroba*). Should prices reach 7\$000 per 10 kilos., a tax of 800 réis per *arroba* would be created for redemption of the special issue of paper money, (3) reduction of export duties at once to 8 per cent, (4) loaning of the 25,000:000\$ to be issued by the State of S. Paulo exclusively on the security of produce (*penhor agricola*), (5) official salaries to be taxed at rates from 3 per cent. to 20 per cent. and general economy to be practised by Government.

In the lengthy discussion, or rather dialogue, between Sr. Guedes and the leader of the Government party, Dr. Rubiao, Sr. Guedes explained the reasons that led him to present a third project. The alternative payment in kind or money of the 20 per cent. surtax on exports he believed to be impracticable, because shippers would naturally prefer the latter and be careful to mix their grades in such a manner as to produce a type up to the official standard, which would afterwards be separated again abroad. Such a measure could only result in further discredit to S. Paulo coffee. Besides even should it be realized and only higher grades be really exported, an enormous stock would be accumulated at S. Paulo that would inevitably weigh upon the markets and keep prices down. Payment in kind has the objection that it would fall for a year or more exclusively on producers and unless compensated would make their situation worse than ever. The elevation of coffee prices benefits exchange and is not an advantage to S. Paulo alone, but to all Brazil. The money for indemnisation, should therefore, Mr. Guedes maintains, be supplied by an issue of paper money or bonds by the National Government. In support of the authorization to lend money on mortgage of plantations Sr. Pujol stated that four-fifths of the estates were already mortgaged and that those that were not did not want loans for working expenses. Sr. Rubiao, Jr. resisted the proposal to reduce actual export duties on the ground that it would disorganize the whole finances of the State.

The bill has passed the third reading and been sent to the Senate with a number of amendments, the most important of which are as follows:

Art. 1°. Making the stipulations of the law obligatory on the Executive instead of discretionary as on the original project.

Art. 2°. Increases the subsidy of coasting steamers to 400:000\$ per annum.

Art. 3°. Raises the amount to be loaned to planters to 25,000:000\$.

Art. 4°. Authorizes Government to subscribe half the capital of the new Banco de Credito Agricola and utilize part of the 25,000:000\$ for that purpose and to utilize said Bank in the distribution of the money.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

With a continuance of heavy receipts the terminal market has shown further weakness, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 4th ultimo, and quotations have given way, closing at the lowest about 1s. under last week. This brings the quotation for the present month to 25s. 9d., a price which is only 9d. above the previous record, but that was when the exchange was only about half its present value. Heavy receipts and falling terminal markets have naturally a weakening effect on the value of actual "spot" coffee and buying is checked. The export demand has particularly shown a falling-off, although it is still very much stronger than at this time last year, and even the fairly good trade that has been done during the last two months does not appear to have filled up the gaps in the stocks in the interior. Moreover, the present low level of medium "washed" coffees is tempting to buyers to anticipate their wants, as these qualities have rarely, if ever, shown better value. The demand from the home trade has also been good, and splendid value can now be obtained both in East India and Costa Rica. By far the greater part of the crop of the latter has now



ssed the hammer, and though the lowest point is looked for nerally in May, considering the amount that has been received is very probable that that point has already been reached.

LONDON COFFEE RETURNS.

	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.		STOCK.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
For the week ended March 28 ...	Tons. 342	Tons 344	Tons. 523	Tons. 295	Tons. 33,340	Tons. 18,479
For 13 weeks ended March 28 ...	4,441	4,739	6,533	2,212	...	...

TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The market continues firm, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 4th ultimo, with a further upward movement in prices for the lower grades, and there is a steadily improving demand. As was generally expected, the removals from bond in March fell considerably short of those of the same month in 1902, and the deficit in the uncleared stock of all growths is now about 100,000 lbs. against 13,000,000 lbs. at the end of February; from this it would appear that the position is less strong. Taken as a comparison that is somewhat misleading, as there was an invisible supply, viz., the duty-paid teas held by the trade, which probably amounted to at least 15,000,000 lbs. more than at the present time. The available supply at the end of March last year, therefore, was larger to this extent, as buyers have naturally limited their duty payments to actual requirements, and will continue to do so until Budget statement has been made, which is promised for Thursday, 23 instant. If prices for the lower grades should further advance, and it is by no means certain they will not, or even if they remain at the present level, there will be a strong inducement to growers to pluck heavily in the coming season, but this is not likely to materially affect the market for the next few months, as large shipments will probably not be forthcoming until the end of July or early in August. The figures for Indian tea at the end of the past month compared with the previous year are as follows:—Exports, 8,465,000 lbs. and 8,392,000 lbs.; deliveries were smaller 2,600,000 lbs., the quantities being 11,342,000 lbs. and 13,948,000 lbs., while the stock shows a decrease of 3,169,000 lbs. At the public sales the larger quantity brought forward was well competed for, especially the good medium and lower sorts; the latter practically show a rise of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ d., while the former were readily taken at firm rates. The finer teas met with a steady inquiry without change in values.

CEYLON TEAS.—With small supplies again on offer, the demand is strong for all teas up to 8d. per lb., and, with brisk competition, full to dearer rates were realised. Chief attention was paid to the lower Whole-Leaf kinds, and these in most instances were  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or lb. dearer than last week, very little having sold under 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Broken Pekoes were slightly irregular, but prices showed little change, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is still practically the lowest sale price for these descriptions. At the public sales 25,468 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,300 were withdrawn. The following are the figures for the past month compared with March last year:—The exports were 7,566,000 lbs. against 7,318,000 lbs., the deliveries being 6,492,000 lbs. and 8,000,000 lbs. respectively, while the stock stands at 20,557,000 lbs. as compared with 21,668,000 lbs.

CONGOU TEA.—At the public auctions held on Wednesday only 2 packages were brought forward. A fair business has been done privately, chiefly in the lower descriptions, which are distinctly firmer, while the better grades show no alteration.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—This market remains steady for all descriptions, and a fair business is reported. Of the 1,136 packages of Green tea printed for Thursday's public auction, only about 100 led to find buyers, and of 2,454 packages of Fancy tea brought forward 1,825 were taken out.

TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, March 26, 1903.

There is nothing of note to report since our last issue regarding the home market, business on the street being quiet with previous quotations ruling firm. The London market reports prices as maintaining fully up quotations. The demand has been of but moderate character, this being attributed to the inclination of buyers to await announcement of budget, meanwhile only satisfying immediate requirements. It is of interest to note that quite a number of the recent sales comprised "last-of-the-season invoices."

MONTREAL, March 26, 1903.

There has been no change in the price of teas on the local market. Japan teas of medium grade run from 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., and 23 to 24c. for finest qualities. Ceylon blacks are worth 12 to 14c. for medium and 22c. for finer. The demand is not large for any sort. China greens are moving moderately well. Pingsuey gun-powders are steadily held at 15c. for common grades and 26 to 28c. for finest.

THE FUTURE OF THE TEA TRADE.

The *Grocer* publishes the following from a correspondent:—

Among those who, being neither sellers nor buyers, are able to watch the course of events from the vantage-ground of neutrality, an opinion has been steadily forming, and has now become a conviction, that a change is taking place in the conditions which have long prevailed, and that it may be destined so to modify the position as to require of necessity a change in the policy and methods of grocers and other retail vendors of tea.

Throughout a long series of years, with rare exceptions (a) the total supply of tea has been in excess of the total requirements, (b) owing to the continuous enlargement of the plantations in Ceylon and India, and (c) to the perfecting of a system under which the ground was made to bear the largest possible number of bushes, and the bush forced to give the greatest possible yield of leaf. The natural result of this was (d) a progressive downward movement in value, each temporary arrest or reversal of the movement being followed by further over-supply and a more sharply-accentuated decline in prices.

A very few figures will suffice to make these points clear.

(a) The total stock in bond in London was 50,000,000 lbs. on June 1, 1885, and 82,000,000 lbs. on June 1, 1902, the difference of 32,000,000 lbs. being surplus unused importation, at the rate of about 2,000,000 lbs. per annum.

(b) Between 1885 and 1900 nearly 250,000 acres of new gardens were made in India, and 280,000 acres in Ceylon.

(c) The average yield per acre in India in 1885 was only 250 lbs., but in 1900 it was 375 lbs. per acre, while in the latter year it rose to nearly 390 lbs. in Ceylon. That was the maximum. Tea-gardens, taken as a whole, have been less productive since then, for reasons to which allusion will presently be made, the total diminution being about 12,000,000 lbs. in 1901, and about 10,000,000 lbs. in 1902.

(d) The average prices of Indian tea sold in the London market have been as follow, viz.:

			s.	d.	
Three seasons—1883-85	...	about	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	per lb., in bond.
" " 1886-88	...	"	1	0	" "
Four " 1889-92	...	"	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
" " 1893-96	...	"	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
Three " 1897-99	...	"	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
" " 1900-02	...	"	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "

And the average prices of Ceylon tea have been as follow, viz.:

			s.	d.	
Three seasons—1883-85	...	about	1	3	per lb., in bond.
" " 1886-88	...	"	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
" " 1889-91	...	"	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
Five " 1892-96	...	"	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	" "
Three " 1897-99	...	"	0	8	" "
" " 1900-02	...	"	0	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	" "

Now, as long as the retail sale of tea remained principally in the hands of grocers who were able to abstain from the disastrous policy of perpetually lowering their prices in order to undersell each other, that was a state of things which suited them tolerably well; but the time came when the attention of others was directed to the chance of making money by cutting into the trade on alto-



gether new lines, by offering tea at prices hitherto unheard of, and by lavish advertisement and persistent pushfulness persuading the public to buy it.

They were well-informed, far-sighted men who did this, for they came into the business foreseeing growth and cheapening of supply looming ahead; and their venture was well-timed, for they began to handle tea when the popular taste for it was beginning to develop.

It is not commonly reported that they are classed among the great philanthropists of our times by the planters in Ceylon and India, or regarded by the East Indian merchants as their benefactors, yet it is almost certain that if consumption had not been rapidly stimulated by such action as theirs, the producers would ere now have been ruined.

What the result has been to those who formerly had almost a monopoly of the retail sale of tea is known to all men. The individual grocer has seen his tea trade passing into the hands of powerful capitalists, and if he has not been content to be absorbed by them he has had to endure the competition of dairymen, drapers, pastrycooks, and everyone else whom the modern system of distributing ready-made blended tea has admitted to the trade without need of possessing the most elementary knowledge of the article in which they deal.

Grocers who knew their business might have withstood even such competition as this, but for the fact that the advertisement of low-priced tea in such a way as to imply that there is no tea worth high prices had vitiated the public taste, and created a craze for mere cheapness, which disabled those who cannot afford to sell at a nominal profit.

This and nothing else is really at the bottom of the grocers' difficulty, *viz.*: that the public have been trained to buy tea because of its cheapness, not because of its worth, and have been left in ignorance of the existence, merit, and economical value of the fine varieties produced in India, China, or Ceylon; and, save for a spasmodic effort here and there, nothing has been done by those most directly concerned to enlighten them.

Now, those observers to whom allusion was made at the head of this article see that a number of causes, of which the cumulative effect will be considerable, are operating in a contrary direction to the general trend of the movements of the past eighteen or twenty years.

In the first place, there has lately been a marked increase in the world's demand for tea as such, aided by the removal of import duties in America and Australia, and by reduction of duty in the German Empire, of which the immediate result has been a large diversion of supplies, which usually come to London, to other countries. Then, our home consumption has at last outstripped the supply, already to be seen by the statistics, but which will be more clearly manifest on July 1.

The effect of this will be accentuated by the free manufacture in Ceylon and India of leaf into green tea that has hitherto been made into black, consequent upon the success of the new process discovered by Messrs. Deane and Judge, by which the sort that American and other foreign buyers like can be easily and cheaply made; and also by the action now being taken by the planters' Associations to reduce the output by a general agreement to pluck less leaf.

Whether they will succeed in this, and whether their present policy of regulating supplies will answer, are questions not yet solved; but it is to be noted that the growers are no longer a number of isolated units, but a compact, organised body, acting in concert in a disciplined way with a definite aim, *viz.*, to raise the value of tea. To do so is a matter of life or death to them, for although it is admitted with reluctance, it is nevertheless a fact that old estates are becoming less productive, either from impoverishment or denudation of soil, or from natural decay, while since 1900 hardly any fresh planting has been done, but, on the contrary, there has been abandonment of plots that cannot be profitably cultivated for lack of means or from shortness of labour.

It is, therefore, wise to look ahead, for, although there may be sufficient tea this year and the next, it is not improbable that from 1905 onwards the supply will diminish for many years until, after lapse of time, fresh ground has been broken and new plantations have been brought into bearing. Prudent retailers should consider what will happen if there be a prolonged period of inadequate supplies. Almost certainly, such an advance in price as to spoil the trade of those who have built up their business solely on the

strength of a low quotation, and to restore their fair share of trade to those who have taken exactly the opposite course and have made a name for themselves as sellers of really good tea at higher rates.

The conclusion is that grocers should endeavour by every means in their power to raise the average price of what they sell, by pressing upon their customers the merit and worth of the finer varieties, by having their own speciality suitable for their locality, as the former generation of grocers used to do, by keeping a larger and more attractive assortment, not by holding fine tea to get stale in their storerooms, but by requiring the dealers to provide them with fresh supplies as required, in the way that blenders supply their customers or their shops with fresh tea week by week. And the wholesale dealers must learn to do with fine tea what the blenders have shown them can be done with other sorts.

The time is opportune for action on these lines, for there are signs that the pushing of cheap tea is a spent force, and that a reaction among consumers in favour of good tea has already set in. It may be that at present it largely runs on choice kinds of China, but it is not confined to that, and it matters not what the description sold is if custom can be gained at quotations which leave the vendor a good profit, and the well-to-do householder, who can afford to pay a proper price, can be weaned from his propensity to pay as little as he can for his tea, while he grudges no expense on his wine, his cigars, and other luxuries.

It is certainly significant that shrewd men of business from the outside, already famous in their own line, have lately taken up the sale of tea at such prices of 3s. and 3s. 6d. per lb. They would not have done so unless they had satisfied themselves there was a demand for it.

And the time is opportune for another reason: the finest Indian teas are now procurable at much lower prices than formerly was the case, affording to the retailer who is successful in pleasing his customers a far handsomer profit than can be obtained on the cheaper kinds.

## TEA CULTIVATION IN LOWER ASSAM.

### RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

A special article in the *Englishman* says:—

Looking back over the past year or two I find that tea cultivation in Lower Assam has been practically stationary. The grave condition of the industry, the scarcity of labour, unseasonable weather and low markets have necessarily restricted operations. And this is doubtless a wise law of nature to prevent the total destruction of an industry which at one time seriously threatened to be reduced to the same poor condition as indigo. Individual fancy was won't to run riot in extensions, with the inevitable result foreseen by many. But in vain were the constant notes of warning sounded. Who listens to the creak of the raven when the nightingale is singing?

Even should the brighter prospects which appear to be in store for us be realized, the enforced cessation of making extensions will meanwhile bear good fruit. May one even dare to hope that the lessons of the past in this respect will never be wholly forgotten but that some measure of caution may guide us should further extensions on any considerable scale ever again become advisable?

At present the ever-increasing difficulties of labour importation will prohibit any important extensions in the near future, and this is undoubtedly a blessing in disguise in that sense. As a natural result tea seed is a drug on the market. Seed gardens are practically so much waste land, and the revenues of estates where the sale of seed was an important item in former years, have suffered in consequence.

Planters are very wisely engaged in striving to improve the quality of the plant now under cultivation, in fact for some years past this matter has received much attention, and various experiments have been submitted in different localities with different forms of nutriment. It is now a well-admitted, authentic fact, among Assam planters that principles applied to one garden will not necessarily be equally satisfactory in another. We have been a long time arriving at this elemental axiom of agriculture but we are really there at last! This was another warning long sounded by the thinking few, and equally long disregarded by the ignorant many. But the time has now arrived when the



-planters of Assam, like the agriculturists of England must her steady the economic conditions of the soil in a scientific rit, and cultivate their gardens upon those principles, or ousted from the arena. It is true we have not yet arrived a course at an agricultural college being a necessary training for every young assistant, but matters are tending in at direction. In the early days of tea, and until within very few years indeed, all gardens were conducted upon similar es regardless of the difference in climate, soil, and labour disposal. Planters from the furthest limits of Kamrup strict were sent to big factories in Dibrugarh to learn the system tea manufacture employed there: Dibrugarh managers were nsferred to isolated gardens in Darrang, with generally disastrous results and wholesale loss of local labour, upon which Lower arrang and Kamrup gardens largely depend. If planters themselves were generally too ignorant to realize how improbable it is that a system acting well under certain conditions would do so ually well under others quite different, how much less likely that lcutta agents, superintending the affairs of tea gardens in all rts of climates and surroundings, from the narrow environment four office walls could be expected to understand the difference? The company craze has long ago penetrated to Assam, and ereas only a few years ago resident-proprietors were a fairly mmon feature of the province, these are now practically non-existent, having merged their interests in companies. The resident-oprietors of former days long since retired, and in many cases liged to take up the hoe once more and return to the scene of eir youth in some more or less subordinate capacity, may be ten heard to rue the day when the hope of larger profits induced em to part with the smaller competency. For the good paying rden has more often than not been absorbed into a worthless lot, ough as a sop to uneasy shareholders, perhaps.

The selling season of 1902 produce ended more favourably than e opening of the market promised, and taking it all round planters ve every reason to be thankful for the results. A better standard prices has been reached than has for long prevailed, and this is nificantly a satisfactory state of affairs, and moreover somewhat xpected. True, denizens of Mincing Lane early gave promises r brighter prospects in the immediate future, but planters have had many disappointments that they were afraid to take too sanguine view this time.

Now we are informed in certain quarters that tea in general is in r another good time, if planters will only "go cannily." Provided at there is no appreciable increase in outturn—and this is im-robable in the immediate future—there seems to be no reason hy the market should not continue steady or even rise further. arkets beyond the United Kingdom are on the increase, and ere is no reason for undue pressure upon the London sale rooms.

The industry too, after years of vain endeavour, has succeeded at last obtaining a fair meed of public attention. The Home ealers have for some time given prominent space to questions onnected with tea. The Home Government, no less than the ndian Government, seems to have at length realized with what an mportant industry it has to deal, and that legislation in this onnection is no trivial matter.

The primary necessity of improved methods of communication is ully admitted. In this connection the thanks of all India are reatly due to the Viceroy, whose forward policy in this direction s well known, and during whose reign so much has already been arried out. The improvements now commenced in Assam will, t is hoped, steadily increase. The urgent need of feeder tramways cannot be too strongly urged upon the local Government. Not ea-planters only, but the whole of the trading population of the rovince calls for combination in this respect. With proper com-unications established the latent resources of the province will evelop, and from being one of the most backward, Assam ay yet become a prominent feature in the economic policy f India, nor should the fact be lost sight of, that to tea-planters only, and the early pioneers whose personal energy laid he foundation stone of the present gigantic industry, is all the prosperity of the province, past, present, and future, entirely due. But for them Assam would still be but a howling waste of jungle, ith a sparsely-scattered indigenous population, poverty-stricken, nd fever-racked. And the many thousands of souls from the ongested districts of Bengal and other parts, imported yearly for garden labour, and whose capitation fees form no small source of evenue to the Government, would, but for the tea-planting com-

munity either die of starvation in their own districts, or prove an additional burden to India's rulers. The obligations which the Government of India is under to the tea-planting community of Assam is one which cannot be too emphatically impressed upon public notice. There is always a tendency among young Government officers to regard the appointment as that of a ruler *per se*. He should be taught to realize that his very existence in Assam is due to the presence of the planter whom he too frequently regards as the inhabitant of another world, inferior to his own notwithstanding the equality of social claims where these are indisputable. Government officers in Assam as elsewhere, are appointed and exist for the benefit of the public, which in this province is practically the planter, his labour force, and the many hundreds who the industry directly, or indirectly, draws towards itself.

At the present time rain is greatly needed. The continued drought is beginning to be very serious, and shortness of water at the season is apt to carry sickness and many evils in its train. The high winds, which for so many months have been a prominent and unpleasant feature, still continue. Earthquakes are occasionally felt; faint tremors, with a shake now and then, but nothing considerbble since last December.

## THE HISTORY OF COFFEE.

The coffee tree originated in Abyssinia, and derives its name from the city of Kaffa. It was brought thence to Yemen, or Arabia Felix, where it was known at the beginning of the 14th century. Although this is the known origin of coffee, there is no doubt the plant likewise existed in various tropical regions, as Persia and Western Africa.

According to Arnold, the first official in history who used coffee, was a cadi of Medina called Abd-el Kader.

Dufour has reckoned that the amount of coffee shipped from Mocha to Suez, and by caravans to Damascus and Aleppo, must have been 16,000 bags of 300 lbs. each. At that time, in 1573, Rauwolfio brought to Europe some coffee trees, which Alpino studied and described in 1591.

The history of the plant, which was to acquire such a great influence in the world, is not very old, but there is every reason to believe the ancient Egyptians and Abyssinians made use of coffee as nourishment.

It was in Persia that coffee commenced to have its present use as an excitant of the digestive and nervous functions. It was there, for the first time, the bean was roasted and employed in an infusion. The secret was soon divulged in Turkey and Arabia.

Edwards introduced coffee in England in 1650, and the first impression it produced on the public was not good. A few months later there were in London as many public places in which coffee was served as in Constantinople itself.

During the reign of Charles II. coffee suffered persecutions and difficulties.

In 1675 an order was issued to close more than 3,000 houses in which coffee was served as a beverage.

Ten years after the English had adopted the use of coffee it began to be established in France, where it was to be consumed later in such large quantities and was carefully prepared. However, Leonard Rauwolfio had already mentioned the coffee tree in 1573, in a work well known in France. Prospero Alpino, a celebrated physician of Padua, and a great botanist, published in Venice in 1591, a book in which he describes a tree he had seen in Egypt and which he called bon, ban, or boun. This work was reprinted in 1640 in Padua, with observations and notes which Veslingio, another celebrated Italian physician, had added to this treatise. In 1624, Bacon of Veralum, in his *Sylva Sylvarum*, had mentioned coffee as a beverage in general use in the Orient, and Meisner, in 1621, wrote a treatise about this precious berry.

In Italy coffee began to be used as a beverage in 1645, and since 1644, a Venetian, called Pietro della Valle, had brought coffee to Marseilles.

In 1660, several merchants of Marseilles, who had lived a long time in the East and had become accustomed to coffee, sent to Egypt for some bales of this article.

From Marseilles the use of coffee was introduced in Lyons, in the Province, and in the neighbouring Provinces. It was in Marseilles where, for the first time, a coffee house was opened in France.



During the reign of Louis XIII. a decoction of coffee was sold at the Petit Chalet, which was called "cohoet" or "cahoet." But this beverage did not win the public favour for a long time in France. In 1662 there were no public coffee houses in Paris, and coffee did not begin to be generally used until the middle of the 18th century.

Soliman Aga, Ambassador of the Porte to Louis XIV. in 1669, was the first to introduce in Paris the use of coffee. He induced some persons to taste it, and they continued using it after he had left. At first coffee was sold in Paris up to 40 crowns per lb., but this exorbitant price did not continue long.

At the beginning of the 18th century Arabia supplied to Europe all the coffee that was consumed. Weary of paying a tribute for this precious berry, the Europeans tried to possess the tree which produced it.

Nicholas Witsen, of Amsterdam, was the first, who, in 1690, transported from Mocha to Batavia, some say, a few fresh berries, and some affirm the tree itself. This first trial was successful.

The Government of Batavia sent in that year a coffee tree for the greenhouses of Amsterdam. Resson, a lieutenant-general of artillery, who was devoted to botanical pursuits, brought to France the first coffee tree; it came from Holland and was presented to Louis XIV. in 1712, at Marly, whence it was sent to the Jardin des Plantes, produced flowers and bore fruit, but died soon after. At that time Brancas, burgomaster of Amsterdam in 1714, sent another coffee tree as a present to Louis XIV.

From this tree grown in the Jardin des Plantes of Paris, are derived all the coffee trees which are cultivated at present in America, according to Rossignon; but some assert that Brazilian coffee descends from a coffee bush originally brought from Goa, in 1760, by Joao Alberto Castello Branco, planted in the city of Rio de Janeiro, capital of Brazil, in the garden of the convent of the nuns of St. Tieresa.

In 1716 a seed-bed of coffee trees, grown from seeds from the Jardin des Plantes, was given to Ysambert, a physician, in order that he should take it to the French colonies, but Ysambert died soon after his arrival there, and this first trial was unsuccessful.

According to Rossignon, in 1723 Chirac, a physician, gave to De Clieux, a Norman gentleman, captain of infantry and naval lieutenant, a coffee tree to be planted in Martinique. The sea voyage was long and perilous, and water became scarce and was distributed in small rations. De Clieux, who understood the importance of propagating this tree in the American colonies, and who wished to preserve for this country a new source of wealth, divided his water ration with the precious shrub confided to his care, and had the pleasure to see it reach Martinique, although weak, not in a hopeless condition. His care redoubled. He planted it in the most favourable spot in his garden, where it could develop. He protected it by surrounding it with thorns, and had it watched day and night. The first year he had the pleasure of gathering 2 lbs. of seeds.

He gave some of these seeds to De la Guarnigue-Survillier, colonel of the Martinique militia, and to other inhabitants of the island, who planted them.

Coffee plantations were prosperous in Martinique and crops abundant, when, on November 7, 1727, a terrible earthquake, which lasted several days and shook the mountains, destroyed all the cocoa trees.

This terrible event was propitious to coffee cultivation in Martinique. The assiduity and perseverance of the settlers were such that the island produced by itself more coffee than was required for the consumption of the whole of France.

From Martinique some coffee trees were sent to Santo Domingo, Guadeloupe and other neighbouring islands. Some authors claim, however, that coffee has been transported to Santo Domingo since 1715.

The cultivation of coffee spread rapidly in the Island of Guadeloupe, but it has been neglected for that of the sugar-cane.

The Dutch carried on this cultivation with success in 1718 in Surinam, Dutch Guiana.

In 1717 or 1718 the French East India Company, established in Paris, sent to the Island of Bourbon (now Island of Réunion), by a sea captain of St. Malo, named Dufougeret-Arenier, some coffee trees from Mocha. They were delivered to Desforges-Boucher, the king's lieutenant in that island.

There remained only one tree of that collection in 1720, but it produced so much in that year, at least 15,000 seeds were sown.

All the coffee trees existing at present in the island come from those nursery trees and produce the coffee known in the market as Bourbon coffee.

The inhabitants of Bourbon, as some writers claim, having seen in 1715, in a French ship just returned from Mocha, some branches of common coffee full of leaves and berries, noticed at once that they had in their mountains trees perfectly similar. They brought some branches, which, on being compared, were found to be exact, both in regard to the leaf and to the fruit but the bean from the island was found to be longer, smaller and greener than that of Arabia. This, no doubt, decided some naturalists to classify this coffee as a special kind in comparison with Arabian coffee.

In the Spanish West Indies coffee was introduced first in the Island of Santo Domingo, passing to Porto Rico, and then to Cuba, in 1760. Here it was grown at first in some plantations, and only after the immigration of the French settlers from Santo Domingo were the first coffee plantations established in the eastern portion of the island. Soon after it extended to the Western portion, which, in 1800, had 80 coffee plantations. As the cultivation of coffee demands less capital than that of sugar, and as the lack of competition, after Santo Domingo was ruined, had increased the price and produced considerable profit, this work being easier than that of sugar and at the same time more profitable, the majority of the farmers hastened to plant coffee. This abundance gave origin to the decrease in the price of coffee—especially when that of Java and Brazil, of better quality, were sold cheaper—and an agricultural crisis was the outcome. Then the Cubans proceeded to destroy their coffee plantations and devoted their efforts to the cultivation of sugar.

Coffee may have been introduced in Mexico in the 18th century, for, according to the data published about "Domestic and Foreign Commerce of Mexico," by M. Lerdo de Tejada, among the products exported from Vera Cruz in 1802, 1803, and 1805, coffee figures respectively with 272,493 and 336 quintals. (Julio Rossignon.)

## POPULAR DRINKS.

Newspaper summaries of the "Statistical Abstract" tables showing the consumption of tea, coffee, wines, and liquors, are likely to give the public a mistaken impression. We have seen one such summary from which the reader could only infer that there is a much greater increase of the American consumption of malt liquors than of the domestic consumption of tea and coffee. Most people, too, would assume, from a glance at the summary in question, that the consumers of the two grocery staples are in a minority as compared with the drinkers of wines and liquors. This would happen because the Government tables are not reduced to gallons in all cases, only the intoxicants being measured by the gallon.

Below is an excerpt from a series of tables in "Statistical Abstract," showing the *per capita* consumption of tea and coffee in pounds and of intoxicants in gallons:

### "PER CAPITA" CONSUMPTION.

		Tea.	Coffee.	Wines.	Spirits.	Malt Liquors.
Year.		Pounds.	Pounds.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
1871	...	1.14	7.91	0.40	1.62	6.10
1881	...	1.54	8.25	0.47	1.38	8.65
1891	...	1.29	8.00	0.45	1.43	15.31
1901	...	1.14	10.60	0.37	1.33	16.20
1902	...	0.94	13.37	0.63	1.36	17.49

If we add the tea and coffee *per capita*s together we get a total of only 14.31 pounds, apparently a meagre showing compared with the liberal consumption of malt liquors, 17.49 gallons, and when compared with the total wine and liquor consumption, 19.48 gallons, it becomes of even less importance.

Let us, however, turn the tea and coffee into gallons, after deducting 15 per cent. in weight from the coffee for the loss sustained in the roasting process. Here is the result for two years:

### "PER CAPITA" CONSUMPTION.

		Tea.	Coffee.	Wines & Liquors.
Year.		Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
1901	...	6.84	18.98	17.90
1902	...	5.64	22.74	19.48

In 1901 there was a consumption of wines and liquors aggregating 17.90 gallons and of tea and coffee aggregating 25.82 gallons.



In 1902 the consumption had increased to 19.48 gallons for the intoxicants and 28.38 gallons for the non-intoxicants. The true figures are probably even more favourable for the temperance cause, as the tea *per capita* was unduly reduced by causes connected with the repeal of the duty, the actual consumption of tea in 1892 having probably approached high-water mark.

The consumption of tea in fact just about keeps pace with the natural increase of population, while coffee, in every way a much more popular drink, finds its use so stimulated by low prices that its *per capita* jumps ahead by leaps and bounds.

The consumption of cocoa and chocolate as a beverage is probably not far from a gallon *per capita*. In ten years the *per capita* consumption of all kinds of cocoa and chocolate has increased from about  $\frac{1}{3}$  lb. to  $\frac{2}{3}$  lb.

It may be of interest to our readers, in this connection, to know how the *per capita* consumption of sugar in this country compares with the totals for the other breakfast necessities. In 1902 the sugar *per capita* was 72.8 lbs., and this was the highest point ever reached. In 1901 the *per capita* rate was 68.7 lbs. and in 1892 it was 63.8 lbs. In 1882 the *per capita* consumption of sugar was 48.4 lbs.

Coffee has been gaining in public favour at a great rate, but its gain is not as steady as that of sugar. The coffee *per capita* sometimes slips behind a previous year, and tea often acts in that manner, but not so sugar, which as a barometer of American prosperity and commercial power is as accurate as it has proved in the case of Great Britain.—*Merchants' Review*.

## A TRIP TO THE ANNAMALAIS.

A GREAT FUTURE AS A COFFEE COUNTRY.

Mr. D Edwards, well-known in Colombo commercial circles and in Ceylon generally, has just returned from an interesting ten days' visit to the Annamalais. In conversation with an *Observer* representative to-day, Mr. Edwards gave some interesting information especially regarding the journey to the Annamalais which he suggested might be noted.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF PROBABLE PROSPECTORS.

"Leaving Colombo by the ss. *Africa* on 9th April," he said, "and Tuticorin by rail next morning I reached Podanur on the 11th at 7 A.M. On the 12th I travelled by *tonga* to Pollachi, 25 miles, slept the night at the travellers' bungalow and "tonga-ed" on to the foot of the Ghaut the following day, a further 13 miles. Now for the climb! 16 miles by short cuts to my destination, the biggest piece of real hard work I have ever done. I should mention there is

A CART ROAD ALL THE WAY TO THE ANNAMALAIS.

but the heavy rains last November played havoc with the culverts on the face of the Ghaut, and wheel traffic has not yet been resumed. At the present moment, however, some hundreds of coolies are employed on the work, and it is expected, that in two months some carts will be going through the whole way. The Annamalais greatly resemble Haputale in lay of land, soil climate, etc., and I shall be surprised if this district is not better known before long. The climate is perfection.

THE RAINFALL AVERAGES ABOUT 138 INCHES.

This may be considered heavy for coffee, but it is not so in this district, where the soil is very porous with deep loam. There is not the slightest indication of wash. The dry months are December to April—just what coffee requires. Even at present low prices, coffee at four years old is leaving a fair margin of profit. The crop now setting is very fine indeed and stripping will again be necessary to save the trees from over-bearing. Coolies are plentiful and the average of

THE CHECK-ROLL IS ABOUT 28 CENTS, AGAINST OUR 34.

I made a point of seeing cooly rice and thought very highly of the samples shown me. It was native milled, clean and wholesome food. On my return journey I covered 54 miles across the plains from the Annamalais to Podanur, riding, walking and "tonga-ing" which is my record for the tropics."

While at the Annamalais Mr. Edwards stayed at Parlei estate, of which Mr. Marsh is manager, with two European assistants, Messrs. Congreve and Vincent. About 19,000 acres of land are opened up and about 3,000 acres are planted with coffee, cardamoms, cinchona, and tea, while some rubber is being tried. The cardamom crop, Mr. Edwards thought, phenomenally good. On

one estate, Valpari, there were 900 acres of cardamoms and 300 of coffee.

TEA IS STILL IN ITS INITIAL STAGES.

Monaco estate, with 200 acres and a finely-equipped factory, and Lord Stanmore estate with 125 acres under cultivation, being the ones growing it. Regarding labour, Mr. Edwards noticed a general air of prosperity in the cooly districts which he certainly thinks

NOT CONDUCTIVE TO IMMIGRATION

at present, especially as Government is now carrying on extensive irrigation works. Large and extensive tracts of land and fields are being irrigated, and the people are industriously cultivating paddy in the fields, and tobacco and chillies on dry land.

Mr. Edwards, although for about 30 years resident in the East, had never previously visited India and is loud in his praises of his visit which he thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Edwards leaves for Home by the *China* in a fortnight's time.—*Ceylon Observer*, March 22.

## CAFFEINE IN COFFEE.

It has long been known that coffee berries usually contain something like one per cent. of caffeine, the substance to which coffee owes its stimulating properties. Recently M. Bertrand of the Pasteur Institute has analysed nine kinds of coffee with interesting results, which are referred to in the *Agricultural News*, Barbados. The beans of one species (*Coffea humblotiana*) contained no caffeine, and in another species (*C. mauritiana*) only 0.07 per cent. was present. These two varieties are thus for all practical purposes free from the stimulating alkaloid. In Arabian coffee (*C. arabica*), obtained from various sources, the caffeine present varied from 0.83 to 1.60 per cent. Liberian coffee (*C. liberica*) yielded between 1.06 and 1.45 per cent. The new African coffee (*C. stenophylla*) appears very rich in caffeine, 1.52 and 1.70 per cent. being the results of two analyses recorded. *Coffea canephora* gave the highest caffeine content, 1.97 per cent. The paper is printed in *L'Agriculture pratique des pays chauds*, Year II., pp. 211—13. —*Journal of the Society of Arts*.

## THE LABOUR QUESTION.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Rookwood, Hewaheta, April 22.

SIR,—I enclose for publication the preliminary report of our Labour Commissioners, Messrs. Turner and Hill. Additional information will be available at the Planters' Association Committee and General Meetings, on the 1st and 2nd proximo.

The Commissioners recommend that we should station an agent in South India for recruiting purposes, and that he should be sent early in May, if possible. I shall be glad if estates who are willing to support a recruiting agency will send in their names to Mr. Philip, stating also the number of coolies required. A registration fee of 10 cents per cultivated acre per annum would probably meet the expenses of the agency, and in addition the coolies would cost from Rs.15 to Rs.20 per head, according to the distance they would have to travel in India and Ceylon. It should be to the advantage of all estates to maintain such an agency, as estates now well supplied with labour are equally interested in the establishment, if possible, of a new form of recruiting. If the cost of bringing over the coolies is borne by the estate, a saving in head money should be effected, and as this amounts on an average to over Rs.12 per annum, the cost of recruiting would, in eighteen months, be recovered. I wish to ascertain at an early date, what support would be given to a recruiting agency; but promises now made will not be considered binding until a more detailed scheme can be submitted.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. C. KINGSFORD,

Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon.

(The report referred to.)

In accordance with the Resolution passed at the General Meeting of the Planters' Association held at Kandy on February 17th, 1903, your Commissioners have visited Southern India and beg to submit the following preliminary report.

Your Commissioners left Ceylon on the 16th of March, and proceeded straight to Madras to present their credentials. They



found that G. O. 244 (*vide* Appendix) had been sent out to all Collectors and District Officers in the Madras Presidency, and, having got all the information they could from the officials in Madras they left for Chingleput, and proceeded through North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Tinnevely, Coimbatore, and Kistna.

The Indian officials gave them all the information at their disposal and helped them in every way and they personally have to thank them for their kind hospitality throughout the trip.

Your Commissioners having travelled through the Presidency for six weeks have come to the following conclusions: That the scarcity of labour is due to the following causes:

1. The 9,000 crops of all grain during 1902 and 1903 and the increased acreage under ground nut in the Trichinopoly, South Arcot, Tanjore and other districts—a ground nut has been imported from Mauritius which is said to give three crops a year and thus affords employment practically throughout the year.

2. The want of organisation with regard to recruiting.

3. The greater inducements held out to labourers to emigrate elsewhere. Your Commissioners were asked to report on the whole question of labour and actual recruiting did not come within their province unless it could be effected without interfering with the more important part of their mission. They found it impossible to recruit unless they devoted practically their whole time to it as recruiting necessitates either staying in one central place while sub-agents are out in the villages possibly for a month or being at the beck and call of a telegram from a sub-agent which might take one 200 miles in order to verify a statement as to number of coolies and amount required for advances. Your Commissioners came across two cases where coolies had been borrowed "for this occasion only" and when it came to putting them into the train, it was found that they were employed in a neighbouring mill or some other work.

The district of Coimbatore should be a good ground but the poorer the people the more conservative they are and they prefer to earn a living wage of 2 annas, at home, rather than exile and 5 or 6 annas a day.

The Telugu districts north of Madras, are also favourable for emigration, if the difficulty of the language can be overcome, and the extra expense of trainage allowed for.

Your Commissioners beg to offer the following suggestions which they think are necessary with a view to establishing the immigration of labour to Ceylon on a sound basis.

1. That a reliable Agent should be appointed whose duty it would be to have a thorough knowledge of every taluk in the Presidency, and his first work should be in the Telugu districts in order to work up a connection with Ceylon from that part of the country.

2. That a labour bureau should be started by the P. A. in Kandy, whose duty would be to collect and publish all available information as to crops, weather, and health of each taluk (division) of each district in the Madras Presidency.

3. That a strong sub-Committee with legal help, should study the New Madras Labour Act. The Straits Settlement Labour laws, and the Emigration Act of India, to see whether any similar ordinance in Ceylon would benefit the Planting Community or failing any new ordinance, what inducements should be offered to immigrants in order to make Ceylon more favourable in the cooly's eyes than other countries.

Your Commissioners would only add that action should be taken at once, as may appear to be the opening month for coolies generally to think of emigrating, and your rivals are already in the field.

Your Commissioners have collected a lot of figures and interesting matter, which they will lay before the Committee on their return to Ceylon, all bearing on the conclusions and suggestions mentioned in this report.

Your Commissioners visited Tataparai (Tuticorin), Pamban, Ammapatam, and Tondi, the four ports from which all the immigrants to Ceylon book; and think that until the railway from Negapatam to Pamban or wherever the Indian Government decide to link up is finished, it would be very bad policy to close the ports of Ammapatam and Tondi as they consider the country inland most favourable for coolies, if properly worked.

(Signed) EDGAR TURNER.

( " ) JOHN HILL.

Madura, S. India, April 17th 1903.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### THE SOUTH MYSORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

We extract the following from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association held at the Munzerabad Club, Saklaspur, on the 30th ultimo:—

PRESENT:—Messrs. Anderson, C.I.E., Harris (*President*), E. M. Playfair, H. M. Playfair, J. H. Robinson, Russell, Taylor, Scholfield, Pittock, Butcher, C. Lake, W. L. Crawford, J. G. H. Crawford, Dennis, de Salis, Captain Foster, T. Hunt, T. Anderson, F. Norton (*Honorary Secretary*), and P. W. Wetherall (*Honorary Member*).

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President then addressed the Meeting and in the course of his speech said:—

GENTLEMEN,—The past year has been an eventful one. The majority of us can congratulate ourselves on picking record crops, and though prices have struck a very low level, all estates I trust will on the year's working finish upon the right side and many show good profits. The passing of the Madras Planters' Labour Bill by the Legislative Council of Fort. St. George is an event of great moment to our community, and is the consummation of many years of struggle. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth had a difficult task to perform, as the opinion of District Associations differed considerably, and as some of them were strongly opposed in Council. With the assistance of Sir George Arbuthnot, however, he succeeded in carrying many points of importance, and in no way spared himself in his endeavour to shape the Bill into workable form. There has been a tendency to regard the Bill from an individual standpoint forgetful of the varied conditions of labour in S. India. Doubtless anyone could suggest improvements, but taking a broad view, it recognises that what we have ever aimed at is not so much punishment for breach, as enforcement of, contracts; and also that it provides for reciprocity as regards execution of warrants, I cannot but think that we shall find it an instrument better suited to our requirements than Act XIII. The Mysore Government has assured us that it will not introduce it without first conferring with us. We must therefore decide—

(i) whether we will pronounce in favour of it;

(ii) what modifications we shall suggest.

The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth has pointed out most clearly that though Local Governments will be allowed to make alterations to suit local circumstances, if anything opposed to the principles of the Bill were inserted, or if Act XIII were allowed to run concurrently with it, the Government of India would certainly disallow reciprocity regarding processes. We must therefore decide between the old Bill and the new. Opponents of the new Bill will say let us wait till this state of things is reached, and then ask for it, but there is this to be said that by accepting it when labour troubles are few we should be able to test it dispassionately, discover its defects, endeavour to get them remedied, and thus be in a better position to meet the pinch whenever it may come. The constant attendances in Kutcherri will doubtless be vexatious and tedious, but this as far as the planter is concerned has been met by it not having been made obligatory for an agreement between a planter and a maistry to be signed before a magistrate. No doubt the Bill is unsuitable to local labour, and though the proviso added to section 7 is an improvement it does not go far enough for us. I think, however, it should be possible without running counter to the views of the Government of India, to get our Local Governments to introduce certain clauses which would enable us to deal satisfactorily with this class of cooly and obviate his being subject to unnecessary vexations which he might be under the Bill as it stands. What I may call the inquisitorial sections 12–15 are probably anticipated with the least satisfaction. Under Section 41, however, rules may be made to regulate accommodation, sanitary arrangements, etc. and it should be our endeavour to induce our Local Government to frame such as will be in accordance with existing customs. It will not, I fear, be possible at this Meeting to discuss the Bill in detail, but I trust we shall come to a definite conclusion regarding the main issue as to whether we should ask for its introduction or



not. This done, I would suggest, should we decide in favour of it, the appointment of a small Committee to draw up a memo. of such modifications as may be desirable for submission to Government.

*Coffee Cess.*—You will have noticed that the Standing Committee have, owing in a great measure to lack of support, temporarily counselled the abandonment of this matter, not however without hope that it may be resuscitated at the Annual Meeting. Several firms of standing have expressed willingness to undertake the sale of our low-grade coffees, and what is now required is unanimity among ourselves. Many have expressed willingness to support the cess if a workable scheme be formulated, but if success is to attend our efforts we must go further, and if I may presume to offer counsel it is this—

- (i) decide definitely whether a cess is desirable or not;
- (ii) and, if in favour of it, what the rate should be;
- (iii) appoint a representative Managing Committee and give it *carte blanche* to deal with the funds as it may deem best.

I believe it only requires a sufficient balance in the Bank to set the matter going, but if we continue to refuse support till a cut and dried scheme is laid before us we shall never get any further.

*Delegate to Brazil.*—The Government of India has offered to subscribe Rs.5,000, provided we can raise the rest of the amount required, and it is for us to say to-day what this Association and what each of us individually are prepared to do in the matter.

*Plague.*—This terrible disease has unfortunately been very prevalent in what I may call the *maidan* portions of the Coffee Districts, and has, to some extent, penetrated into the Mulnaad. The greatest possible credit is due to the officials in the Hassan District for the manner in which they have combated it, and especially to our sub-divisional officer, Mr. Wetherall, who, by constant watchfulness and by wise and prompt measures, has kept Saklaspur entirely immune from it and prevented it from devastating Belur.

*Interview with Mr. Madhava Rao.*—Accounts of this have been circulated, and it only remains to record our thanks to Government for the sympathy it displayed and for sanctioning the Anjur Bridge which Mr. Madhava Rao announced at the interview. In conclusion, I beg to place my resignation in your hands, while thanking you for the support accorded me during the past year.

#### THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Honorary Secretary read his report as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—Having kept you well informed by means of circular letters on all topics that have been of general interest to you throughout the year, I have left myself but little to report on, and so will be as concise as possible. I have to congratulate you on having picked big crops—in some instances record ones—and though prices have not so far been high, they have not been so poor as one time we feared they would be. I think the most marked feature has been the adverse brokers' reports on the quality and appearance of the first arrivals of East Indian coffee, but these are simply the result of damage caused by heavy rain occurring during the early picking. I recommend that you send to Dr. Butler, Cryptogamic Botanist to Government of India, enquiries on all points on which scientific assistance is required, and whose paper on "Stump Rot" and its Treatment I lay on the table. Prospects I believe point to fair crops for the coming year. Our members, I regret to say, have fallen from 33 last year to 28 this year. Among our losses, we have to deplore the sadly premature death of Mr. Elder, of Sumshay Estate. Plague has been a source of anxiety to all of us, but I am glad to say that I have not heard of a single case on any coffee estate in our district.

The new Labour Law has been prominently before us during the past few months, and has been finally passed by the Madras Legislative Council. There can be no doubt that the Bill so passed is a very great improvement on the Bill as it was first printed. This has been largely due to the conciliatory attitude of the Madras Government, no less than to the marked ability of the Planting Member, to whom I think the cordial thanks of this Association are due, for the successful and tactful manner in which he helped to bring a by no means enviable task to a satisfactory conclusion. Before the new Act is introduced into Mysore, I feel assured that we shall have an opportunity of suggesting modifications and representing our views before the Government of Mysore. Our thanks are due to H. H. the Maharajah for having deputed Mr. Madhava Rao to confer with the representatives of the S. M. P. A. and N. M. P. A. on questions affecting our industry, but as the outcome of that conference is still under the considera-

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacobs Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/11 & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



tion of the Government of Mysore, I cannot enlarge on the subject, but we may rest assured that our suggestions will receive the most earnest attention, and a remedy applied where possible. No more courteous or sympathetic official could have been selected to confer with us.

As regards weights and measures you will be glad to hear that the Government will shortly frame rules to regulate them.

The thanks of this Association are due to Mr. W. L. Crawford, for his able and interesting, and I venture to say convincing, report on the Leeming system. The Anjur Bridge has been sanctioned and will soon be put in hand and finished.

The Postal arrangements of this district have shown an improvement lately, and members will only have themselves to blame if they allow them to lapse into the state from which they have lately emerged.

This Association has to be congratulated on the election of our President as Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Coffee Cess is still in abeyance, and I have circulated the latest information on the subject, but the knowledge that Brazil is exporting coffee to India, and underselling us in what ought to be our own markets, should stir us all to action.

The Delegate to Brazil has not yet made a start, and we shall no doubt be called upon to subscribe and supplement the grant of Rs.5,000 from the Government of India. The Shevaroy Hills Association has already set us a good example.

The accounts are placed on the table and show a cash balance of Rs.129-8-3. I would draw the attention of members to the fact that Rs.315 are still due on the subscriptions for 1902-03.

I beg to place my resignation in your hands.

#### MR. GRAHAM ANDERSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Graham Anderson in the course of a long speech then said:—

I desire to refrain from saying anything which would in the remotest degree lead anyone to believe that after all the trouble which has been so unsparingly bestowed on the new Labour Ordinance we did not know our own minds during the 30 years denunciation and campaign against Act XIII of 1859 which latterly had become so encrusted with judge-made law as to frustrate the very objects for which it was originally extended to the planting districts of Southern India. The Planters' Enquiry Commission exactly explained the position, when, after the most careful investigation, it announced its matured opinion that it was eminently desirable that some equitable arrangement should be made.

However undesirable a complicated Labour Ordinance may appear to us to be, we have no alternative but to accept it if advances are to be given to maistries and coolies in British territory, and we must continue to remember that even Mysore maistries and coolies who may defraud us are quite safe if they once cross the frontier line. Surrounded as this Province is by the territories of the paramount power, and owing to the facilities of railway communication, the liability to loss and constant annoyance is an ever-increasing evil which we have to contend against.

When considering the order of the Government of Madras, dated 28th November, 1893, I had the honour to point out that in Mysore the plantations are generally dotted over an immense area which is cultivated with other crops with numerous villages, the inhabitants of which have their own industries to attend to, and it would be impossible to have an Ordinance which would only affect persons residing on estates and in no way influencing the conduct of those just outside their boundaries. In some places in Southern Mysore there are large bodies of local labourers who, living in the vicinity of the plantations, attend work occasionally or regularly, but return to their own homes either daily or weekly. It would be obviously absolutely impossible to bring such people under any complex system of arrangements. We have absolutely nothing to do with their houses, their water-supply, or sanitary arrangements. They are perfectly free to arrange for their own comfort and welfare as they please, but we do everything possible to help them when ill or in difficulties as they are so useful to us in helping to maintain our industry. Many thousands have thus been emancipated from agrestic slavery, have received advances to enable them to marry and settle down and become small peasant cultivators who give a portion of their time to us on our plantations.

We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth and Sir George Arbuthnot for their powerful advocacy on behalf of Southern India planters generally and for their untiring exertions to do everything that was possible to insure protection

alike for the labourer and the employer. I also venture to believe that I am only expressing the sentiments of all my brother-planters in Southern Mysore when I say we most fully appreciate the care and attention which the Government of Madras has generously bestowed on the preparation of the new Act, which, although it requires certain modifications to suit the special requirements of the Mysore planting districts, is a great improvement on anything of the sort that has ever been framed.

The *Madras Mail* has rendered conspicuous service to both the planter and the cooly, and we will ever gratefully remember how cordially both the Government of Madras and the leading journals of the Presidency and Bangalore have endeavoured to place the planting industry on a better footing in regard to its labour arrangements. We cannot, of course, be expected to express any definite opinion on the provisions of the New Act until it has been most carefully studied by the combined Mysore Planters' Associations in conference with the Durbar so as to arrange for those modifications which will be essentially necessary to make it suitable for application to the planting districts of this Province.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

Mr. T. Hunt alone was not in favour of the Bill at present. As more local labour was being employed, he considered that Act XIII was best for us; and that we should wait and see how the new Bill works before asking for its introduction into Mysore.

Mr. Harris proposed the following Resolution:—"That this Association while recognising that the Bill as finally passed by the Legislative Council of Fort St. George in a great measure meets the requirements of the planting community, it is aware that certain modifications are desirable to meet the peculiar circumstances of labour in this Province, and it takes this opportunity of thanking the Durbar for its gracious offer to confer with us regarding such modifications, by the introduction of which the Bill is capable of being made acceptable to us."

Seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried. Mr. Hunt alone objecting.

Proposed by Mr. Hunt—"That Messrs. Anderson, Harris, Playfair, W. L. Crawford, and Norton be appointed to draw up a memo. of such modifications as may be deemed desirable."

Seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. J. G. Crawford—"That this Association desires to offer its cordial thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth for the able manner in which he assisted the passage of the Bill through Council, and for the successful way in which he represented our interests throughout the deliberations."

Seconded by Mr. E. M. Playfair and carried unanimously.

#### THE REDUCTION OF WAGES.

Mr. Robinson proposed that one rate of wages should be paid throughout the district by members of the Association for, as it at present stood, any member could pay what he chose. The system of groups of estates agreeing to pay the same rates had been a failure, therefore he proposed one rate for the district.

Seconded by Mr. Pittock. Lost: 15 against, 4 for.

#### THE COFFEE CESS.

Proposed by Mr. E. M. Playfair—"That those members who are not able at present to give a definite reply be requested to consult their Proprietors and Agents with a view to giving the required information in time to instruct the Delegate to the next U. P. A. S. I. Meeting."

Seconded by Mr. G. Anderson and carried unanimously.

#### THE DELEGATE TO BRAZIL.

Mr. J. G. H. Crawford proposed—"That this Association subscribe Rs.100 to the Fund and circulate a subscription list with a minimum of Rs.5."

Seconded by Captain Foster. Carried: 17 for and 2 against.


Roads, Railways, and Communications.—Mr. W. L. Crawford hoped that the question of the railways would be kept before Government, and if the main railway from Arsikerri to Mangalore could not be undertaken, the Durbar be requested to consider the advisability of constructing a loop to connect Arsikerri, Hassan-Saklasapur, Mudigere, Chickmagalur and Kadur.

Mr. E. M. Playfair expressed gratification that the Anjur Bridge had been sanctioned and pressed for its speedy completion, he was also pleased that the Arehully-Chickanhully had been finished, but till the Bridge across the Hesaragutta is constructed communication during the rain will continue to be suspended; and that the Honorary Secretary be directed to urge the early sanctioning of this undertaking, and draw attention to the bad state of the



**A  
NATURAL TONIC**

and blood purifier is Seigel's Syrup, made of  
fruits, roots and herbs. It cures constipation and  
dyspepsia, regulates the bowels, cleanses the liver,  
tones the digestive system, braces the nerves and imparts  
the vigour and vitality of health to every organ of the body.

 **SEIGEL'S  
SYRUP**

"For seven years,"  
writes Mr. F. J. Pauley,  
of Arthur Street, Croydon,  
N.S.W., "my stomach was unable to tolerate food of any des-  
cription, and the little which I forced myself to eat occasioned  
me dreadful pains in the chest, bilious attacks and fits of  
vomiting. Now I can digest with ease the toughest  
steak that comes out of a butcher's shop." It was  
Mother Seigel's Syrup wrought the change.

**FOR OLD & YOUNG.**

Arehully-Saklasapur Road and that the Belur-Gonibede Road requires re-metalling.

Mr. G. Anderson read an interesting letter signed by the leading merchants and land-owners of the district, asking him to gain the support of this Association to their urgent request for the extension of the Railway system. Letter and reply recorded.

#### U. P. A. BUSINESS.

As the Bangalore Races are to be held unusually early this year, it was resolved that this Association consider that the Annual Meeting should not take place till the first week in August.

Proposed by Mr. Robinson—"That Mr. J. G. H. Crawford should represent this Association at the next U. P. A. Annual Meeting."  
Seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

#### STUMP ROT AND DISEASED BEANS.

Mr. G. Anderson then read a memo. on Stump Rot and Diseased Beans, after which Dr. Butler's letter on Stump Rot and its Treatment was read.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Anderson and Dr. Butler and carried unanimously.

#### A RESOLUTION OF INDIGNATION.

The following Resolution was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously:—"We deplore and indignantly repudiate the insolent insinuations made by Mr. Shapurjee, the Chairman of the Native Shares, Stock, Exchange and Bullion Brokers of Bombay, as being wholly unmerited by Tea, Coffee, and Indigo planters, and as being a lamentable departure from the admirable traditional characteristics of the Parsee community to which he belongs."

#### THE NEW COMMITTEE.

The Ballot papers were opened and the following gentlemen were elected:—Messrs. Harris (*President*), F. Norton (*Honorary Secretary*). Committee Messrs. G. Anderson, C.I.E., J. G. H. Crawford, W. L. Crawford, T. Hunt, and E. M. Playfair.

### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated April 9th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903 ... ..	1,352,951	967,336	69,825
1901-1902 ... ..	1,464,888	1,002,665	69,775
29,766 pkgs. INDIAN 17,941 " CEYLON ... " JAVA	Total 47,707 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

It is probably owing to the proximity of the Easter holidays that buyers are confining their purchases generally to such teas as they are in immediate need of, particularly grades under about 8d. per lb., while neglecting to some extent the better kinds, doubtless in anticipation of any difficulty which they might experience in profitably disposing of them before the holidays.

The nearness of the Budget will also probably tend to throw the immediate demand more upon the lower grades of tea.

*Quantity of Indian and Ceylon Tea re-exported from U. K. from 1st January to 31st March.*

	INDIAN.				
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Countries in Europe ...	1,603,674	1,468,671	1,717,011	1,161,569	985,802
United States ...	308,864	487,117	444,512	121,413	194,204
Canada ...	181,884	462,948	583,228	344,586	700,846
Newfoundland ...	34,370	25,789	18,063	14,873	13,043
Other Countries ...	734,302	950,944	931,703	663,978	275,638
Total lbs. ...	2,863,094	3,395,469	3,694,517	2,306,419	2,169,533



	CEYLON.			
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Countries in Europe ...	1,776,966	1,477,855	2,404,232	1,730,433
United States ...	874,435	661,899	566,876	253,134
Canada ...	430,973	505,951	422,905	318,204
Newfoundland ...	56,137	67,742	51,032	33,472
Other Countries ...	755,819	770,311	855,229	494,861

Total lbs. ... 3,894,330 3,483,758 4,300,274 2,830,104 2,637,448

The closing auction of Indian tea was held on Monday and of Ceylon tea on Tuesday, and probably the next sale of Indian tea will take place on the 20th, Ceylon on the 21st, and Java on the 23rd instant.

INDIAN.—Buying was strong for all descriptions up to about 8d. per lb., these kinds meeting with good general competition; other grades were somewhat neglected, prices of better liquoring teas showing slight irregularity. 78 closing invoices have been sold, against 95 same date last year. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Amal T Est. Lattakoojan," 1/1; "Makum T Co." and "Amal T Est. Kalej," 1/0½; "Amal T Est. Dooteriah," 1/-.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 26,630 pkgs., av. 7-93d. 1902, 24,291 pkgs., av. 6-96d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,045,885 pkgs., av. 7-48d. 1901-2, 1,157,475 pkgs., av. 7-72d.

CEYLON.—The auction was considerably lighter than that of last week, 17,941 being brought forward, against 25,763. The prevailing features were those referred to above, teas up to about 7½d per lb. meeting with strong bidding, but higher grades were less enquired for and sold with slight irregularity. Quality, on the whole, continues about the same as is usual at this time of the year, being hardly equal to what it was some few weeks back.

Average for week 7-78d, against 7-01d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date 269,568 pkgs., av. 7-66d. 1902, 303,936 pkgs., av. 7-12d.

JAVA was not represented in the auctions.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4½. Colombo 1/4½.

## QUININE.

The manufacturers reduced their prices ½d per oz. on Monday, and now quote 1s 1½d per oz. for German sulphate in bulk. Howards' price for sulphate is unchanged, and Whiffen's has been reduced by ½d P. & G. (French) is now 1s 1d in bulk. The prices of quinine salts have also been revised. In second hands the market has been flat and prices easier, but the tone was rather better at the close, spot selling in a small way at 1s per oz.

Judging from the Board of Trade returns, March, 1903, showed considerably more activity in quinine and quinine-salts than was the case in March, 1902, both the imports and exports showing an increase. The figures (representing ounces) are as follows:—

		IMPORTS.			
		1902.	1903.		
March ...	...	8,830	43,680		
January-March ...	...	60,906	105,470		
		EXPORTS.			
		1902.	1903.		
March ...	...	37,137	90,829	British	
January-March ...	...	130,130	199,656	make.	
March ...	...	21,927	54,142	Foreign	
January-March ...	...	55,727	128,043	make.	

The Amsterdam quinine-works have lowered their prices by 1d. and 1-50d. per kilo., and now quote Ed. II. at 23½d., and Ed. III. 28d. per kilo.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-93d., APRIL 9TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore ...	980	6-97												
Carady Goody ...	129 p	6½	35	7	29	6½	45	7					20½c	6
Kan. Dev. H Co G...	475½c	7	157½c	7 7½	114½c	7½	108½c	7½	60½c	6½			36½c	+6
" Nullatanni ...	160½c	6½					51½c	7½					109½c	5½ 6½
T T E Co Kolie K...	129 p	7	25	8 10½	26	6½							78½c	5½
Vembenard ...	87	7½	30	7½	44	7							13	7½

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1903.

[No. 19.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 15th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—Wind set from the West. Rain has been threatening all this week, but seems to have passed away. *Blossom*—Fair. Prospects moderate. *Works*—Pruning, manuring. *Plant disease*—Borer seems very mild this year. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—Village dances, marriages and feasts engage attention on all sides.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 6th May.*—*Weather*—Rain every evening since Sunday. Pity it did not come earlier. *Crop*—There has been a fair blossom in most cases, and crops ought to be average ones. *Labour*—Plentiful for the time of year. *General health*—Fair. *Plant disease*—Borer is showing up, but not to any alarming extent.

#### Kotagiri.

*7th May.*—*Weather*—Cloudy, but very close, with light local showers. 50 and 30 cents rain on 1st and 4th instant. Only  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches rain from 1st January to 30th April, or 10 inches below average. *Work*—The 1st weeding of the new season is commencing and manuring is being taken well in hand. The trees are recovering very well indeed from the dried up appearance after the heavy crop. *Health*—Very good, considering the hot season. *Labour*—Ample, for the little work on hand. *Interesting item*—The Annual General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association is to be held to-morrow.

### TEA IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN our last issue we made reference to the official announcement of the formation of the National Tea Association of the United States. The main object of this Association is to bring about an increase in the use of tea in the United States. From this we might judge that it proposes to do in the States very similar work to that undertaken in this country by the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission. As a matter of fact, however, it is evident that the Association and the Commissions are intended to run on entirely different lines. When members of the tea trade were invited to join the American Association an explanation was given them to the effect that the Association would be composed of the leading importers and wholesale grocers of all the large cities of the Union. For many years, it was pointed out, nothing had been done to promote the consumption of tea. Prior to 1897 the unrestricted importation of trashy, adulterated and spurious tea for nearly half a century operated to reduce the consumption rapidly and relegate the article on secondary position. In 1897 the Tea Adulteration Law was passed, and worthless tea excluded. Then came the Spanish War and the War-tax on tea. There came also during the last few years a fall in the price of coffee. With this selling at 6 cents per lb. there was only room for what was termed in the circular referred to "a pitiful consumption" of one and one-half pounds of tea in 1890, which subsequently fell below one pound *per capita*. It was proposed that the Association should set about cheapening the cost of distribution of tea. A reduction of rail freights was to be sought. Again, an effort was to be made to teach people how to infuse tea properly. It was remarked that it is impossible to obtain a cup of tea properly drawn and fit to drink *en route* from Maine to San Francisco, yet few commercial travellers attempt to promulgate the information that would increase a perfect beverage.

Another defect was pointed out, in that although the striking fact stands out that tea costs the consumer only  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for seven cups when retailed at  $17\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. while all other beverages cost from five to ten times as much, yet no effort had been made to advertise this important consideration. "Therefore," it was remarked in the invitation under notice, "while England is consuming six pounds *per capita* per annum, we gaze idly upon the miserable consumption of one pound *per capita* in our own country, and witness whole



States in the South avoiding tea altogether. A trade which should show an importation of at least three hundred million pounds per annum, has been shrinking into a compass of eighty millions. And all because of the lack of a little enterprise and organization." The removal of the duty was commented upon. Stress was laid upon the fact that in the existence of the tea inspection law the States possessed a decided advantage over all other tea-drinking countries by being able to guarantee to the consumer absolute purity. The establishment of an Association was proposed with a special view to "the preservation of tea as a leading article of merchandise;" and the belief was expressed that the consumption of tea could be raised from 1 lb. *per capita* to 4 or 5 lbs. *per capita* by intelligent and consolidated effort.

All this makes it clear that the American Association will aim at doing the same work as that undertaken by the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission, but also at much more. Invitations to join were sent to the four sections of the country, to make the Association all embracing, and included were shippers who reside in China, Japan and India, with branches in the United States; those in the regular line of strict tea importing; wholesale grocers, ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 capital; and the large retail companies, numbering one hundred stores or more, who rank as wholesalers. Only one invitation was sent out, and without further solicitation the response occurred of 160 leading houses. A further invitation was to be extended to those who had not yet received the first. The Association does not contemplate any interference in the business methods of its members; its aim will be solely along the broad lines indicated. A strong, representative directorate has been appointed, and the future development of the work of the Association will, no doubt, be watched with great interest. It is an Association with which the Indian Tea Association should be in close touch, and it seems probable that the Tea Markets Expansion Commission might benefit greatly by carefully watching the methods and the progress of the National Tea Association of the United States.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

The voting for the seven representatives allotted to the Indian Tea Association on the Administrative Committee, to be formed under the Tea Cess Act, resulted in the election of the following:—

Mr. Ashton, of Shaw, Wallace & Co.;  
Mr. Bateson, of Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.;  
Mr. Begg, of Begg, Dunlop & Co.;  
Mr. Brown, of Finlay, Muir & Co.;  
Mr. Currie, of MacNeil & Co.;  
Mr. Smith, of Williamson, Magor & Co.;  
Mr. Tocher, of Duncan Bros. & Co.

The names have been submitted to the Government of India for formal approval.

\* \* \*

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce have submitted to the Government of India the names of the follow-

ing gentlemen as the representatives of the Chamber on the Tea Cess Committee:—

Mr. E. Cable, President of the Chamber;  
Mr. Reginald Murray, Chief Manager, Commercial Bank of India, Ltd.;  
Mr. J. M. G. Proffit, of Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co.

These nominations have been made in accordance with the provisions of Section (4) (2) (a) of the Indian Tea Cess Act of 1903.

\* \* \*

The U. P. A. S. I. has recommended the Hon. Mr. G. L. Acworth for nomination.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in the United States.**—The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 7th ultimo reports:—

Deliveries during March	...	...	...	3,126,608
				624,292
Total stock in U. S., April 1	...	...	..	2,502,406
Against April 1, 1902	..	...	...	2,432,421

These are days of lowering values in coffee options and new lowest records are daily occurrences. On Monday, April 6, on low and falling markets in Havre and Hamburg and very bearish sentiments on the Exchange in New York, April and May options were at 3.85 with sales at 3.85. June suffered a decline of 15 points and was 3.90, a new record. Other months did not fall to that extent. Prices are adjusting themselves to the very unfavourable plenty of the world's coffee crops. Speculators appear to be very tired of their holdings, and by letting go, are permitting natural economic laws to effect their operations in the market.

Coffee recorded a new lowest record in the option market Friday, April 3, when 3.95 bid and 4.00 asked were the prices that ruled for April. There were some sales at 4.00. Excepting for the drop to 4.05 one week before, the hitherto lowest level was 4.10c. reached in January last and in September 1899. While a drop to 4c. was somewhat expected as an event on the carpet soon to happen, a fall below that mark was not so generally entertained. The most philosophic in the trade are now unwilling to venture any definite opinion on the depth coffee prices may fall.

There were not wanting evidences either that should have encouraged a stand at 4.10 at least, for the world's visible supply was shown to have shrunk 136,649 bags during March, or to 12,380,627 bags. But this was a million bags more than was the visible supply one year ago, and what with the abnormally full movement of Brazil coffee for this time of year, the larger shipments of mild coffees and the seemingly great crop to come during the twelve months beginning July next, speculative holders of coffee announced themselves as tired and liquidated. So, then, the new lowest prices of coffee were attended with some active selling and buying, in the latter being included many shorts.

The deliveries of coffee during March were abnormally large, especially in Europe. The cause was in the main due to heavy shipments of mild coffees. The withdrawals, of course, were from the seaports, and all in all indicate that the interior places are stocking up, apparently attracted by the low prices of coffee. In the United States the deliveries were 624,292 bags, of which 115,164 bags were other than Brazilian. The total for February was 621,716 bags, and this was regarded as heavy enough deliveries.



The total deliveries for the nine months so far are 5,160,748 bags against 5,142,777 bags last year for the same period.

#### THE ARRIVALS.

The arrivals of coffee in the United States were 802,394 bags, a very heavy quantity. Of this total 197,187 bags were mild coffee, the heaviest in a year, but equally heavy were the Brazil arrivals, which were 605,207 bags against arrivals in February of 605,207 bags; the totals for February were only 445,779 bags.

The stocks of coffee in the eight principal ports of Europe on April 1 were 7,395,721 bags against 7,451,662 bags March 1, which is a shrinkage, to be sure, but the stocks are much in excess over those in warehouse April 1, 1902, when they were 6,083,482 bags against 3,813,183 bags April 1, 1901.

#### SHRINKAGE OF AFLLOATS.

During the month there was a shrinkage of coffee afloat for Europe of 218,000 bags; afloats to the United States decreased only 91,800 bags.

The Havre stocks on April 1 were 3,441,000 bags against 3,449,000 bags on March 1; stocks at the Netherlands were 1,068,000 bags, but 1,100,000 bags March 1, and at Hamburg 1,498,000 bags against 1,558,000 bags March 1. In the United States stocks had grown from 2,324,304 bags on March 1 to 2,502,406 bags April 1. Included is the increase of mild coffees from 219,077 bags to 301,100 bags. It is estimated that mild coffees contributed 500,000 bags in March to the supply in Europe and America.

The deliveries in Europe were 849,851 bags against 698,798 bags in February and 697,285 bags in March 1902. The total deliveries in Europe for the last 9 months were 6,921,166 bags against 6,521,933 bags for the same period one year ago. The arrivals were 793,910 bags against 803,587 bags in February and 798,098 bags in March 1902. The arrivals for the last nine months were 8,008,070 bags against 8,551,056 bags during the corresponding period in 1902.

#### \* EMBARQUES.

Rio ...	...	...	...	17,000
Santos...	...	...	...	37,000

			Total ...	12,380,627
Against March 1 ...	...	...	...	12,517,266

Against April 1, 1902	...	...	...	11,247,903
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	------------

\* Representing coffee deducted from stocks for shipment and not yet cleared.

Stocks of all kinds in U. S. ...	...	...	2,324,304
Arrivals during March ...	...	...	802,304

Some in the coffee trade think that should a prohibition of low grade coffee from Brazil be effectively enforced an increase in the supply of Nos. 5 and 6 coffees will follow and probably a decrease in the making of No. 2 coffee.

\* \* \*

**Lewisohns Deny Retirement.**—Many rumours are current in New York because of the low price of coffee that Lewisohn Bros. have disposed of all their large holdings of coffee, but the firm has denied any retirement. They express confidence in a higher market some time, and point to the fact that coffee improves with age and so they can afford to hold on. But at any rate the market is not being supported by them, it is noticed.

\* \* \*

Santos interior receipts continue so heavy day by day that many in the market are having their visions of a 12,000,000 bag 1903 coffee crop enlarged to a 18,000,000 bag crop

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The situation in the coffee market makes interesting and even sensational reading, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 7th ultimo. The option market is almost daily making new lowest records and at the time this review was written was most irregular, with prices for May option so low as 3.85 with considerable sales at that. This is a fall of 25 points from the very low prices of one week ago and there is no saying how far the bottom will drop. June was 3.90! The statistical situation shows an ever augmenting large crop, with no relief whatever in sight, and speculators, European it is said, being weary have liquidated with the result that prices have fallen to new records. Havre and Hamburg offer the same tale.

It may be said that the trade in general receives with no very dissatisfied sentiment the adjustment of coffee prices to crop conditions. Apparently the demand for coffee is not a little large, as the unexpected decrease in the world's visible supply shows. It has not, however, operated to stiffen the market.

Actual coffee has not suffered much reduction in price so far by the fall of values on the Exchange. If this sensational sagging tendency continues, there is no question it must have its effect on prices there corresponding in a measure to the lowering levels on the Exchange. As it is they are weaker than one week ago.

In Brazil the offerings are still above parity at New York, and so there is no encouragement to effect trading with that depôt. An offer quoted was Rio No. 7 equalling 5½c. c. and f. here. Prices for spot for the week closed 5c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5½c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. for Santos No. 4. Jobbing has been very quiet.

Quiet conditions prevail in Milds, and it is difficult to move stocks, especially the commoner sorts. Good Cucuta is 8¾c., unchanged from last week. East Indian coffees are as quiet in movement.

Total stock in United States April 1, 2,502,406 bags against 2,432,421 bags April 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States April 4, in store and afloat, 2,681,531 bags against 2,354,725 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 301,100 bags, against 329,645 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York April 4, 2,100,176. Stock in New York in other coffees April 1, 221,050, in San Francisco, 72,229 bags and in New Orleans, 7,818 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, April 1, 12,380,627 bags.

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The fall of April and May coffee options to 3.85 marks a new lowest record in the coffee mart and must make the growers of coffee look very sick, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 7th ultimo. They stand some chance of being visited by even more disheartening market prices, for good judges of the rise and fall of prices confess themselves unable to see where the bottom will fall to or rest at. Speculators in options seem to have wearied of their holding and have liquidated. Their withdrawals of support naturally weakened the market, and at last the coast is clear for an adjustment of the market according to the law of supply and demand, which would impose conditions establishing the lowest market prices against the largest coffee crops. Then there is the crop or crops to come—now being almost plucked. Evidently things are going to be very interesting in the coffee market for a few days or weeks and will bear watching. If it shall happen that the natural nadir for coffee prices shall be reached it will be more than fortunate, for it will operate to



place the coffee business on a solid basis, where all traders may have confidence in their trading, and in business confidence is about the main thing.

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Meantime the Sao Paulo congress has had its session, and the cables report that while it has been decided not to prohibit the export of coffee twenty per cent. in quantity, a determination is to enact a law virtually shortening the coffee crop of the world by imposing a heavy duty on the lower grades of coffee so as to discourage the export of those grades. The merit of such legislation is doubtful. It must be confessed, however, that it might prove the most expeditious remedy that the Brazilians could devise to improve the market for their coffee. The lower grades are those invariably in most demand and therefore largest in quantity. Besides there is another consideration. In view of some of the coffee trash that has been imported into the United States, it has even seemed advisable to enact a law in imitation of that which the tea trade has been favoured with forbidding the importation of low grades of tea. The market for tea was almost ruined in the United States by low and spurious grades, and it is not inconceivable that coffee might be dislodged from its envious monopoly of the beverage loving public by disgusting it with the low grade coffee thrust upon it by this and that inducement. The passing of the coffee trade of the United States would be the very worst calamity that could befall the Brazilian growers—even worse than super-abundant crops—and if their present calamity shall have in it so good a thing as the elimination of the use of triage and other coffee approximating that poor stuff, why, there is some good blow in the present ill wind. But, of course, all such good would be vitiated, if the Brazilians should enter upon the purpose declared not long ago to use this same prohibited coffee to educate the non-coffee using world into a liking for coffee. That is entirely absurd, and the wonder is that the idea should have been entertained at all by men of common sense, among which we are sure the Spanish or Portuguese speaking public would like to be classed, but we are not sure always with success.

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**Stenophylla Coffee.**—The coffee known as the Highland coffee of Sierra Leone, was introduced to the West Indies about six years ago, through the instrumentality of the Royal Gardens, Kew. It is quite distinct from either Arabian or Liberian coffee, and is admirably suited for cultivation from a sea-level up to an elevation of about 800 feet. The botanical name (*Coffea stenophylla*), that is “narrow-leaved coffee,” is a good name, as by this character and its small, dark purple berries, it is readily distinguished from all other coffee. “Stenophylla” coffee has nowhere been more successful than under Mr. Hart’s care at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Trinidad. It has grown there into tall, handsome bushes, 10 to 12 feet high, loaded with berries. It is singular that it has shown a marked tendency to be cross-fertilized by Liberian coffee, so that in the second or third generation its original characters have almost entirely disappeared. If this coffee is desired to be kept distinct, it must therefore be cultivated away from other coffee plants.—*Barbados Agricultural News*.

\* \* \*

**Coffee at Peridenya Gardens.**—The Report for 1901 says:—In the grafting experiments with coffee, I have been

principally concerned in determining the ease with which one kind can be grafted on to another. We have tried Arabian, Liberian, *Stenophylla*, and hybrid coffees with one another, sometimes having the stock an established tree, at often times in bamboo pots. The best results have been obtained with Arabian stock and Liberian scion, and with these reversed.

\* \* \*

Cablegrams received in America from Santos reported that the receipts of coffee, according to general expectations, will decrease rapidly.

\* \* \*

Trade in mild coffee is demoralized, says the *American Grocer*, and as the time passes on the demand for fancy grades is steadily decreasing. The chief reason assigned to this state of affairs is that jobbers and roasters prefer to push cheap coffees and thereby enhance the profits of the grocer.

\* \* \*

With overwhelming supply and predictions of a heavy yield for 1903-04, there is, says the *American Grocer*, no encouragement for believers in higher prices. Low grades continue to command a premium because they are relatively scarce. Mild sorts steady, with demand moderate.

\* \* \*

**Free Moving of Central American Coffee.**—In their circular customary at this time Henry Nordlinger & Co., New York, point to the free movement of Central American coffees. Stocks, they say, may be expected to accumulate in the next three months, and lower prices should follow.

\* \* \*

**Somaliland Coffee.**—In his report for 1901-02 the Ag. British Consul General states that coffee is exported almost entirely from Zaila; a small quantity finds an outlet at Bulhar. The total value of exports during the year was Rs.8,44,386 which shows a considerable decrease.

\* \* \*

The *Central African Times* has received from Messrs. H. J. Gardiner & Co., London, a report of the 1902 coffee crop of British Central Africa, in which they regret a decrease in the crop of 1902 as compared with that of 1901. The report continues—“The berry again was very small in size, and the crop shows a greatly falling-off in both quality and appearance, especially in some of the well-known marks. Several parcels from new gardens, however, brought top prices, having both colour and size. There was very little bold and fine coloured coffee. Taking the crop as a whole, the quality has been much inferior to any of the previous crop. The market has been flat throughout, owing to the slackness of demand, increasing stocks in consuming centres, and cheapness of Brazilian coffee. It is difficult at present to forecast values for the coming season, but the prospects point to another large Brazil crop, probably larger than the present one, and good average crops are expected from all producing countries with the exception of Guatemala.”

\* \* \*

#### Is Coffee Harmful?

“Is it harmful?” people ask.  
Do “mikes” in the liquor bask?  
Should it have the doctor’s ban?  
Is abstention our best plan?  
Yes, it’s harmful, that is sure,  
Whether tampered with or pure—



Harmful to the ills that make  
 All thin-blooded mortals quake;  
 Harmful to the imps that grip  
 Nerves in tongs that seldom slip;  
 Harmful to the heavy fits  
 Which at times benumb the wits;  
 Harmful to the trade in gin  
 And most things that lead to sin;  
 Harmful to the coffin men  
 And the quacks most persons ken;  
 Harmful to the health crank's fads  
 Which so often scoop our "scads."  
 Yes, it's harmful to much folly,  
 But it's good to drink, by golly!—*Merchants' Review.*

\* \* \*

State Dairy and Food Commissioner Ankeney has caused the suits against the Arbuckle Coffee Co., brought by his predecessor in the courts at Dayton, Ohio, to be dismissed. The principal reason for his action is that their prosecution would involve new analyses, the testimony of former chemists of the department not being available at this time. The question in the cases is whether the glaze over the coffee used in the brand known as "Ariosa" is an adulteration within the meaning of the Ohio statutes. Ankeney, it is said, may renew the suits, and their dismissal does not mean that he regards the alleged deception as legitimate.

\* \* \*

**To Manufacture Liquid Coffee.**—Application has been made in Atlanta, Ga., for a charter for the Schofield Coffee Co., with a capital stock of 30,000. The petitioners are C. J. Kamper, T. J. Kelly, Charles A. Wickersham, Martin Amorous, R. H. Brown, Robert Sharpe, E. H. Frazier, H. T. Rodman and W. L. Campbell, of Atlanta, and L. C. Cole and E. H. Schofield, of Toledo. The business of the company is especially the manufacture of liquid coffee by the Schofield method.

### TEA NOTES.

**\$250,000, Fund Suggested.**—The members of the new Association will need to show a greater interest than is expressed in a willingness to pay a higher annual due than five dollars to improve trade conditions. A fund of at least \$250,000 should be raised, and spent in advertising tea and how to brew it, under the direction of the best obtainable expert, for tea is the cheapest available beverage, especially British-grown tea; but the American people do not know how to brew it properly, and hence its use does not increase as fast as it should.—*American Grocer.*

\* \* \*

As the Association is devoted to the promotion, and in no sense to the restraint of trade, it has an especial claim to public respect and confidence.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

\* \* \*

**The Coming Japan Crop.**—The Japan tea crop is expected to be late this Spring. So say cable dispatches.

\* \* \*

Java teas are steadily growing in favour in Germany. Their quality has shown improvement and they are cheap.

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**What Advertising has done for Ceylon Teas.**—The total area of tea gardens in India is 530,000 acres, and proprietors and others representing 416,000 acres have now declared themselves in favour of the impost, which, under the Bill, is fixed at a quarter of a pie per pound. A strong argument in favour of the export duty, says the New Orleans *Picayune*, is that a similar plan has proved very beneficial to the Ceylon tea industry. In 1903, in order to provide funds for a suitable show of Ceylon tea at the Chicago Exhibition, a cess of 10 cents on every 100 pounds exported was levied, at the

request of the planters, and it proved so satisfactory that in the following year it was resolved to continue the plan and to raise the rate to 20 cents, in order to extend the efforts to other markets. The system is still in force in Ceylon, and the rate has again been raised to 30 cents. In 1896 foreign markets took 12½ per cent. of the Indian crop, as compared with 21½ per cent. of the Ceylon crop; in 1900 17 per cent. of the former, as against 33 per cent. of the latter; and in 1901 18 per cent. of the India crop, as against 40 per cent. of the Ceylon crop. We may point out that, apart from percentages, which may be misleading, the exports of Indian tea in 1902 to markets outside the United Kingdom, according to statistics published the other day, amounted to 41,500,000 pounds, in round figures, as against about 64,250,000 of Ceylon tea. The extraordinary increase in the demand for Ceylon teas in markets other than the United Kingdom is attributed mainly to the money spent out of the Ceylon tea cess in introducing the tea to foreign markets.

\* \* \*

Further large quantities of Congou teas have been sold for export to London, says the *American Grocer*. There was talk among brokers that several large English firms have standing bids here, which, however, are 3c. per pound below sellers' views here. At the bid prices, the above English firms, it is said, are ready to clean up all supplies of Congou teas in this market.

\* \* \*

New crop Japan was expected to arrive in the States in the early part of May. Formosa and Congou would arrive about the same time, while new crop Ping Suey will not come in until June.

\* \* \*

Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., of Yokohama, report that Canadian takings of Japan tea for the coming season show a shrinkage of 2,000,000 lbs. This may be attributed to the growing taste for British-grown greens.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—More activity has been met in tea market, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 7th ultimo, but not sufficient to effect any change in market quotations. These continue under quiet conditions modified by the barren supply and the constant inquiry, especially for green teas. Sales are reported for export of Congous, as has been the rule for some weeks, and a transaction of 2,500 packages Formosa has been announced. On the continued export demand for Congous the tea is firmer on the old basis of prices. Congous are certainly in an interesting situation and the trade, especially the holders so uncomfortably supplied, are breathlessly awaiting a marked advance. They even look for a rise when the markets open this Summer expecting England to be a factor in the bidding this year, thus working for increased inquiry; may be also the low prices hitherto prevailing shall operate to provide a restricted crop.

It is interesting to record that Japans are stronger in tone in Canada on the rumour that most of the new crop will be taken by United States houses.

A London advice says that owing to the policy of the importers in accepting easy rates for China growths, a good business has again been done in fair grades up to 5d. per lb. The market is broadening out, and orders are coming in from all quarters of the trade for small lots, owing to the value now offering in Monings and Panyongs from 4½d. to 5d. The



quality is good, and present prices are under rates ruling this time last year, when Indian and Ceylon leaf was nearly 1d. per lb. lower than now. Luckily supply has been plentiful, and quite 20,000 half-chests of the lower classes have been taken by the trade within the last six weeks without any material rise in value. Stocks, however, are now getting low, and if demand continues rates are bound to go up. Exporters having been taking small parcels of medium to fine Monings and Panyongs at under importers' cost, and we shall be in a very healthy position when the new season's arrive next July, as the stock of the better grades will be exhausted. Oolongs under 11d. per lb. are difficult to find, and are wanted for America. All scented and fancy kinds are quiet and unchanged in value. Green tea sales passed flatly. Good liquoring teas, however, are wanted, and rule firm. In Indian tea there is increased activity in the demand, lower grades tending dearer. There is none too much tea to go round, and the larger buyers find themselves unable to keep out of the market. Competition therefore has been keen for common leafy grades. Medium grades, which lately have been more or less neglected and have formed a good proportion of the withdrawals, continue of heavy sale at barely the former currency. There was a much smaller supply of good and fine teas, but less desire to buy was apparent. Dusts are sought after at hardening rates. In Ceylon tea there was an active demand for common leaf teas, which advanced a  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. Pekoes attracted great attention and medium Pekoes were likewise in request at hardening rates, common broken, along with fannings and dusts, were all on the up line.

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**Tea Facts in America.** By THOMAS A. PHELAN, *President of the National Tea Association of the United States.*—Before 1897 there was practically no protective legislation for tea in the United States, and the nation was a tea dumping ground for the refuse brands unsaleable elsewhere in the world. Throughout the South, where the majority of the buyers and handlers were not experts, whole sections and states practically gave up the use of tea because of its inferior quality, for they did not know where to turn for a remedy. Many herbs, some of them harmless, but having no relation whatever to the tea-plant, were shipped by the million pounds and sold as tea. By some chemical process they were colored so that to the eye they were identical with the genuine article. Many of them were not injurious to health, but they had no more right to be sold as tea than would, for instance, a paper imitation of a beefsteak painted red. They were green painted weeds, and the country was flooded with them for so long that even now American consumption of tea is still as low as a pound *per capita* per annum while in Canada it is four pounds, in England six, and in Australia seven. In Australia, you see, they try to out-English the English.

#### WHAT WIVES DON'T KNOW ABOUT TEA.

Most women think they know everything about tea, or at least enough, but, as a matter of fact, I don't believe there is any other single article that appears on American tables about which the consumers know so little. So far as the average housewife is concerned, she simply knows that she likes this brand or that, black tea or green, and in the matter of making she is doubtless as ignorant.

Now, the fact is, that of the so-called black tea alone there are at least five hundred varieties, with as many flavours as are known to the most luxurious flower garden.

The greens and Japans might each be subdivided into a like number.

One of the black teas, the so-called English breakfast, a name unknown incidentally in either China or England, is really the Congou, of which alone there are at least two hundred different flavours and grades.

Other varieties of "black" tea are the Oolongs from Foochow and the island of Formosa and the Ceylons and Indias. All these are sold as "black tea," but there is as much difference in taste between an Oolong and a Congou as between coffee and chocolate, or whiskey and claret. The Congou, Ceylon, and India are fermented in their preparation or allowed to "stew in their own juice," so to speak, which gives them a heavy, malty flavour. The Oolong is prepared like green tea, without fermentation, and is fired almost immediately after picking, giving it a bright, toasty character, which results in a light-colored infusion. They are equally good, despite their differences.

#### FAVOURITE TEA OF NEW YORK AND BOSTON.

As a rule the English, Irish and their descendants drink the Congous, while the older residents of America, and especially of New York and Boston, prefer the Oolongs.

The variations in soil and temperature under which the different teas are grown produce the radically different flavours so dear to the true tea-lover and so inexplicable to the uninitiated. The North China Congous, for instance, are subdivided into fifty districts, the leaves from each having a flavour differing as distinctly from the others as does the Bartlett pear from the Seckel, and of each variety there are half-a-dozen or more different grades. The Spring, early, and late Summer and the Autumn gatherings all have different flavours, which the expert can distinguish blindfolded. In all there are about 1,200 different grades and specimens of tea, and it would take more than a lifetime to become so expert as to be proficient in passing upon them all.

The complexity of the tea business is thus made apparent and understood, and is sufficient answer and commentary to the average housewife or other consumer of tea in dispensing so lightly their orders for an article they regard as simple as the A. B. C. Perhaps one woman in a hundred knows how to make tea as it should be made. Properly prepared, it can be chemically demonstrated that tea has no more injurious effect upon the nerves than has cocoa or even water. Cocoa, indeed, unless properly prepared by the manufacturer, contains an amount of cocaine which decidedly impairs digestion if taken for any length of time.

#### RIGHT TEA BREWING.

Tea, to be a pure tonic and wholly harmless, should be made with water which has not only "come to a boil," but has boiled hard for at least five minutes. The leaves then should be steeped for about five minutes, by no means more than seven. Previous to that time the tonic property only is developed; after seven minutes the tannin becomes operative and the decoction more injurious with the increase of time. You can imagine the state of affairs in restaurants and such places where the tea is made in the morning, to last all day, or even a very few hours. The English have hit upon the ideal time for drinking tea, at breakfast and between luncheon and dinner. Taken then it is the best sort of a tonic.



A standard of merit in tea is under present legislation set by a board of experts appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury. This board deposits in the custom houses of New York, San Francisco, Chicago, etc, samples conforming to these standards of all teas imported. Duplicate samples are supplied to all importers and dealers, and they are required to submit samples of all their goods, swearing that such samples "represent the true quality of each and every part of their invoice."

#### DAYS OF MERCHANT PRINCES.

Such legislation was not necessary in the days when the tea importers were the merchant princes of New York. But for the last half century there has been a steadily increasing depression in the tea trade, directly traceable to the widespread deterioration of the commercial article. Out of sixty-five old houses in New York in 1865 only five or six were in existence in 1890.

Since the law of 1897 went into effect only tea that is tea has been admitted into the United States. Inferior grades, of course, are allowed, just as we do 25-cent silk as well as that which cost \$25 a yard, but though poor it is all genuine tea. The retail price to-day is no higher than it was back in the '70's and '80's, when the country was flooded with adulterations. The individual consumer pays the same money, only now he gets his money's worth.—*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*.

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The National Tea Association is made up of the best houses in the business, including the large wholesale grocers of this city, but it has its work cut out for it in the instruction department, for all's tea that comes into many a grocer's caddies, not to mention the popular delusions on this subject. It is desirable that the public shall be taught what tea really is—good tea—and how to procure it and steep it. The large German section of the population will perhaps have to be assimilated before tea gets such a chance as coffee has. Your true German family drinks coffee at at least two meals and also between meals, some of the women consuming as much as ten or a dozen cups a day. What show has tea under such conditions? Well, for one thing it is cheaper than coffee, and as regards the strong, full-bodied flavour of the coffee ordinarily drunk, the same can be imitated quite successfully by the use of skilful blends of India and China leaf or Ceylon and China leaf. To attempt to make converts to tea among excessive drinkers of coffee, and do it with delicate Japan leaf, is to attempt something that is almost impossible.—*Merchants' Review*.

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A valued London correspondent whose effective writings in these columns have recently attracted attention, writes to us with reference to the rise in prices and the fear that the duty will not be reduced as follows:—

"This is becoming an awkward matter for those who have only a large retail sale of the *lowest priced* tea, as their profit has practically disappeared, while to those who have built up a business in *good qualities* at higher prices it is very acceptable.

"There is very keen rivalry between the 'new men,' the vendors of cheap tea, and the old-fashioned dealers and grocers who have tried to maintain and foster a more remunerative sort of business. The latter have gone to the wall during the last twenty years by degrees, owing to the continuous decline in the market value of tea consequent

upon its increased supply, but they have held on tenaciously, and it looks as if trade might in some degree return to them. That will be a good day for producers.

"It is not improbable that before long you may hear of a different policy being adopted; of retail prices being raised; and of a general awakening to the fact that it pays better to sell good and fine tea than common at cats-meat prices. But the low rates quoted by the new men led to the immense consumption of recent years, and if retail prices should be substantially advanced less tea will be used."

If the result of the stress in the trade resulting on the present statistical position should be a general rehabilitation of a taste for good teas instead of a hankering for cheapness, it will prove a good stroke for the industry in general. When bed rocks prices are abolished, perhaps the British people will try and see that they got their money's worth in quality. They can hardly grumble at the quality of tea that they purchase for a shilling a pound including duty. If prices are raised they will doubtless consider they have a right to be more critical. Our correspondent has more to say and his remarks on the American situation give a foretaste of developments friendly to Indian tea:—

"Advices are to hand of large removals inland from the American Warehouses. This is a matter to be most carefully watched. There is something going on in the American tea trade betokening a change of taste, and it may lead to tea being used as a beverage instead of an occasional luxury. In any case, increased consumption should follow the cheapening of supply to the extent of 5d. per pound."—*Indian Planting and Gardening*.

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**Ceylon Tea Memoranda for 1902.**—Messrs. Wilson Smithett's annual review of the home tea trade records a rise of .05d. in the general average, but this is still .40d. less than in 1901. The highest averages for the year, taking them in the order of the estates' output, to the home markets, are as follows: Talawakelle, 427,500 lbs., 10½d.; Portmore, 279,000 lbs., 10d.; Henfold, 233,000 lbs., 10½d.; Mount Vernon, 185,000 lbs., 10d.; Ferham, 129,500 lbs., 10½d.; Goatfell, 124,500 lbs., 1s. 0½d.; Diyanillakelle, 94,500 lbs., 10½d.; Sutton, 87,500 lbs., 10½d.; and Nutbourne, 68,500 lbs., 10½d.

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**Ceylon's Import Duty.**—"Archer" writes in the *Ceylon Observer*:—"The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce are again moving against the abolition of the import duty. The more's the pity. There are many reasons why the duty should be abolished. The pure Ceylon tea cry is pretty well worn out now. Blending has become general everywhere. In Ceylon we are prevented from blending because of this prohibitive duty. Colombo is from her geographical position naturally adapted to become a great tea-distributing centre, and serving America, Australia, and Russia as she is, it will—I fancy—become absolutely necessary for her to do away with the duty before very long. Of course, when Pure Ceylon tea was wanted it would still be easy to supply it. The growth of Colombo and the expansion of its trade, I believe, is being seriously retarded by this prejudice against the abolition of the import duty; even Travancore teas cannot be sold in Colombo, except in bond, until it is removed while it is, I believe, a dead certainty that the duty would not be removed very long before large blending establishments would be



started. It would be far more convenient to have teas blended here than in London. There is a growing demand for these blended packet teas. In South Africa, for instance, there is very little tea sold except in packet. There is a large field there for Ceylon to capture as soon as the duty is abolished!"

"Archer" hits the bull's eye!

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**Ceylon Tea Shipments.**—The decrease in tea shipments continues. April shows a reduction on last year of 484,987 lbs., on a total of 8½ millions exported. For the four months just ended the decrease amounts to 6,388,788, the only increase being in February, when 316,878 lbs. more were sent than in the corresponding month of 1902. The Chamber of Commerce estimate of export for May is 8,500,000 to 9,000,000 lbs.

### NOTES.

**Otto of Rose.** The exports from Bulgaria were valued at 3,708,000f. for 1900, at 2,141,000f. for 1901, and at 2,609,000f. for 1902.

**Java Cinchona Bark.** The shipments from Java during the first half of April were 631,000 Amsterdam lbs., as against 470,000 Amsterdam lbs. at the same time last year.

**Indian Tea Shipments.** According to the figures of the Calcutta Customs, the exports of tea to the United Kingdom for April were 243,265 lbs. against 641,296 lbs. in 1902.

**Colombo Tea Sales.** At the public sale of tea at Colombo on 28th ultimo 16,418 packages = 1,310,053 lbs. were offered, of which 12,312 packages = 977,156 lbs. were sold.

**The Indian Tea Association.** During the absence of Mr. W. Parsons on six months' leave, Mr. H. M. Haywood will act for him as Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and as Secretary of the Indian Tea Association.

**French Duty on Pepper.** An intimation has been received from His Britannic Majesty's Embassy at Paris, that, by a law passed on the 29th March, 1903, the French Government has increased the maximum and minimum customs duty on pepper imported into France, from 400 francs and 208 francs to 450 francs and 312 francs per 100 kilograms, respectively.

**India's Entomologist.** Mr. Maxwell Lefroy, the Entomologist appointed by the Agricultural Department of the Government of India, arrived in Calcutta last week. Mr. Lefroy's experience has been largely gained in the West Indies, and, though the insect pests which trouble agriculturists in India differ considerably from those in that quarter of the globe, Mr. Lefroy's training in a tropical country will prove most useful to him.

**The London Tea Market.** Cabling to Colombo on 30th ultimo Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton reported that buyers were operating very cautiously, price of

Pekoe Souchong was unchanged but average ½d. down, at 7½d. Reuter said the tone of Ceylon tea was steady but also gave the average as above, ½d. down. Of Ceylons 24,000 packages were sold out of 27,000 offered; Indian offerings amounted to 26,000 packages, sales to 31,000. Average of Indians 7½d. (½d. down).

### Cocoa at Peridenya Gardens.

The Report for 1901 says:—We have been successful in grafting one variety on to another in about 30 per cent. of the experiments. In layering and reproduction from cuttings much labour has been spent. The only successful cuttings have been made in soil which is very sandy, practically free from all leaf mould, and supplied with running water at irregular intervals. In one set of cuttings only those situated along the course of a running stream, and therefore subject to occasional miniature floods, were successful. This is an important point to note. The cuttings were taken at all ages, but only the woody ones about as thick as a man's finger were of any use. Young twigs with young and mature leaves were tried in pots of sand covered with glass bell jars, but gave no successful results.

### Not Grocers.

Mr. John Wanamaker runs a high-class restaurant in Philadelphia, called the Dairy. On the menu appears the following: "We are not in the grocery business, and do not expect to be. The people who refer our Dairy often ask what kind of coffee and what kind of tea we use, and whether they can buy cakes similar to those we serve. We cannot be outdone in courtesy, and having this daily experience, every morning we pack a few cartons of one pound each of the same coffee that we serve. The packages are of three kinds—whole coffee, the granulated, and the pulverized, to have them ready for those who want them. The teas that we are serving are of four different kinds, known only to ourselves, and in certain instances are especially selected and prepared for us. These are packed in half and one-pound foil-lined packets, that we may quickly respond to the wishes of our patrons. This is not a matter of business, as we really prefer that you should find at your grocery stores everything they sell; but we do this simply as a cheerful courtesy."

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### COFFEE IN LONDON.

There was some small reduction in stock on the 1st instant both in Europe and the total of the world's supply, but hardly sufficient to have any effect upon prices, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of April 11, 1903. The latter was reduced by only 5,180 tons, but with a total of 728,850 tons, such an amount is hardly appreciable. A greater factor has been the report that the Bill as to the destruction of 20 per cent. of the Brazilian crop had been passed, but there are, we think, many difficulties in the way of carrying out such a law. The terminal market, however, promptly responded to the rumour, and the fact that the previous lowest record had been touched here, and even passed in both Havre and New York, brought many speculators into the market, and quotations rapidly advanced 1s. from the lowest point, though closing not at the best. At the auctions a liberal supply has been offered, but, with a good demand, prices are often dearer, the second size of Costa Rica being fully 1s. higher, making the bold size still relatively much the cheaper. Only a few really fine parcels of Mysore have been offered, and for these very full prices were paid, but the lower grades continue to sell with difficulty. The public sales will not recommence until next Thursday.



## TEA IN LONDON.

**INDIAN TEA.**—As there will be no more public sales until the 20th instant there was, says the *Produce Markets Review* of 11th ultimo, a good demand at the auctions on Monday, and a fair proportion of the 29,800 packages were disposed of. The principal competition continues for the grades from 7½d. downwards, the lower teas being firm to dearer; and, should there be any reduction in the duty, a decidedly upward movement in values is most probable. Providing there should be no change in the customs charges the position is such that the market will remain very strong, as the supply, which has not been the case for many seasons past, is likely to be well within the limits of the consumption. The public sales comprised 29,800 packages consisting of a fair assortment of most kinds. The lower sorts were the most keenly bid for and brought prices quite equal to last week's rates, and in some cases advances were established. For teas ranging over 7½d. the market showed irregularity, and weakness prevailed for the less desirable sorts, but for the more useful lots there was no quotable change in values.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—The quantity brought forward at the auctions on Tuesday showed a considerable falling-off, but, notwithstanding this, a quieter tone prevailed generally. Although no alteration in prices can be quoted in the lower descriptions, Whole Leaf Teas from 7d. downwards remaining firm, the better kinds occasionally sold in favour of buyers. Medium Broken Pekoes also at times showed weakness, but this would be accounted for by the inferior quality which, with a few exceptions, was noticeable in these kinds. Finest descriptions likewise met a rather irregular enquiry, and in some cases lower rates had to be accepted. At the public sales 17,940 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,700 were withdrawn. No further auctions will be held until the 21st instant.

**CONGOU TEA.**—There have been no public auctions of China Tea, either Congou, Scented or Green, and consequently the market has been inactive, no business of any importance being reported privately. There has been some enquiry for Red Leaf descriptions, and prices are somewhat firmer; other kinds remain unaltered.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Extremes during the week ending March 20th, were 11½d.—12¾d. or 90 d/s Bank paper and 11¾d.—12¾d. for private.

The average Bank 90 d/s counter drawing rate for the week comes out at 11¼d. the corresponding sight rate being 11¾d. against 11¾d. the average sight rate of the *Camara Syndical*.

**March 21st, 1903.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday, 16th, at 11¼d., fell to 11½d. on Tuesday, rose again to 12¾d. on Thursday and closed this evening steady at 11¾d.

Although much less than previous to the rise of exchange coffee shipments revived somewhat and their value was £83,000 over the previous week's, it was still £107,000 under that of the corresponding week's last year. During the early part of the week bills were offering freely at Pará, and as the Banco da Republica appeared to be out of market, rate revived a bit, but relapsed towards the end of the week in spite of the efforts of the bulls to revive the Sorocabana and other *histories*. No doubt rubber entries were rather later than usual this year, but as will be seen by the table we published in our last issue, we are rapidly approaching the period when, if it is not already the case, the balance of payments must be against us. Imports during the last quarter of 1902 and beginning of 1903, for which payment is now due, ruled about £2,000,000 a month which, with £400,000 for Government and £100,000 for Companies and Provincial Governments' requirements, gives £2,500,000 per month to be paid for without counting private remittances of any kind. In April exports supplied only £2,911,000 in 1901 and £2,641,000 in 1902: in May they gave £2,618,000 and £2,811,000 respectively, and in June when the supply of bills fell below the demand for imports and fixed payments they gave only £2,227,000 and £2,131,000 respectively. There seems every probability of those conditions being repeated in 1903, so that, even without taking into consideration at all the demand for private remittances, the balance of payments when supplemented by extraordinary resources or by speculation will, during the next three months be

against the country. Besides, the speculative selling for April and May does not appear to have been liquidated and will weigh on the market for some time to come.

**Coffee.**—Rio, 21st March, 1903.—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 20th instant were 7,199 bags less than for the preceding week, but only 1,057 bags less than for the corresponding week last year, of which they represented 95.2 per cent.

Up to 20th instant entries for the current crop were 2,768,924 bags less than last year's, of which they represented 78.7 per cent.

Coffee shipped (*embarques*) were larger again, being 48,808 bags more than the previous week's but 50,706 less than last year's.

Stocks consequently increased and on the 20th instant were 104,383 larger than on the previous Friday and only 255 096 less than on the corresponding date last year.

Shipments at this port were very heavy being more than double the corresponding week's last year, whilst at Santos they were less than half—a curious commentary on the coffee bill now in discussion at S. Paulo.

Declared sales were also larger being 16,000 in excess of the previous week's but 32,000 under last year.

Prices fell here from the average of 4\$539 per 10 kilos. for No. 7 to 4\$516 and at New York from 5.60 c/ to 5.61 c. as against 5.68 c/ for the corresponding week last year.

**SANTOS, 20th March, 1903.**—During the whole week our coffee market has been as uninteresting as possible. Consuming centres have practically kept out of the market and as there is really no short interest here, because exporters for some time back considered it to dangerous to sell ahead, business has been very dull and limited. Commissarios are only giving way very slowly indeed and exporters have to pay for their Superiors 4\$400 to 4\$000, being 200 réis margin on Europe. The continued heavy receipts (about 110,000 bags here and more yet in Rio) and *passagens* (about 114,000) also contribute to prevent a better feeling in the market and everybody is complaining.

The business transacted does not differ much from that of the previous week. Specialities are maintaining their prices but other qualities are 100 réis to 200 réis lower. Declared sales amount to 74,000 bags. Europe paid for Superiors from 28s. to 29s and for Good Average 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. less. Shipments were small and our stock increased by 41,000 bags and now amounts to 1,002,074.

The Pauta went down 10 réis, being 430 réis.

The quantity of coffee offered is proportionally small, but with the first animation that may come large quantities will be sent into the market. The exchange fluctuations from 11 ¼d. to 12¾d. temporarily influenced the market badly.

**The Coffee Crisis.**—The letter of Sr. Candido Lacerda to *O Estado de S. Paulo* is the most sensible contribution yet published on this thorny subject. Mr. Lacerda says out-right that what is wanted is to reduce the cost of production and the only way of doing it is to cut down 20 to 30 per cent. of the trees, as we recommended ourselves. The advantages that such a proceeding would ensure, he enumerates as follows: (a) a large area being thus freed for plantation of cereals by the colonists, without the necessity of new clearing or planting more coffee, (b) reduction of the cultivated area would result in an immediate excess of supply of labour over demand and bring prices down, equalizing them all over the State; (c) the fall of wages would facilitate the introduction of the share system between owners and labourers.

In 1901 there were 266,000 hands working on the different *fazendas*. To reduce wages to half by increasing their number it would, Mr. Lacerda says, be requisite to import 80 to 100 thousand hands. As that is impossible, it is better to cut down 20 to 30 per cent. of the trees. In 1901 there were 525,000,000 trees over and 135,000,000 under four years.

Ten years ago Sr. Orozimbo Amaral proposed to tax new planting at the rate of 1\$000 per tree. It was laughed at the time, but experience shows he was right and that all we can do now is to cut down again some of the trees we have planted in excess.

In the Senate (S. Paulo) the bill has been much more severely criticised than in the lower chamber, but as it appears to have become a party matter it will, with some modifications, probably be passed. Senator Paulo Egydio moved that a representation should be made to the Federal Congress on the necessity of adopting measures of a general nature that would comprehend all three coffee States and not S. Paulo only, including indemnization



of planters for any special taxed levied on coffee whether in money or in kind. The proposal was referred to Committee. Sr. Ezequiel Ramos, supported by other Senators, complained that the bill did not satisfy planters nor interpret the intentions of the Planters' Congress. What they recommended was elimination with indemnization, a very different thing to elimination pure and simple, which will make the planter's position worse than ever. In addition to the 11 per cent. already paid in export duties and 1 per cent. Municipal tax, comes this proposal of 20 per cent. so that the planters will be mulcted of 32 per cent. of his produce in taxes alone. Besides, he pays about 30 per cent. to railways for freight, a transit tax of about 2 per cent. to commissarios 3 per cent., in all 67 per cent. of the gross value of his coffee for taxes, freights and commissions, and will only have 33 per cent. to cover expenses of production! Such a tax will be the last nail driven into the planter's coffin and is, says Sr. Ramos, sure to provoke resistance. Sr. Ramos enquired: if the destruction of 50 per cent. of the yield in S. Paulo by the late frost (in August) has failed to affect prices, what can be expected of the elimination of only 20 per cent.? Other planters protested that the estimate of 50 per cent. for damage by the frost was too high, but, however it may be, prices could scarcely be affected much until the damage is effectively confirmed. If when the new crop begins to arrive it will be seen that entries are really so much smaller, prices would respond quickly enough without any necessity of elimination, and the fact that planters themselves are in its favour seems the best proof that such rumours are exaggerated. Sr. Ramos asserted that in the Riberao district, to take an example, there were 1,000,000 trees of two years and 1,000,000 of four years. The same occurs all over the state, new plantation being very considerable everywhere. In spite of the crisis and low prices, on a single plantation 600,000 new trees were planted in 1902, so that even if 20 per cent. are eliminated now it will be but a drop in the ocean compared with the increase that must be counted on from young trees coming yearly into production.

When we went to Press the Coffee Bill was still being discussed in the Senate at S. Paulo a large number of amendments having been proposed. It is, however, probable that in one form or another it will become law.

**Para.**—The rubber crop from the acre is expected to reach 1,700 tons this year.

**Planting Condition in February.**—The *Boletim da Agricultura* for February publishes the following reports of the inspectors:—

**2nd District (Campinas).**—Good weather in February and trees with good aspect, the fruit being well developed but ripening somewhat irregularly.

**4th District (S. Carlos do Pinhal).**—An early crop and picking will begin in April but the crop will be small, large quantities of the berries having fallen from the trees specially at Jahu, Pedras, S. Carlos, and Jaboticabal.

**5th District (Sorocaba).**—In spite of the hot weather there is nothing startling to report. The berries are developing in a regular manner and are already well grown and beginning to ripen.

From the other districts nothing of interest is reported.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

As we briefly announced last week the Chancellor of the Exchequer has disclaimed any sympathy with the free breakfast table idea, and it may therefore be presumed that he is against free tea. This is a most convenient political doctrine for a Chancellor of the Exchequer to hold. The tea duty is an easy form of adding to the national Exchequer, and to feel that he is out of sympathy even with the idea of its exemption from duty must be comforting to Mr. Ritchie.

Apart from the improvement it is making in international relationship and the unalloyed pleasure which it is giving to two countries, the King's visit to Paris is going to prove a good thing for trade. It is giving a fillip to the sale of English manufactures, and may indirectly increase the demand for tea, which is now regarded in France as a product as dear to the British as the more solid joys of roast beef.

That well-managed and prosperous concern, the Standard Tea Company of Ceylon, is in the happy position of being able to pay

a dividend of 15 per cent. for the eighth year in succession. The tea crop for the year amounted to 1,183,972 lbs., against 1,105,996 lbs. for 1901, from 2,188 acres, considered in full bearing, out of a total of 3,466 acres. There are also 296 acres in partial bearing and some 25 acres in addition planted with tea.

Prices of coffee fell last week to nearly the lowest level on record for Brazilian, the only previous occasion within recent years when a lower limit has been reached being in September, 1899, when good average Santos was sold at 24s. 9d. per cwt. For several seasons past production has far exceeded consumption, but it is during the past three years that supplies have so enormously increased, the Rio and Santos crops alone last season producing 15,522,000 bags; while already this season receipts amount to 10,700,000 bags, and it is probable that about another 15 per cent. of the crop remains to be delivered before July 1 next. The world's visible supply during last month underwent a reduction of 5,180 tons, but still reaches the formidable total of 728,850 tons, which compares with 113,000 tons at the end of June, 1901, when the crop only reached 5,308,000 bags. It is very patent, therefore, that the trade is suffering from over-production, and unless supplies by some means can be reduced, there is little hope of a substantial recovery. Brazil is entirely responsible, production in other countries, indeed, except Java, having during recent years tended to diminish, and therefore it is to be hoped that the efforts now being made by the Brazilian Government to reduce supplies by the proposal to destroy the commoner qualities will prove successful.

We notice that the "Salada" Tea Company are advertising in some of the American papers their "Ceylon and India tea" as "preferable to coffee because it has no liver-disturbing qualities." The "Salada" Company clearly understands the art of advertising.

The Colombo correspondent of the *Times*, in a communication dated March 19, says, referring to the financial good fortune which has marked Sir West Ridgeway's administration, says:—"No previous Governor has had such a run of financial prosperity. The total of the general revenue for 1902 was Rs. 27,166,865, or about 700,000 rupees in advance of the estimate and of the revenue for 1901, though a little below the collection for 1900. The figures for the total trade are not yet published; but we have all the staple exports, and know that of black tea 146,194,397 lbs. were shipped last year, besides 2,796,844 lbs. of green tea. The great tea-growing industry is gradually recovering from the depression of the past two years, and a new branch in 'green tea manufacture,' specially for the benefit of consumers in the United States and Canada, is growing to some importance. The reduction of the Imperial duty by the War-tax of 2d. would give an impetus to consumption in the United Kingdom, and there can be no doubt of the abnormal percentage of a sixpenny duty on the average value of the product taxed. Coffee and Cinchona bark have sunk into insignificance in our exports; but 'cocoa' (cacao or the chocolate plant) and cardamoms (spice) figure largely with 60,455 cwt. of the former and 615,822 lbs. of the latter. Cinnamon, the immemorial spice of Ceylon, keeps up bravely, besides some 'wild cinnamon,' no doubt used as a condiment for artificial food for cattle, etc. The products of the 'coconut' palm—in oil, desiccated coconut, copra (the unbruised kernel), pomæ (the cake after crushing out the oil), coir fibre and coconuts amount to a large proportion of our exports, and the figures for 1902 are well up to the average; indeed, the shipments, 512,498 cwt., were the largest on record; and that is true also of the 'desiccated' product, of which 16,227,565 lbs. were shipped last year. Of plumbago—our only mineral of commercial importance—the export, 495,501 cwt., was the largest in any one year save 1899, when, owing to a great 'war' demand (in manufactures) and high price, the shipments ran up to 616,385 cwt."

On the subject of ramie or rhea, Mr. D. Edwards-Radclyffe writes:—"Could you not draw the attention of your readers to the possibilities of 'ramie,' or 'rhea'?" Our Empire is vast, and there are millions of acres awaiting cultivation, but in these days of competition the difficulty is to find a paying crop. Now 'ramie,' or 'rhea,' 'urtica,' or 'boehmeria,' grows in almost any zone, of course with different results, as it produces from one to four crops per annum according to locality. It would be a paying crop on



waste land, useful for no other purpose. The cultivation is easy, and when once planted it will thrive for about eighteen years, requiring but little attention beyond hoeing, mulching, etc. The demand for this fibre (which is the strongest and longest of all fibres) is increasing by leaps and bounds. Hitherto the Chinese alone have been alive to its merits, and they have cultivated it largely for home consumption, but little finds its way out of the country, and then only at prohibitive prices. At present it fetches as much as £35, and even £40 has been paid this Spring. When once a plantation is firmly established, it could be cropped for £3 10s. per ton, I am informed, in a country where three to four crops can be obtained yearly. Think of the vast possibilities of profit this opens up! The one great drawback hitherto has been the irregular supplies. It makes the most beautiful and durable fabrics. For sail-cloths, fishing lines, nets, ropes, etc., is invaluable. Its uses are legion, but as the supply is depending on one country, it is comparatively unknown. If our planters would put their hands to the plough and cultivate ramie, a vast industry, as great as cotton, would spring into existence. The first planters will make fortunes, and large profits will prevail for years, as it will take several decades to cope with the demand, and even then a steady trade is to be relied on. America is quite alive to the possibilities, and the U. S. A. Chamber of Agriculture is encouraging its growth. Why do our Colonial Governments not foster it? India, Assam, Straits Settlements, Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, Borneo, West Indies, Guiana, Natal, South, East, and West Africa could all grow "ramie" profitably. Another great advantage is that it can be so easily manipulated that all these and other colonies could establish industries to work up the splendid fibre on the spot, so not only would the former benefit, but he would find a market at home, and not depend alone on English markets. There is no reason why manufacturers could not and should not start in almost every colony of the Empire. With this vista of a profitable industry in view, our Colonial Governments, chambers of agriculture and commerce, planters, farmers, and manufacturers would do well to inquire further into the possibilities of ramie, rhea, or China grass. Anyone desirous of knowing more as to cultivation, seed, and manufacture have but to send me a few stamps of the colony, as compensation for postage, and I will send them particulars and information how to procure seed and machinery, etc., as I am desirous of encouraging the trade, in what I designate the textile of the future, in every possible way. The demand at the moment for dress goods (Bradford), incandescent gas mantels, saddlery, boot threads, and similar goods is enormous, and far beyond the limited supplies. The Shamrock, Bona, Dragon, and many of the leading yachts have sails of ramie. I trust you will draw the attention of your readers to the above, and that it may be the means of starting a profitable industry in many of our colonies."—*H. & C. Mail.*

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, April 2, 1903.

The condition of the home market in tea remains featureless, there being little disposition on the part of wholesalers to operate. Trade on the streets is consequently slow. It is interesting to note that the world's consumption of British-grown tea last year exceeded the production by over 12,000,000 lbs. A great contrast to the previous position of heavy over-production. The figures show the total consumption to have steadily increased year by year, while the maximum year of production was 1900. The production since that date has been on the decline.

MONTREAL, April 2, 1903.

There is a fair demand locally, though trade has fallen off somewhat during the past week, most of the orders for shipment after the opening of navigation having been received. All teas are still firm and no change in prices is reported. Japans are still high and firm, and even a stronger tone is given the market by the rumour that most of the new crop will be taken by United States houses. Japans are still quoted at 17½ to 18½c. for mediums, though one importer is quoting as low as 16½c. on a certain grade. Ceylon blacks have been moving fairly well. Gunpowders are scarce and high in price, but a very little is on the market. A

quantity of Imperial gunpowders is offered at 14c., said to be of good liquor and fair leaf. Indian teas have been going slightly better during the week, and prices are firm. The following table is given, showing the total shipments of tea from the two shipping ports in Japan, Yokohama, and Hiogo, to February 28, 1903:

New York steam or sail and railroad ...	Total pounds exported		
	1903.	1902.	1901.
New York via Suez Canal ...	4,563,858	7,127,616	7,420,282
San Francisco ...	8,827,769	5,900,497	5,499,544
Chicago and west ...	3,868,612	3,386,755	4,475,908
Canada ...	17,545,930	12,830,270	13,621,326
Europe, etc. ...	4,363,884	6,480,964	6,308,795
	248,575	...	79,410
Total ...	39,418,628	35,726,102	37,405,265

### TEA PESTS.

The following extracts from a report of proceedings of a Meeting of the Dimbula Planters' Association held on April 28 will probably interest many of our readers:—

#### THE SHOT-HOLE BORER.

The HONORARY SECRETARY—read a letter and correspondence enclosed therein issued by the Parent Association on this subject.

The CHAIRMAN:—I expect you have all had this correspondence in your possession. It has already been published in the papers. If any gentlemen have had any experience of the shot-hole borer, they might express an opinion on the matter.

Mr. BOSANQUET:—I am rather in favour of keeping the disease out of our district. I think Mr. Green's suggestion is that there should be Government interference—some regulation framed. The districts in which the disease is worst are Gampola and Pussellawa, and they are strongly against Government interference. They have got it badly there and we have not. I think this district should favour legislation of this kind.

The CHAIRMAN:—Would you propose a Resolution to that effect?

Mr. BOSANQUET:—I would propose that the district be in favour of legislation as necessary . . . .

The CHAIRMAN:—It is proposed by Mr. Bosanquet "that the district is in favour of any legislation that may preserve it from an attack of shot-hole borer which is, at present, unknown in the district."

The CHAIRMAN—suggested that Mr. Bosanquet should alter his Resolution to read "presumed to be unknown" for it might be known although people had not spoken of it.

Mr. BOSANQUET—concurred and the alteration was effected.

Lieut.-Col. FARQUHARSON—thought they would be very glad to have the assistance of Government; but the interference of Government would lead to no end of difficulties. If once they gave them the right to come on their estates, they would never get them off again.

The CHAIRMAN:—Will you propose an amendment to this, Mr. Farquharson?

Lieut.-Col. FARQUHARSON:—Yes.

Mr. WELLDON:—You might say we would be willing to co-operate with Government.

The CHAIRMAN—read Mr. Green's proposal.

Mr. J. A. MAITLAND:—I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment . . . .

The CHAIRMAN:—Mr. Farquharson's motion is as follows:—"That this Association is willing to co-operate and use Government's assistance, but are strongly against Government interference . . . .

Lieut.-Col. FARQUHARSON:—Supposing shot-hole borer to be found in a patch of tea near Government jungle from where it probably came, do you think Government is going to fell and burn all that jungle? I am sure they are not, and, if not, there is no use in having such legislation. In all probability it comes from that jungle and it will continue to come for ever from it. As regards Mr. Bosanquet's precedent of rinderpest, animals and the shot-hole borer are two very different things. One disease is carried about in the atmosphere and the other flits about from branch to branch. I am sure anybody taking ordinary care and cutting tea down and burning it on the spot, when discovered to be affected by the disease, would keep our estates clear. . . .



The CHAIRMAN—then put Lieut.-Col. Farquharson's amendment to the Meeting when 14 voted for it and 1 against,—Mr. Bosanquet. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

#### THE TEA TORTRIX.

Mr. WELLDON said:—It seems to me when we touch the subject of the diseases of tea we touch a very important subject indeed. I believe, that in Upper Maskeliya at present the tea tortrix on one estate has reduced the crop to the extent of from 70 to 80 lbs. per acre. If that had been taken in hand when it was commencing it might have been stopped; but now it has spread so badly that it is practically damaging the whole of the upper part of the district. It occurred to me this morning that it would be a good thing to have in this district a kind of sub-Committee to collect information from the district on the subject of diseases prevailing, so that as soon as the disease appeared in any one part of the district, the rest of the district might be made aware that there was such a disease; and so that each individual planter might be able to look out for it, because if you get tea tortrix on your estate you will generally find it in a small patch and if you attack that small patch at once you can stop it, but when once it is spread all over the district it becomes very difficult to deal with it. Therefore, I think, we might have a sub-Committee of observation so that as soon as one part of the district is attacked, the whole district may be informed and also to collect information as to whether any disease had been noticed on estates. We would then be in a position to combat the disease if it did appear in our district. My Resolution is:—"That a sub-Committee to collect information concerning the diseases prevailing in the district be appointed." I would suggest the following gentlemen, if they are willing to act:—Mr. Bosanquet, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Whiting, Mr. Bowle-Evans, and Mr. Dunbar. I would act as Secretary and would send out a letter to estates asking for their co-operation and these gentlemen on the Committee would act along with me. It is an important thing that we should be aware of it as soon as the disease comes into the district in order that we may attack it when it is quite in its infancy. (Hear, here.)

The CHAIRMAN—I think, gentlemen, we must all highly approve of Mr. Welldon's resolution and see the great importance of it. If we do not take steps in the early stages of the disease to secure its eradication we will only get deeper and deeper in the mire every day. Mr. Welldon's suggestion is simple, but it should prove effective and I put it to the Meeting, trusting you will all support it. (Hear, hear.)

The Resolution was unanimously carried.

#### TEA PROSPECTS FOR 1903.

##### SCARCITY OF LABOUR WILL PREVENT OVER-PRODUCTION.

(From a Sylhet correspondent of the *Financial Times*.)

The tea season which has just passed will always be remembered as the worst on record in almost every respect. Prices were bad, and the season closed abruptly with a short output. Even if prices go up considerably higher than their present level, it is too late, it is to be feared, to put the average price obtained for teas of the 1902 growth on a level with even that of 1901, although no doubt the rise will be sufficient to stave off a loss in a number of instances. So far the reports of public companies are very poor reading compared with those of the previous year, and everything indicates that, in spite of extra economies, profits have dwindled, as a lower average price for the produce had to be accepted. Taking a general average from the accounts published, this reduction is almost half-an-anna per lb.; at any rate, considerably over a quarter-of-an-anna, or equal, roughly, to two rupees per cultivated acre, by no means an inconsiderable amount in these hard times, and one which takes a good deal of economy to replace. The statistical position is, however, considerably improved, and warrants the hope of better times to come on more grounds than one. The manufacture of green tea, for one thing, is on the increase, tending to relieve the London market of a considerable quantity of the black leaf; but, perhaps, the most consoling feature to the majority is that recruiting of labour, since the new Act was passed, has become a dead letter. Restrictions and other impediments proved too much for the coolie recruiting agencies, better known as licensed depôts, and nearly all who

could realise anything for their businesses sold out, with the result that coolies are not obtainable at any price; in fact, are not to be had. Sir Henry Cotton, even in his wildest moments, never expected the "debacle" that has taken place since the passing of the now famous Coolie Act No. 6, 1901, and until this Act is repealed, and another more in sympathy with the times is passed, there is little chance of improvement in recruiting, and, if left to pursue its course as now, it will take a quarter of a century to effect a revolution. This means prosperity to the more favoured gardens, adversity to a great number not so situated, a complete stoppage of extensions, and last, but not least, a general rise in prices. In the Assam Valley the scarcity of labour is being severely felt, and in Sylhet and Cachar the same remark applies. The Dooars is perhaps more affected than the other districts, and in this locality no Act prevails, and doubtless Sir Henry Cotton will point to this as a proof that the scarcity of labour is due to the question of wages. There is unquestionably a grain of truth in this, but not more than the proverbial grain; the stoppage of recruiting is due solely to the unsympathetic attitude of Government officers, and to no other cause. The attitude of all magistrates and subdivisional officers before the passing of this obnoxious Act was one of veiled hostility, but since it became law their attitude has become distinctly hostile, and the present Lieutenant-Governor-elect of Bengal is more or less responsible for this when Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. It remains to be seen what will be the result of his administration in a tea district like the Dooars; when he becomes a trap of Bengal it is possible that it may have a soothing tendency, and that the present stringent restrictions will, in a measure, be removed, in which case the Assam Province will equally benefit with the Dooars. "It is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good," and the tea industry will now have breathing time given it to open out new markets and establish itself in other countries before over-production recurs.

One large, if not the largest, tea agency house during the recruiting season has, in spite of strenuous efforts, supervised by a European staff, been unable to recruit more than 800 coolies to meet a demand for 4,000. This will give your readers some idea of the situation, which is daily being accentuated. The year 1903, under the circumstances, is not likely to show an all-round bumper crop, although there may be exceptions in the case of individual gardens. Those companies, however, which have their houses in order may regard the future with confidence.

#### THE ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.

##### MR. W. H. FIGG'S REPORT ON HIS VISIT TO ST. LOUIS.

In pursuance of a request from Mr. Kingsford, Chairman of the Planters' Association, I consented to visit St. Louis and investigate conditions, and if satisfied with them to make preliminary arrangements for the Colony's representation.

INTRODUCTIONS.—After accepting the mission I cabled to Ceylon asking for Letters of Introduction from the Ceylon Government to assist me with the authorities in America. I have to thank His Excellency the Governor for his great kindness in sending me personally written letters to H. M. Ambassador at Washington, (Sir Michael Herbert) and to the Commissioners of the St. Louis Exhibition. After presenting my letter at the Embassy at Washington, I proceeded at once to St. Louis and lost no time in meeting the heads of the various departments.

INSTRUCTIONS.—From the perusal of my instructions received through Mr. Kingsford it will be seen the following were the points dealt with:

(A) The question of the erection of a building to contain all Ceylon's exhibits, or whether Ceylon's products should be displayed in their various departments in the main buildings.

(B) In the event of a separate building being necessary: (1) the site, (2) the style of architecture, (3) the probable cost.

(C) The conditions under which Ceylon Tea could be sold in the cup and in packets.

(D) The appointment of a representative in St. Louis, to act pending the arrival of the Commissioner.

EXHIBITS.—Immediately after meeting the Secretary, Mr. Stevens, I was introduced to Mr. F. J. V. Skiff, the Chairman of the Committee of Exhibits, who invited me to meet his Committee, who



were then sitting. This Committee, consisting, as it does, of the Directors of the various Departments, into which the Exhibition is divided, is virtually the Executive. It was, therefore, of great assistance to me to meet at the outset of my investigations these gentlemen. At the invitation of the Chairman, I briefly addressed the meeting, setting forth the object of my visit. After some general discussion I found there was a very strong feeling against Ceylon's exhibits competing, unless the products were displayed in their various classes in the main buildings. It was clear to me that although this condition was not made absolutely a *sine qua non* it was to the interests of the Colony to fall in with the views of the Committee, particularly as three-fourths of the Ceylon exhibits would come under the head of Agriculture. The balance would be divided between Forestry and Mines and Metallurgy. Taking the above into consideration I came to the conclusion that Ceylon ought to show in the main buildings and have a Court and garden of its own in a good position.

**AGRICULTURE.**—This important building is an enormous structure covering 1,600 by 500 feet and is said to be the largest in the world. I have provisionally secured a space of 2,400 square feet marked on the accompanying blue print and append copy of letter from Mr. F. W. Taylor, the Chief of this Department, which gives all necessary particulars. We are particularly indebted to Mr. Taylor for the friendly consideration and assistance he tendered us and I gladly accepted his very courteous offer. I commend to the attention of the Committee his suggestion in regard to the forwarding of suitable plants for decoration of the house and grounds, and hope that the Director of the Botanical Gardens will see his way to exhibit, on behalf of the Colony, and also to assist with a collection of suitable plants.

**FORESTRY.**—Next in importance to Ceylon, after Agriculture, is the Department of Forestry, I have provisionally secured space, 50 x 60 feet, in a suitable position to be fixed hereafter on completion of plans now being prepared by the Director of Works. Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, the Acting Chief of the Department of Forestry, is most anxious for Ceylon to make an exhibit similar to the one made at Paris. His letter covers all the ground necessary and is appended together with a circular referred to therein.

**MINES AND METALLURGY.**—In this Department I felt a little doubtful in arranging for space, but Mr. Holmes, the Chief of the Department, is very desirous that we should send exhibits. I enclose a letter received from him, and as plumbago is such an important article of export to the United States, his suggestions are worthy of careful consideration. Should it be decided to make a display in this department, I recommend that early steps be taken and such space as will be necessary applied for without delay.

**SITE FOR BUILDING.**—After going over the ground carefully I decided that the space marked on the accompanying plan was the best for our purpose: (1) Because it appears to be in the opinion of those best able to judge—a point where most of the visitors to the Exhibition are likely to pass. (2) Because the gardens laid out by the Director of Horticulture will abut on our allotment and greatly enhance its attractiveness. Here I may mention that Mr. Taylor, the Director of Agriculture, has kindly consented to undertake the laying out of our grounds, continuously with those of the Horticultural Department, using palms and other tropical plants. (3) The position is conveniently close to the Agricultural and Forestry Main Buildings, thus facilitating supervision by our Commissioner.

**SPACE FOR BUILDING.**—The space at our disposal is 125 \* x 250 feet, closely approximating the original application from Ceylon for 4,000 square feet. I enclose letter from Mr. Isaac Taylor, Director of Works, with site marked on the plan. I informed Mr. Taylor that the building would probably follow a Kandyan style of architecture and that plans and specifications would be submitted to him for approval. It is important that there should be no delay in moving in this matter and plans should be sent to our agent. I would recommend a light, airy building, as the climate of St. Louis during Summer is very hot.

**COST OF BUILDING.**—I had an interview with the Chief Architect of the Exhibition who very kindly went into the matter with me, and so far as he could make a rough estimate on the data I could give, thought that we might figure on 7½ to 8 cents American per cubic foot. As I consider it certain that the general products will be exhibited in the main buildings, the size and design of the Ceylon structure can be regulated accordingly, care being taken to

provide room for the kitchen, scullery, and private offices for the Commissioner. In view of the climate of St. Louis, ample wide verandah space should be provided. On receipt of plans and specifications, our agent will call for tenders and submit same before closing contract. Arrangements should be made to permit of cabling consent to proceed.

**CONCESSIONS.**—The permission to sell tea in the cup and in packets is one of the most important and difficult matters I had to deal with. Although I impressed upon the authorities that in obtaining their sanction we had no idea of making profit from the sale of these articles, yet the rights of the Restaurateurs, for which they had paid between \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000, had to be protected. The Director of this Department, at the commencement of our negotiations, laid it down as a condition that 25 per cent. of the takings must be paid to the Exhibition. This I could not agree to, but finally arranged to obtain full privilege for the sale of tea from our building in cup and packets and right to issue and display suitable advertising matter on terms set forth in the accompanying letters from Mr. Norris B. Gregg, Director of Concessions and Admissions and Mr. J. V. F. Skiff, Director of Exhibits.

**ACTING AGENT.**—In terms of Mr. Kingsford's request to appoint a representative to act for us, pending the arrival of our Commissioner, I have, with the sanction of Mr. Stevens, appointed Mr. Russell Stanhope, the Secretary to the Committee on Foreign Relations, on a remuneration to be decided by our Commissioner. I enclose letter from Mr. Stanhope accepting the appointment and from Mr. Stevens conveying his sanction. I have deposited \$300, receipt enclosed, with Mr. Stanhope, to meet sundry expenses, and have instructed him to communicate with you direct as occasion may require. A most important matter is the execution of the contract between the Ceylon authorities and those of the Exhibition. Mr. Stanhope is having this drawn up in terms of the correspondence accompanying this Report.

**GENERAL.**—In conversation with those who have had experience over here in former Exhibitions. I feel it right to tell you that it is decidedly advisable that native servants should be sent over from Ceylon to serve the tea in the Ceylon grounds. Mr. Larkin, of Toronto, is most anxious to obtain some tea plants for Exhibition purposes and I have promised to write asking you to take steps to get some germinated tea seed packed in Wardian cases and sent to him as soon as possible. He is in a position to take full care of them when they arrive in Toronto, if we can only get them there alive. As regards small packets of tea for distribution free in the Exhibition, Mr. Larkin strongly recommends that these packets should be made of lead and not tin. The reason for this is to let people have as nearly as possible a facsimile of the packet which they would buy hereafter in the various stores of the United States of America. My visit to St. Louis has impressed me with the magnitude of the undertaking. It would make this report too lengthy to enter into details here, but I have requested Mr. Stanhope to send you full information from time to time, more especially as to the progress made with the buildings and the probability of the Exhibition being opened on time.

## THE S. I. TEA EXPLOITATION FUND.

### THE SALE OF TEA.

The South India Tea Exploitation Fund, which has been organised by the Travancore tea-planters, is doing excellent work in the way of creating a taste for tea and popularising its consumption among the masses of this Presidency. An interesting and practical scheme has been set on foot, principally at the initiative of Mr. H. M. Knight, of the Kanan Devan Planters' Association, to push the sale of tea in the Presidency so as to bring it within the reach of the poorer classes of the community.

The scheme is based on the lines laid down by the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission of Calcutta, which is managed for the Indian Tea Association by Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. The object was to introduce the consumption of tea among the native population of India by the sale of both packet and brewed teas, and to achieve this end a certain number of planters contributed quantities of tea to be utilised by the South Indian Tea Exploitation Fund. In January last, Messrs. Parry & Co., as the Agents of the Fund, started the sale of brewed tea in the principal towns of Southern India. They made arrangements for the establishment

\* Supposed to be a mistake for 150 feet.



of stalls in various towns where tea is brewed and taken round by hawkers for sale in the streets. The scheme has been working in Madras and the mofussil for the last four months with considerable success. In this city brewed tea is being taken round to the Government offices and the principal mercantile firms from stalls which have been established in all the principal thoroughfares. The sale is managed entirely by Brahmins, under the supervision of Messrs. Parry & Co. Brewed tea is sold in cups at the popular price of 3 pies per cup, which ought to make it available even to the poorest of the population. The sales have been steadily increasing month by month since January and promise to show a remarkable development in the near future. Through the energy and enterprise of Messrs. Parry & Co. packet tea and brewed tea are available at extremely moderate prices in all the important towns of the Presidency, from Cocanda to Tuticorn.

Messrs. Parry & Co. have taken the initiative in this matter, and they hope that, now that they have demonstrated the success of the scheme, the sale of tea will be taken up by petty dealers all over the Presidency, and the sale of tea and a liking for the beverage extended far and wide among those who have not hitherto been accustomed to drink it.—*Madras Mail*.

### TEA IN CALCUTTA.

In the course of two or three weeks, says the *Statesman*, we shall see the opening of another tea season, as the first public auction is expected to take place on the 22nd instant, and it, perhaps, would not be considered out of place if the prospects of the 1903 crop were now reviewed, both from the standpoint of probable output and the likely course of prices on this market and in London. It will be well within the recollection of all those interested that the close to last season in the producing districts was admittedly the earliest and most abrupt that has been known for some years past. The reason of the sudden termination to plucking operations was chiefly attributable to continued cold and wet weather which prevailed practically throughout the greater portion of the growing season. On the other hand gardens are at present experiencing climatic conditions of a contrary description to those which existed at the close of last year, the weather in nearly all the districts now being described as hot and dry, and a serious check on the flushing of the bushes is naturally the result at this time of the year. The drought—for that is the real position—must be giving the Managers considerable cause for anxiety, as many weeks have now gone by in most districts without any heavy showers of rain having fallen, and even when the change in the weather does come about, it will be some time before the bushes can recover from the effects of the continued absence of the moisture they so badly require at this stage of the season. There is no pretence in the above remarks to hint at an abnormally short crop for 1903, but one thing is certain that we shall not have a “bumper” outturn, and the difficulties of a short labour supply and the abandonment of partially productive areas in consequence, are two very important factors, which go a considerable way to support the opinion that 1903 will produce a crop of tea within the limits of the demand from the world's markets. Reports to hand indicate that manufacture is proceeding on a small scale only, and the feeling seems to be that the offerings at the opening sale will also be limited, looking to the late opening of the season and the fact that the producers have decided not to hurry down the first few invoices.

With regard to the probable course of prices this season, at present the position points to a market opening in favour of the seller, and it may be truly said that the outlook from the grower's point of view has not been so bright for some time past. The London market continues fairly steady, particularly for the common kinds; and, bearing in mind the rapid depletion of stocks at the terminal, it is a difficult matter to account for the justification of the cabled report of the London market as published by a contemporary two days ago, and to which, as usual, when their advices of the actual position are somewhat wide of the mark, special prominence was given. Seeing that tea will come down slowly, and in small quantities, during the next two and three months, it does not appear likely that we shall see any falling away in the London values, and prices should remain firm until about August or September when the delayed shipments from the gardens and the increased “off-take” on this market for new outlets

will begin to affect the arrivals in London; we should then see an improvement.

There is every indication that our local buyers will be kept busy this season, and it is encouraging to hear that the demand from Russia is expected to develop still further. The proposal to establish a direct line of steamers from here to Odessa will, if carried out, tend to facilitate considerably the smooth working of business with our Russian friends. It is also apparent that in addition to supplying new markets, buyers will be called upon to operate for old outlets through new channels, and it is to be hoped that sellers will recognise the rapidly increasing buying power of the local market and look to the interests of themselves (and, in passing, their shareholders also) and the tea industry at large, by offering, at local auctions, suitable teas for this market which have hitherto passed “starved Calcutta” and merely gone to swell the “glut” in London. The fact of no alteration having been made one way or the other in the Home duty does not appear to have affected the position in the least, and it would seem as if everyone concerned have been more or less prepared for what the Budget disclosed ten days ago.

The news from outmarkets is encouraging, and later we should see a fair inquiry from America, Australia, Canada, and the North-West; business with Persia, owing to the new tariff, is at present dislocated, but with such a heavy increase in the duty no other result could have been expected. There is one feature behind the Persian trade which should dispel any idea that it is a lost market, *viz.*, that tea in the land of the Shah is more than a national beverage, and the consumption of it has such a hold on the populace that the demand from Persia must surely right itself once the trade has become accustomed to the higher import duty.

Viewing the position generally and without being unduly optimistic, it may be said that a prosperous tea season during 1903 for both sellers and buyers appears to be in every way probable.

### PEPPER VINE DISEASE IN THE WYNAAD.

MR. BARBER'S REPORT.

The following is the interim Report to the Wynaad Planters' Association of Mr C. A. Barber, the Government Botanist, on his investigations into the pepper vine disease in the Wynaad:—

I purpose to send you a few lines thus early, for I do not know when you will get anything like a full report on my recent visit among the pepper plantations, nor can I promise that, after my more careful examination of the vines under the microscope, I shall be able to put my finger on the spot, and definitely tell you what disease the pepper vines are suffering from in the Wynaad.

“I visited the following places:—Neddikarna, Moopenaád (briefly), Nedimballi and Poothacoolie, Cotternaad (briefly), Anda Tode, Moovatie. The bulk of my work was done at Anda Tode and Nedimballi, where vines were carefully dissected out for a couple of days in each place. Since leaving Moovatie, I had the opportunity of visiting about a dozen gardens on my way to Calicut so as to get a glimpse of the mode of cultivation in the plains.

I have come to the conclusion that whatever the trouble be, it is situated in the mound of earth surrounding the root stock. The two factors which seem to point in this direction are—(1) that the canker, which sets in in all diseased plants is situated in the mound of earth surrounding the root stock, and (2) that in diseased plants there is an almost total absence of the fine net work of surface-feeding roots which I have always observed in healthy plants. My statement that the canker seems to originate at the collar is based upon the fact that, however completely that part of the plant may have gone, it is possible within a reasonable period after death to trace the cankerous spots both upwards and downwards into what appears to be perfectly healthy tissues. I take it also from my examination that there are two systems of roots in the pepper vine—one deep rooting and one superficial. The first eight plants which I dug up were diseased, and in these there were hardly any surface roots. I was thus led to the false (as I believe) idea that the pepper vine is a deeper feeder than generally supposed. By the kindness of Mr. Winterbotham, I was able, however, to dig up a fine healthy plant. Then I at once saw that the great mass of roots was superficial and indeed largely confined to the heap of



earth which seems to be always piled up around the base of the standard. If these two points are held in view, it will be seen that it is of the utmost importance to examine into the question as to whether the current heaping up of earth round the standard is a proper operation. I may say at once that I saw nothing in the low-country cultivation which would justify it.

Briefly, I do not think it is done in an altogether reasonable manner. Let the question be asked of practical planters, "Given that the pepper vine is a surface feeder and that the bulk of its feeding roots are developed near the main root stock, ought not the mound of earth to be made suitable to delicate-feeding rootlets?" I have frequently found this mound of earth so hard that it was with difficulty penetrated with a knife. I think it ought to be kept in a friable condition, and also that it should be protected as much as possible from the direct heating and desiccating influence of the sun during the hot weather, as well as the heavy drip of the monsoon. I would, therefore, suggest, for immediate experiment, the scattering of lime over the surface of the mound, as has been done in certain cases at Anda Tode, and its protection from sun and "wash" by a mulch of some sort. As to the forking up of the mound, I leave it to the experience of practical planters. But I would most strongly insist on the great danger to delicate rootlets of any disturbance of the cake-like crust which I have so often met with. When it is made friable there may be advantage in a little forking, but I am not at all sure that this would be necessary.

I do not feel at liberty to make any definite statement concerning the cause of the disease at present. That will come better after I have had the opportunity of making a microscopic examination of the large series of specimens collected in spirit. But I would point out that in my short inspection of the plantations in the plains I have come across a definite and serious disease of the rootlets of the collar. I would, therefore, strongly urge that the idea of obtaining fresh "seed" from this source be abandoned until a clean bill of health may be given. Meantime would it be too much to ask that all who are interested in this matter should, when convenient, make a cursory examination of the rootlets of the mound? They will then be able to justify or criticise my opinion that here are the chief feeders of the plant, and also they will be able to determine whether the disease of the plains is of common occurrence in the hills. The diseased rootlets in the plains show very distinct nodules or swellings in their course. They are frequently twisted or swollen at their ends, and, on being cut open, show little round dots in both transverse and longitudinal sections. The uncovering of patch of mound roots in friable soil should not be injurious and if the disease is present, it should be visible all over the mound, but in hard crust, the individual rootlets will, with difficulty, be seen and smashed to pieces.

I would also suggest that for the present fresh cuttings should not be taken from the mound, but from the tops of healthy vines, if these are found to strike as well.

I cannot close this interim report without thanking the Wynaad planters one and all for the extremely kind way in which they have received me and the readiness with which they have fallen in with my suggestions. The subject has turned out to be more complicated than I had hoped, and I shall make it one of my first duties to try and complete the work now commenced.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### CENTRAL TRAVANCORE.

The Quarterly General Meeting was held at Pambanar Bungalow on Saturday, 18th April, 1903. **PRESENT:**—Mr. F. M. Parker (*Chairman*), Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, Messrs. B. Laurie, H. M. Knight, R. H. Goldie, D. McArthur, R. S. Imray, F. Bisset, Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham, and E. Latter (*Honorary Secretary*) and as *Visitors*: Capt. N. B. G. Strong (Assistant British Resident), Messrs. J. S. Sealy (Superintendent, Cardamom Hills), O. H. Bensley (Superintendent of Police), A. J. Ferguson (Assistant Superintendent of Police).

Notice calling Meeting and Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors and regretted that Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, British Resident, was unable to be present.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

**Land Tax.**—Read letter from Dewan, dated 10th instant, stating that arrangements will be made for collection of Land tax due on Coffee and Tea estates in Peermade and Periyar tracts by the Assistant to Superintendent of Cardamom Hills in Peermade and to relieve Tahsildars of this duty.—*Resolved*, that Dewan be thanked for granting our request.

**Labour Law.**—Read U. P. A. S. I. letters on the subject.

Proposed by Mr. H. M. Knight and seconded by Mr. Latter—

"That this Association desires to tender a cordial vote of thanks to Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth for the able and successful manner in which he has represented our interests and assisted in the passing of the Labour Bill through Council."—Carried *nem. con.*

**Tea Cess Committee.**—Read U. P. A. S. I. letter asking to nominate a member—and Honorary Secretary's reply nominating Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—Read U. P. A. S. I. letters on subject and suggestion for subscription list being opened.—*Resolved*, that no action be taken in the matter—as this Association is so little interested in Coffee.

**U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting, 1903.**—The date suggested, 3rd August, will suit this Association.

**Honorary Members.**—Proposed by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Acworth—

"That Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, British Resident, Capt. N. B. G. Strong, Assistant British Resident, and Mr. J. S. Sealy, Superintendent of Cardamom Hills, be invited to be Honorary Members of the Association."—Carried *nem. con.*

**Cattle Trespass.**—Proposed by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Laurie—

"Owing to the damage caused by the straying of cattle on Tea Estates, that H. H. Government be asked to legislate to remedy the evil."—Carried *nem. con.*

**Land Tax.**—Mr. Knight asked permission to withdraw the Resolution standing in his name and it was resolved, "that the Chairman and Mr. Knight be deputed to wait on the British Resident with a view to consult him on the subject."

**Medical.**—The following recommendations of the Select Committee were adopted:—

"That the special allowance now paid to the Government Medical Officer be withdrawn and a properly qualified Medical Officer be appointed at our expense to have charge of the grant-in-aid dispensaries."

"That dispensaries be at Bonami, Pambanar, and Arnakal."

"That the approval of the Durbar physician be asked."

**Tea Exploitation in S. India.**—Mr. Knight reported progress made by Messrs. Parry & Co. and who hoped to obtain assistance from the Tea Cess Committee.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Meeting ended.

Papers laid on the table—

Planting Opinion.

Indian Planting and Gardening.

Travancore Government Gazette.

I. T. A. Circulars.

U. P. A. S. I. Circulars.

Proceedings of District Associations.

E. LATTER,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

The following is an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 21st ultimo. There were present: Messrs. H. C. Begg (*Chairman*): T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*): H. S. Ashton, Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

Letters dated 27th March and 3rd April, from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration and disposal after previous circulation. One of the subjects dealt with in the letter of 3rd April was:



## THE MARKET POSITION.

At a Meeting of importers held on the 30th March for the purpose of considering the regulation of the sales for the two weeks ending 11th and 25th April, respectively, the following Resolution had been proposed and carried:—"That it is undesirable to hurry the new season's tea home, and this Meeting agrees to recommend proprietors not to hasten shipments."

It was decided to publish and circulate copies of this Resolution for the information of members of the Association.

## STATISTICS OF AREA UNDER TEA CULTIVATION.

Considered memorandum from the Surma Valley sub-Committee with reference to a Resolution which had been passed at a Meeting of the General Committee of the Branch held at Silchar on 23rd February, 1903, to the effect that it was desirable that information should be furnished annually as to the acreage opened out or abandoned by the different companies and gardens in India and Ceylon.

The Surma Valley sub-Committee suggested that the Government of India might be asked if they could see their way to furnish yearly similar statistics for the whole of India as the Assam Administration publish in respect of the districts under their charge, showing separately the additions to, and deductions from, area under tea cultivation instead of the net result only.

It was decided, after a short discussion, and in view of the interest to the industry attaching to the information, to communicate with the Director-General of Statistics and with the Ceylon Planters' Association on the subject, and to ask whether the returns could be furnished.

## SCIENTIFIC OFFICER'S FUND.

Recorded, letter No. 621-26-2, dated 14th April, 1903, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and

Agriculture, stating that the Association's application asking for an annual grant of Rs.10,000 for three years in connection with the conduct of scientific investigations and researches into the cultivation and manufacture of tea, was under the consideration of the Government of India.

Read letter dated 15th April from the Honorary Secretary, Dooars Planters' Association, stating that the Association was willing to continue to support the Scientific Officer's Fund after the expiry of the term originally agreed upon, and was also prepared to increase the subscription from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,250 per annum.

The letter was to be acknowledged with thanks.

After a short discussion, regarding the continuance of Mr. Mann's engagement on the expiry of the three years originally provided for, it was decided that his services should be retained. The question of extending the scope of his operations as proposed by him in May, 1902, would, however, depend upon the decision of the Government of India in regard to the financial assistance which had been asked for.

## MARKET REPORT.

[We regret that our usual Market Reports have not reached us, with the sole exception of the following para.]

## QUININE.

This article remains very quiet, and no business is being done; prices for B. and S., and/or Brunswick are therefore nominal at 11½d. for spot, and at 1s. per oz. sellers for August delivery. The manufacturers reduced recently their official price to 1s. 1½d. per oz.

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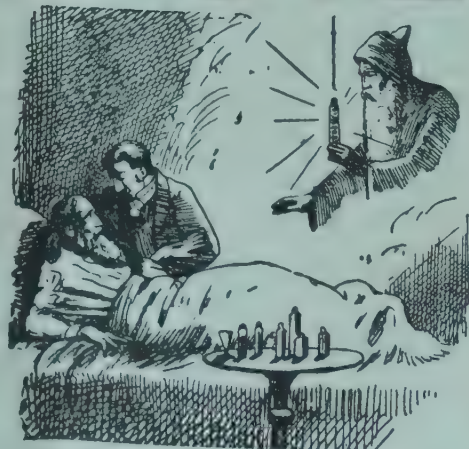
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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1903.

[No. 20.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 22nd instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—A few local showers. *Wind*—steady from the West. *Temperature*—cooler. *Works*—Pruning and manuring, a little borer showing up, but it should not be a bad year. *Coffee*—looking fine and healthy. *Crop prospects*—Blossom has set well, what there is of it. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—A great fair and general pilgrimage at Kenchamma—Hosakote.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, May 13th.*—*Weather*—No rain since Sunday night last. Very heavy rain last week. Over two inches in parts last Saturday with high wind. *Crops*—Another sprinkling of blossom has come out now. It is a pity that all the rain received subsequently did not fall on the 30th of March. Crops would have been better if it had. Owing to the small quantity that fell then, and not being followed up till long afterwards, a lot of buds got scorched. The trees are making fine growth. Some borer is showing up. The only work in hand is applying manure.

### TEA IN ASSAM.

#### AN HISTORICAL SKETCH REPRINTED.

THE latest official report from Assam contains a mass of information that is well worthy of record. Tea-planters in South India will readily admit that the future of their industry depends very largely upon that of tea in Northern India and Ceylon. Anything that concerns either of these tea-producing centres is therefore, of special interest to planters in the South. Perhaps what may be called the ancient

history of Assam tea is not of such great interest as are present conditions and future prospects; but even from the first named there is something to be learnt. Here we will start with a reference to this as laid down in the official Administration Report, 1901-02. In this document we find it stated, not merely that the most important commercial staple of Assam is tea but also that the plant is indigenous to the province, being found wild in the forests south of the Dihing, in the Naga Hills to the south of Sibsagar, and in Manipur, North Cachar, and the Lushai Hills. The following paragraphs, extracted from a memorandum written by the late Sir JOHN EDGAR in 1873, give in a brief and convenient form a sketch of the growth and progress of the tea industry in this province from its commencement down to that year. There have been lively disputes as to the first discoverer of tea in Assam, and the date of its discovery. It is probable that a Mr. C. A. BRUCE, who commanded a division of gunboats in Upper Assam during the first Burmese war, brought down some plants and seed of the indigenous plant in 1826, and he actually received a medal from the English Society of Arts. But his claim to have been the first discoverer of tea was disputed by a Captain CARLTON, who asserted that the existence of tea in Assam had been first established by himself in 1832. In 1834, a Committee was appointed to inquire into and report on the possibility of introducing the cultivation of tea into India. In 1835, the first attempt was made by Government to establish an experiment station in Lakhimpur, but it failed, and the plants were afterwards removed to Jaipur, in the Sibsagar district, and a garden established, which was sold to the Assam Company in 1840. This Company, which was formed about 1839, was the first, and is still very much the greatest, concern for the cultivation of tea in Bengal. It was not, however, very prosperous during its early years, and in 1846-47 its shares are said to have been almost unsaleable. Its prospects began to improve about 1852, and in 1859 it was reported officially to have a cultivated area of about 3,967 acres, and an estimated outturn of over 760,000 pounds of tea. Meantime, tea cultivation had been commenced in many other districts. In 1850, a garden was started by Colonel HANNAY near Dibrugarh, and in 1853, when Mr. Mills of the Sudder Court visited Assam, he found three private gardens in Sibsagar and six in Lakhimpur. In 1854 the first gardens were started in Darrang and Kamrup. In 1855, indigenous



tea was found in Cachar and the first garden was commenced in the cold season of that year. In the following year 1856 tea was discovered in Sylhet, but no attempt at cultivating it was made for some time after.

It may be said generally that the foundations of the present tea industry in Assam were laid between 1856 and 1859. In the latter year the labour difficulty began to be seriously felt in Assam and Cachar; but, although Colonel JENKINS, Commissioner of Assam, recorded a serious warning, no one else seemed able to foresee the formidable dangers into which the too rapid progress of the industry would bring it. Later still, in 1862-63, officials as well as planters seem to have indulged in visions of fabulous prosperity, which only deepened the gloom of the miserable time that was so soon to come on them. The Land Revenue Administration Report for that year contains extracts from reports from Assam, Cachar, Sylhet, and Darjeeling, written in the most hopeful spirit; indeed the two former are written in an exalted tone that contrasts curiously with the usual sobriety of official reports. But even at the time of publication of these reports suspicions had begun to arise about the soundness of this condition of affairs, which was apparently so brilliant. An Act for the regulation of the transport of native labourers emigrating to Assam and Cachar, passed in 1863, was expected to remedy many hideous evils which were discovered to exist in the importation of labourers required to supplement the scanty local supply. But it soon came to light that the condition of these labourers on many gardens in both districts was most deplorable, while the mortality among them was appalling. The evil first fruits of the reckless way in which waste lands have been dealt with, in the belief that Government was fostering tea cultivation thereby, were gathered in the shape of increasing hostility to Government and its officials, caused by difficulties about surveys, boundaries, title-deeds, and the like, which all had arisen out of the mistaken policy of giving vast tracts of land to any one choosing to ask for them, without inquiry and without precaution of any kind. In 1865, an Act was passed for the regulation of the relations of employers and imported labourers after the arrival of the latter in the districts of Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar. Though at first at least it did little to improve the condition of the labourers, Sir JOHN EDGAR was convinced that it had not the slightest connection with the temporary collapse of the tea industry, which took place in the following year. The cause of the crash of 1866 was, he says, the utterly unsound foundation on which the fabric of the tea industry had been based, and not directly the Government's action, as at the time it was the fashion of even usually well-informed persons to assert. At the same time, we should never lose sight of the fact that the industry might never have got into the ruinous state of inflation that it was in previous to 1866, had it not been for the unwise attempts of Government to foster it at the outset by sacrificing the most necessary safeguards in dealing with land. The depression of the industry consequent on the collapse of so many concerns in 1866 was, of course, intensified by the ignorance of the general body of proprietors of tea-shares who, as was remarked by me in a paper written in 1867, showed as much fall in their hurry to get out of tea as they had a few years before in their eagerness to undertake the speculation.

This depreciation of tea property continued during the years 1866, 1867, and 1868, but about 1869 things began

to look brighter. It was seen that people that had worked steadily for years with a view to make gardens that would yield a profit had been rewarded, while much of the property of the collapsed companies had turned out well under careful management. In fact, it was again found out that tea would pay, and ever since it has been steadily progressing in popular estimation, and, as a general rule, in profit to those engaged in it. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the industry is in an infinitely better and safer position now than it was ten years ago. The existing gardens are, as a general rule, well filled with plants, highly cultivated, and carefully managed. The amount of tea produced per acre, although falling far short of the sanguine expectation of the first days of tea-planting, is satisfactory in all the more important districts, while the prices obtained this season show that the average quality must be very good. There is every reason to hope that the labour difficulty is disappearing in Cachar, and, in spite of the complaints of Assam, there are evident signs of improvement in that province.

### COFFEE NOTES.

The fall of the price of coffee to a new level has drawn the attention of the newspaper Press to the consumption of the berry, the retail price, etc., and we again see many allusions to the manner in which the Brazil berry masquerades as Java. Grocers and consumers can reassure themselves, however, says the *Merchants' Review*, for there is certainly no harm done when the coffee they buy as Java gives the same cup tests as the real Java. Not long ago a certain trade paper charged that the jobbers in its own town sold Brazil coffee as Java, but complained that when suspected samples were sent to it for analysis the experts could not pronounce judgment because the samples had been roasted. Further comment is unnecessary, but it is as well to remind critics of the coffee trade that Java would be selling at about one dollar a pound if only the genuine article were sold by grocers.

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An English grocer increased his sales of coffee four-fold by roasting the coffee himself and using an attractive counter mill. The display was public and his customers were thus induced to give his freshly roasted and ground coffee a trial. He was very careful in the processes and especially so in the selection of his blend, which was good Costa Rica one part, Jamaica one part, and one part East India to every 5 lbs.

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Official figures by the United States Government make the coffee importations during the last eight months ending February 28th, 584,346,647 pounds or 4,426,000 bags against importations during the same period in 1902 of 768,550,026 pounds or 5,821,000 bags.

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**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The low prices have induced some trading in coffee but traders are disposed to transact business only with a growl that the market should be so lacking in tone. They do want advancing prices but their wishes do not materialize. The option markets experienced a slight reaction from the low prices noted one week ago. The recovery was chiefly caused by the reports from Brazil that an export duty was to be levied by Sao Paulo which would eventually prohibit the export of low-grade coffee and thus affect the crop shipped to the extent of twenty per cent.



There were also other rumours of similar drastic action on the part of the Brazilians. The market however gave only little credence to the reports and soon reacted to the low position. It is beyond doubt true that the Brazilians expected a sharp advance and with that dispose of their present supplies at a good figure. The spot market for invoices does not show the depth to which the market in futures has fallen. Reports are current that the Lewisohns have sold very large quantities of their supplies and to this is credited in the main the break in the prices of option coffees to their lowest record. In actual coffee a new lowest record has still to be achieved. Good coffees still bring a good price. The quotation during the week closed on the basis of Rio No. 7  $5\frac{1}{4}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ c.

In Milds there is a slow market but prices are well maintained for all West India growths. Stocks are growing but holders are not disposed to concede anything in the prices. Good Cucuta is quoted at  $8\frac{3}{4}$ c. East India growths are quiet. —*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, April 14.

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**Herman Sielcken on Coffee.** THE BEAR SIDE OF THE SITUATION.—Mr. Herman Sielcken, of the firm of W. H. Crossman & Bro., submitted last week an interview answering certain rumours afloat regarding the large fortune made by that firm from the bearish trend of the coffee market. In part Mr. Sielcken said:

"The publication about fortunes made on the bear side or of bear raids and matters of that nature is untrue in very detail. As far as I am personally concerned or my firm is concerned we have been doing the largest import business in coffee of late years; we neither take chances on the bull side nor the bear side, and we are buying and selling the coffee as nearly even as it is possible for any large dealers to do.

"The decline in coffee is not the result of speculation. On the contrary, the speculation has been on the other side of the house. For six or seven years the coffee world at large has been bullish, and all the heavy capitalists of this country, as well as Europe, in and out of the coffee trade who have become interested in coffee have operated on the long side of the market. These interests in the consuming countries have been so large and the desire for higher prices so great that the Brazilians have been invited to send sensational bull news whether true or untrue. In other words, the dealers here and in Europe wanted to be deceived and the Brazilians gave them false crop news year after year to such an extent as is hardly creditable to believe. Crops of 10,000,000 bags have been estimated at 6,000,000. A crop of 15,500,000 was represented as 10,000,000, and the present crop, which was represented as being a half-crop and very nearly destroyed by drouth, turns out the second largest crop on record. The two crops of 1901-02 and 1902-03 amount to about 27,500,000 bags, while the five crops from 1891 to 1896 amounted to only 30,000,000 bags all told.

"So the low prices are the consequence of supplies, and are in spite of the strong bull speculation. There is no 4c. coffee. If it were, according to my judgment, of good commercial quality, I would consider it cheap under all circumstances. The 4c. coffee of the contract means 6 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ c. commercial quality, as the quality tendered is 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. higher in grade than No. 7, and instead of being worth 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. higher to the consumer it is not worth more than 1c. more than No. 7.

"The coffee trade, as well as the outsiders, have repeatedly been caught by the apparent low price of coffee and by all sorts of artificial measures to help the market. As every coffee merchant the world over knows, the Brazilians do not sell 4c. coffee; they average over 6c. in both Rio and Santos. Such a delusion on their part has been paid for so dearly that they will make up their minds that if Brazil continues to produce at this price the fact of their doing so contradicts in itself the theory that the price is low enough to decrease production. It should be proved by this time to the satisfaction of everybody engaged in the business that artificial means either by misrepresentation from the country of production or by speculation does not cure the evil.

"I have pointed out as far back as September, 1899, when prices were about on a par with the present, that nothing but a very low level can curtail the production of coffee, and evidently this level has not been reached so far. I am pointing out facts, as the low prices in 1899 have brought about larger crops than ever before, and the only solution of the question that I can see is a radical decrease in the production through low prices, which can only be reached by consuming markets using up the supplies on hand and not encouraging Brazilians to continue raising big crops by helping them with speculative ventures, such as has been the case the past four years." —*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, April 14.

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**Brazil Prohibitive Export Duty on Low-Grade Coffee Denied.**—The New York *Herald* on April 11th last printed the following cable dispatch from Rio Janeiro explaining and in the main refuting the dispatches heretofore reported stating that Sao Paulo intended levying prohibitive export duties on low-grade coffees:

"No one here believes that a duty will be levied on the exportation of coffee. I have been assured that the Government will oppose any such drastic measure to relieve the market, if it should be presented by any one interested in the present deplorable condition. Only Congress can establish duties on the exportation of products from Brazil. The planters and merchants in attendance at the Coffee Congress have adopted several methods for the solution of the present crisis, caused by the excess of production and the falling prices in European markets, and it is hoped that these will result successfully.

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**A View on the Low Prices of Coffee 21 Years Ago.**—One of the principal importers of coffee, says the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, talking about the price of that staple and the general coffee trade situation, said that the price of coffee known as No. 7, and which all roasters use, is no lower now than it was twenty-one years ago and that the present price of options was not a record price either.

"In September of 1899," he continued, "we had spot months a 4·10 for quite a while. Twenty-one years ago futures were  $5\frac{1}{4}$ . Considering that the difference between No. 7 and No. 3 was then 110 points and to-day it is 200 points, options were as cheap in 1882 as they are to-day. But the stocks on hand and the crops are three times as large now as they were then."

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It will be recalled that several months ago we printed the information from Rio Janeiro that the idea was generally entertained in Brazil that something would happen in the coffee trade in April, whereby there would occur a marked



rise in the price of coffee, especially in New York. We acknowledged some density of mind in being unable to understand how this should be brought about except by some stratagem, which probably would not catch its fish, and ever since we have been waiting for results. The cat has now been let out of the bag, and we have seen with our eyes and heard with our ears how that at last the law has been passed by the Sao Paulo legislature to curtail the export of coffee in that province by the imposition of a duty on low-grade coffee that should make its export not worth while. One-fifth of the crop from that state would in this manner be eliminated from the coffee market of the world; July 1 was the day the law is to become effective, the rumour said. Observe the word rumour, for as yet, concerning this law, the commercial world wants authentic information. The expectation seemingly was that the coffee market would at once respond in a quick rise in prices, and for one day there was a rise of a few points. But presently, after a short duration of time had demonstrated that there were too many "ifs" in the way of an effective enforcement of the law, the market returned to its lowest conditions, and we have no doubt the Brazilians have been much surprised at an unappreciated and unresponsive world. But they may as well begin to learn now that although the consuming coffee world may be deceived part of the time and pretty much all of it in that part of the time, it is not going to be deceived all the time in part or in whole, and that kind of time has now arrived. All of the Brazilians must now learn that it is time to stop fooling themselves by fooling others. In the long run one reaps as one sows, and the Brazilians are now reaping their tares. The expunging of the low-grade coffee, as we pointed out last week, would be a good thing, but although the state of Sao Paulo may thus sacrifice its coffee (grown and picked, mind you!) it is not to be assumed that the other states in Brazil will not continue to export low-grade coffee, and probably in larger quantities on the inducement of higher prices. Hence we fail to see the ultimate good the restriction of export would bring about. Nor, again of avail would be the restrictive agreement that may be reached by an international congress of growers, since it may be set down as a certainty that the large consuming countries, especially the United States, will not enter into such a compact. There is one immediate and unfailing remedy, and that is supplied by the law of supply and demand, and the sooner the Brazilians accept its severe but really kind ministrations the sooner will pass away their so-called "coffee crisis."—*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*.

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The arrivals of mild coffee in the United States for the month of March were heavy, and aggregated 239,750 bags, of which 42,563 bags were in transit for Europe. This makes the net arrivals 197,187 bags, showing an increase of 6,461 bags from those of the corresponding period last year.

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Henry Nordlinger & Co., in a circular-letter, says: "With a world's consumption of 15½ million bags of coffee, of which about 4 million bags are supplied by other countries than Brazil, the production or exportable quantity of the latter country would have to be brought below the 11½ million mark to become of benefit to values. It is the surplus of production which makes the price for the crop."

Mr. Arnold Schramm, in talking about the mild grade coffee market, said that high-grade coffees command a premium owing to the scarcity of the supply. Bogota is wanted, and good roasting Maracaibo sorts, particularly Cucutas, which sell readily at 8½ to 9 cents, Trujillo at 6 to 6½ cents, met with a ready sale. The fair and medium grades of Maracaibo are not wanted.

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News from Brazil notes that the picking of the new crop is progressing with rapidity, and it is not at all improbable that receipts of the new crop will arrive early in May, in which case a more demoralized market will be experienced.

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Messrs. Winter & Smillie, of New York, purchased the entire offerings of coffee at the regular quarterly Government auction held at Padang, Sumatra, on March 30. The sale included 3,700 piculs of Padang interior at an average price of 42.57 guilders, Dutch currency, per picul; 500 piculs Ankola at 59.45 guilders; 400 piculs Painan at 34 guilders, and 500 piculs Ayer Bangies at 46.50 guilders; also 700 piculs Mandbeling at 69.75 guilders. They also purchased the Pamanoecken crop of 1,200 pounds on private terms. A picul is equal to 130 pounds, and a Dutch guilder is equal to about 40 cents American currency.

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Cable advices received from Nauman, Gepp & Co., Santos, stated that the Bill has passed to destroy 20 per cent. of the coffee crop and an option extra duty 300 réis on low qualities; to be enforced July 1. As a result of the cable received from Santos regarding the destruction of 20 per cent. of the Santos crop, there was active covering in New York by shorts on the exchange and prices advanced sharply.

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The general belief in New York is that the next Brazil coffee crop will be a record-breaker and amount to 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 bags. As a result of this enormous supply in view, bullish features, even at present low record prices, are slim.

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Herman Sielken, of the firm of W. H. Crossman & Bro., in expressing his views in reference to the destruction of 20 per cent. of the low-grade Santos coffee crop in Brazil, said that this is an admission that the Brazilians deem it impossible to curtail the production in a legitimate way in order to bring the supply and demand in closer proximity. This will no doubt lead to demoralization among large operators and holders of coffee the world over. No positive results are likely, and it is an assured fact that the next crop will be a record breaker.

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**The Coffee Glut.**—Coffee touched the lowest prize-level on record this month, but the decline is not particularly significant. There was nothing else to expect under the circumstances, with thousands and thousands of bags in excess of consumptive requirements and production increasing in Brazil.

The movement of Central American coffee to market is freest at about this time of year, and doubtless the knowledge of this fact has had its due influence upon the general coffee market. It is probable that these grades will sell for lower prices shortly.

From Monday's low record of 3.85c. per lb. for the May option there was a moderate reaction in consequence of the receipt of a cable from Brazil stating that a law has been enacted for the destruction of 20 per cent. of the coffee crop, to be enforced from July 1st next.



This news shows that the Brazilians realize the desperate state of affairs in the coffee trade, but it is not calculated to help matters at present. On the contrary, it may scare large holders and cause serious demoralization among operators, who will probably argue that the crop outlook must be very bearish when the Brazilian Government is thinking of resorting to such a desperate measure.

There are better ways of using that 20 per cent. of production than by burning or otherwise destroying it. If distributed free or at a nominal price in countries not largely addicted to coffee the yearly consumption of the berry should profit and the demand and supply soon be adjusted more equably.

This would also obviate the necessity of holding the coffee congress which Brazil has proposed to the coffee-producing nations for the purpose of taking measures for a general restriction of production.—*Merchants' Review*.

### TEA NOTES.

**U. S. Tea Exports.**—Subjoined is the report of the New York Customs House on the export of tea at the port for the month of March. There were reports of large exports of Congou teas. It was even said that the total reached 46,000 packages. As will be seen, the actual exports were very much less. They were as follows:—

EXPORTS.				Pounds.
Germany	...	...	...	682
Netherlands	...	...	...	24,750
England	...	...	...	245,814
British West Indies	...	...	...	233
Cuba	...	...	...	104
Brazil	...	...	...	60
Total				271,643

**Rejection of Foochow Oolongs in the U. S.**—The Tea Board of the United States General Appraisers has ordered a reopening of the controversy over the rejection of about 300,000 pounds of Foochow Oolong teas by the New York Tea Examiners several weeks ago. Objection was made that the sustaining of the decision by the Appraisers was unfair and illegal in that only two appraisers had passed upon the final decision, whereas the law stipulates that such a board must be composed of three appraisers. The reopening is made to meet the objections advanced.

The Board called upon the National Tea Association for advice in the matter and it replied that the rule requiring the presence of three appraisers at an appeal hearing should be strictly followed and that where a decision is made based on the presence of less than three appraisers a rehearing be ordered. Objection is made however that if the identity of experts called in should be exposed, the best would decline to officiate fearing intimidation; objection was also made by the Association that firms interested should name the experts to pass upon the teas; the board should call any expert it chooses.

**The U. S. Standard Tea Act.**—The United States Circuit Court at New York on 13th ultimo handed down a decision finding for the defendants in the suit testing the constitutional validity of the so-called Standard Tea Act. It was conceded on both sides that certain teas of seemingly good drinking quality, but below the standard, had been rejected and expelled from the country. The question was on the constitutionality of the proceeding and as the Supreme Court must finally pass on this question a *per forma* decision was handed down by the Court for the defendant. Appeal was taken.

Tea imported into the United States in February, 1903, was 5,831,410 pounds, says the "Treasury Bureau of Statistics." The total for the eight months ending March 1, was 96,784,638 pounds.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—While there is some activity in tea trading, it is not of sufficient volume to have any marked effect on the range of prices, which remain unchanged from those heretofore reported. Although demand and inquiry continues rather limited, holders have small supplies in such teas as are most sought after, Country Greens, Pingsueys and Japans, and consequently will only listen to an offer that approximates the high values heretofore conceded by buyers. The exports of Congous are still reported but the prices of this tea have not altered except in so far that a hardening tendency on the old basis of prices is noted. On account of the holidays of the week past business has been marked with less attention than noted for some time. The thoughts of the market are already being turned to the oncoming Eastern markets, which are expected to open higher, even over the advance of last year, and in this advance Congous also hope to be included. That is an opinion of Congou holders here and is of course subject to bias.

The report of the tea examiner of the Port of New York for the week past is:—

VARIETY.		PASSED.	
		Pkgs.	Pounds.
India and Ceylon	...	2,738	198,018
Congou	...	47	3,048
Total		2,785	228,066

There were no rejections.—*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, April 14.

The Japanese treat tea much as we treat coffee. They grind the leaves in a portable mill, reducing them to a fine powder, which is then mixed with hot water to about the consistency of Turkish coffee or a fine pulp. The Chinese and Japanese methods of infusing or drawing tea prevent the tannic acid or astringent principle from forming part of the beverage, but extract all of the more volatile and stimulating properties of the leaves. Tea should never be boiled.

Tea is the drink of drinks to the real connoisseur, the tea-lover who is most competent to judge of merits of the world's beverages. Nothing can take its place, and it soothes, refreshes, and strengthens. Good tea, properly made and drunk in moderation, never does harm. Strange that coffee is attacked by owners of coffee surrogates while tea's virtues are taken for granted.

A correspondent of the Chicago (Ill.) *Record-Herald* states that, in a model factory in Berlin, tea in pint bottles is served to the men at noon for 1c. This is to keep them from drinking beer, for the managers think that they do better work without beer for lunch. The tea has become very popular, and 1,500 out of 2,000 employees now use it instead of beer with their midday meal. The tea is prepared in a tiled kitchen, being brewed in a great kettle heated by steam. Each bottle is corked like a beer bottle.

The National Tea Association, we hear, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* is increasing its long roll of members



day by day. What is better still, these names, we understand, have come in without solicitation, and thus is additional testimony adduced that the new Association is meeting with the consent and favour of nearly all of the tea trade interests of America. Later on a second invitation will be extended to join the Association, and then the roll of membership should read as the unanimous voice of the tea trade. There will be a few who will stay out to excuse Artemus Ward's dissertation on "pure cussedness," and then there are some who see more profit in the deterioration of the tea trade by the sale of disreputable teas, and hence are unwilling to join the ranks of the National Tea Association, existing for the enhancement of the prosperity of the tea trade along the lines of purity in quality of tea and business dealing. And further, the Association interests all lines of the tea trade.

**The Weather in Sylhet.**—The *Englishman's* Sylhet special correspondent, on 3rd May, says there was a change in the weather yesterday. Slight rain has fallen but not nearly enough to allay all the anxiety. The rain was ushered in by a nor'-wester. Fortunately there was no hail.

**Tea Soils of Cachar and Sylhet.**—*Tea Soils of Cachar and Sylhet* is the title of a brochure now in the Press, written by Mr. H. H. Mann, Scientific Officer of the Indian Tea Association. It will be issued during the month and no doubt will arouse as much interest as the one on *Tea Soils of Assam*.

**Improved Tea Prospects.**—The *Englishman* says that the share market is generally, though not always, a safe guide to the prosperity of an industry. A general rise is noticeable in the shares of tea companies and this, coupled with the fact that prices realised for tea in London are higher than the past three years, points to a better time before long, for the suffering planter and others interested in tea, than they have experienced in recent years. Reports from the districts state that the drought occasions much anxiety but the recuperative power of the bush is proverbial and there are good grounds for the present optimistic outlook.

**The Tea Experiments in Texas.**—Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, has left Washington for an extended tour of the South for the purpose of investigating the work that is being done by the department at a number of experimental farms. "I will visit Texas," the Secretary is quoted as saying, "to investigate the results that are being obtained from tea experiments. I am convinced that the soil in some parts of Texas is just suited for the growing of the finest tea produced in the world."

So the National Tea Association is to boom tea, is it? We hope to live to see the day, but are not sanguine. The only booming that tea is likely to get is from jobbing and retail grocers who have private blends to push.—*Merchants' Review*.

**The Evangel of Tea.**—It should be the pleasure as it is the duty of the National Tea Association to promptly enlighten grocers and consumers as to tea—how to blend it, how to buy it, and how to keep and steep it. While at that

task it would be as well for the Association to harp upon the superior economy of the tea habit. One blast upon that bugle horn were worth a thousand men! All advertisements of tea should tell how many cups can be made from a pound of leaf. Actual practice in the kitchen should govern these estimates, for it is foolish to figure on only one drawing for each unit of the leaf when in actual practice the public makes a couple of drawings. As to the strength of each drawing—the quantity of water—the estimates should also vary. But, with a big B, the consumer should always be warned that boiling the tea is always to be avoided because it brings out the tannin.—*Merchants' Review*.

**The Rivalry of China and Java.**—A correspondent writes to a Colombo contemporary:—"While once again lowcountry and cheap teas generally are in great request in the Colombo market and are fetching much above intrinsic value compared with price for high-grown, what will become of fine plucking and green-tea making? We shall see. But meantime there is authentic news of large quantities of China teas from New York and of Java teas from Holland, being imported to London to make up for the absence of common Indian and Ceylon teas. Surely there is in this something to make us planters (in the lowcountry)."

P. C. Larkin, of the "Salada" Tea Co., who left recently on a trip to England, sent the following wireless message to the *Canadian Grocer*:—

Lieut.-Col. MacLEAN,

*The Canadian Grocer*, Toronto.

Report on "Salada" by Marconi: "It's the finest tea the world produces."

P. C. LARKIN.

[SS. *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, off Fire Island, via Marconi.]

**Tea in Chicago.**—Reporting on trade in 1902 the British Consul states that the imports of tea to the United States show an increase of over 40,000,000 lbs. over 1901, when the imports were very low, and 12,000,000 lbs. over 1900, which year is taken as a basis of comparisons. Japanese tea shows an increase of a little over 1,000,000 lbs.; China, 6,000,000 lbs.; the United Kingdom, 3,000,000 lbs.; and East Indies, 2,500,000 lbs. In 1900 the United Kingdom and East Indies together were credited with 5½ per cent. of all tea importation, while in 1902 this has increased to over 10 per cent. This is much more satisfactory return than had been expected, and at last it seems that there is a prospect of Indian teas getting the recognition in this market that their quality warrants.

To Chicago the direct importation of tea have fallen off and are the lowest for the five years of which there are records to hand, while the imports from the United Kingdom have advanced and are the highest. For the first time tea merchants speak hopefully of the outlook but tea merchants and growers are warned not to rush in stocks on speculation, as the increase must be gradual, and any attempt to force sales or to leave large stocks on the bonded warehouse will result in a fall of prices and heavy losses to speculators.

**The Coming Indian Crop.**—According to the *I. P. G.*, "the consensus of opinion is that the tea crop this year will be by no means an abnormal one. Even under the most favourable circumstances later on in the season, we think it



very improbable that the past season's figures will be greatly exceeded, if exceeded at all. Our statistical position is very strong, and present circumstances appear to be all in our favour in certain respects."

**Indian Tea Prospects.**—The following telegram, with reference to the tea crop of the various districts, was despatched early this month by the Indian Tea Association at Calcutta to the Association in London:—

**ASSAM.**—The outturn last month was about normal, and prospects throughout the districts are favourable generally. There have been storms with hail, but no material damage done.

**CACHAR.**—The prospects throughout the districts are favourable generally. There has been severe heat, and rain is much wanted generally.

**SYLHET.**—The prospects throughout the districts are unfavourable generally. Rain is wanted.

**DOOARS AND TERAI.**—The outturn last month was poor, and prospects throughout the districts are unfavourable generally. There has been severe heat, and rain is much wanted generally.

**DARJEELING.**—The outturn last month was poor, and prospects throughout the districts are unfavourable generally. Severe drought prevails generally.

Mr. Arthur H. Green, writing from Germiston, Transvaal, on the 9th ultimo to the *Times of Ceylon* says:—

I address you on a subject that affects Ceylon tea in South Africa, and must ask you to submit copy to the English Press in Colombo. During the month that has just passed, a Conference has been held at Bloemfontein, under the presidency of the High Commissioner, Viscount Milner, whereat delegates from Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, and Rhodesia, met to discuss mutual affairs, and they resolved on certain changes in the Customs Tariff, though they are not to be made public till 1st July this year. I learn that it is intended to make the duty on tea on a par with the Natal and Cape duties, that is, 6d. a lb.—whereas at present 20 per cent. has to be added to invoice price: and in this value is to be included all packing which is being sold with the articles, and on that value  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., together with a special duty of 5s. on the 100 lbs. is charged. As it is: packing, duty, and charges, on my last invoice came to 5'380d. per lb. of tea, and on the previous shipment 5'366d.; this is quite enough for the tea to have to carry. If we take 42 cents of the rupee as cost, at an average rate of exchange it works out at 6'9'2d. per lb. Is it fair to an English Crown Colony to tax that tea 6d. a lb. as duty? This is to protect Natal-grown stuff. One of the largest Natal tea and sugar growers is now leader of the Natal Opposition, and the parties are pretty even in numbers. This gentleman was, I believe, one of the members of the Conference, and here you have the key to the position. As a part result of this Conference, last week's *Gazette* repealed the duty on produce grown in British South Africa, except in as far as spirits were concerned; while all along the produce of Natal has been carried over its railways at a specially reduced rate. If the Chamber of Commerce, the Planters' Association, and the "Thirty Committee" pull together on this point as they should, there is time for a strong remonstrance to be lodged with the High Commissioner before such duty is imposed.

Once imposed, Sir, you will have far less prospect of being heard to effect.

As far as the tea trade here is concerned, I may state that large quantities of groceries, including tea, are being sold by auction on account of the Field Force Canteens, and also the Army Supply Department. So far the "Field Force," since the war, have sold, according to figures given by the Colonial Secretary the other day, goods to the value of £88,000—and £78,000 worth still remains to be sold—on an average goods being 30 to 50 per cent. below what they can be landed at in the Transvaal.

A correspondent of the *Statesman* writes:—

As we are now on the eve of another season's opening may I bring to the notice of some of your readers how very desirable, yea even necessary, it is for those interested in the industry to bear in mind the severe crisis we have gone through and not to forget the causes that led up to it. The principal cause to which the severe

fall in prices was attributed was excessive production and there is no doubt it was a very important factor but it was not the sole cause. Almost equally important factors were unwarrantably coarse plucking in 1900 and the general want of firmness and cohesion shown by producers as against the very opposite by buyers, who, up to September 1902, combined so systematically as to produce nothing short of a panic on the London market. From that point however producers, looking into the stronger statistical position established through small crops in 1901 and 1902, took up a very strong attitude which they have been able to maintain in spite of strenuous efforts on the part of Blenders to hold off the public sale markets by making private purchases, dividing stocks and inducing country dealers to work from hand to mouth so that at the moment they are quite bare of stock and will have to purchase freely within the next 3 months to replenish. I mention these facts to show how strong the position is and I now come to the point I wish to call particular attention to. We all know how assiduous Blenders are in protecting their own interests and why should producers not be equally careful, but are they? Here we have a very strong position—stronger than it has been since 1894 and yet I have it on the best authority that one or two Agents or proprietors have allowed themselves to be induced to sell whole garden crops to Blenders at a slight advance on last season's average prices. To say that this is a suicidal policy is to use a very mild term; it is absolutely throwing away the position and giving Blenders a lever which they know too well how to use to their own advantage and the detriment of the industry. I would appeal to Agents and shareholders to oppose this innovation by every means in their power. It is done with the object of preventing a legitimate rise in prices with a view to frustrating the benefit that must necessarily come to an industry where the demand exceeds the supply and to take away from the Calcutta market teas that go to the foreign markets that have come to the rescue of industry and make the Calcutta market independent of the combination amongst the principal London Blenders. If it is allowed to go on it gives these Blenders a pull that no combination of producers can meet and I would most strongly urge upon all producers to decline any such proposals more especially for teas which have usually been sold on the Calcutta market. To keep Calcutta well supplied with suitable teas for outside markets should be the object and aim of producers, for it is these very outside markets that have worked their salvation and will in future pay their dividends, for when the London Blenders find that they are unable to purchase large lines of tea by private sale they will be forced to come into the market to buy and we shall then hear the last of their combination. The point is a critical one and full of vital importance. Producers have nothing to fear from over-production. The area of new extensions that have come into full bearing lately are more than counterbalanced by the abondonment of old tea and the serious falling off in yield in old gardens. Moreover the shortness of labour will prevent any abnormal crops being produced for some years to come, even allowing that other conditions are favourable. So far as the immediate future is concerned the drought and hail have settled the question of 1903 crop which cannot be large even under favourable circumstances. The Blenders will ignore all these facts until they appear in actual figures of export, but, if we take the present position of the gardens into consideration, the short labour forces, the excessive drought, damage by hail and a displacement of a minimum of 5 million pounds with green tea, it is not difficult to foresee the strength of the position when the actual crop is ascertained in November next. Tea has not been in such a position for many years and it remains with producers to weigh the whole situation calmly. If they will go the right way to work there is no reason to doubt a return to prosperity in the industry such as has seldom been experienced.

**The Tea Trade.**—Messrs. George Payne & Co. (Limited) write to the *Grocer*:—The interesting article on "The Future of the Tea Trade," which you printed on page 1108 of your last week's issue, should be useful alike to tea-growers, dealers, blenders, and grocers. We cordially endorse your correspondent's advice to grocers to persist with the better teas. Indeed, as your own advertisement columns during the last few years so amply prove, we have always advised grocers to push fine and really good teas at prices profitable to themselves, and to leave the sale of the lowest possible blends at the lowest possible prices to others less far-seeing.



We were convinced that the unscrupulous advocacy of poor teas at petty margins of profit per pound would inevitably lead sooner or later to that disgust of the consuming public and consequently difficult position, which, as your correspondent rightly says, is now overtaking numbers of short-sighted grocers, many-shopped retailers, and some blenders. In season and out of season, we have consistently urged the better grades of tea, and have never allowed our fine blends to bear the loss necessarily consequent on selling low blends below cost price.

We differ, however, from your correspondent in some of his deductions. For instance, our exceptional experience has proved to us that the expert blender is more useful to the grocer in his finer teas than with his cheapest canisters, inasmuch as it is imperative that the retailers' highest-priced teas should be of stand-out quality and of recent importation.

To obtain the absolutely necessary uniformity of each blend, month after month, it is, of course, requisite that the blender shall have a large number of originals in stock for each blend, since it is impracticable to obtain any two growths precisely identically in every respect. Certainly, until a grocer's output of tea is exceptionally large, it is wise for him to buy periodically every fortnight. And, as the expert blender holds large stocks, and devotes his whole time and attention to tasting and selecting stand-out teas of distinctive character, he is naturally in the best position for supplying the right tea at the right price.

The grocer, as a rule, has neither the time nor the inclination, even if he have the judgment, to liquor original teas offered him by his wholesale house, and he is too often influenced by the traveller's persuasive powers and by the mere appearance and aroma of the dry leaf. He does not discover that the appearance of the tea is only its best credential until he begins to blend and sell his purchase. A grocer who buys ready-blended teas limits his risk of an unsatisfactory tea to a very small quantity, and thus saves himself the serious anxiety and loss of finding himself encumbered with a large bulk of his own blending, which may have unfortunately proved unsaleable at even cost price.

Any of your readers interested in this matter, of really vital importance to the grocer and tea-dealer, can easily test it, and prove for themselves that the really expert blender, who makes a lifetime's study of stand-out quality, can do better for them than they can do for themselves in tea.

### NOTES.

#### The London Clearing House.

A general Meeting of the Ceylon Association has adopted the Report of the sub-Committee appointed to consider the re-organisation of the Clearing House.

#### Cinchona-growing.

It is true, the *Ceylon Observer* remarks, that cinchona will not grow in tea-fields as it did amongst coffee in days of old. The roots of the tea-plant are more numerous and wider spreading; but cinchona still grows well in Ceylon amongst young tea, and still better in forest clearings by itself, provided plants from fresh seed (Java or Indian) are used.

#### The London Tea Market.

According to an *Englishman's* cable-gram, Messrs. Ewart and McCaughey's Report, dated London, the 11th instant, says that there were lighter auctions, last week only 29,936 packages being offered. The auction opened with spirited bidding; common kinds were steady and there was decidedly more doing in medium to fine Assam Pekoes, Broken Pekoes meeting with especial attention.

#### Tea and Coffee in the U. S.

The peculiar manner in which tea stays in the background while coffee leaps to the fore, is, says the *Merchants' Review*, partly explained by the strong infusion of German blood in the

population of the Union. The Germans are pre-eminently a nation of coffee-drinkers, as distinguished from tea-drinking peoples, and perhaps the grocers of the country will have to wait until another generation has grown up before seeing tea take the position in popular regard which it is one of the objects of the National Tea Association to effect.

#### Export of Tea from China.

gives these figures:—

		Messrs. Siemssen & Co.'s Market Report : dated Hongkong, April 24.	
		lbs. 1902-3.	lbs. 1901-2.
To England ...	...	16,544,665	19,136,009
„ The Continent ...	...	6,845,005	6,594,263
„ Russia ...	...	25,638,813	30,061,051
„ America ...	...	57,551,723	36,286,809
„ Australia ...	...	1,138,697	2,036,969
„ South Africa ...	...	1,016,423	1,741,639
Total ...	...	108,735,331	95,356,740

#### Ceylon Rubber in London.

Messrs. Louis and Peat give, under date 17th ultimo, the following particulars of Ceylon-grown Pará Rubber sold at Public Sale here to-day may interest your readers. The market is good and the lots were well competed for:—

Mark.	Packages.	Description.	Price $\text{P}$ lb.
Tudugalla	3 cases	Fine clean biscuits	4s. 2½d.
Culloden	6 do.	Fine thin pale biscuits	4s. 3d.
Do.	3 do.	Fine clean scrap	3s. 6½d.
Do.	1 do.	Good small loose ball	3s. 4½d.
Arapolakande	4 do.	Fine clean thin biscuits	4s. 3d.
Do.	1 do.	Good clean scrap	3s. 4½d.
Doranakande	1 do.	Fine biscuits	4s. 2½d.
Fine Pará firm at 3s. 10½d. per lb.			

#### Madras Planters' Labour Bill.

The Madras Planters' Labour Bill has received the assent of the Governor-General in Council, but the question of its introduction has not yet been considered. The Government of Madras are not anxious to push its introduction, in view of the objections raised to it by many planters. The Bill provides for the introduction of its provisions into particular areas, and the question has not yet been settled whether the Government will wait for local authorities to report that the introduction of the Bill is desirable in their area, or whether Collectors will be asked to report on the desirability or otherwise of the Bill being introduced into the planting areas in their Districts.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 7th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that competition is general and well distributed and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is also steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6¾d. (the same as last week) and the average 7¾d. (½d. more than last week). The average for the same period last year was 6½d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is steady, and Broken Pekoe and Pekoe Souchong are also steady. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7¾d. (½d. above last week). 23,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 20,000 disposed of; while of the 40,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 30,000 were sold at an average of 7½d. (same as last week).



## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

Since the re-opening of the market on Thursday there has, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of April 18, 1903, been a moderately good demand, and prices have been maintained quite at the level ruling before the holidays. A large proportion of the Costa Rica offered has been foreign cleaned, but is not of the finest quality; in fact, the bulk of it was only fit for export. With a prospect, however, of a better supply of this description, the extreme prices that were paid early in the season for the few lots that then came to hand have not been maintained, and rates have been more on the level of fine qualities of London cleaned parcels. East India does not show any improvement in quality, and it is only a few lots that can be taken for the home trade. In the terminal market prices have shown some weakness, closing at about 6d. lower than before the holidays.

## TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—In consequence of the market having been closed for the greater part of the week, transactions have been on a limited scale, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 18th ultimo. The quantity catalogued for public sale on Monday next is but moderate, comprising 28,000 packages, and from the high limit already submitted there is every indication of a very firm market, particularly for the lower grades. The clearances, although comparatively small, are fully up to anticipations, considering the near approach of the Budget, but the duty-paid stock held by the retailers is in an exceptionally limited compass. That there will be a rush to remove tea from bond after the 23rd instant is practically certain, which should not be overlooked by those anxious to obtain delivery as promptly as possible. To insure this, it will be necessary that clearing instructions should be forwarded at once, as where stocks are depleted to the lowest practicable limit, delay in delivery may cause considerable inconvenience. Should there be any change in the Customs charge, a certain period will probably be allowed to quit teas bearing the 6d. duty, but this will only partially relieve the congestion which is sure to occur at the warehouses.

CEYLON TEAS.—This market has not yet opened, no sales having been held since the holidays. The next auctions will take place on Tuesday, the 21st instant, when about 26,000 packages will be offered, and higher prices are anticipated.

CHINA TEA.—There is a steady enquiry for the lower sorts, and, although no public sales have been held during the week, a considerable business has been transacted privately in common Black Leaf Teas. The Green and Fancy markets have remained practically closed, with only a limited business to report.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not disappointed those who did not expect a reduction in the tea duty. His recent speech on the subject of a free breakfast table, to which he is opposed, did not point to a reduction in the duty. Tea has always been held in affectionate regard by those who organise the taxes. A writer in the *Westminster Gazette* reminds us how promptly that cheering herb was pounced upon by the Treasury for fiscal purposes. Not until the latest Cromwellian days did "Tee or Tay" become at all widely known even in the wealthier quarters of England; but in the very year of the Restoration, when money was sorely wanted by the Exchequer, Parliament, in passing an Act for "A Grant of certain Impositions upon Beer, Ale, and other Liquors for the Increase of His Majesty's Revenue during his Life," ordained that 8d. should be levied "for every Gallon of Chocolate, Sherbet, and Tea, made and sold, to be paid by the Maker thereof," coffee escaping with half this sum. When, indeed, the rates were revised in 1671 coffee was given a further advantage by the impost being reduced to 2d. a gallon, while chocolate, sherbet, and tea, its competing beverages, were still taxed at four times that amount. But gradually it appears to have dawned upon the Treasury that the method of taxing these drinks by the gallon, without specifying

the strength of the liquor, was a false one; and, accordingly, when William of Orange came to the throne, there was adopted an "Act for the charging and collecting of the Duties upon Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate at the Custom House, the sum of £5 12s. being levied upon every hundredweight of coffee "imported into England, Wales, or the Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed," £8 8s. upon each similar quantity of cacao nuts, and 5s. upon every pound of tea! And, though the rates have varied and much lessened, successive Chancellors of the Exchequer have never let tea alone since.

The long-threatened movement amongst Japanese tea-growers and merchants for exploiting Japanese tea in markets where it is now comparatively unknown has, we believe, taken definite shape. The Government has already spent 70,000 yen for some years on furthering the objects of those interested in Japanese tea, and it is now expected to subsidise the movement for pushing the sale still further. The fear that British-grown tea will make serious inroads on the market for Japanese tea in the United States and Canada is really at the bottom of the movement, which is not likely to make itself felt in Europe, where tea from Japan is but little known.

*Apropos* of the fact that a leading light of the grocery trade has been recalling the changes which have occurred in the trade in the last half a century, it is interesting to remember the alteration that twenty-five years has brought about in the tea trade. The small supply of Indian tea which found its way into Mincing Lane in the early days of the industry was only known to the initiated, and anyone who wished to buy it from the ordinary retailer of tea would have probably been told that it was not intended for consumption without an admixture of China. Those interested in the industry who remember the difficulty there was even a quarter of a century since in procuring Indian tea at the grocer's shop should feel some indebtedness to the pioneers of the Indian tea industry and the then newly-formed Indian Tea Districts Association in London, whose Secretary, Mr. Ernest Tye, still happily fills the same position in the reorganised Association, for the efforts made to increase the consumption of Indian tea with the public. These efforts were not seconded with much enthusiasm by the retailer of those days, the traditions of the China tea trade being then strong upon him. It was not until Ceylon came into the field a few years later and the energy and enterprise of the growers there were combined with those of India in the attack on China that victory was assured, and grocers began to realise that the public preferred British-grown teas, not perhaps, as was fondly imagined at the time, because they were British-grown, but because of their purity and the excellent value offered for money. In this connection the services of the inventors of tea machinery should be more fully recognised. The fact that Indian and Ceylon teas were made by a cleanly process, and not manipulated by the hand, materially helped in the work of popularising them.—*H. & O. Mail.*

## ADULTERATED AND EMASCULATED PEPPER.

It is a singular thing, says the *Produce Markets' Review*, that pepper should always be so favoured a vehicle for adulteration, for the spice is after all a very cheap commodity when perfectly pure, and it is not in very large demand. It is obvious, therefore, that the profit of adulteration in pepper must be very large or the frauds would not be so continuous. We reprint below from the *Grocer* a report in which the old enemy "poivrete" (alias ground olive stones) has again come to light, where the profit, even on comparatively small grindings, must be gigantic. It is somewhat singular that this old adulterant should again be used, now that, owing to the researches of Dr. Campbell Brown, its detection is easy. It is heartily to be wished that the gentleman in question and the public analysts generally (and particularly in Liverpool—a hot-bed of spice adulteration, sophistication and fraud) had a stronger and juster law behind them. It is the grinders and wholesale vendors of adulterated spice who ought to be punished, and not the retailers, who cannot detect the adulteration, though they might perhaps be more careful of whom they buy.

Another matter is attracting a good deal of attention in the trade, and ought to be carefully looked into by the analysts. It is,



what we have called the emasculation of pepper by bleaching and other chemical processes. The object of these is the reverse of fraudulent, for it is to lighten the colour of pepper at a considerable cost. In effect, however, the result of these processes is so to weaken the pepper, that it is inherently worse than if it had been adulterated by the older adulterants *poivrette* and ground rice.

Why should it be considered desirable that ground white pepper should be deprived of its natural colour, and be given some other tinge? Pepper is bought to be eaten, and not to be looked at. The novel idea is to bleach it with chloride of lime, the agreeable substance used for deodorising drains, and with other preparations, in which the poisonous element, chlorine, plays a part. We are far from saying that the pepper so treated is in any way poisonous, for it is not so in the smallest degree; though the smell of chlorine is not generally considered an addition or condiment at a feast. But we do say that much of this bleached pepper is so emasculated, or deprived of its essential pepperiness, as to be comparatively worthless. The more scrupulous spice grinders, after trying experiments, came to the conclusion that these bleached peppers should not be sold as pepper, as they had been deprived of their essential quality, and the result was a fraud on the public, though the reverse of an intentional one. Two things require to be done in this matter. The first and most important is that the grocers should give up the senseless test of colour and that they should buy on intrinsic merit. The next is that the public analysts should take up the question and after due notice prosecute in the cases of emasculated pepper. It is, after all, in its results quite as bad as the exhausted ginger, the sale of which is treated, though far too seldom, as a legal offence calling for punishment.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, April 9, 1903

The home tea market has remained without feature since our last issue. On the street activity has been a little more marked, and prices remain unchanged. The London market still continues without any great progress, the trade done is merely for immediate requirements, buyers evidently still holding back in view of budget, which is expected to be issued at an early date after Easter. The prices reached, however, were at fully up figures, and in the case of some common grades a slight advance was realized. The New York market reports the sale there of 2,000 packages of tea for shipment to the London market at the highest price reached this year.

MONTREAL, April 8, 1903.

The demand is somewhat improved this week, and shipments have been going forward briskly. Ceylon and Indian blacks are quoted about 1c higher. Souchongs, Pekoe Souchongs, and Pekoes have been in good demand. The inquiry from retailers seems to be mainly for cheap Ceylons and Indians, say about 13c.; but such teas are scarce, and the jobbers find it difficult to obtain anything under 14c. in these teas. Japans still sell in limited quantities at 17½ to 18c. for good medium, and as high as 24c. for higher grades. In other teas there has been no change; business, though quiet, is improving.

### TO MEET THE FOREIGN COMMISSIONERS.

When ss. *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* sailed yesterday morning for Europe she bore, among other distinguished passengers, Mr. P. C. Larkin, of P. C. Larkin & Co., the head of the Salada Tea Company. Mr. Larkin, who was accompanied by his wife and daughter, goes to England at the invitation of the Government Commissioners from Ceylon and India, who are now in London considering the tea question. Mr. Larkin is an acknowledged authority on this subject, and for that reason his advice has been sought. Another matter that also will be discussed with Mr. Larkin by the officials of the British Government is the size, nature, and details of the exhibition of Ceylon and India teas to be made at the forthcoming St. Louis Exposition.

Subsequently Mr. Larkin will make a six weeks' tour of the Continent with his family, in which business will play a part, as well as pleasure, as he intends devoting some time to a study of the Ceylon and India tea situation in France and Italy, where these teas have been making good headway ever since the Paris Exposition, which was practically their first introduction in the countries named.

It is impossible to doubt concerning the brilliant future of Ceylons and Indias after conversing with Mr. Larkin. He is an enthusiast, truly, but an extremely practical one. Mr. Larkin looks for a Ceylon and India importation this year of nearly 20,000,000 pounds. As he truly says, if this colossal amount be taken into the American market it will play an important part in reducing the consumption of Chinas and Japans. Importers holding too large stocks of the latter may therefore meet with disaster, Mr. Larkin believes, and if his past success as a tea prophet be any criterion, his predictions are likely to come true.—*American Grocer*.

### MARCH COFFEE MOVEMENT IN THE U. S.

The deliveries during March show improvement and were above the monthly average for the previous year, when the total deliveries in the United States and Europe reached 15,516,663 bags. The world's visible supply, April 1, shows a small decrease from March 1, but a gain for the year ending April 1, 1903, of 1,132,724 bags.

The total visible supply of the world on April 1 was 12,380,627 bags, against 12,517,266 bags March 1, 1903, and 11,247,903 bags April 1, 1902. Highest visible. 13,233,284 bags, November 1, 1902. On April 1, 1901, it was 7,412,277 bags, showing an increase in three years of 4,968,350 bags.

The receipts at Rio for the first nine months of the trade year 1902-03 were 3,333,000 bags; at Santos, 7,162,000 bags; at both ports, 10,495,000 bags, against 13,104,000 bags in 1901-02; 9,338,000 bags in 1900-1901. During three previous semi-annual crop years the receipts for this period averaged 87.3 per cent. of the total crop. On this basis the total receipts for the year should be nearly 13,000,000 bags.

The following statement shows the March movement in detail:

Stocks, March 1, 1903—	Bags.	Bags.
United States ...	2,324,304	
Europe ...	7,451,662—	9,775,966
Receipts during March—		
United States ...	802,394	
Europe ...	793,910—	1,596,304
Total supply, April 1, 1903	...	11,372,270
Less stocks, April 1, 1903—		
United States ...	2,502,406	
Europe ...	7,395,721—	9,898,127
Deliveries, March, 1903—		
United States ...	624,292	
Europe ...	849,851—	1,474,143
Deliveries, March, 1902	...	1,218,737
Increase as compared with March, 1902	...	255,406
Deliveries, July, 1902	...	1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902	...	1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902	...	1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902	...	1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902	...	1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902	...	1,183,298
Deliveries, January, 1903	...	1,407,123
Deliveries, February, 1903	...	1,320,514
Deliveries, March, 1903	...	1,474,143

Total deliveries, nine months, 1902-03	...	12,081,914
Total deliveries, nine months, 1902	...	11,664,710
Total deliveries, nine months, 1901	...	10,596,995
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902	...	15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901	...	14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly, year 1902-03	...	1,293,055
Average deliveries, nine months, 1902-03	...	1,342,435

The March sales of options were 556,000 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 4.10 cents for March, April, and May; the highest, 5.35 cents for January.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 509,128 bags were Brazil and 115,164 bags of all other sorts. Over 81½ per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 18½ per cent. of all



other kinds. This shows a gain of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in the deliveries of mild coffee as compared with February. The receipts were 197,187 bags out of total receipts of 802,394, or  $24\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The receipts at New York are still behind last year's record by 118,762 bags.

The over-production of coffee has tempted the Government to formulate laws to cut down production by destroying 20 per cent. of the coffee. As commercial law is always stronger than legislative law, there is little probability of such measures per Mr. Hermann Sielcken, of the firm of W. H., proving the remedy desired. Referring to the matter Crossman & Bro. said:

"The law discussed in Brazil destroying 20 per cent. of the low grades or paying an extra export duty on triage is an admission that the Brazilians consider it impossible to curtail the production in a legitimate way to bring supply and demand nearer together, and no doubt such admission will have a demoralizing effect upon the large holders of coffee the world over. It is very unlikely that any positive result can be accomplished and that it is simply an agitation in a weak market to make unsophisticated minds believe in a smaller outturn of the crop, while it is, in fact, a positive assurance that the next crop is another record breaker."

According to Emanuel Gonzales, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Costa Rica, Brazil is now issuing invitations to the governments of coffee-producing countries to meet there this year to sign treaties whereby coffee production shall be curtailed.

Mr. Gonzales looks for good results from such a Congress, and says:

"We now propose to reduce the production to meet the demands for reasonable consumption, and while the governments will curtail the supply, it does not mean that the planters will lose, for in addition to the standard of prices that will be adopted the governments will charge an export duty that will make up the deficiency, if any, that may be caused by a reduced production; while the surplus product will be burned by government officers, thus eliminating the surplus now in the warehouses and maintaining the prices fixed by the congress.—*American Grocer*."

## TEA CULTIVATION IN THE TRANS-CAUCASUS.

### ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Data as to the present opinions as to the future of the tea cultivation of the Caucasus vary considerably. H. B. M. Consul at Batoum in November, 1901, reported at length and unfavourably as to the importance or the future of tea growing there, stating that the "periodically published optimistic views have been much exaggerated, and, if anything, are misleading as to the state of affairs." "From the foregoing it is clear that tea planting in the Caucasus may at some remote period become sufficiently advantageous to warrant its being generally adopted, but for the present the industry has not assumed any commercial significance, and it is, therefore, not likely to play an important part in competing with Chinese, Indian and Ceylon tea, not only in the markets of the world, but even at the Russian and Central Asian tea trade centres." A year later, in November, 1902, his report is much more favourable and his conclusions altogether different, as the following copy shows:—

(See Agricultural Report of H. M. Consul at Batoum, November, 1902 ("Agriculture in the Trans-Caucasus for the year 1902"), publishers Eyre Spottiswoode, E. Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., price 1d. Also for previous year, price 1d.)

The same report thus concludes: "Under the conditions set forth above, the theory that tea growing in this country would not be generally adopted on account of the unfavourable climatic conditions and other difficulties which have to be encountered, including the high rate of wages paid for labour, or that the tea industry and trade for the Caucasus could not possibly expand to a stage which would render it, even at the remote date, of commercial importance, is apparently an exploded idea. The results obtained during this season show that quite the contrary is likely to be the case, and that there is every reason to believe that the cultivation and manufacture of tea promises to be one of the most prosperous and profitable agricultural pursuits in the Trans-Caucasus." (See published reports of Mr. Consul Stevens of Batoum of December, 1901, and November, 1902, Nos. 2729 and 2918 respectively, on the agriculture of the Trans-Caucasus.)

I quote the Consul's opinion first, as he is resident on the spot and has therefore the best opportunities of judging.

The United States Consul at St. Petersburg in a recent report states: "The experiments in tea culture in the Caucasus during recent years have proved eminently successful, and the Minister of Agricultural and Imperial Domains is now taking steps to establish the industry on sound working basis. The climate and other conditions are all in favour of the new enterprise."

**FIRST EFFORTS IN TEA PLANTING.**—The first efforts in tea planting in the Trans-Caucasus were made in the forties by Prince Vorontzoff. He was followed by various others, among them by Mr. Solovatzoff in 1885, and then Mr. Constantine S. Popoff took it up. The Imperial Domains Department started in 1895. These two are now the only planters on any large scale.

**MR. POPOFF'S PLANTATIONS.**—Mr. Popoff's estates are situated near Batoum, viz., at Chavka, Salibauri, and Kapreshum, which have since received Russian names, Otradnoe, Prevolnoe, and Zavietnoe respectively. The area under cultivation on the three estates is 312 acres. Mr. Popoff himself, replying in a lengthy article of several columns in the St. Petersburg Vedomosti of October 22, 1901, to a depreciation of his work by a correspondent of the said paper, states that after visiting China, India and Ceylon, and spending years theoretically and practically studying the question of tea culture, he began with three different plots, differing from each other in important particulars, in the neighbourhood of Batoum. He ordered tea seeds and plants from China, and still continues ordering seeds. He imported Chinese hands, not coolies, accustomed to tea planting, etc. The machinery, etc., was ordered from England. In reply to the accusation that tea planting in the Caucasus is a failure and that it is quite discredited, he gives the following data with respect to the position of his work:

Privolnoe estate (or Salibauri). Plants from imported Chinese seed: Planted in 1893 11,181, 1896 5,023, 1897 18,655, 1898 20,313, 1899 210,455.—Total 266,627.

Zavietnoe estate (or Kapreshum). Plants from imported Chinese seed: Planted in 1893 7,228, 1897 8,319, 1898 56,600, 1899 59,052.—Total 131,199.

Plants from imported Assam seed: Planted in 1897 2,464, Himalaya 1898 78, Ceylon 1898 4,102.—Total 6,644.

Otradnoe estate (or Chavka): Plants from imported Chinese seed: Planted in 1898 19,302, 1897 35,144, 1898 34,018.—Total 88,464.

In this estate experiments have also been made in sowing from seed collected from his own estates: Planted in 1898 345, 1900 284.—Total 629.

Beside which, plants imported in 1893 from Chinese provinces: Mankong 401, Ninchau 447, Yan-loutung 409.—Total 1,257.

Also imported plants from: Japan 67, Ceylon 40, Java 7, Himalaya 16, Assam 22.—Total 155.

In 1894 he tried cultivating cuttings from plants imported from China. The experiment succeeded and he has: At Privolnoe 2,509 cuttings, Zavietnoe 1,350, Otradnoe 2,120.—Total 5,979.

Independent of the above, he obtained sowings from Chinese seed in 1899: At Zavietnoe 452,377, Otradnoe 327,492, Privolnoe 1,067,028.—Total 1,846,897.—1,846,897.

Also planted out in nurseries: In 1900 at Privolnoe and Otradnoe 3,092,492, 1901 1,668,115.—Total 6,807,504.

Yield of his tea factory: Bohea tea: by Chinese method:—In 1895 20 funts, 1896 37 funts, (funt— $14\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) 1897 1,200 funts.

By hand and machine method:—In 1898 2,900 funts, 1899 3,610 funts, 1900 846 funts.

By machine only in 1901—to September 15, 9,072 funts. Tablet Tea:—In 1898 10,000 funts.

His tea, he adds, has been on sale since 1895 under the name "First Russian tea of Constantine Popoff." His Majesty's Consul at Batoum, in his report of 1901, says there are four qualities of tea on the Popoff estates, the first sold at Rs.1.60 per funt (about 3s. 8d. per lb.), the second at Rs.1.20 per funt (about 2s. 10d. per lb.), the third at Re.1 per funt (about 2s. 4d. per lb.), and the fourth (dust) is made into tabloids and sold for the use of soldiers at 20 copecks per funt (about 6d. per lb.).

**IMPERIAL DOMAINS ESTATES.**—The Imperial Domains had, in 1898, 102 acres under cultivation, in 1900 the area under cultivation was 405 acres, and in 1901 the same. The estate is at Chavka, some few miles from Batoum. In 1900 the crop was gathered from 102 acres and amounted to 5,444 lbs. In 1901 the crop gathered from the same number of acres was 21,600 lbs. The quality is principally Kangra Valley. The tea is classified into three qualities. In 1900 first and second were sold at Rs.1.50 (3s.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per lb. and third at Rs.1.20 (2s.  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per lb. For the



1901 crop a bid was made by a Moscow firm at the all-round rate of Re.1 (2s. 1½d.) per lb. for the whole crop, but was declined. (See Report of H. B. M. Consul at Batoum, November, 1901.) According to a letter report of the same, November, 1902, the area under cultivation on the Imperial Domains estate amounts now to 500—600 acres. To some extent the Imperial Domains' estate at Chakva is in the nature of an experimental plot for trying Japanese and Chinese plants, including tea. Mr. Klengen, the agronomer of the Imperial Domains and initiator of the Domains' Caucasian tea plantations, states the Department had in view other plants as well, as tea alone would be impossible, only a given percentage of the mountainous region being favourable to tea growing. The Imperial Domains, for the further exploitation of the tea industry in the Caucasus, will let small plots to the peasant classes. As most suitable sites, beside the Batoum coast district from the Turkish frontier to the northern limits of the Batoum province, the Ozurgetski and perhaps the Zugdidski districts are mentioned for the further expansion of plantations. Possibly, too, the Sukhum district may offer suitable opportunities. Supposing the available area to be only 25,000 dessiatines (67,500 acres), and the average crop per dessiatine (2·7 acres) 20 pounds (720 lbs.), the yield of Caucasian tea might reach 500,000 pounds, 1,800,000 lbs. valued at 15 to 20 million roubles. The total tea yield of all the Caucasian plantations in 1901 was only 13½ tons, say 39,250 lbs.

CLIMATE.—H. M. Consul at Batoum says that "the climate of Batoum and its environs is all that can be desired for the successful culture of tea." The U. S. Consul at St. Petersburg reports that the climate is in favour of the new enterprise. Mr. Popoff alludes to "places like Batoum where rains are so often almost tropical in their continuation and force" and to the necessity, therefore, of terraces.—*Times of Ceylon*.

## TEA.

Mr. C. R. BANKS,

With B. Fischer & Co., New York, writes to the *American Grocer* :—

There is nothing that appears on our everyday table that is more worthy of interest to, or should receive greater attention of the average storekeeper than tea. This commodity has so many varied flavours, and the requirements of the consumer are so exact, that the dealer must indeed use careful judgment that the individual taste of each customer may be fully gratified. This done, his business grows.

In our own Eastern States we prefer Formosa, Oolong, Congou, Ceylon, Assam, and Mixed tea, because the water here better develops the flavour of these than the green grades; whereas, the greens are more popular for a similar reason in our Southern, and Japan in our Western and Northwestern States. The popular name of English Breakfast was given it by an American, and is what is known in China as Congou or Black tea. It is grown in the vicinity of Shanghai and Hankow, the best grades coming from the latter place, and when fine in quality furnishes a delicious beverage, which, like all others, can only be secured by its being properly prepared with fresh boiling water. Formosa Oolong varies in quality according to its cultivation, the higher grades being picked in seasons best suited to meet certain requirements, together with the perfect art in its firing. Inferior grades are frequently mixed with a small portion of earlier tea and what is known as Coast or late crop tea for style only, or Foochow Oolong, and colored to please the eye, thereby deceiving the merchant who buys his tea on his judgment through sense of sight alone, or is led astray by the slight flavour derived by blowing on the tea in the hand, which is soon exhausted because the stock does not merit true quality at the foundation.

Green teas, being cured without fermentation, are fired immediately after picking, and produce a bright toasty character, and, if meritorious, light color infusion. Formerly they were admitted to our market on style only, but the exactness of the law, which is upheld by our tea inspector, prevents a continuance of deceiving the people on the handsome style leaf as in the past. The value of cup quality and the variation in the price is beyond the scope of the writer's comment.

Ceylon and India teas are of growing interest. The native government has beyond question done more for the elevation of this industry than that of any other country, and they are receiving the benefits by the greatly increasing demand in England and the States for the same. It seems that the grower and the merchant from the above-named countries have most ably gained the advantage of the trade, and the blending of their teas has grown, and justly unexcelled, and produces a more healthy beverage than the manufactured cereals which are used as coffee substitute, because of their stimulating qualities.

The largest shipment of any kind of tea to this country comes from Japan. The art in selecting and curing Japan tea has become a science with the native students of that progressive country, to produce as they do in the drawing of their teas an infusion of bright amber which is pleasing to the eye, and possessing as it does wonderful strength, although judged by some as without body because of the lightness of liquor. The lower grades in the past being highly colored, pleased the eye of the unfortunate, and many a poor consumer's condemnation of tea was gained by this swindling method. This great industry has been elevated.

The most important act for the protection of the tea business, together with the consumer, was passed by an act of Congress in 1897, which has been ably upheld and protected by the chief tea inspector at the port of New York, who has associate inspectors in various Western ports of entry. All rejections are finally decided by a board of arbitration. As differences in opinion are varied in the tea trade, the merchants whose losses are occasioned by the rejection (because it is necessary to ship to a foreign country within six months) invariably feels as though his particular lot should be an exception to the law, and said parties have brought suit, and have now an appeal before the Supreme Court for the purpose of admitting teas, classified as trashy and unworthy, as being equal to the standard. As errors are unlimited in the tea trade it is almost impossible to adjust the matter as correctly as is the intention of the law, but all are united on the fact that at present it is invariably acknowledged that the consumer can purchase poor teas only in the section of the country where stock is held for a long time and exhausted, or the unscrupulous merchant is the cause of manipulation and recoloring of teas, such as may have been damaged after having passed from the Government protection.

For many years English merchants have sold us a large quantity of tea. The conditions this season have changed, as alert and fortunate owners here have sold to the London traders four million pounds, and the indications are we will sell them as much more, and to advantage.

The writer endeavours, after a careful study, to furnish statistics of the present stock, together with possible conditions of the supply which can only be increased by the production of the coming year's crop, as follows:

The present condition of the market for Formosas is decidedly strong. Supply limited. Grades which barely pass inspection are weak, and in the opinion of the writer they should be in price to correspond with their grade. All green teas with merit are scarce and strong. Choice Congous, scarce and firm. Low grades, steady and plenty, but are being taken liberally by the London market.

Japans, choice grades scarce; all grades firm. Ceylons and Indias, having advanced are held firm.

### IMPORTS TO NORTH AMERICA, SEASONS 1902-03.

Japans	...	...	40,000,000 lbs.
Formosa	...	...	18,000,000 "
Foochow	...	...	5,500,000 "
Greens	...	...	17,000,000 "
Congou	...	...	15,000,000 "
India and Ceylon	...	...	17,000,000 " (Estimated)
Less ...	...	...	22,000,000 " (Canada)

### REJECTED BY UNITED STATES TEA EXAMINER.

Oologs	...	...	15,000 h/c.
Congous	...	...	4,000 "

### EXPORT TO ENGLAND.

Congous, Greens, Ceylons	...	...	4,000,000 lbs.
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### LOST ON SS. "SATSUMA."

Congou	...	...	600,000 lbs.
Formosa	...	...	600,000 "
Japans	...	...	300,000 "



## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

Extract from abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on 5th May, 1903.

PRESENT:—Mr. H. C. Begg (*Chairman*), Mr. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), and Messrs. Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

**The Tea Cess Committee.**—Recorded:—Report of the Scrutineers appointed to ascertain the result of the voting for representatives of the Association on the Tea Cess Committee. The following gentlemen were declared to be elected, *viz.*:—

Mr. H. S. Ashton	...	Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co.
" H. Bateson	...	" Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.
" H. C. Begg	...	" Begg, Dunlop & Co.
" W. Brown	...	" Finlay, Muir & Co.
" Dan. Currie	...	" Macneill & Co.
" Lockhart Smith	...	" Williamson, Magor & Co.
" A. Tocher	...	" Duncan Brothers & Co.

The result of the election had been communicated to the Government of India.

**Statistics of area under tea cultivation.**—Read letter No. 844, dated 2nd May, from the Director-General of Statistics, in reply to the Committee's request that statistics might be included in the annual statement of the production of tea in India, showing the extent of new additions to the tea area and abandonments of old tea lands in each of the tea-growing districts of India.

The Director-General considered it would not be possible to procure additional statistics at the present time, without greatly delaying the issue of the annual statement, even if the information were readily obtainable. It was hoped, however, to introduce the change suggested, in the statistics for 1903.

The letter was to be acknowledged with thanks, and a copy forwarded to the Surma Valley sub-Committee for information.

**Weighment of tea at Calicut.**—Read letter dated 27th April from Mr. N. Stewart Brown, Manager, Nilgiri Tea and Cinchona Co., Ltd., stating that the Customs authorities at Calicut were weighing 10 per cent. of all teas before shipment for the purposes of the collection of the Tea Cess. It was pointed out, and rightly, that the tea could not be replaced in the chests without damage to the lead, and, in some instances, to the tea itself.

In paying the cess in Calcutta, shippers were only asked to produce the Garden Invoice, and the Committee were of opinion that this should be sufficient for other ports. It was decided to obtain an official statement of the practice followed by the Customs authorities in Bengal regarding the collection of the cess and to forward it to the Southern Indian Planters' Association for the necessary action.

## CEYLON PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

## THE COMMITTEE.

From Minutes of proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at Kandy, on Friday, the 1st May, 1903, we take the following:—

CHAIRMAN—Mr. A. C. Kingsford.

## CARDAMOM COMMITTEE.

Read the following further Report by the Cardamom Committee:—

(*Cardamon Cess Committee Report.*)

The amount promised is Rs.2,034 and Rs.1,635.50 has been paid. Mr. Spence leaves for Australia on Monday with samples.

Mr. Renton has consented to act free, and samples are to be sent to him at once.

Samples are also being sent to a firm in Bombay and it is also decided to invite Colombo Merchants, Native and European doing business in India, China, and Japan to accept samples and try and open up a trade in those countries. It is also proposed to

approach the British Consuls in China and Japan with a view to ascertaining what the trade is, and the names of the firms dealing in this product, and also where the present supply comes from.

*Resolved*:—"That the thanks of the Committee be conveyed to His Excellency the Governor for the interests evinced in the matter."

## TEA PEST—SPREAD OF "SHOT-HOLE BORER."

Read letters from the Honorary Secretary, Balangoda Association, stating that the pest appears to be unknown in Balangoda District; from the Honorary Secretary, Kunkles, Kelabokka, and Panwila Association, sending the following Resolution:—"That it be suggested to the P. A. that steps be taken for the production and distribution of a diagram and short description of the pest, it being so little in evidence in this district. Also that this Association are not at present in favour of legislation; from the Honorary Secretary, Ambegamuwa Association, transmitting the following Resolution:—"That this Association agrees with the Government Entomologist's suggestion that some simple legislation should be adopted on the lines that he lays down; from the Honorary Secretary, Kalutara Association, forwarding the following Resolution:—"That this Association strongly urges preventive legislation against the 'shot-hole borer,' though at present the pest is only slightly in presence in the Kalutara District"; from the Honorary Secretary, Pussellawa Association, annexing for information the following Resolution:—"That whilst moving of all voluntary precautions taken against the spread of pests, this Association is not in favour of Government being asked to introduce compulsory measures." *Resolved*:—"That consideration be decided pending the receipt of further replies; (ii) that the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon would warn purchasers of the danger of buying plants from infected districts."

## BRITISH IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

Submitted telegram intimating that the British Import Duty on Tea was unchanged.

## OSAKA EXHIBITION, JAPAN.

Read correspondence with Mr. G. W. Woodhouse in which he stated that he regretted as he has not succeeded in obtaining leave he would not be able to assist the Planters' Association in the manner, indicated at the Osaka Exhibition, Japan.

Submitted correspondence with Messrs. Chas. . . . . on, James Westland, and Wm. Sinclair, regarding the proposed samples of cacao and cardamoms.

Read cablegram despatched to the Ceylon Association in London on 8th April, 1903, "Association Meeting 2nd May, Chairman proposes, Rosling seconds 'Increased cess eight months, reducing afterwards to twenty cents.'"

The Chairman explained the present position in this matter.

## LABOUR AGENCY.—CEYLON COMMISSIONERS TO INDIA.

Read the following

## REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The sub-Committee is of opinion that the present channels for immigration are not sufficiently developed, in that very few superintendents are adequately acquainted with the districts in Southern India from which they draw their labour, and the conditions under which such labour is readily available. A more intimate knowledge in this respect would allow superintendents to make use of information obtainable from the Government reports. Your sub-Committee recommends that a Register be kept on every estate of the district taluk and post town from which each cooly comes.

That a map of the cooly districts be kept in every estate office, and that a schedule showing the wages paid to coolies, kangannies and head kangannies in Ceylon be printed and circulated amongst the headmen throughout the various cooly districts.

Your sub-Committee would recommend that a reliable agent be appointed whose duty would be to have a thorough knowledge of every taluk in the Presidency, and would suggest that Government be asked to increase the scope of the immigration Agent duties to include this work.

Your sub-Committee suggests that a Special Committee be appointed to receive and disseminate the information obtained from time to time from such agent. Though the sub-Committee is of opinion that a general recruiting agency entailing cash payments or bonus to recruiting agents or middlemen is undesirable when dealing with existing districts from which our present



labour supply is drawn, they are, however, in favour of Companies and group of estates individually employing an agent to assist kanganies to recruit labour on present lines; it should also be possible to recruit labour from the Telugu-speaking country and new districts on possibly other lines.

More detailed information of the work of the Commissioners to India regarding the district visited will be issued to subscribers who kindly supported the mission.

*Resolved*:—"That the report be and the same hereby is adopted; (ii) that a hearty vote of thanks be passed to the Commissioners for their report already published."

Submitted correspondence with Mr. Jas. R. Martin in reference to the employ of his coolies on the Northern Railway. *Resolved*:—"That a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to Government."

#### GENERAL MEETING.

A general Meeting of the Ceylon Planters' Association was held at Kandy, on 2nd instant, Mr. A. C. Kingsford presided.

#### THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The CHAIRMAN: Our last general Meeting, gentlemen, was held so recently, that I have very little to report, barring matters relating to the subjects on the agenda to-day. It is with great disappointment we have noted that there is no decrease in

#### THE TEA DUTY.

In introducing the Budget last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer alluded to the bitter cry of fellow-subjects in Ceylon and India—the tea-planters; and on account of the, more or less, opposition there was at the time to the heavy way in which tea was being taxed, no extra duty was put on tea. We had hoped this year to see some reduction, but, no doubt, the voice of the income tax-payer at home is far more listened to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer than the voices of distant fellow-subjects. Hitherto, since the increase was put on the duty, the consumer has not felt very much the increase, owing to the very large supplies of tea in hand, and the consequent reduction in the fall of prices. With the higher prices which now seem to be before us, the consumer will, no doubt, feel the extra 2d. on the lb., and he will, no doubt, make his voice heard; and his voice will, no doubt, be more heard by the Chancellor of the Exchequer than the voice of his distant fellow-subjects in Ceylon and India. The only way in which I think the reduction of the tea duty can possibly assist us is in the gradual possible increase of consumption. Another matter, gentlemen, which has advanced a stage, is our representation at the

#### ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.

The Hon'ble Mr. Figg's report has come to hand, and it more or less emphasises what I expressed at the last Meeting of this Association, that the site secured for Ceylon is a most favourable one. His Excellency the Governor has appointed a Committee to go into the question of the representation of Ceylon, and we hope, at a very early date, the Commissioner will be appointed. I think, gentlemen, we can rely upon Government support to the extent that was afforded us at the time of the Paris Exhibition, for which I feel sure you will agree with me that we are very much indebted to His Excellency the Governor. The first business, gentlemen, on the agenda to-day, is a Resolution proposing an increase of

#### THE CESS.

Before asking your permission to withdraw that Resolution, I wish briefly to state the causes that led up to asking for that increase. In September last, when the Thirty Committee met to go into the ways and means for this year, it was strongly felt by that Committee that possibly 12,000,000 lbs. of green tea might be made this year, but our funds were limited. We did not consider it advisable to withdraw entirely from the American or Continental campaign at a time when we hoped to largely increase our green tea, and it would have been most absurd to withdraw what little support we had been giving to push our tea. We could only see our way to promise a bonus on the limited amount of 7,000,000 lbs. We, therefore, considered it necessary to ask the producer as to whether he was willing to increase the cess. We felt compelled to do so, for in a question like this—where the producers were asked to put their hands in their pockets, and where there was a large amount of Ceylon interest represented in London—we felt it was useless appealing for that increase without getting the consent of a considerable majority in London. For that purpose, first of all, we addressed a letter to

#### THE LONDON ASSOCIATION;

and the result of that appeal, gentlemen, you possibly know. The Ceylon Association in London considered it was inadvisable to increase the cess, but thought it a better step to guarantee a bonus of 4 cts. a lb. on 12,000,000 lbs. and make it a first charge on the Thirty Committee's income. Well, gentlemen, that policy did not seem to be acceptable to the Thirty Committee. In the first place it seemed to us that it would entail considerable delay in paying bonuses and that would, no doubt, keep people from making tea. We did not think it advisable to stop people making the tea; and we also did not wish to bar the payment of bonuses incurred this year. We, therefore, asked the Ceylon Association to reconsider the matter. We did not say the suggestion was impossible. We merely said that it was inadvisable. The result of that second appeal, gentlemen, was a very large increase in the number of supporters. At the same time we felt that, unless we had a considerable majority, it would be impossible to go ahead. On the day of the last Meeting of the Thirty Committee, held early in March, a special telegram from London appeared in the *Times of Ceylon* in which it was stated that, of the cess replies that had been received, the majority was slightly against the increase. That, therefore being the position, gentlemen, we considered it advisable to ask our Planting Member, Mr. Rosling, to see

#### HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

and ask His Excellency if he could see it in any way possible to give the Thirty Committee a loan, or advance it money. During the interval that elapsed between the date of the Thirty Committee meeting and Mr. Rosling's interview with His Excellency, a further telegram came up from London which put the matter in a different light. It stated that 59 were in favour of the increase, 56 were against, and some 9 were supporting Mr. Rutherford's suggestion that we should make green tea and, if possible, raise the money or borrow it on next year's income. Mr. Rosling saw His Excellency the Governor and His Excellency, noting the altered position, thought it desirable to go in for an increase of the cess, but as regarded the further question of a loan, declined, at that time, to discuss it. It was, therefore, on this account that I gave notice of the Resolution which should have come up before us to-day. I gave

#### LONG AND AMPLE NOTICE

so that people from London might advise their representatives in Ceylon. Quite recently, in the early part of this week, His Excellency sent for Mr. Rosling and said that he considered it now possible and more advisable to advance the money than to legislate at this late date of the Legislative Council session; and, with the possibility before us of getting the money from His Excellency, I therefore gave notice that I would to-day ask your permission, and Mr. Rosling, my seconder's permission, to withdraw the Resolution. Mr. Rosling possibly may support what I have said as regards his interview with His Excellency the Governor. With his permission, and your permission, I ask leave to withdraw the Resolution. (Applause).

#### MR. ROSLING'S SPEECH.

#### FURTHER BONUS FOR 5,000,000 LBS. OF GREEN TEA.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. ROSLING: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I can add very little to what has already fallen from the Chairman. The time that I saw His Excellency was some two months ago. As your Chairman has pointed out we had to give long notice in order to enable London proprietors to express their opinion on the cess question—and these two months have now elapsed; and it being so much nearer the end of the Session of the Legislative Council—I understand that there will be no more Meetings of the Legislative Council after the next Meeting—for that reason His Excellency was very averse to have what would otherwise be unnecessary Meetings, and suggested that a loan of Rs.150,000 might meet the case. It was only since we have been here that I received a letter in which it was distinctly stated that the amount would be a loan. The matter had to go before the Executive Council, and so, at the time of the Chairman's telegram to the papers, and my letter, we only knew that His Excellency was prepared to approve of the loan, with the consent of the Executive Council. We know now distinctly from a letter, which has already stated I have just received, that that approval has been secured. (Applause.) His Excellency the Governor is prepared to approve of the advance by Government to the Thirty Committee of the proposed Rs.150,000.



on the understanding that Government recoups itself from future collections under the Cess Ordinance. So you see that it is not proposed to make this Rs.150,000 a first charge on next year's income, but to spread it over the whole of next year or, if possible, the whole of the term during which the new Ordinance, the Cess Ordinance, is in existence, viz., to June 1905. But these are details which are not yet settled and, after all, are not very material. The fact, however, remains that we have now Rs.150,000 more with which we can support the green tea industry. This morning, in the Thirty Committee, it was practically agreed, subject to this vote or loan being made, that further support of 5,000,000 lbs. of green tea at 3 cents per lb. should be given. We were particularly anxious to be able to make this statement to-day in order to allow all green tea makers, who have contracts running to the end of June, to be in a position, if necessary, to make further contracts to the end of the year; and that, if the 5,000,000 lbs. should not be made to the end of the year, the vote should lapse. It will then be for the consideration of the Thirty Committee whether a further loan will be taken at that date. I do not think there is anything more I can add to explain the position. (Applause.)

#### CONTRADICTION OF A MIS-STATEMENT.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, before dismissing this question, there is one statement which I wish to contradict and that is a statement which has been made that the opposition to the cess, at the time of the last increase, at home and out here in Ceylon, had been withdrawn owing to a promise made that the cess should be increased to 30 cts. for a period of three years only. When the increase for the cess was agitated for and was supported in London no mention of any time period was made. It was only at the last moment, at the last stage of the agitation, that the Resolution came up before the Chamber of Commerce and that clause was put in fixing a time period of three years. I maintain it was the duty of the Thirty Committee, with or without that clause of time period, if they saw it was advantageous to the producer to increase the cess, to go to the producer and say: "Will you give us the money; we can show you clearly what can be done with it." (Applause.) With your permission, gentlemen, I now ask to be allowed to withdraw my Resolution. Those in favour of the Resolution being withdrawn hold up their hands.

The Resolution was declared withdrawn.

#### SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LOAN.

Mr. C. E. BONNER: I wish to ask if the green tea industry, as it now stands, represents 10 per cent. of the present outturn?

The CHAIRMAN: Something like that, I think.

Mr. BONNER: Something like 10 per cent. Is the same proportion of assistance that is given to the black tea given, or is more given, to the green tea industry?

The CHAIRMAN: The only reason, Mr. Bonner, why we have been helping green tea all through is because we have been always bolstering up the black tea.

Mr. BONNER: I am quite with you in that.

The CHAIRMAN showed Mr. Bonner what had been actually paid to green tea producers that year.

Mr. BONNER: This represents more than 50 per cent. of the actual cess.

The CHAIRMAN: That is so. From this year's actual income, on the original scheme, we have spent considerably more than 30 per cent. Most of that has been spent in America for pushing green tea.

Mr. BONNER: Quite so; but what I wish to know is, if we get this loan from Government, how are we going to repay it? I think it only fair to ask the question, because people would wish to know, if this loan is given us, how Government is going to recoup itself. At the present moment we are in a position to pay on 7,000,000 lbs. at 4 cts., but if green tea should rise next year to 20,000,000 lbs., which may be the case, how are we going to provide the money even at 3 cts.?

The CHAIRMAN: We are only borrowing a definite sum of Rs.150,000.

Mr. BONNER: Quite so, but we must at the same time—if I am in order, Mr. Chairman—say that we must also look to the interests of the black teas.

The CHAIRMAN: So we are; we are encouraging black tea.

Mr. BONNER: How is the loan going to be paid?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rosling has already explained that it is to be paid by payments extending over the year or the whole of the term during which the Cess Ordinance is in existence.

Mr. BONNER: How is it going to be taken up by Government?

The CHAIRMAN: The Government collects the cess, and, assuming that they have decided to collect one-third every month in a collection of Rs.30,000, they will pay us Rs.20,000 and keep back Rs.10,000. We have got to repay the Rs.150,000 which, possibly, may be spread over ten monthly payments of Rs.15,000 per month, or spread over fifteen months at Rs.10,000 a month.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. Rosling remarked that he thought Mr. Bonner was rather under the impression that they were to give increased assistance to green tea, exceeding their bonus next year. They had only ear-marked Rs.150,000 out of next year's income by borrowing it from Government this year.

Mr. BONNER: I only asked the question, Sir, for my information.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. It might be spread over the year, or over a longer period; it is not quite certain.

Mr. BONNER: Exactly. It is not certain. There is doubt as to whether the reduction to 3 cents per lb. will cover the loan.

#### THE "THIRTY COMMITTEE."

#### SATURDAY'S MEETING.

Extract from Minutes of a Meeting of the Thirty Committee, held at Kandy, on Saturday, 2nd May.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE TEA CESS.—Read letters from Messrs. George Steuart & Co. Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Association in London, acknowledging receipt of cablegram of 16th March:—"Prompt payment (of) Green Tea Bonus will cease 20th March. Payment must be then made up to 7,000,000 voted as funds available," adding that this message reached him in time to lay it before the Tea and Produce Committee on the afternoon of 16th March. By instructions from that Committee Mr. Leake wired: later on same day:—"115 Cess replies—59 for—46 against—10 prefer Rutherford Scheme," advising later that one more reply against had since been received. Submitted letters received from the Secretary, Ceylon Association, on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN explained the present position. *Resolved*:—"That application be made to His Excellency to advance Rs.150,000 for the payment of bonus on green tea and that the Chairman, Hon'ble Mr. E. Rosling, and the Hon'ble Mr. Stanley Bois be authorised to make such arrangements as may seem fit to them for the repayment of the advance "if His Excellency is agreeable to grant it; (ii) that on the exhaustion of the present 4 cents bonus (probably in August) bonus of 3 cents per lb. be paid on all tea "certified by 31st December, 1903, up to a further five million lbs."

#### UNCLAIMED TREASURES.

There is no lack of treasures in the world; the trouble is that they are all claimed: or if indeed there be any unclaimed (and surely there must be some such), they are so difficult to find that for the rank and file of mankind they might as well be among the claimed treasures, or not exist at all. That was a delightful compliment which Charles Reade paid to old maids when he called them unclaimed treasures. Because a thing is unclaimed or rejected by no means implies its worthlessness. A goodly proportion of the masterpieces of literature have been rejected by publishers, Thackeray's incomparable *Vanity Fair* among the number. The only positive proof of anything being a treasure is its having stood the time test. For thousands of years gold has everywhere been regarded as valuable, and people never seemed less inclined to go back on that opinion than they do to-day. For thirty-four years Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup has been the most popular medicine. Not a year passes without a large extension of its sales, nor a day without voluntary testimony as to its power for good. It is a treasure, but by no means an unclaimed one. On the contrary, it is claimed as the family medicine in six hundred thousand (600,000) British homes. There is no matter for wonder in these figures, great as they are when the benefit which it confers is more often than not fully as great as that described in the following legally sworn declaration:—

"I, John Boddy Mintoft, of Nunnington, in the county of Yorkshire, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—



"That in spite of skilled medical aid I was for many years a martyr to indigestion and a strangely disordered stomach, and that had it not been for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup I doubt whether I should be alive to-day. For a year or two before I broke down, I never knew what it was to have a day's good health. I was always ailing. The least exertion tired me, and I felt drowsy, despondent, and miserable. Ordinarily, I had a very good appetite, but just then my food began to disagree with me, and I felt uncomfortable after it. There was a fulness and distension of the stomach that seemed to affect the heart. My breath was very short. Finally, a pain settled in the chest and under the left shoulder. I ought to have attended to it at once; but unfortunately neglected to do so, consequently the disease developed. I had always an unpleasant taste in the mouth, and my tongue was dry and parched. My appetite, hitherto good, was now very poor, and after forcing myself to eat I often had violent pains in the stomach, and used to break out into a cold perspiration, feeling so chilled that I shivered from head to foot. My condition becoming so serious, I consulted a doctor; but in spite of all he did for me I grew worse, and at the end of six weeks was advised to go into a hospital at York. There I was treated with great kindness, but I think my case must have puzzled the doctors for, after detaining me eleven weeks, they sent me away uncured. Then began the most painful period of my illness. When I got home my mother was shocked at my appearance. She has since said that she believed I had come home to die. I was troubled with obstinate constipation, my sleep was broken, and when I lay awake it seemed as if the bed were sinking under me. Night sweats robbed me of the little strength I had left, and I was soon so weak that I could scarcely walk across the room. To go upstairs, I had to crawl on my hands and knees, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that I got down to the sofa again next day. Thus I was for three years a confirmed invalid. Meanwhile, I had seen a specialist whose treatment seemed to do me good at first; but in the end I found myself as bad as ever. Almost in despair, and as a last resource, I tried Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Ah, if only I had tried it before! I began to mend as soon as I had taken half of the first bottle. My appetite improved, slightly it is true, but what I ate agreed with me. The night sweats ceased, and gradually strength returned, so that by the aid of a walking stick I could get about. My convalescence was a long one, but by persevering with the Syrup, all the bad symptoms left me, and I was able to resume my work again. My present employment is a very arduous one, compelling me to expose myself to all kinds of weather; still, I feel none the worse for it. Believing that it may benefit some other sufferer, I regard it as my duty to make these facts known. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true. By virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act of 1835 (William IV. c. 62). Declared at Malton, in the county of Yorkshire, the 6th of May, 1902, by John Boddy Mintoft, before Arthur L. C. Russell, a Commissioner for Oaths."

## MARKET REPORT.

*Chief Marks of East India Coffee sold in Public Auction from 9th April to 23rd April, 1903.*

Mark.	1st Size.	2nd Size.	P. B.	District.
Lurgapur ...	22 @ 61/6	32 @ 48/6	11 @ 61/	Mysore.
Arbuthnot's Yemmagoondi.	72 " 48/6	20 " 43/	10 " 51/6	Coorg.
Do. do.	50 " 49/	29 " 42/6	9 " 50/	"
Murgadi ...	67 bot in	20 " 43/	10 " 53/	Mysore.
Mangles Covercaly	72 "	28 " 42/6	19 " 51/	Coorg.
Do.	42 "	20 " 46/6	12 " 61/	"
St. Edmunds ...	35 @ 48/6	17 " 46/	14 " 50/6	"
Bibbenlake ...	20 " 50/6	26 " 46/	30 " 53/	Mysore.
Woger ...	60 " 51/	25 " 42/6	9 " 55/	"
Cullaly ...	25 " 55/6	81 " 44/	8 " 54/6	"
Goorghully ...	39 " 55/6	19 " 46/	14 " 54/6	"
Gorrayhatty ...	38 " 54/	31 " 45/6	2 " 51/6	"
Bedaguli ...	13 bot in	42 " 45/	3 " 53	"
Glenmore ...	18 @ 55/	3 " 40/6	3 " 44/	Nilgiri.
Attikan ...	10 " 45/6	7 " 44/6	5 " 71/	Mysore.
Robinson's Karma Betta	27 " 70/6	38 " 49/	7 " 52/6	Coorg
Do. do.	38 " 49/	19 " 44/	8 " 53	"
Kaysen Kellie	20 " 49/	20 " 43/6	17 " 53/	"
Bykarvally ...	11 " 49/	10 " 43/	7 " 55	Mysore.
Yester ...	47 bot in	20 " 45/	27 " 47/	"
H. D. D.	20 @ 41/	12 " 44/6	3 " 54/6	"
K. Olivers No. 457	13 " 46/6	49 " 40/6	17 " 118/6	"
I. M. Balakadoo	11 " 55/6	27 " 42/	7 " 53/	Coorg.
M. Santicooopa	29 " 113/	22 " 43/6	11 " 49/	"
M. Netley	39 " 52/	49 " 42/	32 " 51/	"
Matheson's Cotta Betta	42 " 50/6	11 " 50/6	5 " 46/6	"
M. Nalla Cotta	76 " 49/	6 " 50/	20 " 45/	"
G. M. N. Abail	40 " 47/6	24 " 43/	9 " 53/	"
H. F. D. Haradur	78 " 47/	10 " 44/6	6 " 60/	"
Ferguson's Kenchakotta	187 " 46/6	12 " 38/	21 " 39/6	"
C. M. Muttada Cudu	73 bot in	20 " 45/	10 " 44/6	"
M. O. G. Mankanhulli	20 @ 44/	24 bot in	6 " 60/	"

Agents for LEA &amp; PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

**CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S LTD.**

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to



His Majesty  
The King.

**CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.**



Mark.	1st Size.	2nd Size.	P. B.	District.
Hutton Kodigi ...	32 @ 49/6	28 @ 43/	10 @ 50/	Coorg.
Bolar Estate Horoor ..	12 bot in	9 „ 40/	3 bot in	„
R. Kalasa Peak ..	11 @ 56/6	13 „ 47/6	2 @ 48/	Mysore.
M. G. Saraswatte Estate ..	20 bot in	23 „ 44/	5 „ 50/	Coorg.
O. C. E. Alexandra ..	23 „	20 „ 42/	19 „ 48/	Wynaad.
M. Victoria ...	9 „	38 „ 41/6	10 „ 47/	„
A & Co. Kanakadu ..	31 „	26 „ 41/6	10 „ 47/	Pulneys.
W. W. F. B. ...	27 @ 49/	46 „ 41/6	6 „ 52/	Coorg.
Hunchi Betta ...	34 bot in	27 „ 43/	6 „ 50/	„
Kulhutti W. D. ...	81 @ 113/	49 „ 43/	40 „ 111/	Mysore.
O. Hospet ...	48 „ 52/	72 „ 100/	17 „ 52/	„
Mockett ...	117 bot in	20 „ 45/	28 bot in	„
Irwin Turnboor ..	103 „	11 „ 44/6	25 @ 54/	Coorg.
N. K. G. Nandipur ..	54 „	76 @ 44/6	4 „ 60/	Mysore.
Glenvars ...	85 „	22 bot in	12 „ 55/	Naidoobat.
		80 „		

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated April 24th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903 ...	1,381,978	993,684	72,329
1901-1902 ...	1,530,720	1,054,709	73,478

29,027 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 57,879 packages were offered in public auction  
26,348 „ CEYLON } this week.  
2,504 „ JAVA }

At the resumption of auctions after the Easter recess there appeared to be some hesitation in the bidding, probably owing to the nearness of the Budget, and the consequent uncertainty of the position. Buyers have evidently been protecting themselves against any reduction in the duty by clearing as little tea as possible, duty from 1st to the 22nd instant having been paid upon only 8,579,632 lbs., against 18,755,045 lbs. last year.

INDIAN CESS.—The *Gazette of India*, of the 21st March, states that the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, has received the assent of the Governor-General. It provides that from 1st April a duty of quarter of a pie per lb. shall be levied on the export of Indian tea, the proceeds of such duty to be applied towards "promoting the sale and increasing the consumption in India and elsewhere of teas produced in India."

ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.—The forthcoming St. Louis Exhibition will probably afford an opportunity for still further increasing the sale of Indian and Ceylon tea in the United States of America.

The Budget has just been declared. The tea duty remains at 6d.

Distribution of Tea Exports from Ceylon from 1st January to end of March.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Austria ..	12,558	175	16,925	2,069
Belgium ..	34,346	8,137	5,025	1,880
France ..	{ Black 98,542	68,969	91,879	56,998
	{ Green 4,430			
Germany ..	120,683	106,502	71,915	88,519
Holland ..		750	11,074	2,000
Italy ...	5,029	3,200	2,505	1,433
Russia ..	{ Black 1,227,409	2,400,478	1,969,493	2,274,362
	{ Green 24,210			
Spain ..	300	500		7,470
Sweden ..	21,682	13,755	17,727	21,725
Turkey ..	7,495	9,073	13,266	7,061
India ..	{ Black 173,980	174,987	475,067	163,612
	{ Green 305	515	3,840	
Australia ..	4,136,379	2,667,995	3,975,357	3,279,815
America ..	{ Black 1,483,401	698,482	665,406	1,725,142
	{ Green 984,336	184,366	12,010	
Africa ..	99,116	111,629	65,851	55,798
China ..	1,145,260	646,366	455,098	214,060
Singapore ..	37,940	27,996	35,376	18,891
Mauritius ..	19,582	19,900	8,390	
Malta ..	70,770	94,000	85,130	115,178
Outside ..	{ Black 8,694,472	7,052,894	7,955,214	8,035,923
U. K. ..	{ Green 989,071	209,091	15,850	
U. K. ..	{ Black 20,516,113	20,460,731	26,855,772	25,946,316
	{ Green 164,079	98,130		
Total lbs. ..	30,363,735	27,820,846	34,826,836	33,982,239

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacobs Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/11 & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



INDIAN.—Sales were again comparatively light, and passed with good competition for all teas up to 7½d, which were occasionally a fraction dearer, but for other grades demand was somewhat inactive. Catalogues are now containing a large number of final invoices. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Dheodaam" and "Pabbojan," both of the Pabbojan T Co., realized 1½d and 1½d per lb., respectively.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 26,383 pkgs., av. 7·85d. 1902, 29,441 pkgs., av. 6·59d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,072,268 pkgs., av. 7·49d. 1901-2, 1,214,555 pkgs., av. 7·69d

CEYLON.—The quantity brought forward was rather large, owing to an accumulation having occurred during the holidays. Demand, however, was strong for all low-priced teas, which sold at rather dearer rates, but medium grades were less easy to dispose of, and consequently showed a somewhat irregular market; really choice teas were well competed for. Exports to U. K. for first half of April are 5,000,000 lbs., against 4,700,000 lbs. same time last year.

Average for week 7·70d, against 6·61d. in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 292,924 pkgs., av. 7·66d. 1902, 350,986 pkgs., av. 7·07d.

JAVA.—The Javas sold with good competition at full valuations, hardly any tea being withdrawn from sale, and many parcels up to about 7d showing nearly a farthing advance.

### CINCHONA.

At the London auctions on Tuesday the moderate supply of 2,922 packages was offered, and, as will be seen from the subjoined table, the greater part was disposed of. There was a fairly good demand, but some of the parcels, principally East Indian, were held for higher prices. The total amount of quinine in the bark was about 250,000 oz., of which about three-quarters sold. The average unit obtained was 1½d, as compared with 1½d at the sale in March, and the prices paid for sound bark were as follows: Ceylon: Succirubra chips and shavings, 2½d to 5d; officinalis, original stem chips and shavings, 4½d; renewed ditto, 3½d; and root, 5½d. African: Fair red broken quill, 5½d per lb.; bright, part silvery quill, were taken out at 7d. South American: Bolivian cultivated Calisaya quill, 6½d to 8½d; quillings and chips, 6½d to 7½d; soft Colombian, U. U.'s, 2d to 3½d; and Z.O.'s, 2½d, subject, the bulk being held at a limit at 3½d to 4d; 163 bales of Cuprea were taken out. East

Indian: Crown, original stem cheps, 3½d to 4½d; good to fine, 5½d to 7d; branch, 3½d to 6½d; root, 5½d to 6½d; renewed ditto, 3½d to 5½d; and fine, 6½d to 8d. per lb.; Succirubra, fine stem chips and shavings, 5½d; medium, 3½d to 4d; and poor, 2d to 2½d; branch, 1½d; and root, 2½d per lb.

The following table shows the quantity of bark offered and sold:—

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
East Indian cinchona ...	1,302	973
Soft Colombian cinchona ...	583	317
Calisaya cinchona ...	447	286
Ceylon cinchona ...	249	102
Cuprea cinchona ...	163	...
Java cinchona ...	93	...
African Cinchona ...	85	85
	2,922	1,763

The following represent the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	lbs.
American factories ...	170,000
Brunswick factory ...	71,300
Mannheim and Amsterdam factories ...	51,700
Frankfort and Stuttgart factories..	62,500
Imperial factory ...	16,200
Paris factory ...	750
Druggists, brokers, etc. ...	19,300

Total quantity sold	391,750
Bought in or withdrawn	140,000
	531,750

### QUININE.

Towards the close of last week some forced sales of about 50,000 oz. were made at slightly under market value, but subsequently the market became steadier, a good business being done at 11½d, spot, and August at 11½d for the usual German brands of sulphate. This week the market has been lifeless, a few small sales having been made at 11½d, with buyers on Wednesday at 11½d, but to-day the market is firmer again at 11½d. For new German ls has been paid in small lots.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·85d., APRIL 24TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ...	144	7·59												
Kodanaad ...	80 p	7½	28½c	10½	52 p	†6½ 7½								
Prospect ...	64½c	7½	37½c	8			27½c	7½						
Travancore ...	1487	6·86												
Ashley ...	60	6½			34	†6½	26	7						
Balamore ...	163½c	6½			114½c	6½	39½c	†6½						
Carady Goody ...	144 p	7	36	7	30	6½	45	7½	20	6½	7½c	5½ 5½	3½c	5½
Cherian Malay ...	36 p	6½			15	6½	9	6½	8	6½	5	6½	8½c	5½
Corrimony ...	220½c	7			92½c	6½ 7	90½c	7½	33½c	6½	1½c	5½	4½c	5½
Glenmore ...	160½c	6½			97½c	6½ 6½	58½c	7½		6½	3½c	6	4½c	5½
Ladrum ...	99	6½	18	7½	44	6½	14	7½	6	6½			2½c	5½
Lockhart ...	60½c	7½	19½c	6½ 9½	37½	7							17	5½
Merchiston ...	78 p	7	28	7½	38	6½ 6½							4½c	5
Nagamally ...	28 p	5½									6	6½	6½c	5
R T M... ..	49 p	6½			49 p	6 6½							28 p	5½
Seafield ...	164½c	7½			107½c	7	55½c	7½			1½c	6	1½c	5
S T T Co Venture .	76 p	7½					48	7½ 7½	20	6½			8½c	6
T T E Co Mount ...	100	7½	5	7½	26	7	25	7½	7	6½	8	7½	29	7½
„ Munja Malai...	50½c	5½											50½c	†5½
Wynaad ...	279	7·19												
APC ...	67	6½												
Pootoomulla ...	100 p	7½	4½c	8	28	7	31	7½		6½	47	6½		
Walkers Achoor ...	112 p	7½			41	7½	49½c	7½ 8½	22	7				

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1903.

[No. 21.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 29th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

**Munzerabad.** *Weather*—The monsoon has sent its advance warning in the shape of thunderstorms, they have however been very local. *Wind*—steady from the West. *Temperature*—much cooler. *Works*—Many estates have finished manuring and pruning and are waiting to commence weeding. Borer is being taken out, it is luckily small in quantity. *Plant diseases*—A number of last year's supplies have failed, but coffee is very healthy. *Health*—Much fever about. *Labour*—A moderate supply.

**Kotagiri.** *21st May.*—*Weather*—There have been constant showers during the past 14 days, 8 rainy days aggregating 4.20 inches. This has brought out little sprinklings of blossom, but nothing to speak of, and it looks as if there is still more to come. *Works*—Manuring in full swing, and a little planting is going on. *Labour*—a little short as locals are sowing their grain fields. *Health*—Very fair. *Tea*—The rain was very welcome after the long drought, and bushes are beginning to flush well again. *Interesting item*—The Annual General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association has been adjourned to the 8th proximo, as only three members turned up on the 8th instant. This want of interest is most deplorable.

### THE CEYLON DUTY ON TEA.

THE Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, has placed at the disposal of the Press a letter addressed to His Excellency the Governor by Messrs. HARRISON & CROSFIELD, London, urging the abolition of the import duty levied on tea intended for re-exportation. We need scarcely say that this is a subject of great interest to tea-planters in Southern India, and

although representations made to the Ceylon Government through the Government of India have borne no fruit, we are glad to see that the matter has not been allowed to drop. As a body, the Ceylon planters may be said to be committed to a policy hostile to the view of South Indian planters as well as of the firm referred to above. They assert that abolition of the import duty on Tea in Ceylon would tend to stimulate "blends," whereas their declared aim has been to push sales of "Pure Ceylon" tea. They fail to see that blending is certain to be practised, if not in Ceylon then elsewhere; that the purest of Ceylon tea ultimately finds its way, in many cases, into blends; and that there is no good reason why Ceylon, while continuing to ship "Pure Ceylon," should not also ship teas that are avowedly blended. What Messrs. HARRISON & CROSFIELD says is, that some time ago they corresponded with the Ceylon Government upon the above subject through their Colombo Firm, Messrs. CROSFIELD, LAMPARD & Co., and the question was referred by Government to the "Thirty Committee" of the Planters' Association, who, after some consideration, voted against the removal of the present impost. Messrs. HARRISON & CROSFIELD were subsequently informed that, had they permitted the Chairman of the "Thirty Committee" to mention their Firm's name in connection with the resolution to abolish the duty on *all* tea landed in Ceylon for re-exportation, the result would have been different. The reason they had for withholding their name was that their primary object in getting the Duty abolished on tea landed in Colombo for export only, was to enable them to establish a Brick Tea Factory in the island, in order to compete with those in Russian hands in China for the Russian overland trade in this article, which is a very large business. Had their name and the reason of their advocating the abolition of the duty been given publicity to, their Russian opponents would have been placed in possession of more information than at that time was considered expedient.

The above firm's main contention is, that the Duty imposed upon tea landed in the island for export only, is operating against the commercial interests and prosperity of the island, keeping away a large amount of trade from Colombo, which its geographical position would otherwise ensure; and it is upon this ground that they ask the matter should be dealt with. The Import Duty was no doubt placed upon tea



landed in Ceylon, under the impression that to allow tea from other countries of production free entry would prove detrimental to the interests of the Planting Community. It appears to Messrs. HARRISON & CROSFIELD that the only possible harm that could result from the abolition of the present duty to the Ceylon producer, would be if that duty was rescinded upon tea landed for purposes of home consumption in the island; but if only abolished in the case of tea landed in the island for re-exportation, they are persuaded that the result would prove beneficial, instead of detrimental, to the Ceylon planter. The restrictive duty now in force merely removes the operation of blending from Ceylon to London and other ports. And did the same Customs Regulations exist in Colombo, as in London, where facilities for Blending in Bond are freely given and a return of the constituent parts of the blend is the only Customs requisition, the Ceylon Industry would be efficiently protected against the export of Blends as pure Ceylon tea, the packages being compelled to carry a correct description of the contents. And while the interests of planters would thus remain safely guarded on one hand, a further extension of the business of the Merchant Community in Colombo would certainly follow upon the suggested change. If all countries had adopted the same policy as that which exists in Ceylon with regard to the Import Duty chargeable alike on Tea for consumption in the island, and *also for re-exportation*, the progress made in the consumption of Ceylon Tea would have been indefinitely retarded. This is very plain speaking, and it is followed up by the equally notable statement that "the history of the gradual progress of Indian and Ceylon teas in the markets of the world has been that of gradual conversion, commencing with an admixture of a small percentage of Indian and Ceylon-grown teas with those of China, slowly increasing the proportion of the former growths until the taste for the stronger tea had become firmly established, and the point reached when China teas could be discarded entirely." This being so, it appears evident that the suggested change in the Duty at present imposed upon tea landed in Ceylon for re-exportation could not but facilitate the distribution and consumption of that article. In regard to Brick Tea the case is even stronger. The above firm remarks:—"In Russia, Brick Tea is admitted under a much lower tariff than for tea in bulk, thus rendering the outside manufacture of the Bricks an imperative necessity of the trade in that description of tea. To manufacture Brick Tea in Ceylon and to capture a share of the 40 million pounds of tea imported into Russia every year in this form for the benefit of the Tea Industry of the island, it is absolutely essential that the present Import Duty on other descriptions of tea should be rescinded in so far as it applies to tea for re-exportation."

In this letter the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce failed "to discover any fresh arguments in favour of the abolition, at the present juncture, of the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea." The phrase "at the present juncture" will be read as denoting a doubt as to the permanence of Ceylon's present policy. As for there being no fresh arguments, none is needed. Messrs. HARRISON & CROSFIELD have merely stated well known facts in a very forcible way. The Chamber added in its letter to the Colonial Secretary:—"In arriving at the above decision my Committee are anxious that they should not appear to Government to be influenced by any particular bias or prejudice in favour of the present Duty. Without

intention the Ceylon Government has in the past provided a powerful safeguard to the producer of 'pure Ceylon tea,' and the producer and the merchant alike have expended large sums upon the advertisement of this speciality. In the opinion of my Committee the abolition of the duty would involve a danger to 'pure Ceylon tea' which, it is impossible to estimate, whilst on the other hand they do not consider that a sufficiently strong case has been made out by the advocates of such a policy." The London firm's retort to this is that were Government to prohibit the export of Ceylon Tea in bulk, and permit it only to leave the island in 1-lb. lead packets with a Government seal of guarantee, a really practical form of forcing on the world pure Ceylon tea would be in force, but with most disastrous results to the prosperity of the planting industry. As it is, Ceylon tea is exported in bulk, and, immediately it is put on any one of the large markets of the world, it is subjected to the competition of other growths, and is bought upon its merits as tea, and not because of its country of origin. "In our opinion," they say, "it is only on the ground of merit that Ceylon Tea has any chance of retaining its present hold upon the markets of the world, and there is no chance of this being jeopardised if due care is taken in its manufacture. It would be impossible to say with certainty how much pure Ceylon tea is sold to consumers, but it certainly would not exceed 15 per cent. of the total export. It is generally admitted in the trade that the value of Ceylon Tea is for blending purposes, and that it is not suitable as a self-drinking tea." What more can be said? All that is necessary is that teas blended in Ceylon should be shipped then in packages clearly marked to indicate that the contents are not "Pure Ceylon" but a blend. Yet we can scarcely hope that the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce will be convinced against its will even by such convincing arguments as have been quoted above.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in Mexico.**—Mexico's exports of coffee in the fiscal year 1901-02 were valued at 852,405 lbs. The coffee crops in Southern Chiapas suffered considerably from the eruption of the Santa Maria volcano in Guatemala.

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**High Dietetic Value of Coffee.**—In 1789 Benjamin Mosely, M.D., physician to the royal family of England, wrote and published a treatise on coffee, in which he says: "The extraordinary influence that coffee, judiciously prepared, imparts to the stomach, from its tonic and invigorating qualities, is strongly emphasized by the immediate effect produced on taking it, when the stomach is overloaded with food, or nauseated with surfeity or debilitated by intemperance. To constitutionally weak stomachs it affords a pleasing sensation; it accelerates the process of digestion, corrects crudities, and removes the cholic and flatulencies. Besides its effect in keeping up the harmony of the gastric powers, it diffuses a genial warmth that cherishes the animal spirits, and takes away the littleness and languor which so greatly embitter the hours of nervous people after any duration to excess, fatigue or irregularity."

\* \* \*

Total stock in United States April 1, 2,502,406 bags against 2,432,421 bags April 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States April 18, in store and afloat, 2,580,167 bags



against 2,337,596 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 311,580 bags against 312,821 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York April 18, 2,161,778. Stock in New York in other coffees April 13, 226,326, in San Francisco, 76,844 bags and in New Orleans, 8,502 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, April 1, 12,380,627 bags.

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The head of a Brazilian coffee house, usually very accurate in his predictions, informs Havre that the next Rio coffee crop will be 5,500,000 bags and the Santos 10,000,000 bags, a total Brazil crop of 17,000,000 bags. The German Consul at Rio estimates the Rio crop at 5,500,000 bags and the Santos crop at 8,000,000 to 9,000,000 bags. Ornstein & Co., Rio, estimate the growing Rio crop at 5,000,000 to 5,500,000 bags and the growing Santos crop at 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 bags.

The value of the coffee exports of Costa Rica in 1902 was \$3,179,818.47 in U. S. gold, \$24,051.20. The gain in coffee over the year 1901 was \$350,000. The export of coffee was distributed as follows: To the United States, 15 per cent.; to England, 75 per cent.; to other countries, 10 per cent.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Coffee reached its lowest point last week when April sold for 3.80, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 21st ultimo. Since then it has improved somewhat on evidences chiefly of a decided diminution of the interior receipts at Santos, and some bullish buying. Despite the low prices liquidation has been heavy. This was not always on the Coffee Exchange, and was principally by holders of May contracts. The buyers took them to take advantage of the wide premium existing for the distant deliveries. The next crop, it is getting to be generally accepted, will come in early, almost presently in fact, and many believe that it will demonstrate itself to be at least as voluminous as the 1902 crop.

Actual coffee is, of course, not so low as the speculative, and continues on the basis of 5½c. for Rio No. 7, invoice. All the same the jobbers are much harassed by their customers, who hear in the newspapers of 3c. and 4c. coffee and wonder why they do not come in for a share in the fall of prices. The matter is not easily explained away. In Brazil, despite the low prices, coffee is steady and, as a rule, above parity in New York. One lower offer was Rio No. 7 5c. c. and f. Prices for spot invoices at the close were 5c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5½c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. for Santos No. 4. Business generally has been light.

In Milds business is light in volume. A merchant visiting Venezuela reports that Maracaibos and Bogotas, while plentiful enough, will not be forthcoming in large quantities owing to the fact that they may be shipped only in canoes. There is fairly good demand for Bogota and unwashed Cucuta. Good Cucutas are 8½ to 9c. East Indias are quiet.

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**Court Decision on U. S. Coffee Contracts.**—The ordinary form of coffee contracts has met, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, with a clear and decisive definition from the New York Court of Appeals. It is announced through a decision in the litigation between Bayne & Davidson and Hard & Rand to recover damages alleged to have been incurred by Hard & Rand's failure to deliver on demand certain coffee claimed by the plaintiffs under contract. The decision rendered in the case for the first time fixes the time when and the circumstances under which the title to coffee passes

between parties; it also defines the rights of successive buyers of coffee.

Hard & Rand, August 10, 1901, sold to J. P. Jones & Co. 1,000 bag of Santos coffee to arrive and on September 28 of that year, Jones & Co. sold this same coffee to Bayne & Davidson. The coffee arrived October 7, 1901, but before it was delivered Jones & Co. assigned, October 25, and on Bayne & Davidson demanding their coffee it was refused on the ground that the coffee not having been paid for by Jones & Co. it was not in their possession but in Hard & Rand's. Bayne & Davidson then demanded the coffee of Hard & Rand, tendering the purchase price, but Hard & Rand refused to deliver the coffee, asserting that Jones & Co. owed them about \$900, which if Bayne & Davidson paid they might have the coffee. This Bayne & Davidson refused to do, and litigation ensued. Regarding the decision Mr. Bayne is quoted.

"The decision, in effect, holds that when the coffee is in existence and capable of being identified and set apart, the title to the coffee passes to the buyer and the right to the purchase money passes to the seller, notwithstanding the seller has the right to actual possession of the coffee until fully paid for.

"In this particular case the Court held that the title to the property passed from Hard & Rand to Jones & Co. on October 7, and from Jones & Co. to Bayne & Davidson on the same day. The latter thus acquired a title prior to the failure, whereas the right of Hard & Rand to a set-off or counter claim grew out of the failure. The Court also sustained the contention of Bayne & Davidson on another ground, to wit, that the contract between Hard & Rand and Jones & Co. specifically stated that it was not contingent upon any other and was to be settled between the buyer and seller without reference as to gradings or otherwise to any other contracts"

\* \* \*

#### Coffee.

Small brown berry, what magic lies,  
What mood merry or grave and wise,  
In thy fragrant brew which kills  
Black dog Care and cures all ills?  
Famous drink, what boots thy name,  
While wide grows thy well-earned fame?  
Java—Mocha—whatsoever  
Experts call thee, we don't care.  
Small brown berry, that once was green,  
Pulped like cherry and now stript clean;  
When thy vapors rich ascend,  
All one's trials and troubles end.  
Aromatic, rich and pure,  
Thy continued reign is sure;  
Health you give and strength of mind,  
Product like thee none can find.  
Small brown berry, long may you reign!  
Like old sherry, in every vein,  
Doth thy cordial spirit flow;  
Sorcerer thou, as wise men know.  
Slander has not touched thee close,  
Not e'en "Postal Cereal's" dose;  
There is none can take thy place,  
None can put thee in disgrace —GEORGE G. SMALL.

#### TEA NOTES.

**Colombo Tea Sale.**—At the public sale of tea at Colombo on the 13th, 13,274 packages = 1,053,385 lbs. were offered, of which 10,539 packages = 831,067 lbs. were sold.

\* \* \*

**The Formosa Market.**—Rumour has it that the Tamsui market has been opened on a basis of 15c. c. and f. New York for Standard Formosa. These are probably Souchong teas and would make "good cargo" worth about 16½ to 17c.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Dullness is general in tea but at steady prices, which continue in the main unchanged, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 21st ultimo. Formosas are reported in some quarters as easier. Many would like



this to be a general and well established fact, having in view the market in the East about to open. Indeed, this has opened, according to rumour, and at an advance of 3 cents compared with the opening prices of April 26, 1902. The open had not however been reported up to Monday to a leading Formosa house of New York. It was possible and even probable for certain grades of the tea. Congous continue firm on the old basis. Further reports are heard of inquiry for large quantities of the tea for London export, but it is becoming apparent that while there is much smoke there is little fire. The March exports were reported as approximating 45,000 packages, whereas official custom house figures make them only 4,000 packages. The failure of the tea to rise in price substantiated the suspicion that the sales were exaggerated and events have proved them so. Greens and Pingsueys are firm, as also are Ceylons and Indias. Japans are dull. All Oolongs are dull also.

\* \* \*

London advices say that in Chinas a good business has been doing privately in one or two quarters in Monings up to 5d., with some Panyongs up to 5½d. Several parcels of fair grade Monings have been taken for export from 4¾d. to 5¼d. Good to medium Ningchows and Keemuns are being asked for by the export houses between 5½d. and 8d., but the supply is now very limited, and small orders were executed in the better grades from 9d. to 11d. Common to fair Paklings brought 4¾d. to 5½d., and are cheap, in fact, all Foochow teas are cheap. In Indian tea, common leaf sorts at and under 7½d. were firm, but all other grades were less in demand, and prices exhibited irregularity. In Ceylon tea there was a good demand for teas up to 7d. per lb., but above this quotation most grades were rather cheaper, with very little support from buyers generally. Broken Pekoes found a disappointing market, especially medium sorts from 8d. to 10d. Quality was poor, the few parcels with improved liquor commanding attention. Colombo-bought teas were in larger supply than recently, but in many instances failed to reach limits.

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**Tea in Russia.**—It is ancient history that the Tea Industry in the Caucasus is expected by those engaged in it to develop considerably, and that the Siberian Railway will help that development. In recent Consular reports to the Foreign Office this view is taken. Attention is called to the fact that while Russia is, undoubtedly, the largest consumer in Europe so far as the quantity of the liquid tea drunk is concerned, the amount of tea consumed owing to the different method of mixing is but 0.93 lb. per head per annum, whereas in the United Kingdom it is over 6 lbs. (taking the data of 1900). It is far more expensive than in the United Kingdom, 4s. per lb. of 14½ oz. being the price for the average tea, but owing to the weaker infusion habitually prepared it is made to go much further.

The supply from China has diminished by 36,207,322 lbs. since 1899, partly accounted for by the import of Ceylon teas, which, according to a report of the Russian Vice-Consul at Colombo, rose from 3,000,000 lbs. in 1895 to 23,000,000 lbs. in 1901. Ceylon tea is used in Russia mainly for blending purposes, Russian taste not yet appreciating its particular flavour as a drink by itself. About 50 per cent. now comes through Russian firms established in the island. Its special qualities and comparative cheapness have now established a firm hold on the Russian market.

Chinese teas hitherto reached Russia either direct by sea, mostly in the Volunteer Fleet steamers from Hankow to Odessa, or overland *via* Siberia. The Siberian routes were:—

1. By water to Tientsin, thence overland *via* Kalgan and Kiakta to Irkutsk. This, the ancient caravan route, will probably succumb to the altered transport conditions.

2. By sea to Vladivostok, and thence—

(a) By the Ussurian Railway to Khabarovsk, thence up the Amour and Shilka to Sretensk and so on to Irkutsk.

(b) To the station of Iman, on the Ussuri line, thence by the River Ussuri to the Amour and Shilka.

3. By sea to Nikolaievsk, on the Amour, and thence by the Amour and Shilka.

The incidence of duties has hitherto played an important part in the distribution of tea within the empire. An increase of three roubles per pood of the duty on tea conveyed *via* Siberia has been decreed with a view to equalising the cost of delivery by sea and by land. It seems to be expected that the Ussuri and Amour routes will now lose their tea cargoes, as, indeed, the main part of their traffic. The chronic detentions caused by the shallowness of the Amour were a perpetual hindrance to regularity of delivery. The Manchurian Railway authorities and the Government are evidently doing their best to attract this valuable freight to the direct land way. The Consul says it seems possible that the indirect trade in tea to Russia *via* the United Kingdom will be considerably curtailed by the operation of the Siberian Railway.

According to a report to the Foreign Office by Mr. Consul Stevens the cultivation of the tea-plant in the southern Trans-Caucasus, and principally in the vicinity of Batoum, is making great strides. It is only some nine years since the first attempts in the culture of tea were made on the coast of the Black Sea by a Russian gentleman, and his undertaking was then looked upon most sceptically by the majority of the agricultural people in the district. Since then it has, however, become evident that tea can be cultivated to advantage, and several other persons in the district also began to grow tea on their estates, among them the managers of the Imperial Domains, who now have 500 to 600 acres under tea.

There are two tea factories in the district. One of them is owned by Messrs. Popoff, who manipulate exclusively tea grown on their estates. The factory belonging to the Imperial Domains, besides drying and preparing its own tea, also takes over, at a small cost for the same purpose, the tea grown by most of the owners of the land in the neighbourhood of its estates, and returns them the tea after it has been prepared for use. Last year the tea crop surpassed all expectations, one dessiatine (2.7 acres) having, on an average, yielded 20 poods, or 800 Russian pounds (720 lbs. avoirdupois weight), which, at the rate of 11 per pood, the all-round wholesale price at which it was sold, brought in 800r per dessiatine; or, as near as possible, £30 per acre.

Owing to the satisfactory results obtained during the period under review, the Ministry of Agriculture is about to adopt a series of measures in order to encourage and foster the cultivation of tea by the small peasant classes, and books containing instructions and explanations with regard to the industry are being widely circulated among the farmers of the locality in which the tea is grown.



Under the conditions set forth above, those who take an interest in the development are sanguine apparently that the theory that tea-growing in Russia would not be generally adopted on account of the unfavourable climatic conditions and other difficulties which have to be encountered, including the high rate of wage paid for labour, or that the Tea industry and trade of the Caucasus could not possibly expand to a stage which would render it, even at a remote date, of commercial importance, is apparently an exploded idea. It is argued that the results obtained during this season show that quite the contrary is likely to be the case, and that there is every reason to believe that the cultivation and manufacture of tea promises to be one of the most prosperous and profitable agricultural pursuits in the Trans-Caucasus.

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Mr. Harold H. Mann, the Scientific Officer of the Tea Association, left Calcutta on Sunday for Assam, where he will prosecute further enquiries into the problems connected with the manufacture of tea. The experiments with regard to the ferment which excited considerable interest, we understand are likely to be carried much further, and as important results as those which have followed enquiry into questions relating to the cultivation of the tea-plant, may be confidently anticipated.

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People who doubt the necessity for careful handling of tea should study works on the tea industry. These tell how in China when the first picking of the finest teas begins the pickers and packers are debarred from eating strong tasting food that might affect the breath, and are compelled to bathe several times a day and wear gloves while touching the tea.

\* \* \*

#### Tea.

Whether Jap or pure Chinese  
Thou our choice art, fragrant tea;  
Whether India or Ceylon,  
Thee we set our hopes upon.  
Search the wide world none shall find  
Herb more cordial, true and kind;  
Sages like thee, saints agree,  
You're the limit, peerless tea!  
Banish high-ball, beer and wine;  
Tea leaves give the drink divine;  
Banish juice of corn and rye,  
Neither can with good tea vie;  
Banish cider, banish rum,  
Let no absinthe near us come;  
We're contented, troubles flee,  
When we have thee, peerless tea!  
Cure thee fealty, pack thee well,  
Keep thee from all wares that smell,  
Blend thee with a master hand,  
Then thy brew shall beat the band.  
Whether India or Ceylon,  
Better drink sun ne'er shone on;  
Whether Jap or pure Chinese,  
We adore thee, peerless tea.

#### NOTES.

##### Java Quinine.

At the auction of Java quinine held at Batavia on April 29, 5,003 kilos. were offered, of which 47 kilos. sold at an average of 20fl. per kilo. (about equal to 7½c. Amsterdam unit). against 20fl. paid at the previous tender. The next tender to be held at Batavia will take place on May 27.

##### Manuring of Pará Rubber.

Experiments made in the Straits Settlements in manuring young plants of Pará Rubber in pots, with various kinds of manures, including lime, cowdung, burnt earth, poudrette, etc., gave evidence in favour of burnt earth and cowdung; lime and poudrette seemed not to benefit the plants at all.

##### Java Cinchona.

The exports from Java during April were 1,065,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 990,000 and 791,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1902 and 1901 respectively. Total for the three months is 3,347,000, against 3,134,000 last year. At the drug-auctions, 48 serons of Loxa quill sold at 10d. to 10½d. per lb., and 1 seron of fair Huanoco quill at 8½d.

##### Gutta Percha in the Straits Settlements.

Gutta Percha trees growing in the Waterfall Garden valley, from which a good crop of seeds was obtained in 1901, produced not a single fruit last year though one tree flowered freely. Imported saplings both from Borneo and Sumatra are decided failures, and until seeds are obtainable the cost of forming large plantations is too great to justify the undertaking.

##### The First Coffee-house.

The first coffee-house in London was started in 1652 by a Greek named Pasqua, who was the servant of a Mr. Edwards, a Turkey merchant, and who thoroughly understood the roasting and making of coffee, till then unknown in England. This house was situated in George-yard, Lombard-street. It is a noteworthy fact that in 1675 Charles II. issued a proclamation to shut up the coffee-houses, but in a few days it was suspended. They were charged with being seminaries of sedition.

##### Where Coffee and Shoes meet.

C. Shenkberg & Co., wholesale grocers, Sioux City, Iowa, have instructed their attorneys to petition for an injunction against a retail shoe store which as an attraction recently has been selling a brand of coffee prepared by the wholesale firm at 5 cents a pound, whereas the regular retail price is 20 cents a pound. The wholesale firm refused to sell the shoe dealers the coffee, and they then procured it from retailers. Shenkberg & Co. seek to have the retail concern enjoined from selling it at less than the standard price.

##### Mr. P. C. Larkin.

Mr. P. C. Larkin, of P. C. Larkin & Co., the head of the Salada Tea Company, is now in London, at the invitation of the Government Commissioners from Ceylon and India, who are now considering the tea question. Another matter which will be discussed is the size, nature and details of the Ceylon and Indian teas to be made at the forthcoming St. Louis Exposition. Mr. Larkin will afterwards make a tour of the Continent, combining business with pleasure. Mr. Larkin looks for a Ceylon and Indian importation of some 20,000,000 lbs. into the American market this year, and if this amount is taken, it will play an important part in reducing the consumption of Chinas and Japans. But we must not begin to count our chickens before the eggs are hatched.



**Intelligence v. Pests.**

The *Ceylon Observer* commends the following from an American journal to the attention of cacao planters, each of whom ought to do his duty in fighting any fungus or canker, for his own as well as the general benefit, without compelling legislation:—"When the cultivation of oranges for profit in Southern California began, the orchardists were met in the outset by the ravages of scales which threatened to destroy their young orchards. No known means of combating the pest was available, but such means were soon discovered and the powers of the legislature were invoked to compel all orchardists to unite in destroying the pests. The same is true in the islands. Difficulties will be encountered at first, but the intelligent farmers will win in the end."

**Journal d'Agriculture  
Tropicale.**

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 22 (30 avril 1903):* Multiplication des lianes à caoutchouc.—Fibres de bananiers.—Dessicated cocoanut (Machines, 2 fig.).—Le pêcheur au Sénégal.—Articles et notes agricoles intéressant le thé, le maté, le caoutchouc d'Hevea, la ramie, le beurre de coco, la canne à sucre, le riz, l'ananas, le cacao, le café, le coton, l'arachide, etc.—Études commerciales et statistiques concernant le caoutchouc, le café, l'indigo, le tabac.—Contributions inédites de MM. A. Pedroso, Ch. du Val, P. Cibot, A. Couturier, F. Main, Hecht frères (Paris), Ch. Rivière (Alger), G. Le Testu (Dahomey), van der Ploeg (Java), T. Barracough, John Gordon & Co. (Londres), E. Maine (Sénégal), Ch. Judge, J. Karpelès (Calcutta), Tabel (Sumatra), C. Pedroso (Cuba), P. des Grottes (Nossi-Bé).—Bibliographie.

**The St. Louis Exhibition.**

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Mr. Stanley Bois to be the Ceylon Commissioner at the World's Fair to be held at St. Louis in 1904. Mr. Bois will have two Assistants, one nominated by the Thirty Committee in consultation with the Chamber of Commerce, and the other a Ceylonese gentleman to be selected by His Excellency the Governor. It is also proposed, if an official status can be obtained for them, to appoint "Official Visitors," who will lecture on Ceylon and be ready to afford information regarding the Island and its products. The expenses of these gentlemen will be paid from Exhibition funds. £15,000 is the sum which the St. Louis Committee has recommended should be granted for Ceylon representation at St. Louis. Both at Chicago and Paris the expenditure found necessary was about the same amount.

**London Tea Market.**

Weekly special telegram dated 14th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for good liquoring Pekoes are in improving demand, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6¾d. (the same as last week) and the average 7¾d. (same as last week). The average for the same period last year was 6½d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea is firm, and Broken Pekoes for all fine teas firm. Pekoe and Pekoe Souchong is also steady. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7¾d. (same as last week). 21,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 19,000 disposed of; while of the 30,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 24,000

were sold at an average of 7¾d. (½d. less than last week). Medium to fine qualities very firm.

**Apropos of the Budget.**

It appears to be definitely decided that the British Import Duty on Tea shall not be reduced at present, and planters will no doubt vail with all the patience they can muster for better tidings. Details of Customs Receipts are interesting in this connection. Although the duty on tea realised £5,985,000, the increase, which represents 3,400 tons, cannot be considered as a satisfactory compensation for the decrease which was exhibited a year earlier. The past quarter was an extremely sluggish one, and recently dealers have endeavoured to work on what stocks they had left, so that the year just passed has had little more than three-quarters of a year's tea duty. Coffee, the consumption of which was stationary for some years, appears to have advanced a little in popularity of late. The war gave it a fillip, for our exports of roasted coffee to South Africa were as much as 300 tons. No doubt some of the soldiers carried the taste for that article home with them.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****COFFEE IN LONDON.**

Though the Brazilian receipts at the early part of the week were lighter, there was, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 25th ultimo, an increase afterwards, and the terminal market has, in consequence, slightly given way, quotations being again within 6d. of the lowest record. At the moment, notwithstanding the talk about the destruction of a certain percentage of low Coffee in Santos, there are very few in this market who can see any hope of higher prices, excepting from a natural reduction in the production, owing to an unremunerative price. It is a question whether that point has not now been reached. While this is the position with regard to Brazilian coffees, it does not apply equally to other growths, and there is a distinct feeling gaining ground that the lowest point has been touched for mild descriptions. The whole of the Costa Rica crop is said to have been shipped, and yet the stock here is by no means excessive owing to the heavy deliveries that have taken place. East India has also fallen to a point that is attractive to the large Continental buyers, and a good business has been done.

**TEA IN LONDON.**

INDIAN.—At the resumption of the public sales on Monday, there was, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 25th ultimo, a good general demand, especially for the lower descriptions, which were freely bid for. The tendency of prices for the latter was again in the upward direction, and higher rates were in most cases obtained, while the idea generally prevails that a further advance is probable. This will much depend on the demand, now that the Budget gives no reduction in the duty. The available supplies are naturally smaller than last year, but the rise in values may affect the consumption. Up to the present there is no appreciable change in the quantity consumed, but whether the discontinuance of the present lowest retail price will have any material effect in reducing the demand remains to be seen. At any rate, the present is an opportunity for the retailer to endeavour to establish in public favour a taste for the better class teas, of which they should not be slow to take advantage. At the public sales 29,000 packages were catalogued, of which 5,770 were withdrawn. Steady to firm prices were paid, and a fairly good proportion that failed to pass the hammer was afterwards disposed of by private contract. The quantity in type for the next sale shows an increase compared with this week, about 36,000 packages being catalogued, and there is every prospect of an active demand and a firm market.

CEYLON.—Good supplies were brought forward at the auctions on Tuesday, and with a continued strong demand, firm to dearer prices prevailed for most descriptions. Whole Leaf teas from 7½d.



downwards received the most attention, and in many cases sold at slightly advanced rates, very little being obtainable under 6½d. Medium Broken from about 8d. to 9½d. continue cheap, and compare very favourable with Whole Leaf kinds at the same prices, although the quality of the latest arrivals has not been so good. Fannings and Dusts continue in small supply, and the better kinds realise extreme rates. At the public sales 23,600 packages were brought forward, of which about 3,700 were withdrawn.

CONGOU.—At the public auctions held on Wednesday 474 packages were offered, of which 289 were withdrawn. Business generally has been quiet, although prices remain firm for all descriptions. There has again been a better enquiry for low-priced "Reds," which have, so far, not advanced in proportion to other kinds. Low-priced Blacks are also wanted at the recent advance, and this class of tea is now being freely used for blending purposes.

OTHER CHINA.—In the absence of public sales the Green Tea market remains quiet, with only a limited business to report. Good medium and common Capers are becoming very scarce, and a somewhat better tone prevails. Formosa Oolongs and Scented Orange Pekoes remain unchanged.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

The maintenance of the tea duty at 6d., burdensome as it is to growers, cannot have surprised any but the over-sanguine. The reduction of 4d. in the income-tax is in the nature of a sop to the voter, and will go a long way towards removing the uneasiness which has prevailed of late amongst the middle-class supporters of the Government at the absence of any definite prospect of retrenchment in national expenditure. Mr. Ritchie, in his Budget speech, said very little about tea, and it is evident that planters need not look to him for sympathy in their desire to be relieved from the present high duty, nor is the plea of the working-class consumer more cogent in his eyes. And truly the outlook for reduced taxation is a poor one. Mr. Ritchie was left with a surplus of over £10,000,000. The fourpenny reduction of the income-tax represents £8,000,000 of this, leaving only £2,000,000 for the reduction of indirect taxes. The fact remains that the national expenditure has reached £143,954,000 in time of peace. It may be assumed that it will continue to increase, and where is the money to come from? "The chief deficiencies," said Mr. Ritchie, comparing realised with estimated receipts, "had been in sugar and tea . . . With regard to excise, neither beer nor spirits were quite up to the mark. Beer stood still; spirits advanced, but not quite so much as they had hoped." If tea and sugar show deficiencies, and beer stands still, tea growers have but a very poor chance of seeing the tea duty reduced.

Mr. Ritchie's brief reference to tea and sugar was not, one would have thought, calculated to excite the imagination. But it seems to have been too much for the feelings of a correspondent of the *Daily Graphic*, who has been granted space in that journal in order that he may criticise Mr. Ritchie's remark that tea and sugar are "harmless and beneficial." Not so, says this correspondent in effect, and he proceeds to point out that in Ireland the increasing consumption of these two articles of produce have brought about deplorable results, filling the lunatic asylums, and conducing to the general decadence of the nation. Although he signs himself "F.S.S.," the writer of this remarkable epistle makes no attempt to endorse his opinion by statistics, and beyond his assertion and a quotation from a letter written by John Wesley, there is nothing to support his injurious statement. The *Daily Graphic* inserts this effusion, under the bold head line "The Tea and Coffee Duties," as though the letter contained words of profound wisdom calculated to check the rash progress of the public towards demoralisation and decay.

In reply to inquiries from shareholders in Indian tea companies and other home readers it may be noted that the tea cess measure has now become law in India, taking effect from the first of this month. By this Act a duty at the rate of one-quarter of a pie (1-48th of a penny) per pound is levied upon all tea produced in India and exported thence. At the close of each month the Collector of Customs pays the proceeds of the duty to the tea cess Committee. This Committee consists of twenty members, three of

whom are elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, one by the Madras Chamber of Commerce, seven by the Indian Tea Association, and nine on the recommendation of such respective bodies or authorities interested in the production of tea in India as the Governor-General in Council may appoint in this behalf. The proceeds of the cess are to be applied by the Committee to such measures as they consider advisable for promoting the sale and increasing the consumption of tea produced in India. The cess is to remain in force for five years from the time of its coming into operation.

There are over 148,000,000dols. spent every year in the United States for coffee—nearly 2dols. per head for every man, woman, and child—and praise is lavished on coffee as the most stimulating and satisfactory of drinks. But yet the American consumer is not happy, and we learn that the need of the hour is some form of liquid coffee. Most of the coffee extracts are failures, but recently in New York, we are told, "A man of long experience in the study and practical demonstration of coffee has announced that the liquid coffee problem can be mastered. His claim is that coffee can be prepared so that one pound will give all the effects that can be gained in the old way from ten pounds of roasted beans. According to this same party coffee can be prepared so that it will keep in heat or cold, in an open or closed vessel, and so that it will not lose any of its properties by age. The coffee trade will await his further movements in this direction with interest.

The purchase in India of Indian tea for Russian ports is said to be increasing. During the cold weather agents of Russian firms regularly visit India to buy tea, very largely, it is confidently asserted by an Indian authority, for Central Asia. It is pointed out that during February last of some 711,000 lbs. shipped from Calcutta to ports other than those in the United Kingdom, 186,00 lbs. were for Trebizond and 177,000 lbs. for Odessa. These two ports, therefore, took more than half of the total extra-British consignments of the month. It is said to be quite certain that this trade will expand, and Indian tea be largely put into Northern Persia, Bokhara, and the Khanates generally, as the Transcaspian Railway carries goods at very cheap rates.

At Wednesday's meeting of the San Paulo Railway Company, Mr. Megaw (the Chairman) held out the expectation of a coffee crop of about 8,000,000 bags for the coming season, or about the same as for the past one, and, with a steady exchange, he believed they would be able to maintain their twelve per cent. dividend. The price of coffee is lower than ever, and Mr. Megaw mentioned that an excellent quality could be imported and sold, ready roasted, for 6d. per pound, though probably consumers would be asked to pay 1s. 6d. for it. Somebody must be making a fine profit. A suggestion was made that the Brazilian Government should spend a little money in endeavouring to increase the consumption of coffee in the United Kingdom, which is only about ¾ lb. per head, against 16½ lbs. in Holland, but it is probable that such an increase would be brought about even more effectually by a lowering of the at present exorbitant retail price of the commodity.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## CEYLON AND CHINA TEA IN AUSTRALIA.

The Foo Chow Chamber of Commerce has recently issued some highly interesting figures illustrating the decline in the trade in tea between that port and Australasia. India and Ceylon have been keen competitors in this market and public taste has been met by their shipments to the exclusion of China sorts. There can be no doubt this result is largely due to the fact that for a number of years the quality of China tea has been steadily declining. The rage for cheap tea was met by total disregard of proper picking condition, and an enormous depreciation in the quality of the leaf was the result. Thirty years since good China tea sold in Melbourne at 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb., but the consumer now wants to be supplied at from 10d. to 15d. per lb. These prices will not permit growers to select their pickings, and old and young leaf are sent to the drying kilns without discrimination. The percentage of tannin in the Indian and Ceylon leaf is larger than that grown in the Foo Chow district, hence in water they carry a darker colour, which probably suggests strength to the ordinary consumer and this



partly accounts for their favour with the public. A microscopic quantity of really fine China tea now finds its way to Australia but the shipments are, as a rule, limited to sorts suitable for cheap blends. The figures relating to shipments from Foo Chow to Australia for four seasons are appended:—

Season.	lbs.
1899-1900	6,094,660
1900-1901	6,511,722
1901-1902	2,169,218
1902-1903	1,138,697

The new season will open in Foo Chow on or about the end of May. So far some fair orders have been sent forward and a recovery from the low point touched last season will doubtless be noticeable in imports. But much depends on the movements in Ceylon and India. If prices continue to harden upwards in those centres more demand from this quarter will be experienced for China teas, but no extensive recovery can be anticipated.—*Melbourne Age*, April 28.

### SIKKIM CINCHONA ESTATE.

Even the most severe critic of British rule in India must admit that the sick and suffering are better cared for to-day than at any other period in the history of India. The well-equipped hospitals and dispensaries scattered up and down the land ministering daily to thousands of patients offer a striking answer to those who assert that indifference to the well being of the people of India is the attitude of the Government.

Other evidence, however, is not wanting, and an *Englishman* representative was privileged to visit recently the Government Cinchona Estate near Darjeeling. Few visitors to Calcutta's favourite sanitarium realise that travelling over the hills a few miles would bring them to the spot where about half the quinine used in India is produced.

*The Situation of the Estate.*—The nearest point on the railway is Sonada, and a pleasant ride through the forest at first climbing upwards to a height close on 7,500 feet then falling to a level of nearly 4,000 feet brings you to Mungpoo. At this season of the year when only occasional showers descend to freshen the atmosphere the country side does not perhaps look its best, but to the jaded dweller on the plains, the varied shades of green supplied by pines and palms, tea bushes and ferns is a distinctly refreshing sight.

The road winds up and down, revealing fresh beauty at every turn, mountains towering one above the other, the farthest peaks lost in the clouds. The Cinchona Estate is situated in British Sikkim, and though no doubt the site was selected because it was at the best altitude, and the soil and general conditions were best suited for growing a tree not particularly hardy. Yet the natural beauty of the district must have appealed to those who made the selection.

The snug little white bungalows built for the officials in charge of the estate, which dot the landscape look out on an expanse of country of the most charming character. The valley of the Teesta with well-wooded slopes on either side, presents a scene such as many an artist must have longed to put on canvas as the last bid for fame.

*The History of the Estate.*—It is about forty years ago since the Government began as an experiment the cultivation of cinchona, and at Ootacamund and Mungpoo extensive plantations have been laid out. The difficulties of clearing the land, organising labour, selecting the most suitable varieties must have been formidable. With means of communication practically non-existent, roads had to be made, and year after year as roaring torrents wend their way to the river below, they still have to be remade. The Estate forms a part of the territory ceded to the British Government by the Raja of Sikkim in 1835, and is surrounded by thousands of acres controlled by the Forest Department. The development of the Estate has gone on steadily, and to-day some 1,500 acres are under cinchona cultivation.

*The Factory.*—The growing of the tree, from the bark of which the life-giving quinine is produced, was not all that the Government made up its mind to do. To make India supply its own needs as far as possible is a praiseworthy intention, and the perseverance, patience, and ingenuity which must have been exer-

cised to render India independent of outside sources for its quinine, supply offers an object lesson to many in other industries.

When the factory was started, only the manufacture of cinchona febrifuge was undertaken, but in course of time quinine manufacturing on a fairly large scale was taken up. Water power is ingeniously used to drive the plant and the grinding machinery which converts pieces of bark into a fine dust of the consistency of flour is capable of grinding up a good deal more bark than is at present available.

The bark itself is stored in substantial looking sheds, partitions dividing the root, the stem and the branch bark, as each contains the quinine and other alkaloids in varying proportions.

Stocks of firewood not for household consumption, but as fuel for steam producing for the chemical works excites some comment and elicits the response that if cinchona is grown for the bark, the timber is also useful.

The process of quinine making is an interesting one to observe, its manufacture is a closely guarded trade secret, and but for the persevering efforts of retired officials carried on for many years its manufacture in India would never have been possible.

The fine bark dust, brown and dirty in appearance, goes through a number of churnings and boilings, before it is run off into little white bowls allowed to crystallise and is seen in white powder form.

Even the making of the tin boxes for packing the white powder which is so often literally worth its weight in gold is done on the premises.

The packing into pice packets, which are to be had at every Post Office in India, is reserved for the prisoners in the Alipur jail.

Returning from the factory, the nurseries are passed when you can see cinchona just peeping out of the soil like mustard and cress. Then row above row of plants much larger and stronger yet sheltered from rain and hail by well thatched sheds some two or three feet high.

The cultivation is, of course, carried on, quite on scientific lines, the variety of cinchona giving most quinine is not quite as hardy a plant as others of its kind.

Work goes on the whole year round, soil is being prepared for new plantations, trees that have arrived at maturity which is about 12 years are being pulled up and stripped from root to the topmost branch of every inch of bark.

A visitor to the plantation is said to have expressed surprise that the quinine tabloids he has been accustomed to buy did not grow on the trees in little pods, but if such a sight is not to be seen, there is sufficient to excite feelings, wonder and surprise that here amid the mountains such an example of enterprise is to be found.

One leaves the spot with the impression that here out of sight far from the madding crowd work is going on, which no other Government in the world is engaged in, and that started purely for philanthropic reasons, it is creditable to those who in days gone by made the plans, and those who are to-day carrying on the work, that the quinine produced practically pays the cost of working.—*Englishman*.

### RUBBER GROWING IN THE STRAITS.

#### EXPERIMENTS AT THE SINGAPORE ECONOMIC GARDENS.

The *Straits Times* has a long leading article on this subject, with a sketch showing the old and new systems of "milking" rubber trees. Some extracts from the article are worth giving:—

#### DEMONSTRATIONS.

During the past few weeks, a number of high Government officials, planters from the Native States, and other persons interested in the development of the Peninsula, have been making a regular morning *rendezvous* of the Economical Gardens at Cluny Road. The cause of this has been the remarkably interesting demonstrations of the result of experiments lasting many months, in the matter of extracting the latex, or sap from the Pará rubber trees that have been planted there for experimental purpose. In view of the fact that, within the next few years, Pará rubber is expected to rank next to tin as the staple product of the Straits, anything affecting its cultivation or harvesting becomes a matter of prime public importance. Therefore it has been that the usually



deserted groves of rubber trees in the section of the Gardens opposite Cluny, have been enjoying such extensive and distinguished patronage of late. The main item of interest about the demonstrations rests in the fact that Mr. A. D. Machado, who has carried out the experiments, and now cheerfully demonstrates the results thereof every morning, has found it possible to "milk" a tree every second day for six months in every year without in the least hurting it or impairing its growth, and at the same time he can secure the greatest possible amount of the valuable *latex* from which the rubber is subsequently formed.

In describing the new method of tapping, it is stated that the old deep gashes used to seriously injure the tree, and sometimes kill it. In response to enquiries Mr. Machado furnished the following data:—

#### TAPPING.

Tapping operations were begun on the 4th March, but it was not till the 20th March that 100 trees were regularly tapped with 4 incisions to each tree. Each incision is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch wide. Four incisions would mean in length 6 inches of a cut to each tree, barely more than a scratch, one may say. One noticeable feature is that some trees yield much more copiously than others, and this may be due to the position of the trees as regards shade, soil, and moisture. Irrespective, however, of these important factors, there can be no doubt that some trees are physically more productive than others, for much the same reason that one man is stronger than another, and so on. The 100 trees operated upon occupy a triangle 176 feet *plus* 220 feet *plus* 250 ft., or barely more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre, from which it will be observed that they are much too close—a condition by no means favourable for the production of *latex*. Still, results go to show that the present output, as obtained by means of small cuts, is all that can be desired. The flow of *latex* is more copious on the morning of a day following a heavy shower of rain than on a dry day; in fact, in very dry weather it would be almost advisable to cease tapping altogether. The way the *latex* is extracted and prepared is simple in the extreme. As soon as a cut is made, either with a small axe or a chisel, a tin cup, enlarged at the apex and tapering towards the bottom—called in the Amazons a *tijellina*—is inserted beneath the wound, and into it the *latex* flows. At six o'clock tapping begins, and by 6-30 A.M. tapping is over. At 7 A.M. the cups are gathered in, the *latex* passed through a sieve to ensure cleanliness, a little acetic acid is poured in to hasten coagulation, and the *latex* is then poured into enamelled soup plates and in about half-an-hour's time coagulation is complete.

#### DRYING THE RUBBER.

The *latex*, which at this point resembles stiff blancmange, is then put into a press, and whatever water remains is pressed out. It is then placed over a kitchen fire (wood fire) to dry, after which, if the sheets are thin, it assumes a dark yellow colour and is transparent. Drying in the sun will not do, as this causes the rubber to turn sticky. Taking the average for the last 12 tappings, the average daily output of pressed rubber has been 87 oz. or lbs. 5.44. There will be a loss in weight of 40 per cent. when the rubber is thoroughly dry after smoking, leaving say 3 lbs. of dry rubber for each day's tapping. At the present rate of tapping, these trees will stand tapping for 90 days, tapping them preferably every alternate day, or say 6 months in all. This means 3 lbs. a day for 90 days. 270 lbs. at 4s. a pound, the price at which the rubber is valued in London, and the result is a return of £54 per 100 trees per annum.

#### STUPENDOUS PROFITS.

As half this figure the profit still remains stupendous. Self-coagulated rubber is said to be better in quality than rubber prepared with acetic acid, but the time taken for rubber to coagulate by itself is from 16 to 20 hours, whereas, with acetic acid, from the time the incisions are made to the time the rubber is pressed and ready to be smoked, occupies just two hours, a matter of some importance where time is of some object. The system of tapping now carried on—oblique incisions—is the one in vogue in the Amazons. The "herring-bone" system has been described by M. Bonnechaux, a gentleman who for some years was a rubber collector in the Amazons, as little short of barbarous, and that it speaks volumes for the vitality of these trees in that they have survived the ordeals thereby entailed. In the Amazons these trees would have succumbed to the torture. That it is harmful is proved by the fact that one of the 100 trees now being operated upon had a herring-bone incision made on it, and is now producing

next to no milk. It is well to reiterate the fact that the trees now being tapped are planted much too near each other, and are growing under excessively unfavourable conditions generally. In spite of this, they yield an average of 3 lbs. per tree per annum. The average circumference of the trees is 2 feet 10 inches, the largest being 5 feet 1 inch, and the smallest 1 foot 3 inches.

The rubber produced in the gardens by Mr. Machado is worth 1 dol. gold, or over 2-30 dols. local currency per pound, which is more than 5,500 dols., Mex. per English ton. With these prospects to consider, it will be recognised that the now rapidly-increasing rubber trade is a matter of vast consequence to the Colony, and the thanks of many are due to Mr. Machado, as well to Mr. Ridley, the Director of the Gardens, by whose orders Mr. Machado inaugurated the operations and experiments which have resulted so successfully.

### THE BUDGET AND TEA.

Great disappointment is felt in the trade at the maintenance of the duty at the rate of 6d. per pound, for, from what was said at various times by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, it was generally hoped that Tea would be the first commodity to be relieved from the burden of war taxation. It is well known that the increased tax was almost entirely, though involuntarily, borne for some time by our Indian and Ceylon planters, because their production, at the time of the imposition, was in excess of the demand. The producers very naturally shifted the weight of the tax from their shoulders by reducing their output, and the extra 2d. has been placed on the home trade, who have been bearing it impatiently for some time past, in the vain hope of a reduction in the duty. It will now obviously be the turn of the public, for traders do not carry on business from philanthropic motives, but for purposes of gain. The present position is that only quite common Indian and Ceylon tea can be bought at 7d. per pound in bond, or 1s. 1d. duty paid, and with the cost of distribution, blending and packing, this means something like a first cost of 1s. 2½d. per pound by the time the tea reaches the public. Naturally the retailer, too, expects his profit, and to sell at the generally current and popular price of 1s. 4d., he must be contented with 1½d. per pound—a return on the retail price of under 11 per cent., and as things are now, this is considered altogether insufficient. It is to be recollected also that, at this price, only very common Indian and Ceylon tea can be sold giving little satisfaction either to the distributor or to the public. This raises anew the old question of why there should be such a rage for cheapness in tea, and such a neglect of quality in an article of taste and fancy. In our opinion, the current or popular price for tea, should no longer be 1s. 4d. but be raised to 1s. 6d., and an effort should be made once more to induce the public to take to finer qualities as well, at, say 1s. 8d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb. A pound of tea goes so far that it is really a small matter in household consumption, even at the highest price. *Punch* said some time back, that if you go out to dinner your host boasts of how much he gives for his claret, while his wife in the drawing room points out the low price she gives for her tea—but this state of things is capable of amendment, if the retailers will take their trade seriously and point out the advantages of quality. In any case, while the production of Indian and Ceylon tea is less than the demand, as is undoubtedly the case at the moment, it is quite clear that the average retail price must be considerably raised, unless enormous loss is to fall upon the home trade, which is notoriously unprosperous. There is only one other very old remedy which could alter this position, but from time immemorial it has been the custom for grocers to sell sugar at little or no profit, or at a loss, and the habit seems ineradicable, although the whole of the circumstances have absolutely altered of late years. So firm is the hold of this tradition that the worst "cutters" at the present time are the interlopers in the trade, who are supposed to have the newest views. Roughly speaking, 12 pounds of sugar are sold to one pound of tea, and a loss of a ¼d. on the former means an addition of 3d. to the cost of the latter, if it were saddled with the whole burden. The shrewder London grocers are refusing to follow this bad example, but placard their windows with notices recommending the public not to be led away by such tricks, but to buy their sugar only at cutting establishments, buying tea where it is not loaded by the loss on sugar, and where also full weight can be relied on. In considering this



question, it seems that the retailers generally can scarcely realise what sugar costs them, having so long turned their attention to selling it too cheaply. Take for instance German Granulated. The lowest cost of fair qualities of this sugar is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
F. O. B. Hamburg ... ..	0	9	10½
Wholesale profit ... ..	0	0	3
Freight, carriage inland and delivery ... ..	0	1	3
Packing, and loss in weight by turn of scale, etc. ... ..	0	4	8
Duty ... ..	0	4	2
	1-0	2½	

This is equal to a cost of a small fraction under 2½d. per pound, if packing be taken at ½d., as we have taken it above, for we believe that a ¼d. does not cover it, though we are fully aware that many grocers never reckon anything for the cost of weighing and packing sugar. If these figures be considered, it will be seen that even in the British ports themselves, where sugar is landed, and no railway carriage is incurred, such granulated cannot be sold at a very moderate net profit under 2½d. per pound, yet cutting and advertising shops are selling it at 1½d., a sacrifice of ¾d. per pound, to be added on to tea or other things. If tea alone is to bear the burden, it requires 8½d. extra profit to make up for it. The moral of this is the desirability of the grocers locally refusing to follow such tactics, but setting to work instead to expose them, and thus to keep, extend, or regain their tea trade, and especially in the better sorts.—*Produce Markets' Review.*

### THE AMERICAN NATION'S DRINK BILL.

The *American Grocer* presents its annual estimate of the retail cost of stimulating beverages, from which it appears that the Nation's drink bill is at high-water mark. Since 1880 the use of alcoholic beverages has nearly doubled, having increased from 10.09 gallons *per capita* to 19.48 gallons, a gain of over 93 per cent.

The use of the milder stimulants has not grown so fast, that of coffee rising from 8.78 pounds *per capita* to 13.37 pounds, a little over 52 per cent., while tea dropped from 1.39 pounds to 0.94 pounds, a decrease of nearly 48 per cent. The supplanting of the milder for the stronger stimulants does not indicate greater National regard for better social and higher physical conditions.

The total bill of the Nation for stimulants in 1902 was \$1,369,098,276; the average yearly expenditure for the past five years, \$1,239,108,955. The record for 1902 represents a *per capita* expenditure for stimulants of \$17.33 for the 79,003,000 inhabitants of the United States, or 4.7 cents per day. The users of alcoholic stimulants are estimated to form one-fourth the total population, on which basis the *per capita* cost of alcoholic beverages is \$69.32, or 19 cents. per day.

#### THE TOTAL DRINK BILL.

Bringing together into one group the cost at retail of all beverages, we find that the United States consumed in 1902 alcoholic and non-alcoholic stimulants to the value of \$1,369,098,276, as follows:

	Dollars.
Alcoholic drinks ... ..	1,172,565,235
Non-alcoholic stimulants—	
Coffee ... ..	149,891,030
Tea ... ..	39,642,011
Cocoa ... ..	7,000,000—
	196,533,041
Total, 1902 ... ..	1,369,098,276
Total, 1901 ... ..	1,273,212,386
Total, 1900 ... ..	1,228,674,925
Total, 1899 ... ..	1,146,897,822
Total, 1898 ... ..	1,177,661,366

The above represents a yearly *per capita* expenditure for beverages of \$17.33 for the 79,003,000 inhabitants of the United States, or 4.7 cents a day.

The quantities of the four leading beverages consumed for the year ending June 30, 1902, were as follows:

	Gallons.
Coffee ... ..	1,498,910,304
Beer ... ..	1,381,875,437
Tea ... ..	396,420,115
Spirits and wines ... ..	157,206,554

#### TOTAL ALCOHOLIC DRINK BILL.

Bringing together the items of the estimated cost of all alcoholic beverages, we have as the retail cost to the American people of alcoholic stimulants for the year ending June 30, 1902, the following:

	Dollars.
Beer ... ..	692,791,330
Whiskey (exclusive of quantity used in arts) ... ..	389,681,059
Wines ... ..	90,092,846
Grand total ... ..	1,172,565,235
Estimated cost in 1901 on the same basis ... ..	1,094,644,155
Estimated cost in 1900 on the same basis ... ..	1,059,563,787
Estimated cost in 1899 on the same basis ... ..	973,589,080

The total revenue of the United States Government in 1902 from spirituous and malt liquors was \$193,126,915—a *per capita* tax of \$2.44, or \$12.20 for every family.

#### COFFEE.

The United States consumes more coffee than any other Nation on the earth, and is creeping fast to the time when one billion pounds will be required to meet annual requirements. The imports in 1902 exceeded that quantity, but it is improbable that such an amount went into consumption. It is conservative, however, to accept the average annual import for three years as better representing the quantity consumed and that was 871,459,479 pounds, having an average import value of 6.4 cents per pound, making \$68,114,573 as the value of the net imports of 1902.

The net importations for ten years and *per capita* consumption were as follows:

	Net imports.	Average import cost	Consumption
	Pounds.	per pound.	per capita.
		Cents.	Pounds.
1893 ... ..	531,395,220	14.0	8.31
1894 ... ..	547,068,994	16.4	8.30
1895 ... ..	643,234,766	14.7	9.33
1896 ... ..	572,671,840	14.6	8.11
1897 ... ..	724,559,536	11.0	10.12
1898 ... ..	851,691,084	7.4	11.68
1899 ... ..	801,756,868	6.5	10.79
1900 ... ..	748,800,771	6.5	9.81
1901 ... ..	809,036,029	7.3	10.60
1902 ... ..	1,056,541,637	6.4	13.37

Coffee loses from 12 to 16 per cent. in roasting, with the average about 14 per cent., allowing for which we have a net yearly consumption for three years, 1900-02, of 749,455,152. The bulk of the coffee sold at retail is of low grade, with the average of all sold about 20 cents per pound. On the basis that one pound of coffee makes two gallons of infusion, we have as the measure of the years' consumption 1,498,910,304 gallons, at a cost of \$149,891,030.

#### TEA.

During 1902 the agitation of the removal of the duty on tea caused dealers to allow stocks out of licensed warehouses to run down to the lowest possible point and the result was that deliveries during the year were lighter than usual. Deliveries are accepted as representing consumption, but cannot be regarded as accurately defining its extent. The imports were light and the *per capita* consumption smaller than for several years. The net import in 1902 was 74,275,153 pounds, with an average import cost *plus* the duty of \$16,669,704.

The net imports, assumed to represent consumption, have for ten years past been as follows:

	Net imports.	Average import cost	Consumption
	Pounds.	per pound.	per capita.
		Cents.	Pounds.
1893 ... ..	88,131,088	16.0	1.33
1894 ... ..	91,801,565	15.1	1.36
1895 ... ..	96,437,042	13.5	1.40
1896 ... ..	93,340,248	13.5	1.33
1897 ... ..	112,907,548	13.1	1.58
1898 ... ..	67,697,295	14.2	.93
1899 ... ..	72,834,816	13.1	.98
1900 ... ..	83,303,177	12.4	1.09
1901 ... ..	88,502,554	12.3	1.14
1902 ... ..	74,275,153	12.4	.94



The following table shows the net imports and yearly consumption:

	Pounds.
Tea in warehouse, June 30, 1900	29,425,381
Net imports, June 30, 1901	88,502,554
Net imports, June 30, 1902	74,275,153
Total supply, two years	192,203,088
Less in warehouse June 30, 1902	33,635,042
Net supply, two years	158,568,046
Average yearly consumption	79,284,023

It is conservative to estimate the average retail cost per pound in 1902 at 50 cents, and that one pound of tea as ordinarily brewed will make five gallons of beverage, on which basis the consumption in 1902 was 396,420,115 gallons, at a cost of \$39,642,011, or 10 cents per gallon—with the duty of 10 cents removed we may look for increased use.

#### COCOA, CHOCOLATE, ETC.

The net imports of cocoa and chocolate, crude and prepared, for the year ending June 30, 1902, were 50,280,792 pounds, valued at \$6,796,302. A large proportion of the imports is used for other purposes than a beverage, so that a fair estimate of the value of the retail cost to the consumer for the cocoa used as a beverage is less than \$7,000,000.

#### COFFEE, KING OF BEVERAGES.

Coffee continues to hold first place in the affections of the American people. Its low cost stimulates demand and makes it a formidable competitor of alcoholic liquors and malt beverages. The use of beer, wine, and spirits shows considerable gain over 1901—a notable fact in view of the great prosperity of the United States. It is evident that the American people are temperate in the use of stimulants and that they are not increasing their use of such as tend to debase manhood, increase our taxes, promote pauperism, or stimulate crime.

### MODERN BEE-KEEPING.

In a recent lecture upon this subject before a Meeting of the Society of Arts, in London, Mr. Walter F. Reid, F.I.C., F.C.S., a member of the Council of the British Bee-keepers' Association, and Chairman of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, said that in thousands of apiaries in England methods and appliances were still employed which the Egyptian of 4,000, or the Greek of 2,000 years ago would have condemned as obsolete. Fortunately the British Bee-keepers' Association and the affiliated county Associations were working hard to spread the knowledge of more modern, humane, and remunerative methods, and their efforts were being rewarded with a gratifying amount of success. Some of the county councils also were doing good work. Before real progress could be made in agriculture it was necessary to obtain an intimate knowledge of the organisation and habits of the bees themselves, and the man who contributed most to this branch of knowledge was Huber, the blind naturalist of Geneva. The lecturer traced the development of movable frames, and pointed out that another important step in agriculture was taken when a Bavarian carpenter discovered that bees would build straight combs in the frames if they were supplied with a sheet of wax embossed with a pattern representing the base of the cells. The discovery, in 1865, of extracting honey without injuring the comb led to a great economy, and aids to bee-keeping were now so numerous as to be a source of bewilderment and embarrassment to beginners. While admitting that skeps had a certain air of rusticity about them, and when neglected became positively picturesque, he asserted that they greatly diminished the output of honey, and became the lurking place of foul brood, the bee-keepers' worst enemy. Finally, Mr. Reid pointed out that we imported large quantities of honey from abroad, while every year thousands of tons of excellent honey were wasted in our country districts for want of the bees to gather it. There could be no doubt, he said, that bee-keeping in most rural districts was remunerative, and to illustrate the value of the worth of bees in the fertilisation of blossoms, and the production of fruit and seed, he mentioned that a large grower of bush fruit in Hertfordshire, who established an apiary in his grounds, at once found that his produce increased more than fourfold.

## INDIAN TEA IN SOUTH AFRICA.

### MR. CHAMNEY'S REPORT.

The following report is published in the April Proceedings of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association:—

From Mr. M. Chamney, to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, dated Johannesburg, 1st February, 1903.

The tea producing capacity of South Africa is confined to the Colony of Natal, where the plant is found flourishing in the hot humid tracts a little inland from the Eastern Coast.

*Natal.*—The area at present under cultivation is not much over 3,000 acres, but owing to the favourable conditions at present ruling, this area is being extended. In spite of a short rainfall and weak labour force, the yield is high, the average outturn per acre being above that of India. But the quality produced is indifferent, and labour to work the plantations being almost entirely imported from Madras and Upper India, at great cost and high wages, Natal as a producer would have no chance in an open market, where the industry would be most unremunerative.

A heavy import duty, however, of 6 pence per pound on all foreign teas affords ample protection to the Colony, so that the little industry is flourishing and the crop easily disposed of locally, where the community have acquired a taste for its peculiar "hay" flavour.

The balance of tea consumed in the Colony comes mostly from Ceylon, very little Indian being imported; but the white population of Natal being small, and the field for enterprise owing to the conditions mentioned—being confined, I will say no more about it at present, but will pass to consideration of the Transvaal, where the position is totally different.

*Transvaal.*—Here the duty imposed in Natal on foreign teas does not apply, only a small tax of three shillings for each 100 pounds of tea being levied for passing the tea over the Natal Government Railways. The Transvaal duty is 5 shillings per 100 lbs., *plus* 7½ per cent. Ad Val.—the latter being calculated on the Invoice value *plus* 20 per cent. of such value. Thus a tea purchased in Calcutta at 9d. would pay 7½ per cent. on 10½d., instead of the 9d. it cost. Still the dues levied in this tripple manner amount in all to less than two pence per pound, against 6d. per pound in Natal or in England.

*Small Consumption.*—In spite of this, however, the consumption of tea in South Africa is still small. I have not got complete figures at my disposal, but I doubt if it is much over three pounds per head annually of the white population, which, in view of the richness of the country and the comparative smallness of the infant—or non-consuming—population, is a very indifferent record.

The following table will show the amount and value of tea imports into the Transvaal for some years past. It is to be regretted that the records do not at present show the different sources of supply, or what proportion Indian teas bear to the total imports. I hope, however, to obtain this information in future. Meanwhile it may be taken for certain that India, as a source of supply, is mostly conspicuous by her absence:—

Year.	Weight in pounds.	Value in Sterling (Ad Val. <i>plus</i> 20 p.c.)	Equiv. value per pound.
1897	997,000 lbs.	£39,306	9½d.
1898	990,730 "	£36,370	8½d.
1899-00	...	Years of war	...
1901	596,733 "	£26,147	10½d.
First 10 months of 1901, compared with first 10 months of 1902.			
Jan. to Oct.	/01 491,655 lbs.	£21,542	10½d.
Jan. to Oct.	/02 1,200,675 "	£56,671	11½d.

From this it will be seen that the records for the past year are not yet complete, but I am informed that they will probably work up to some 1,700,000 lbs., imports being heavy towards close of the year; and although this amount is greatly in excess of that of any other year in the Transvaal's history it is still far below what it might have been or is likely to attain to.

*Future Prospects.*—The small annual consumption shows this country to be a clear field for enterprise in pushing the sale of Indian tea, and the general high cost of living prevailing at present should tend towards fostering its use, for even at Transvaal prices tea is much more economical than alcohol, which is



largely consumed in South Africa. Whiskey cost 7s. a bottle, and it is retailed in drinking-bars and hotels at 6 pence an ounce or 14s. per bottle, while beer is 6 pence for a small glass. Even locally manufactured soda or aerated water costs 6 pence per bottle, and in the depressed condition of the country it is not surprising to find that tea-rooms are springing up all over the city and are doing a large and profitable business at a charge of 6 pence per cup. Already there are some 70 tea and refreshment rooms exclusive of Restaurants and Hotels, and their use is spreading. The city is supplied mostly by eight tea "merchants" only, but some of the larger grocers import their own requirements.

The present white population of Johannesburg is within the Municipal limits 65,000, but it is rapidly increasing, and the influx of new blood—tea drinkers from England and the Colonies—is certain to advance tea consumption beyond all normal rates of progress. Unfortunately for India, she has so small a say at present, and Ceylon and Ceylon-China blends so strong a hold, that unless she puts her foot down at once she will enjoy very little of the advance.

*Requirements for an Indian Tea Campaign.*—What is wanted is a constant supply of from 500 to 1,000 half-chests of about 60 lbs. each of Indian teas previously blended in Calcutta. I would suggest its comprising say 40 per cent. of flavoured Assam Pekoe, 40 per cent. of tippy-whole-leaf. Orange Pekoe from Cachar, and 20 per cent. of flavoured Darjeeling Pekoe: which should bear in the blend a characteristic whole-leaf appearance, and disclose a mild and flavoured liquor in cup. Such a blend could be made up, I presume, for 9d. per pound in Calcutta, and I believe it would serve best to educate the taste of the community here towards Indian tea, against which there is now some prejudice because of its supposed "rasping" flavour. The tea should be called *Pure Indian Golden Pekoe*, and be packed in 60 lbs. cases (Venestas preferred), with the exception of 100 out of each challan of 503, which should be packed in 1-pound tin canisters (60 canisters to one case) of a kind similar to the sample sent to you to-day.

In Durban an arrangement would have to be made for receiving and forwarding the tea, there being no through booking. Here Johannesburg a responsible Secretary would be required, a storehouse sufficient for 1,000 half-chests, and a small office, with perhaps an office boy, who would also act as storekeeper. Arrangements would probably be necessary for delivering the tea by cart and rail.

The tea would be advertised and canvassed, the object being to create a taste for it by supplying at the lowest possible cost to the consumers and smaller retailers—the restaurants, clubs, hotels, and tea-rooms, and police, military and constabulary Messes, also to the small grocers who draw their supplies at present from professional importers at high cost. We could not hope to touch the larger grocers to begin with. In their case we would have to attain our object by creating a demand for the article with the public, which the grocers would naturally themselves fall in with, even if they ordered their supplies direct from the Calcutta market.

The feasibility of such a campaign may be gathered from examples what small retailers and the public now pay for their tea. Under separate cover I send samples of tea purchased here representing (Nos. 1, 3 and 4) kinds in common use, and a sample (No. 2) of Assam Pekoe which I was informed was very little in demand, viz.:—

	Per single lb.	Per Chest.
Sample No. 1—Ceylon Golden Pekoe	8s. 3/-	at s. 2/9.
" " 2—Assam Golden Pekoe	" 3/-	at " 2/9.
" " 3—Ceylon G. Pekoe as supplied to Hotels	" 2/6	at " 2/3.
" " 4—Ceylon Drinking blend	" 2/6	at " 2/3.

From this it will be seen that a discount of 3d. per pound is allowed when the tea is purchased by the chest, but that even then the charge is very high for such tea, it being really an ordinary Pekoe and not Orange or Golden kind, and I believe there would be no difficulty about supplying quite as good a tea at a cost of about 1s. 7d. per pound, sold and delivered here, all charges included except interest on the money advanced by the Association for financing the operations. I now append an estimate of the cost to be entailed in carrying through such a campaign as I have proposed. It is made out on the assumption that you can place the tea *f. o. b.* at Calcutta for 10d. per pound, and that the rate of disposal will be at one thousand (1,000) half-chests per six months. At first it will be difficult to dispose of anything like this amount, but afterwards it should be far exceeded, when our teas have become known: and

it was necessary to take some unit of sale. I would suggest the tea be offered at 1s. 9d. per pound per chest, and 1s. 7½d. where lines of 10 or more chests are purchased.

*Estimated outlay per pound of Tea.*—Capacity of packages 60 lbs. nett. Quantity to be disposed of in six months—1,000 half-chests.

	s. d.
Cost of tea in Calcutta, including blending, packing, and shipping	0-10
Steamer freight to Durban at 42s. per ton	0-0½
Insurance, Calcutta to Johannesburg, say	0-0½
Wharfage, handling, forwarding at Durban	0-1
Freights to Jo-Berg 10s. 10d. per 100 lbs. Railway Tax 3s. ditto, Transvaal Duty 5s. ditto, plus 7½ per cent. Ad Val., of 6s. 9d. per 100 pounds	0-3
Clearing, cartage to Store, Coolies, etc., at Johannesburg and delivering tea afterwards	0-1
Insurance, cables, telegrams, stamps, stationery	½
Secretary at £30 for 6 months Stores and office for ditto at £20, office boy (storekeeper) at £8	
Rates Taxes, etc., at £2	0-1½
Total African expenses, before or during the sale of the Tea	6½d.
Commission on sales at 1d. per pound	0-1
Advertising at £20 monthly in two or three Colonies	0-0½
Sundries and Contingencies	0-0½
Total other African Expenses	0-1½
GRAND TOTAL	1s. 7d.

This estimate has been carefully compiled, and should not be far out in the gross cost anticipated. Rents and handling charges are extremely high here: and storage room is difficult to secure. Indeed if you determine to send me a challan of tea soon, it would be well to inform me as quickly as possible the approximate date it would be shipped at Calcutta, as I will require time to arrange for its receipt at Durban, and its storage here. This information could be sent by cable, A-B-C Code (5th Edition).

*Finance.*—You will notice I have shown separately in my Estimate the sum that will be required for current expenses before the first challan of tea is sold, and which your Association would have to remit to me, viz., 6½d. per pound, and allowing another farthing for share of the advertisements, a remittance of 35s. per chest, or £375 on each challan of 250 chests, and £1,750 on challan of 500 chests, would be necessary in the first place: and until the sale proceeds of the tea placed me in funds.

*Conclusion.*—Hoping that you will find this Report interesting and what you required.

## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, CEYLON.

### GENERAL.

In the report for 1901 we read:—

The organization of the Department upon modern lines has continued, and is becoming fairly complete in the case of two of the three main sub-divisions which are proposed, the Scientific and the Botanic and Horticultural Gardens Divisions. The third, the Division of Experimental Gardens is as yet under consideration, but it is hoped that it may soon be organized. The Scientific Division, which includes the Director, Mycologist, Entomologist, Chemist, and Assistant, is charged with the scientific investigation of Ceylon, both indigenous and introduced, with special reference to the economic uses of the plants and the diseases that attack them. The work of this division includes the upkeep and working of the laboratories, library, herbarium, and museum, tours in the Island for the study of plants, cultivations, and diseases, the giving of advice and assistance in all such matters, to the officials and cultivators personally and by letter, and, most important of all, the continual carrying on researches upon the physiology and pathology of plants, their structure, distribution, and other subjects. Successful and practical applications of science must be based upon thorough scientific investigations; such work is laborious and needs long periods of time, and it is of the greatest importance that the scientific officers should have the greater portion of their time at their disposal for



such work. The appointments of the Entomologist and Mycologist in particular have met with much appreciation, and their help is so constantly sought that a great part of their time is taken up with personal visits, interviews, and correspondence. In the past year a great amount of work has been carried out by these officers, whose reports are given below, and the result of their work is becoming clearly apparent in the greater freedom from disease of many districts and estates. The Colony has, on the whole, been free from any very serious epidemics of disease during the year, and the agricultural public has become much more alive to the advantage of keeping a sharp look out for the first appearance of disease and the immediate treatment thereof.

The Director and Chemist have completed an investigation into camphor and have published results, showing a fair possibility of this product proving remunerative as cultivation in Ceylon. It is already being tried in several of the estates, and, if it prove successful, will add another to the few minor products that as yet cultivated in the tea districts. Investigations of citronella oil, india-rubber, and other products have been continued. The good results of similar work in past years are now becoming apparent in the increasing export of, and the high prices obtained for, india-rubber, and cocoa, both originally introduced by this department, and which may now be looked upon as new minor industries in Ceylon.

The Assistant has continued his researches into the mode of formation of ebony, calamander, and similar timbers, and into the important problem of the formation of rings in tropical timbers. He has also explored the guttapercha-yielding districts of the south-west, and investigated our local guttapercha-producing trees. Some of these have been found to yield a gutta in fair quantity by simple tapping, without it being necessary to sacrifice the tree. The gutta is not of good quality, but it is probable that it may prove commercially valuable.

The Director has completed the investigation of the flora of the Maldive Islands, including the cultivated plants. The results have been published in the new scientific journal, the "Annals of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya," of which two numbers have been issued during the year, containing several papers by members of the staff and one by a visitor, who worked for some time in the Peradeniya laboratory. Several scientific workmen from abroad have used the laboratories and other facilities now available here, which are becoming widely known. A small branch laboratory has been constructed at Hakgala, with sleeping and living accommodation attached to it, thus rendering the garden of much greater value than hitherto.

Several numbers of the "Circular" have been published during the year, and appear to have met with much appreciation. The circulation of this little periodical continues to increase; it is sent to local subscribers at the lowest possible rate, merely sufficient being charged to cover postage (50 cents for twenty numbers). The articles in this journal are popularly written, and do not overlap those in the "Annals."

In view of the extension of the work of the Department, and the increasing interest manifested in "new" products and in scientific methods of cultivation and preparation of economic products, a reorganization of the Economic Museum at Peradeniya has been commenced, and at the same time an attempt is being made to collect and classify all available information about the existing or possible economic products, of Ceylon the great masses of letters, cuttings, notes, references to books, etc., which have been accumulated at Peradeniya during the past century are being arranged in files of a somewhat new design, which will be kept in a public consulting room at the museum, and the specimens in the museum are being renewed and re-arranged in accordance with the files, so that inquirers may be able to obtain all available information about the products in which they are interested with the least possible trouble to themselves and to the staff of the Department. At the same time a *résumé* of the chief facts of importance about all known economic products of the Island, native, cultivated, are imported, is being put together in book form, and is now in course of publication in the form of supplements to the "Annals." It is hoped that in this way a reliable work of reference may be completed within three years, which may prove valuable to planters, officials, and others interested in the products of the Island. The first chapter, dealing with gums, resins, india-rubber, etc., is now almost completed, and part of it has already appeared in print with the second number of

the "Annals." The local annual subscription of Rs. 250 also covers the supplements.

The second division of the Department (Botanical and Horticultural Gardens) includes the five gardens in different parts of the Island and it has been lately been decided by Government to open a sixth very small garden in the new park of Nuwara Eliya, with the view of trying what can be done on the peculiar soil of that place. The main duty of this division is to introduce and cultivate a few specimens of every possible kind of plant that may prove of use or interest, and to provide beautiful gardens for the pleasure and instruction of the public. At the same time it provides instruction and advice on horticultural matters, and supplies seeds and plants to the public in small quantities. It is no part of the duty of a botanic garden to make large scale trials of economic plants or to supply large quantities of seeds or plants. This is the work of an experimental garden, and hitherto such an institution has been wanting in Ceylon, but negotiations have been in progress during 1901 with the object of providing such a garden, where experiment may be tried on a commercial scale with staples or with plants which may become staples. Such experiments may include not merely the cultivation of considerable areas of one plant but the trial of manures, different modes of cultivation and treatment of disease, modes of preparation of products for market, and their actual sale upon the open market. Such an institution may serve as an object lesson, and supply when necessary large quantities of seeds or plants, besides testing the commercial possibilities of different cultivations. It may also undertake the very desirable work of breeding new and improved races and varieties of cultivated plants.

Office work continues to increase, and correspondence with planters and others becoming very heavy. Working rooms have been provided for the Entomologist and Mycologist by the alterations of the godowns under the library suggested in last report. The library has been largely added to by purchase, gift, and exchange, and is steadily becoming a really good working collection.

An Ordinance (No. 5 of 1901) has been passed enabling the Government to take any necessary steps, such fumigation, quarantine, or exclusion, to prevent the introduction of disease into the Island with plants from abroad. The import of cacao plants from the Dutch Indies has already been prohibited under this law.

A system of small gardens at village schools having been inaugurated by the Department of Public Instruction, this Department has supplied large quantities of seeds and plants of the best useful kinds for distribution to the schools. Good results in the introduction of new cultivations and increased interest in agricultural progress may be hoped for from this work.

The total cost of the Department, including special votes, has been Rs 72,087, as against Rs.71,740, last year. The receipts from sales, though the number of purchasers has increased, show a fall from Rs.4,658 to Rs.3,741, owing to the cessation of the demand for rubber seed.

#### NOTES ON ECONOMIC PRODUCTS, ETC.

Hitherto the notes given annually under this head have somewhat been irregularly arranged, the more important products being treated first. Commencing with the present year the various products will be dealt with according to the different classes to which they belong, following the scheme of classification adopted in the Hand-book of Economic Products of Ceylon now in course of issue.

**CLASS I: Gums, Resins, Caoutchoucs, Guttas, etc.**—An investigation into the gums and resins produced by the wild plants of Ceylon has been started, with the view of finding out which are of value for local use as substitutes for imported articles. It seems improbable that any of our local products of this kind are good enough or cheap enough for export.

India-rubber may be regarded as established as a minor product in the low-country, and an export of appreciable quantities of Hevea or Pará rubber has begun; 66 cwt., valued at Rs.11,986, were exported in 1901 to England. Being carefully prepared, this rubber is of excellent quality and has sold for prices much exceeding those of the best Pará rubber sold on the same market from wild sources. On one occasion 4s. 1½d. per lb. was received for good "biscuits," against 3s. 9½d. for "best Pará." A recent market report says: "Ceylon sells with eager competition. The rubber is much liked, and in large quantities would bring high prices." In most cases the rubber is mixed with tea and planted by roads and ravines, and perhaps this is for the most estates the most satisfactory method of planting under present circumstances.



There has been no demand for, or planting of, guttapercha during the year. At the instance of the Forest Department Mr. Wright was deputed to explore the forests of the low-country of the south-west and test the guttapercha-yielding trees there found. His report below gives a brief statement of work done, and full details will be published after receipt of analysis and valuations.

Camphor has been a good deal planted during the year, the chief check being the difficulty of getting good seed, there being no local supply as yet. A Circular has been issued by the Department showing, as the result of some years' experiments, that the tree can be successfully cultivated in many parts of the Island, and that the twigs and leaves yield about 1 per cent. of camphor by a simple process of distillation, a yield which offers a prospect of proving remunerative. The great risk attending this cultivation is that the high price is due to the action of the Japanese monopoly, and that if Ceylon becomes a serious competitor, the monopolists could probably lower the price enormously by allowing large harvests for a few years. Hence the cultivation of camphor is not to be recommended as the main industry for any estate, but only as a minor industry.

**CLASS II: Oils.**—The export of cocoanut oil rose from 443,959 cwt. in 1900 to 453,531 in 1901, and the copra from 362,467 to 439,865 cwt. At the same time there has been a considerable rise in the market value of these articles, due to short crops in other countries.

The export of citronella oil has been increased from 1,409,058 lbs. to 1,430,168 lbs. but has not reached the figures of 1899. The investigation of the oils, mentioned in last report, has continued, but is not yet complete. The industry is in a very depressed state, owing to the over-production and adulteration, the latter being so bad that even good local oils do not obtain the value that is due to them. Prices have reached a very low ebb,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to 10d. per lb., and land is going out of cultivation in the grass. On the other hand, the new Java oil, mentioned last year, is selling in increasing quantities at high prices (often 1s 4d.). It is not in reality so superior to the Ceylon oils as the price would indicate, but it is not adulterated, and has no bad reputation to contend against.

Of other oils, the export of cinnamon oil has slightly increased, from 72,904 oz. in 1900 to 73,493 oz., but has not reached yet the figures of past years. Trial plantations of castor oil have been made by various planters during the year; the plant grows well here, and there seems no reason why Ceylon should not export this oil as well as India.

**CLASS III: Dyes and Tanning substances.**—The export of sapanwood has been 7,180 cwt. Planting of *Acacia Decurrens* continues in the higher districts.

**CLASS IV: Fibres.**—There has been a slight decrease in the total export of coir, our chief fibre, the figures being rope 13,030, yarn 75,788, fibre 122,526 cwt., as against 12,572, 87,415, and 115,090 cwt. in 1900. Of palmira and kitul fibres, the export has been 12,353 cwt. and 2,541 cwt. No interest has been taken in other fibres. Sisal hemp is being taken up in India, and the available stock of plants last year was mostly sold to planters there.

**CLASS V: Drugs.**—An investigation of the native drugs of Ceylon is being set on foot, and plots of all possible species are being laid out at Peradeniya (see Mr. Wright's report).

"Of cinchona, the export has materially increased, almost reaching the figures of 1899. Increased interest has been shown in matters relating to this cultivation, and seed has been purchased from abroad and planted in various districts. There is reason to hope that by planting of improved varieties, and by the practice of grafting of better kind on poor stocks, this product may again become of importance in Ceylon." (J. B. Carruthers.)

There has been an appreciable export of cocoa leaves, which have sold on the London market at 1s. to 1s 2d. per lb., a price equal to that of the South American kinds.

**CLASS VI: Foods and Edible Products.**—Of rice and dry grains there is nothing of special interest to report. The export of cocoanuts has decreased, having been 14,850,781 nuts, as against 14,995,909 in 1900; that of desiccated cocoanut has increased from 13,604,913 lbs. to 14,055,493 lbs. Tapioca or cassava cultivation continues to spread in the low-country as a minor and catch crop, but no tapioca is made from the tubers, which are eat like yams. Fruit trees continue to sell steadily from the gardens, but there is but small sign of any attempt to cultivate fruit on any large scale for market,

if the long established industries of cocoanuts and plantains be left out of consideration. The vegetable gardens of Nuwara Eliya have been much troubled with finger and toe disease.

The export of tea seems at last to be reaching its maximum, and shows a slight decrease on the figures of 1900, viz., 145,188,244 lbs. against 148,431,639 lbs. Part of the decrease is, however, made up by the export of 1,110,774 lbs. of green tea, most of which went to America. The export to Russia and Australia has increased, that of black tea to America decreased, but the decrease is more than made up in the export of the green tea. The year has been one of depression, but prospects of the industry are more favourable, the export to England having been 8 million lb. less, and the stock of Ceylon tea there having been considerably reduced. The average price is the lowest as yet recorded, 6'86d., against 7'20d. in 1900 but towards the end of the year prices were considerably improved. The industry has not suffered from any serious outbreaks of disease, and planting has not extended. The remarks made last year on the general prospects of tea in Ceylon continue to hold.

Coffee exports show a further fall from 10,777 to 9,722 cwt. Experiments on grafting coffee are in progress in the gardens (see report of Acting Curator).

"Cacao exports show a very large increase on the figures of 1900 being 49,459 cwt. against 33,476. This, as was foretold in last report, is due to some extent to the lateness of the crop of last year, some of which is credited to 1901, but is also largely due to the energetic measures taken in combating the canker, and especially in reducing the number of diseased pods, the quantity of "black cacao" having been reduced in some instances by 75 per cent. The prices obtained for cacao, even the best qualities, have been below those of last year; this is perhaps more due to the conditions of the home market than to any difference in quality of the product, but the increasing proportion of *Forastero* kinds may have something to do with it. The fall of price should spur planters to consider the questions of cultivation of more productive trees, and the selection of seeds for planting. The canker has, as a rule, been seriously attacked on approved methods, and a number decrease in the number of diseased trees is apparent. There are, however, many estates where no hinderance is put in the way of the invading fungus." (J. B. Carruthers.)

Of spices there is little to record. The cultivation of cardamoms is extending, and the export has increased from 537,455 to 559,704 lbs. Pepper shows signs of extension of cultivation, and it should at least be possible to dispense with the present large import of this spice. Exports of cinnamon show a rise in bales, a fall in chips, the figures for 1900 being 2,678,111 and 1,863,406 lbs. and those for the last year 2,756,270 and 1,516,083 lbs. respectively. The "wild cinnamon" again shows an enormous fall to 8,581 lbs. bales and 5,066 lbs. chips. Vanilla planting has slightly increased. Tobacco cultivation continues to extend in the North and also in the Dumbara district. Of fodder plants there is little to report. An experiment with Swedes is described in Mr. Nock's report. The much-vaunted grass "*Paspalum dilatatum*" is being tried in many districts, and a report will be issued latter as to its success.

**CLASS VII: Timber, etc.**—Mr. Wright's work on the ebonies, etc., is described in his report below.

**Ornamental Plants.**—Cannas and the small white variegated caladiums have been largely in demand through the year.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### KANAN DEVAN.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in the Munaar Reading Room at 1 P.M. on Saturday, the 9th May, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. P. R. Buchanan (*Chairman*), A. J. Wright, M. C. Koechlin, E. E. Williams, H. L. Pinches, J. M. Bridgeman, W. Towgood, C. Bell, Baron von Rosenberg, C. B. Holeman Hunt, J. French, G. H. Danvers Davy, T. C. Forbes, W. D. Martin, R. W. Cole, C. E. Hancock, H. S. Holder, *Honorary Secretary*.

Visitors: Messrs. R. F. Thorp, R. Harley.  
Read notice calling the Meeting.



Read Minutes of last General Meeting which were confirmed in Meeting.

Mr. Buchanan who had kindly consented to take the Chair on this occasion, then addressed the Meeting; touching on all subjects of local interest and especially remarking on the unavoidable resignation of Mr. A. F. Martin from the Chairmanship, the conditions of labour in this District, the help given to countries outside India by the Madras Government in order to facilitate emigration of coolies, the good work done on the Northern Outlet Road, the inefficient means of communication and transport between Ammayanayakanur and Bodinaikanur and the desirability of the remission of the Travancore Export Duty on Coffee.

Baron von Rosenberg in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Buchanan for his interesting address, supported his views as regards transport and the necessity for bridges over the Tani and Periakulam rivers and further hoped most sincerely that the Association would continue to press for the abolition of the Coffee Export Duty. Seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then called for the Honorary Secretary's Annual reports and accounts.

#### THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS.

Mr. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,—In submitting to you this brief summary of subjects dealt with during the year, the first that calls for comment is, I think, that of our Address to the King-Emperor of India.

His Majesty has been pleased to accept the address of the United Planters' Association of Southern India on the occasion of his Coronation, an event which marks the closing year as one of the most eventful in history.

We shall none of us forget, with what feelings of sorrow and anxiety we received the news of the postponement of the Coronation, nor with what enthusiasm the event was eventually celebrated here.

**Tea Markets Expansion.**—At the beginning of the year, a great many schemes were talked of for pushing the Sale of Tea in New Markets, but although Messrs. Andrew Yule have done much good work, and Mr. H. M. Knight's scheme has been floated in Madras, it appeared difficult to get anything done on a satisfactory or business-like footing. Now however, that the

**Tea Cess @  $\frac{1}{4}$  pie per lb.** is in force, it is to be hoped that something will really be done not only as regards increasing the consumption of Tea in India itself but in further exploiting old and opening up new Markets.

**The Coffee Cess.**—Nothing seems to come of this and I understand that unless some practical scheme is forthcoming by next U. P. A. Meeting the subject will be dropped for the present.

**The Madras Planters' Labour Act**—has, as you are aware, been passed by the Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

Some District Associations are opposed to the Act and it appears to have been a well nigh impossible task to draft a law that would satisfy each and every District, the labour conditions of which are so extremely varied.

Were the new Bill introduced into Travancore we should gain extradition and enforcement of contracts and I understand that local Governments would be allowed to make certain modifications to suit different areas provided the general principles of the Act are not departed from.

**Travancore Export Duty on Coffee.**—I regret to say that in spite of all endeavours to obtain a reduction of this duty the Sircar at present remains obdurate.

**British Import Duty on Tea.**—It is to be deeply regretted that the home import duty has not been reduced, not even by the hoped-for 2d., but it is to be trusted that next Budget will bring as better luck if in the interval there is not another war.

**The Mettu Bungalow** has been taken over by the Travancore Government and although nothing has yet been done to enlarge the buildings and it is advisable for travellers to provide their own commissariat, the bungalow is far cleaner and more habitable than it used to be.

**Medical Grants.**—The Association at present enjoys two Medical Grants, only one having been granted out of the four applied for last year. When the population of this District be compared with that of others in Travancore I think it will be found that the Medical Grants allowed to us are proportionately small.

With a view to lighten the at present heavy expenditure, applications were sent in for two more grants, one for Ellapatti, and one for Sevenmally Dispensaries, but these have for the present been refused by Government.

**Local Labour Rules** have been drawn up, printed and circulated as well as the revised Association Rules and I trust members are satisfied with them.

**Finances and Accounts.**—The accounts have been audited by Mr. J. A. Gwynne and these I hope you will pass.

There is one item which needs explaining.

The Auditor points out that the balance brought forward, Rs.1,396-1-7, differs from the balance on Capital account at the close of last financial year Rs.1,358-9-7 by Rs.37-8-0 and is explained thus:—The accounts were made up to the 19th April, 1902, but it has been thought better in presenting the accounts to the Association to begin from the 1st April, 1902.

The sum in question was spent during the nineteen days and included in last year's expenditure. It has been accordingly written back and included in this year's expenditure.

	RS.	A.	P.
The total expenditure for the year from 1st April, 1902 to 31st March, 1903 amounts to	1,542	10	8
and the total credits to	3,042	13	7
Made up of:—Balance on 31st March, 1902	1,396	1	7
Subscription for 1902	310	0	0
Subscriptions and Cess for 1902-03	1,336	12	0
leaving a balance at the credit of the Association	1,500	2	11

of which Rs.1,401-12-0 remained to be paid up on the 31st March. The Accounts, Letter book and Circulars are laid on the table.

I now beg to place my resignation in your hands.

The Chairman proposed that the Annual report and accounts be adopted.—Carried *nem. con.*

**Labour Act.**—Proposed by Baron von Rosenberg that this Association do tender the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth a hearty vote of thanks for time and trouble expended in connection with the passing of the Labour Bill through Council. Seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

**Behaviour of Kutcherry Apothecary** when called to attend the late Mr. T. W. Schmid.—Read letter from the Superintendent of Gudrallee Estate and letter from this Association to the Dewan which was approved in Meeting.

**Delegate to U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting.**—Proposed by Mr. Buchanan that Mr. Williams who so ably represented us last year should again be requested to attend the Meeting as representative of this Association. Seconded by Mr. Davy and carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams kindly consented to attend and promised to do his best for this Association.

As to the date of the Meeting, the Honorary Secretary explained that he had received a telegram from the Secretary of the U. P. A. stating that the Meeting would probably be held on the 3rd of August.

He had previously written that July would have suited this Association better.

Election of office-bearers for the year resulted as follows:

Chairman	...	Mr. J. A. Richardson.
Honorary Secretary	...	Mr. H. S. Holder.
Committee	...	Mr. E. E. Williams.
Do.	...	Mr. H. L. Pinches.
Do.	...	Mr. R. W. Cole.

(The Committee have power to add to their number.)

As additional Labour Committee Members Messrs. A. J. Wright and J. French were elected.

Mr. Davy proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Holder for the manner in which he had carried out his arduous duties during the year. Seconded by Mr. Cole and carried unanimously.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting terminated.

**Papers laid on the table—**

Honorary Secretary's Annual report and accounts.

U. P. A. Circulars.

I. T. A. Circulars.

Travancore Administration report, 1902.

Indian Gardening and Planting Opinion.

(Signed) H. S. HOLDER,  
Honorary Secretary, K. D. P. A.

May 11th, 1903.



## WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, May 6, 1903. PRESENT :—Messrs. Abbott, Atzenwiler, Behr, Powell Jr., Taylor, Trollope, and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*.

Mr. Trollope in the Chair.

1. **Proceedings of last Meeting**—Taken as read.

2. **Roads.**—(a) *Resolved*, that the President's, District Board, attention be drawn to small amount of metal collected on portion of the Chundale-Choladi road and especially between miles 3 and 10 from Vaiyitri. (b) *Resolved*, that the Chief Engineer with Government of Madras be addressed with a view to endeavouring to get the D.P.W. to take over this section of the road again.

3. **Padapadi Hotel.**—Read letter from Mr. Winterbotham and reply.—*Recorded*.

4. **Coffee-stealing Act.**—Read letter from the Collector of Malabar enclosing Mr. Waddington's letter to the Tahsildar of Wynaad and the Tahsildar's remarks thereon.

*Resolved*, that in the opinion of this Association, if the records referred to are kept at all it is advisable they should be kept correctly, or as nearly as possible so; and that the fixing of April 1st instead of March 1st for the rendering of the information required on form "B" would assist in this direction.

5. **Postal and Money Orders.**—Read letter from Mr. Mackinlay complaining of the delay in payment of Money Orders. Read Association's letter to Postmaster-General and reply.—*Recorded*.

6. **Cases under Act XIII.**—Read letter from 2nd Class Magistrate and reply.—*Recorded*.

7. **Plague.**—Read correspondence with Collector of Malabar and his letter stating that Plague Check Stations were being established on the Nilgiri Wynaad frontier.—*Recorded with satisfaction*.

8. **U. P. A. S. I.—NEW LABOUR LAW.**—*Resolved*, that a vote of thanks be passed to the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth and Sir George Arbuthnot for their efforts to get the Bill amended.

**TEA CESS.**—Read correspondence re nomination of members on Tea Cess Committee. *Resolved*, that the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., be written to for information as to why only one planter was elected when it was understood that the Madras Chamber of Commerce member was an extra member.

**DELEGATE TO BRAZIL.**—*Resolved*, that a Subscription list be circulated among members for the purpose of ascertaining what subscriptions would be forthcoming.

**IMPERIAL PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.**—Read circulars.—*Recorded*.

9. **Stray "Tats."**—Mr. Taylor complained of the number of country "Tats" allowed to graze along the road sides of the main road, to the danger of equestrians. *Resolved*, that the Superintendent of Police be addressed on the matter.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) A. TROLLOPE,

*Chairman.*

( " ) BERNARD MALCOLM,

*Honorary Secretary.*

## SHEVAROY.

Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, at 1 P.M. on Monday, the 11th May, 1903. PRESENT :—Messrs. W. I. Lechler, C. Dickens, J. C. Large, C. Lechler, Rev. M. Andersen, Mr. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. Notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.

2. Examined and passed accounts showing a balance in hand on the 1st instant of Rs.408-11-3.

3. In continuation of the Resolution passed at the Quarterly General Meeting held on the 9th March last, it was resolved that the Honorary Secretary be requested to open a subscription list towards the expenses of the delegate it is proposed to send to Brazil.

4. Read Collector's letter No. 407/B&G, dated 2nd instant, enquiring (1st) whether in the event of Government's agreeing to construct certain Feeder Roads, the planters will give the land free of cost where said roads pass through their Estates; and (2ndly) whether, when once made, the planters will undertake to maintain the roads themselves.

Honorary Secretary said he had called a Special General Meeting on Friday, the 15th instant, at which he had asked the Collector to preside, and to explain the exact contribution which Government demanded, etc., etc.

After a good deal of discussion it was decided that no answer could be given to Government, till after the Special Meeting alluded to above.

The books and papers received during the month were laid on the table, and a number of letters which had been already circulated to the Committee were read and recorded.

(Signed) ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

Proceedings of a Special General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association held on Friday, the 15th May, 1903, at 1 P.M. in the Victoria Rooms at Yercaud; and convened to consider the proposal of Government to construct Feeder Roads on certain conditions. PRESENT :—Messrs. R. B. Clegg, Collector of Salem (*in the Chair*), C. Dickens, E. Dickens, S. Campbell, S. M. Hight, W. W. Hight, J. E. Limouzin, E. King-Harman, Th. Short, A. Morgan, J. C. Large, Revs. T. M. Kempff, M. Andersen, Messrs. B. Cayley, S. Pritchard, C. G. Lechler, C. A. G. Turner, W. E. G. O'Reilly, R. de Chayal, J. C. Cobbe, A. Cole, W. I. Lechler, Bruce Short, R. Gompertz (*Honorary Secretary*).

1. Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight, seconded by Mr. J. C. Large—That of the two alternative proposals suggested by Government the second will be most acceptable, provided that the second portion of the proposed road starts from Cauvery Peak Saddle.

Seconded by Mr. Large.—Carried unanimously.

2. Proposed by Mr. Gompertz, seconded by Mr. C. G. Lechler—That, in the opinion of this Meeting, there would be no difficulty about complying with the first condition of Government, *viz.*, that all land that may be required for the road should be handed over to Government, free of cost.—Carried with one dissentient.

3. Proposed by Mr. Gompertz, seconded by Mr. C. G. Lechler—That, in the opinion of this Meeting, the second condition imposed by Government, *viz.*, that the roads when constructed should be maintained by the planters, is entirely without precedent and they regret that they cannot see their way to agreeing to it. At the same time they are willing that Government should put on tolls for the maintenance of the roads.—Carried unanimously.

4. Proposed by Mr. King-Harman, seconded by Mr. Cayley—That Government be asked to make an additional road from the Varniar Reserve to the Manjavedi Ghaut to connect it with the Salem Tripatur Cart Road.—Carried unanimously.

5. Proposed by Mr. C. G. Lechler, seconded by Mr. Cobbe—That Government be asked to connect the Estates in the Killiour Valley with the Ghaut Road by a Feeder from the 17th mile of the Cart Road to the Killiour Village and on to Pattapadi.—Carried unanimously.

6. Read endorsement No. 432/B&G, dated 9th May, 1903, by the Collector of Salem on the Board of Revenue's order, dated 4th May, 1903, enquiring whether if lands planted with certain products were exempted from taxation for 3 or 5 years, planters in this district would avail themselves of it to any large extent.

*Resolved*, that the Honorary Secretary be requested to inform the Collector that several planters would gratefully accept the proposed concession.

7. A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

( " ) R. B. CLEGG,  
*Chairman.*



## MARKET REPORT.

## COFFEE.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon's Monthly Market Report, dated Rotterdam, April 30th, 1903, says:—Next Trading Company's sale will be held May 5th, good ordinary is being valued at 26 *cts.* 25,185 bags are to pass the hammer, half of which are green coffees, 6,000 bags washed old crop and 4,500 bags Liberian.

First hand sales were quite insignificant and do not call for any remark. Business was very slow, the trade buying with more reserve than during the last few months. The value of Santos coffee on the spot is  $\frac{1}{2}$  *ct.* down and a fair progress has since been made.

Arrivals with us were of no importance, only 28,700 bags from Java and 75,700 bags from Santos, deliveries of the latter description amounting to 97,600 bags, reducing our stock from 902,500 bags to 880,600 bags.

Afloat from Santos to Rotterdam:

22,500 bags per ss. <i>Bonn</i>	...	...	sailed April 8th.
13,000 " " <i>Crefeld</i>	...	...	" " 23rd.

35,500 bags,	
against 68,000 " in 1902.	
" 76,500 " " 1901.	
" 13,000 " " 1900	

Terme dull under the influence of May liquidations and values drooping to the extent of 1 *ct.*, now being 15 $\frac{3}{8}$  *cts.* per May, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$  *cts.* per September, 16 $\frac{1}{8}$  *cts.* per December, and 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  *cts.* per March. Dealings amounted to 125,500 bags or 359,500 bags since 1st January. April dealings 1,500 bags, tenders 1,000 bags.

Receipts in Rio and Santos were smaller than had been anticipated, but did not affect the markets. Terme offerings had a depressing influence and at the same time business was restricted within the narrowest limits.

Next Brazil crop is reported to be an early one and dealers accordingly appear inclined to hold off. Reports from Santos state that the law eliminating 20 % of the crop has been voted, but it now appears that this law only applies to the State of Sao Paulo, excluding the States of Rio de Janeiro, Minas, and Esperito Santo. Such a law, applicable to only one state, cannot be efficient and it is hardly to be admitted that one State should be willing to carry the loss, resulting from a law, equally beneficent to all States. Nevertheless values on this side did not show the slightest improvement, rather disappointing perhaps to Brazilian holders. Any advance upon Brazilian informations, these last three years, has proved to be a failure and the trade is slow to act upon anything but facts; next crop by some is reported to be smaller than the present one, but reports are conflicting.

Stocks during March were further reduced, European stock being 4,850 tons and visible supply 5,220 tons smaller, which is comparing favourably with both the preceding years. Deliveries were rather considerable.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated May 1st, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

		Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	...	1,418,064	1,021,318	75,249
1901-1902	...	1,558,070	1,075,047	75,479

36,086 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 66,640 packages were offered in public auction  
 27,634 " CEYLON } this week.  
 2,920 " JAVA }

Particulars are given below of the quantities of Indian and Ceylon Tea taken by various countries outside the United Kingdom during the past five years. The table shows that a promising increase has taken place in Russia, while America has also made

**"All Sorts and Conditions of Men"**

USE

**ST. JACOBS OIL**

**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$  & 2/6.

**CONQUERS PAIN**





substantial progress. A set back has occurred in Australasia which is probably only temporary. Many other countries also show encouraging results.

*Indian and Ceylon Tea (in lbs.) taken outside the United Kingdom during each of the last five years.*

	1902.	INDIAN. 1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Australasia...	5,206,400	9,167,795	9,578,626	8,772,050	6,257,281
North America ..	12,136,587	7,026,773	6,958,370	8,487,443	5,971,701
Turkey with Persia ..	8,561,226	7,262,064	7,714,349	6,887,919	7,455,095
Russia with Germany ..	9,552,877	7,498,270	5,585,926	3,315,173	3,545,184
South America ..	754,424	693,474	692,867	497,336	360,464
Holland ..	1,041,641	754,311	483,975	486,103	474,509
South Africa ..	2,403,166	2,263,105	1,273,484	470,281	539,416
Denmark ..	117,485	127,551	96,016	197,646	238,670
France ..	82,403	99,364	112,873	68,296	81,258
Belgium ..	139,129	147,313			
Egypt ..	268,845	122,244			
Austria Hungary ..	56,734	72,225			
British West Indies ..	78,809	70,668			
Roumania ..	41,580	42,865	946,484	887,926	1,036,827
Norway and Sweden ..	47,878	42,197			
Portuguese E. Africa ..	59,701	40,428			
Gibraltar, Malta & Gozo.	71,011	47,361			
Channel Islands ..	428,588	406,447			
Other Places ..	340,591	195,696			
Total lbs. ..	41,389,075	36,080,151	33,442,970	29,570,173	25,960,405

	1902.	CEYLON. 1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.
Australasia...	18,718,794	20,652,804	17,606,912	15,606,833	15,126,891
North America ..	14,223,619	10,448,969	8,495,285	8,192,832	7,636,995
Turkey with Persia ..	1,018,752	1,218,393	1,256,306	824,385	1,439,473
Russia with Germany ..	23,170,841	20,104,877	16,495,783	9,958,673	8,249,482
South America ..	1,102,993	913,507	759,841	594,579	435,231
Holland ..	349,626	527,150	313,993	309,149	281,536
South Africa ..	2,602,740	2,150,338	1,311,730	775,761	1,109,474
Denmark ..	140,788	128,894	102,820	315,065	286,361
France ..	330,129	422,164	459,911	182,819	189,208
Belgium ..	289,124	180,022			
Egypt ..	31,147	33,677			
Austria Hungary ..	96,017	90,264			
British West Indies ..	153,652	155,468			
Roumania ..	29,020	36,378	2,457,109	1,675,413	1,312,237
Norway and Sweden ..	264,255	233,765			
Portuguese E. Africa ..	62,264	56,938			
Gibraltar, Malta & Gozo ..	504,045	524,301			
Channel Islands ..	535,007	525,965			
Other Places ..	524,154	393,675			
Total lbs. ..	64,146,967	58,797,549	49,259,693	38,438,509	36,066,888

INDIAN.—Monday's auction passed without material change from prices ruling last week, common descriptions continuing very steady. In Wednesday's sale bidding was rather less animated, buyers apparently being somewhat influenced by the comparatively heavy sale of 39,006 packages advertised for next week.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 30,917 pkgs., av. 7'83d. 1902, 21,577 pkgs., av. 6'83d.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7'83d., MAY 1ST.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
Dunsandle ..	45	6½	...	...	5	6½	5	6½	...	...	25	6½	10	5½ 5½
Travancore ..	1370	7'13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arnakal ..	143 p	7½	32	†8½	91	7	11	7	...	...	...	...	9½c	6
Carady Goody ..	112 p	7½	36	7½	24	6½	40	7½	...	...	...	...	12½c	6
Ellangy ..	101 p	6½	...	...	43	6½	27	6½	28	6	...	...	3½c	5½
Glenmary ..	191 p	6½	70	6½	...	...	30	7½	17	6½	...	...	74 p	5½ 6½
Kan. Dev. H C K ..	79	6½	12	†7	26	†6½	20	†7½	18	6½	...	...	2	5½
„ Munaar ..	352	7½	105	8½ 9	93	7½	60	8½	45	7½	...	...	49	5½ 7½
„ Periaurrai ..	392	7	91	†7½ 7½	107	†6½ 7	30	†7½	106	6½	...	...	58	5½ 6½

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,103,185 pkgs., av. 7'50d. 1901-2, 1,236,132 pkgs., av. 7'67d

CEYLON.—The auction was again rather heavy owing to recent accumulations, and as buyers were not so eager, quotations were comparatively easy, anything over 7d showing decided irregularity.

Average for week 7'65d against 6'48d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 317,853 pkgs., av. 7'66d. 1902, 368,731 pkgs., av. 7'04d.

JAVA.—Javas sold somewhat slowly, the prices being a shade easier than last week.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1¼½. Colombo 1¼½.

## PEPPER.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon report:—The position is getting stronger every month and more interest has been exhibited during the month under review, as is distinctly shown by increased dealings in the terminal market. The spot market wore a quiet aspect, the trade not yet being inclined to follow the upward movement, else no doubt the advance would have been more marked.

Terme business was very active 31,800 bags or 86,800 bags since 1st January and values ¾ ct. dearer, 31 cts. per May, 31½ cts. per June, 31½ cts. per July, 31½ cts. per August, 31½ cts. per September, and 31½ cts. per October-December.

April dealings 1,000 bags of which 400 bags were tendered.

Stocks of all kinds on the principal markets of Europe:

	April 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.
Netherlands	...	42,300 bags.	67,900 bags.	73,700 bags.
London...	...	43,700 "	79,100 "	100,300 "
Hamburg	...	5,900 "	7,300 "	11,600 "
Håvre	...	31,600 "	65,100 "	59,200 "
Bordeaux	...	300 "	2,500 "	1,500 "
Marseilles	...	1,900 "	4,900 "	4,400 "
Trieste	...	10,000 "	11,600 "	18,000 "
Total	...	135,700 bags.	238,400 bags.	268,700 bags.
On March 1st	...	149,500 "	233,000 "	282,200 "

## QUININE.

Quinine has remained very quiet throughout. On Wednesday a small sale of 10,000 oz. was reported from second hands at 11½d on the spot, and August delivery at 11½d per oz.

## CARDAMOMS.

Offered. 741 cases. Sold, 357. Ceylon Mysore, very small at 10d, small at 10d to 1s, fine ditto at 1s 1d, medium at 1s 1d to 1s 4d, fine bleached at 1s 8d, bold dull at 1s 4d to 1s 7d, fair to good bleached at 1s 8d to 2s, fine at 2s 5d to 2s 6d, splits and browns at 10d to 10½d, shelly at 10d to 11d, good at 1s to 1s 2d, seeds at 1s 1d to 1s 3d, Indian Malabar at 10½d and Ceylon Malabar seeds at 1s 2d to 1s 3d per lb.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1903.

[No. 22.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 5th proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### THE TALK OF A FISCAL UNION.

RECENT telegrams from Home allude to a suggestion of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's anent the formation of a British Fiscal Union and the adoption of Preferential Duties within the Empire. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's utterances on the subject have been referred to in the daily papers, which have also announced that Liberals are likely to oppose any such reform as has been suggested. Our readers will, no doubt, remember that the U. P. A. S. I. took the matter into consideration some time ago, and showed a leaning towards Preferential Duties. They were merely a little bit ahead of a good many other people, who are now advocating almost the identical thing that the U. P. A. S. I. expressed a desire for. In spite of this we are not prepared to say that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has acted wisely in stating that he will bring the question to an issue. One effect of the discussion of the matter some time ago was to bring forth arguments *con* as well as arguments *pro*; and the former are so forcible that we confess to some hesitation in arriving at a definite conclusion. Canada, we might almost say, is the only Colony that "has gone solid" for a preferential tariff. The Dominion has even put the matter to the test of a trial. Early experience was not altogether encouraging, but later reports have been more favourable, and those who are in favour of a Fiscal Union are quite prepared to assert that the Preferential Tariff system introduced in Canada has worked admirably. In Australia the feeling of Premiers appears to be in favour of the system;

but, to judge from the attitude of the Press, public opinion cannot be said to be in harmony with the opinions of the Premiers. This fact does not make it easier to arrive at a conclusion. Then, too, we must recollect that in every section of the Empire the subject is likely to be considered largely in the light of selfish motives. For instance, how Preferential Duties would benefit Victoria is, to Victoria, a much more important consideration than how it would affect the Empire.

Narrowing our outlook to India therefore, is justifiable; in taking this course we do but act as Colonists will do in regard to their respective Colonies. For the moment we propose to take a still narrower view, and consider some of the effects that the establishment of a Fiscal Union, on a basis of Imperial Preference, might have upon Tea and Coffee produced in India. We must remark that until a definite system is propounded our remarks must necessarily be only of a general character; but, for our present purpose, we will assume that the proposed Union would provide for Free Trade within the Empire and a revenue-raising or even a mildly protective tariff as against the rest of the world. If we reflect how this would affect Tea, it will be at once obvious that the immediate result of the establishment of such an Union would mainly depend upon the manner of its reception by certain foreign countries wherein Indian Tea is consumed. We may assume almost with certainty that Germany would adopt a policy of retaliation. In that case it would probably be useless to canvass German dealers or citizens on behalf of this commodity. If we assume that France, Russia, and the United States adopt a course similar to Germany's, we see Indian Tea entirely excluded from every important consuming market except such as can be found in the British Empire. Exclusion from the United States is not a pleasant thing to think of. It would mean for a term of years at least, good-bye to the present level of prices, and a renewed chorus of "Over-production" consequent on the shrinkage on consuming markets. German and American merchants in China and Japan would push the teas of these countries with



revived energy, and Indian Tea would be in a bad way unless and until the British (imperial) demand could be so stimulated as to fill the space left by the withdrawal of foreign demand.

It is possible that the position in regard to Coffee would not be quite so bad, but it would be unhealthy. The exclusion of Brazilian coffee from the position it now occupies in British markets, would involve the levying of a heavy protective tariff, a tariff of a kind that no British Government is likely to introduce. Even were such a tariff agreed to, the result would be that the average cost of Coffee to the consumer in the British Empire would be raised to such an extent as to bring about a great falling-off in demand. Different influences would be at work from those that would affect tea, but the main result would probably be in both cases, to disturb relations between demand and supply in a degree opposed to the interests of the planter in this country. This is not an effect that the planter can look forward to very light-heartedly; and we trust that all our readers will take the matter into serious consideration. It seems to us that the first thing the British Government ought to ascertain is how a Fiscal Union would be regarded and received in the chief foreign countries. Retaliation on the part of Germany alone might be faced cheerfully; on the part of Germany and Russia it might not seriously affect prices of Indian Coffee; but France still takes fair supplies of Coffee from this country; and if we turn to Tea the United States at once becomes the most important factor to be reckoned with. If France, Russia, and the United States raise no objections, and no fiscal barricades against British produce, let us, by all means, have a Fiscal Union. In the abstract it is a grand conception, an important link to be added to the chain of imperialism binding the various parts of the Empire together.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee Speculation in 1903.**—Speculation in coffee is not a trait of the present times, as may be gleaned from the following extract from the *London Times* of February 28, 1803: "Baron De — of economical memory had every apartment of his house filled when he died, with the various articles upon which he speculated; even his bedroom was stored with coffee, till only a passage large enough for him to creep through, was left to his bed."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Conditions in actual coffee are dull with prices steady and in the main unchanged, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 28th April. In the speculative market things are different and new record prices were made on nearly each successive day. May sank down to 3·80, to 3·75, to 3·70, and touched the nadir at 3·65, at which several thousand bags were sold. The pressure to liquidate the nearby months was great, and equally to sell the distant months that advantage might be taken of the wide margin of difference that exists there. The foreign markets were likewise weak and to add to the depressing influences the Santos interior receipts came in unseasonably full. It would

seem that lowest conditions have been reached, but nobody will venture to forecast an arrest in the downward course of speculative prices. The present week began at an advance on reports of better markets abroad and short Santos interior receipts.

Buying option coffee is quite different from buying it in the actual market where no mean difference will be found to exist in the prices at which coffee may be purchased. The difference is commented upon generally, and while understood in the New York coffee district, is not so readily comprehended by the coffee retailer, who is shouting for some of that 4c. coffee, feeling aggrieved that he is not offered the bargains. It may be worth while to explain here that the price of coffee on the Exchange is based on the coffee most in supply and least in demand. The upper grades of coffee at present are in this situation and hence the prices of them in the actual market more nearly approximate the prices ruling on the Exchange. There is there a difference of 50 points between grades, but when a comparison is made with the prices obtaining in the market the difference is wholly fictitious. It is found that the differences between the grades is not 50 points. The nearest that come to the premium above No. 7 Rio, which is the standard grade on the Exchange, are Nos. 2 and 3, which are the coffees now-a-days offered on the Exchange for delivery as being most in supply and least wanted. The differences that obtain are about as follows: No. 1, 1·87½ above No. 7; No. 2, 1·37½ above No. 7; No. 3, 87¼ above No. 7; No. 4, ·50 above No. 7; No. 5, ·37½ above No. 7; No. 6, ·25 above No. 7; No. 8, ·25 below No. 7; No. 9, ·50 below No. 7. In other words, the trade differences between grades is about 25 points or ¼c. a pound. If these unsatisfactory differences continue until the fall, no doubt the Revision Committee of the Exchange will report a regarding of coffee on the Exchange. This would occur in November and cannot be made before that time in conformity with the laws of the Exchange. The difference that exists between the quotations of options between November and the months following that month tell the expectation of the brokers. Further, the quantity of high-grade coffee available is enormous and not desired for other than Exchange purposes. The fact explains the difference between the option and actual coffee bases.

The behaviour of the Brazil coffee merchants is a puzzle to the market. Instead of responding generally to the lowering coffee prices their market remains firm and even above the parity of prices prevailing in New York and elsewhere. And all this in the face of the oncoming heavy crop. Rumours are, however, heard that they are selling high-grade coffees at low record prices. A symptom of an easier tendency is an offer of Santos No. 5 at 5·65 c. and f.

In the spot market for invoices steadiness of prices is observed. Quotations at the close were Rio No. 8, 5c.; Rio No. 7, 5¼c.; Rio No. 4, 5½c.; and Santos No. 1, 5·1½c.

In Milds business is quiet for most growths of West Indies. High-priced coffees are however, in no small demand and being short in supply prices in them rule firm. This is especially true for Bogotas and Maracaibos. Good Cucuta is quoted at 8¼ to 9c. East Indies are quiet and unchanged.

**Prices of Coffee on the Exchange and in the Actual Market.**—Following is a statement from the New York Journal of Commerce clearly explaining why buyers cannot secure coffees at 3·80 cents per pound, the Coffee Exchange net cash price for No. 7 coffee:



The standard on which transactions are based on the Coffee Exchange is "low ordinary No. 7." There are nine standards on which all deliveries are graded, having various values either above or below standard No. 7. They are as follows:

Exchange standard—

No. 1	...	...	Valued 3c. per lb. above No. 7
" 2	...	...	" 2½c. " " " 7
" 3	...	...	" 2c. " " " 7
" 4	...	...	" 1½c. " " " 7
" 5	...	...	" 1c. " " " 7
" 6	...	...	" ½c. " " " 7
" 7	...	...	Basis of all contracts.
" 8	...	...	Valued ½c. per lb. below No. 7
" 9	...	...	" 1c. " " " 7

The question is daily asked why the buyer cannot buy any desired grade of coffee on the basis of the Coffee Exchange prices. It is because the price on the Exchange is governed by the value of the grades most in supply and the least wanted. At present a buyer of coffee on the Exchange would probably receive Rio coffee grading about No. 2, which, at the difference between grades, would cost 2½ cents per pound above No. 7. The standard on which the contract is based with April at 3·80, the coffee delivered would cost the receiver 6·30 cents per pound net cash. Every grade from standard No. 4 and below commands a premium above the Exchange option prices. The grades most difficult to secure are standards No. 6, 7, and 8. To put this clearly, below is given the present market prices of the different grades in New York for 100-bag invoices, and the cost to the buyer if he could select and receive the corresponding grade on the Coffee Exchange, showing that the only grades that could be delivered at near invoice values are Nos. 1, 2, and 3:

Standard.		Invoice price.		Exch. value to
No. 1	...	Rio.	Santos.	receive net cash.
" 1	...	7½c.	7½c.	6·80c per lb.
" 2	...	6½c.	6½c.	6·30c. "
" 3	...	6½c.	6½c.	5·80c. "
" 4	...	5½c.	6c.	5·30c. "
" 5	...	5½c.	5½c.	4·80c. "
" 6	...	5½c.	5½c.	4·30c. "
" 7	...	5½c.	5½c.	3·80c. "
" 8	...	5c.	5½c.	3·30c. "
" 9	...	4½c.	5c.	2·80c. "

**Cost of Carrying 5c. Coffee in the U. S.—**From the New York Coffee Exchange:

Cost per month of carrying coffee that costs 5c. per lb., storage, insurance, one weighing, interest at 6 per cent. and probable loss in weight included:

Storage, per month, 4c. per bag.

Insurance, 40c. on \$100, a year.

Weighing, 2½c. per 100 lbs.

Interest 6 per cent. per annum.

Loss in weight, 3 lbs. per bag—about 11½ points.

At end of 1 month will cost 5·20c.

Do.	2	do.	do.	5·26c.
Do.	3	do.	do.	5·32c.
Do.	4	do.	do.	5·38c.
Do.	5	do.	do.	5·44c.
Do.	6	do.	do.	5·50c.
Do.	7	do.	do.	5·55c.
Do.	8	do.	do.	5·61c.
Do.	9	do.	do.	5·67c.
Do.	10	do.	do.	5·73c.
Do.	11	do.	do.	5·78c.
Do.	12	do.	do.	5·84c.

As is usual at this time of the year, says the *American Grocer*, estimates regarding the outcome of the growing crop

are coming in freely from Brazil. Estimates received lately ranged from 13,000,000 to 16,000,000 bags, which caused a decided bearish sentiment in the trade.

\* \* \*

Mr. Ornstein, of the firm of Ornstein & Co., Rio, who was in Europe, telegraphed on to New York that the growing Rio crop is estimated at 5,500,000 bags and the growing Santos crop at 10,000,000 bags maximum.

\* \* \*

Some Central American crops are expected to be smaller than anticipated. The Costa Rica crop shows a material decrease.

\* \* \*

A member of a leading Brazil firm, who is well informed as to the probable course of the market, and whose past crop predictions have turned out correct, is quoted as saying that the Rio crop will probably reach 5,500,000 bags, and the Santos crop will be about 9,000,000 bags. In reference to the elimination of 20 per cent. of the inferior coffees in Brazil, he agrees with many leading local firms that the plan undoubtedly is not practicable.

\* \* \*

### Visible Supply of Coffee

	on May 1st,	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		442,550	380,550	231,900	238,250	233,250
to { afloat — Brazil ...		18,550	26,990	25,500	8,230	12,260
Europe { loading — do. ...		1,880	1,590	2,290	...	...
to { afloat — the East ..		3,200	2,070	680	900	1,190
U. S. A. { do. — U. S. A. ...		760	1,410	3,000	760	470
		466,940	412,610	263,370	248,140	247,170
Stocks U. S. of North-America		148,940	135,760	70,350	73,880	72,700
to { afloat — Brazil ...		17,710	20,820	25,290	9,590	21,470
U. S. A. { loading — do. ...		4,530	2,350	3,350	...	...
to { afloat — the East ..		1,710	1,940	940	1,240	1,410
		639,830	573,480	363,300	332,850	342,750
Stocks in Rio ...		29,000	37,470	16,650	14,820	14,290
Do. Santos ...		54,120	63,880	54,700	19,940	21,000
Do. Bahia ...		3,120	3,060	2,940	820	1,000
Total ..		726,070	677,890	437,590	368,430	379,040
On April 1st...		732,220	669,140	443,440	375,410	386,870

\* \* \*

**U. S. Coffee Market.**—What can one expect, says the *American Grocer* of 22nd April, of a market where the visible supply is mountain high with every prospect pointing to its going higher and higher? A visible supply equal to nine months' requirements and a Brazil crop in 1903-04 more than equal to one year's demand or exceeding 15,000,000 bags. Should it be a surprise that coffee options sold at 3·80c? Undoubtedly coffee is one of the cheapest of commodities, ranging in price from 5 to 30 cents, affording a rare opportunity for blending and roasting and large profits. The consumption has been stimulated by low prices and can be largely increased further. The market has been under pressure on the exchange. On the spot prices have ruled steady. Deliveries are fair.

The weak tendency of Brazils and absence of general demand have a depressing influence on the market, buyers anticipating lower prices. Recent arrivals of Good Cucuta meet with ready sales at quotations, 9c., owing to limited supply; medium and low grades are in small demand. Bogota selling well, the best washed 14 @ 14½c. in invoice lots.



**A Week's Review.**—The Brazilian Government may or may not help the coffee-planters out of their hole, as the Greek Government is helping the current growers, but such assistance must, says the *Merchants' Review*, from the very nature of the circumstances be only temporary in its effects. The proper way to check the output of coffee until consumption and production are fairly equal, is to let natural causes have natural effects. When coffee-planters cease producing a superfluity of coffee the price will rise to a more desirable level—more desirable for the producers. But so long as they can make a fair profit they are likely to keep on producing coffee at their full capacity. To insure contraction of output, therefore, the price must be allowed to find a natural level, for the fullness of the volume of production during several years of very low prices is pretty good evidence that the cost of raising coffee in Brazil is less than has been supposed. The writer hopes that the schemes to artificially enhance coffee values will all fall through, for the grocers' interests do not lie that way, but in the direction of large sales, which come through low prices. Consequently we shall "root" for cheapness, with a friendly suggestion to the coffee-growers regarding the importance of quality. Raise the standard of quality, gentlemen, and perhaps prices may follow suit.

\* \* \*

**Hawaii Coffee.**—A Resolution has been introduced in the House of Representatives of Hawaii carrying an appropriation of \$5,000 for the purpose of sending A. L. Louisson to Washington to work for the four-cent coffee bounty on coffee-growing which had been recommended in the report of the Senatorial Commission. The Hawaiians are said to consider it an absolute necessity to have in Washington a man thoroughly conversant with the cultivation of coffee in all its stages in order that the members of Congress may know the exact state of affairs there.

It is stipulated in the Resolution of Mr. Wright that Mr. Louisson must contract to remain in Washington for four months and that his expenses must be duly sworn to and submitted to Governor Dole for his approval.

\* \* \*

Palestine draws its Coffee supplies from Brazil, *via* Trieste or Marseilles. In 1902 it took 243 tons, as against 387 tons in 1901 and an average of 656 tons in 1898-1902. The cause of this rapid decline of trade is not stated in consular reports.

\* \* \*

In 1902 Servia imported Coffee to the value of £27,232, of which America accounted for £25,718.

\* \* \*

**Coffee in Nicaragua.**—The coffee crop for 1902 was a very good one, and the total shipments reached about 200,000 bags of 1 cwt. each; the low price in Europe, however, is discouraging to planters, and were it not for the high rate of exchange, and comparatively low price of labour, (this latter being almost the same in currency as when the exchange was low) many planters would have to abandon their plantations.

\* \* \*

"Any color as long as it's red," said Bill Nye of his barn, but the average coffee-drinker is less particular. Others, though, must have their coffee just so. Says Acker's Weekly:

For *percolating*—always order *pulverized* coffee, otherwise the coffee will be flat and tasteless.

For *boiling*—always order *granulated* coffee, or the coffee will be "muddy."

We have special stone bur mills for pulverizing and special steel cutting mills for granulating.

If you order the coffee pulverized or granulated from us, you will have more uniform grinding than if you attempt it in your own kitchen; and the granulating won't worry our "steam power," while the energy which you thereby save may be more profitably utilized in other directions.

If the pulverized or granulated coffee is kept in a tightly-closed glass jar there need be no loss of strength or aroma within reasonable time.

## TEA NOTES.

**Grant aiding Japan Tea.**—The following explains itself:  
YOKOHAMA, March 13, 1903.

To the CHAIRMAN, Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce:

DEAR SIR,—We beg to call your attention to the fact that the Japanese Tea Guild is now petitioning the Government for a renewal of the grant, or subsidy, that has been allowed the Guild during the past seven years, and amounting to yen 70,000 annually.

We may say that this grant was originally made by the Government as an offset against the extensive advertising in the United States and Canada by the Ceylon and Indian tea-growers and merchants, which it was feared would greatly prejudice Japan teas if some common step was not taken by those interested in the Japan trade.

At the time the grant was originally made many of the foreign firms in Japan engaged in the tea trade offered their assistance to the Japanese Guild in advising on the most suitable means of attaining the object of the Government, that of increasing the sale of Japan teas, but this proposal was coldly received by the Guild, and the foreign firms were not consulted in the matter.

The extensive advertising of the Ceylon growers has been attended with the most successful results, inasmuch as those teas are now being largely taken in the United States and Canada, and the demand for them is increasing. In Canada the Japan tea trade is rapidly disappearing, the export of Japan teas to that country now being one-third only of what it was seven years ago.

During the past seven years, during which time the subsidy for the extension of the Japan tea trade has been paid, the falling off in the export of Japan teas amounts to 10,000,000 lbs.

We are of opinion that this sum is not being used for the purpose for which it was intended by the Government, but is being expended in the furtherance of direct trade by the Japanese.

If this is the case, it is in direct violation of the new treaties, which provide that the subjects of the contracting parties shall enjoy respectively "the same treatment in matters of commerce and navigation as native subjects," and again that "the subjects of each of the high contracting parties shall enjoy, etc., and a perfect equality of treatment with native subjects in all that relates to warehouses, bounties, facilities, and drawbacks."

In the report just published by the Guild the expenditures of the past year are as follows:

	Yen
Expenditure on Extension of the Market in Russia	10,000
New York agency	15,908
Chicago agency	11,260
Montreal agency	10,300
Sample-rooms, New York, Chicago, and Montreal	8,900
Expenses of Commissioner sent abroad	2,500
Incidental expenses	5,332
Expenditure, Central Board Office	2,800
Advertisements	3,000
Total	70,000

It will be noted that the largest part of this bounty is devoted to the maintenance of agencies and sample-rooms in New York, Chicago, and Montreal, but these agencies are not used for the furtherance of the Japan tea trade in general, but are devoted to the interests of certain private Japanese companies, and we would point out that the foreign firms engaged in the business, having similar agencies in these centres, are obliged to defray these expenses themselves, the Japanese firms therefore being relieved of a large item of expenditure.

It will also be seen that out of the yen 70,000 provided, only yen 3,000 is appropriated for advertising.



Without questioning the accuracy of the figures given by the Guild as to the expenditure of the bounty, we may state that some of the native tea-shipping companies include in their balance-sheets considerable sums received as assistance money (Tasuke Kin).

We are, therefore, of opinion that the Japan direct shippers are being largely assisted, if only in the payment of sums towards the upkeep of their branches in the American market, and that this assistance is contrary to treaty and not in accordance with the object of the Government.

We remain, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) {

 HELLYER & Co.,  
 HUNT & Co.,  
 JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,  
 BERNARD & Co.,  
 G. H. MACEY & Co.,  
 AVERILL & Co.

**Green Tea Settlements.**—Wisner & Co., Shanghai, issue the following table of the settlements of green teas for the season with a comparison :

			Season 1902-03.	Season 1901-02.
			H/c	H/c
Moyune ...	...	...	77,304	62,982
Teenkai ...	...	...	69,355	52,861
Fychow ...	...	...	19,709	13,011
Pingsuey ...	...	...	180,829	111,740
Wenchow and local packed	...	...	33,241	18,480
		Total ...	380,438	259,074

**The Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the first sale of tea held in Calcutta on Friday (22nd) about 6,000 packages were put up and mostly disposed of to a generally good demand. Common teas showed a very strong tone and prices were much above the closing rates of last season. All good teas met with competition, but medium Pekoes were weak and prices for these were disappointing. The trade has hardly settled down to buying and conclusions as yet are but tentative.

**Ceylon Black Tea Exports.**—During the first four months of this year, according to the last Chamber of Commerce return of monthly shipments, totalled 44,757,309 lbs. as against 45,628,141 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1902 and 49,723,922 lbs. in that of 1901. The exports up to 30th April this year were distributed as follows :—

	lbs.
To United Kingdom ...	31,307,661
Russia ...	2,201,150
Continent of Europe ...	559,646
Australia ...	6,324,157
America ...	2,062,701
All Other Ports ...	2,301,994
Total ...	44,757,309

The quantity of Green Tea exported during the same period had been 2,044,567 lbs., of which 301,620 lbs. went to the United Kingdom, 1,727,801 lbs. to America, 10,411 lbs. to Russia, 4,430 lbs. to the Continent, and 305 lbs. to other ports.

**New Japan Tea.**—The Japan Tea Exporting Company, April 7, says of Japan tea :

“Owing to the favourable prices that were realized last year, which gave to producers generally a fair profit greater attention has been bestowed on tea-plants, and a more superior leaf is expected as the result. The views of producers as to the prices of new crop tea are, as might be expected, very strong, leading to an anticipation of still higher figures when the season opens than those ruling last year.

The reason that, notwithstanding there was a decrease in last year's production, as compared with the preceding year, the total quantity exported shows an increase is due to all the available supply being drawn upon for export, the result being the great scarcity of teas for domestic consumption that is now being experienced. The stocks of tea, not only in Yokohama and Kobe, but also in Tokyo, Osaka and other principal interior towns, are nearly exhausted, and in consequence prices have advanced as much as 10 yen per picul. Dealers in teas for Home consumption are eagerly awaiting the appearance of the new leaf. Under the circumstances the general anticipation as to the prices of the new leaf maintaining a high level during the season is likely to be realized.”

**Formosa and Japan.**—The latest cabled news from Formosa to the U. S. is that the crop is good and that prices are advancing. Settlements are reported as 14,000 half-chests, and private despatches urge buying orders as it is expected that the higher price of silver and the possible Manchurian complications, may later on bring about a contraction of offerings.

Japan cables quote the market there as having opened at prices \$14 per picul higher than last season.

Other cable advices said that the Japan settlements were about 500 half-chests at 37 to 38c., and settlements of new crop Formosa tea to date amounted to about 14,000 packages at 16c. for good cargo.

The great increase in the use of Ceylon teas and Indias in Canada (and also in the United States) has been very noticeable, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, as also the falling off in the importations of Japan teas in Canada. But the Japan leaders too have advertised, and yet the tea has not prevailed against the British-grown leaf. The cause is not hard to find. The British tea advocates have followed their public propaganda with an active push of teas from behind; in noticeable blends put up in most attractive packets. These have caught the eye and so the public desire, and opened its purse. The Japan teas have not done likewise. They will have to adopt this example. If a greater future is to be had for tea in America it is going to come through the sales to the retailer of packet teas, and that style of tea that enables the wholesale dealer best to trade with the retailer will prevail. The British men here are operating along these lines and so far practically without rivalry. Unless China and Japan wake and fight with as good foils and as fine dexterity as their rivals from the southern part of Asia, their markets will be taken from them except in so far as one may remain that inexorably calls for their kind of tea. It will be interesting to watch what will be the response of the Chamber mentioned to the complaint made, howsoever this may be founded on facts.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The market in tea is quiet with demand so slow that concessions in prices have to be granted to move sales, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of April 28. The market is therefore easier also. Interest now centres in the markets about to open in the East. Some sales are reported in the Formosa mart and they are of sufficient moment to be of consequence. Buyers of leading American houses are still *en route*. Excepting in Congous, prices in all teas will undoubtedly open at an advance as a



response to the firm conditions that have prevailed in America. A decided easier condition has consequently been hoped for here to affect the clearer intentions of growers in the East and probably there will be an abstention from buying for several weeks at least. If this shall be effected any common understanding whereby the western men shall act in conjunction the shrewd ambitions of the eastern men may be disappointed.

No change is to be made for 12 months at least in the English tea duty. Such is the decision of the Chancellor. The expectations now is that the deliveries of tea in England will be immediately much stimulated. It should make for lower prices and may draw more on the surplus Congous in stock here, if Indias and Ceylons remain firm in price. General belief will have it that some 40,000 packages have been sold for export although the March figures of the Custom House make the quantity only about 4,000 packages. It would seem that the sale for export of 3,000,000 pounds would make some impression on the price of the tea other than the mere slight hardening of the old basis. The stock of tea in the United States is said to be 17,000,000 pounds. This is excessive of course and what with the market about to open would require a total export of 6,000,000 pounds to make matters at all fairly satisfactory.

### NOTES.

#### The Kanan Devan Hills Co.

The Kanan Devan Hills Company pays its Preference dividend, and carries forward £5,648.

#### Dutch Coffee Sales.

At the last sale of Java coffee by the Dutch Trading Company 24,460 bags were to be offered at Rotterdam. The price named for good ordinary is 26½ cents, against 32 cents accepted in May last, 31 cents in 1901, and 34½ cents established in 1900.

#### Tea and Coffee at Havre.

Actual imports of Coffee into Havre during 1902 amounted to 155,520 tons, as against 150,682 in the preceding year and an average of 130,663 tons per year from 1897 to 1901. By far the greatest quantity was from Brazil. Some was from Venezuela, Hayti, and India. Of Tea, only 575 tons was imported last year, against 779 in 1901.

#### Java Planters' Troubles.

In East Java, planters and producers have fallen upon evil times. Over-planting has done such harm on several sugar estates that they are expected to shut down. The same fate is likely to befall many coffee estates which unremunerative prices have brought low. Growers of pepper, cocoa, tree-cotton, and castor oil are hardly any better off. The general opinion is that total ruin is hanging over coffee-planters there.

#### Boers as Planters.

With regard to the Boer colonists in Java, it is interesting to note that the Governor of German South-West Africa said publicly, the other day, that Boer immigrants were only useful for cattle-breeding operations, and that, if they had no capital, they simply travelled about with their families, subsisting on what they could shoot, and doing damage to the wells, the pastures, and the timber. The Boers, he said, never worked as artisans or labourers.

#### Tea and the Budget.

The *Grocer* writes:—Since the declaration of the Budget the time of the Tea trade has been much taken up by heavy clearances from bond. The total duty-payments for the week ended the 29th ultimo form an important feature considering that the average weekly clearance does not much exceed 4,500,000 lbs., and during the next few weeks stocks must necessarily undergo a continuous reduction. The monthly figures are more than usually interesting, and bear witness to recent developments of the trade. The movement out of bond has not been without its effect on the market as it has involved the employment of additional capital, and with the demand less active prices have exhibited some irregularity. Stocks, however, are considerably reduced, and prospects are favourable for importers.

#### Pará Rubber in the Straits Settlements.

Pará Rubber still holds the field and bids fair to recoup Agriculturists some of the money that has been lost in other cultivations. The largest tree in the Waterfall Garden, of which mention has been made from year to year in annual reports, has been tapped for the seventh time, the yield of dry rubber being 2 lbs. 13¼ ozs.; which makes a total of 18 lbs. 7 ozs. from this tree in seven years, or an average of 2 lbs. 10 ozs. per year. According to a note in the *Agricultural Bulletin*, two of the oldest Pará rubber trees in Perak that had not been previously tapped gave 50 lbs. of dry rubber at one tapping. Mr. Stanley Arden, Superintendent of Experimental Plantation Selangor, has published his report on the tapping of trees in various manners and at different ages. The extension of plantations is pushed on, especially in the Native States, and it is proposed to commence tapping this year on at least two Estates.

#### Cinnamon.

In the early part of the last century, and down to about 1840, the first quality of cinnamon commanded as much as eight shillings (\$2.00) a pound, second sorts selling for six shillings (\$1.50). Until 1833 the cultivation and trade in Ceylon cinnamon remained vested solely in the Government, who maintained a large and costly establishment under highly-paid European supervision for the proper care of the fine plantations which yielded the eight thousand bales which then formed the total export of the spice. In the year above-named the monopoly was abandoned and the Government sold off their large stocks of the spice as well as their gardens, which have since been cultivated by private individuals. Larger crops and competition with inferior spice from the Malabar Coast and China (where an inferior quality of cassia bark is exported to the extent of eleven million pounds) have gradually lowered the value in the home markets, and the best Ceylon cinnamon is now selling at a little more than a shilling (25c.) a pound, so that only very well cultivated and carefully managed properties yield an income to the proprietors. Spain is a large consumer of cinnamon for use as incense, for flavouring drinks, and for making chocolate creams. An inferior description of this spice is shipped under the name of "chips," being the cuttings from imperfectly-grown cinnamon branches.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 21st ultimo from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that buyers are operating cautiously and that the market for fine teas generally is dearer, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken



Pekoes is weak. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (same as last week) and the average 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (same as last week). The average for the same period last year was 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea as follows fine qualities full rates, and Broken Pekoes very firm, but common sorts are rather irregular, Pekoe Souchong is quiet. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (a farthing down) and the average for the week is 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (same as last week). 27,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 24,000 disposed of; while of the 28,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 24,000 were sold at an average of 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{8}$ d. less than last week). The *Indian Daily News'* London correspondent cables that Messrs. Ewart and McCongheye's Report, dated the 25th ultimo, says that 1,320 packages found a fairly steady range of prices for teas actually sold, but a good deal was taken out. Assams generally went well and the Dooars were a little uncertain, especially Broken Pekoes. The commonest kinds were steady at 6d., being the lowest quotation.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### INSECT PESTS OF TEA.

(From INDIAN MUSEUM NOTES.)

On *Camellia theifera* Griff., Natural Order *Ternstroemiaceæ*.

#### THE TEA PLANT.

1. *Diapromorpha melanopus*, Lacord. Family *Chrysomelidæ*. Order *Coleoptera*. The Orange Beetle.

In June 1900, the Manager of the Baraora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd., forwarded some specimens of the "Orange Beetle," *Diapromorpha melanopus*, Lacord, which was "doing considerable damage to the young shoots of our tea bushes." Writing at a later date in the same month he stated that "as many as from 25,000 to 30,000 Orange Beetles have been daily destroyed." "This pest" he notes, "does not appear to have shown itself to any noticeable extent before in South Sylhet, and it would be interesting to learn, if possible, why it should have appeared in myriads this year."

2. *Biston suppressaria*, Guenée. Family *Geometridæ*. Sub-order *Phalaenæ*. Order *Lepidoptera*.

On 31st January, 1901, Mr. K. D. Murray, Manager of the Lankapara Tea Co., Ltd., Duars, forwarded a large number of pupæ of a moth, which he says resulted from a hairless stick-like larva of a greyish-brown colour very similar in appearance to the bark of the branches of the tea bush, which did great damage in certain places to the tea on his estate during the rainy season—August to October 1900. During the month of January 1901, deep hoeing was commenced, and large numbers of the chrysalises were found in the cultivation, especially in places where the caterpillars were previously most numerous, and he noted that these pupæ are probably those of the caterpillars mentioned above.

The pupæ were placed in a breeding cage on jute and damped every other day. At the end of February and early in March the moths emerged at irregular intervals and were found to be *Biston suppressaria*, Guenée. The moth has been recorded from the Kangra Valley, Sikkim, Assam, Calcutta, Ceylon, and Japan. This insect has not previously been reported to do damage to tea, and is not likely to prove a serious pest. The only remedy for it would appear to be to employ children to hand-pick and kill all the larvæ they can find during the season they are feeding, and in Winter when cultivation is going on to thoroughly dig up the ground where the caterpillars were known, previously, to do much damage, and to thoroughly break up the soil, and crush all the pupæ that may be observed. One pupæ killed in the Winter would probably, if left to come to perfection, be the parent of hundreds of larvæ the next rainy season. The moth would appear to be single-brooded, laying its eggs in the Spring, which emerge

in the rains. The moth may, however, be double-brooded, but this can only be known by studying its life-history throughout the year. This may be the species referred to in "Indian Museum Notes," vol. V, p. 51 (1900), as doing much damage to tea during the rains, appearing in millions and denuding acres of tea bushes of all their leaves. The locality is not stated where the injury occurred.

On June 3rd, 1901, Mr. K. D. Murray sent a large number of full-grown caterpillars of what is probably this species to the Museum. Total length over two inches. Cylindrical, colour dark-brown, exactly the colour of the withered bark of a tree, sometimes with a greenish shade; the whole surface highly rugose, each segment deeply seamed, the head cleft covered with low shining tubercles reminding one much of those of a lizard; the first abdominal segment bears two obtuse tubercles anteriorly; the rest of the body is practically unmarked. The larva has a most offensive smell, so much so that it would probably be nauseous to birds. It spins a good deal of very good silk, by which it drops at slight provocations to the ground. Mr. Murray writes that the caterpillar re-appeared on the portion of the Lankapara tea garden early in May, the larva there being very small; he describes them as mere threads, when they were very difficult to find, but they developed very rapidly, and by the first week in June they were full fed. They have affected the upper end of the garden only. Children were largely employed hand-picking the larvæ. It was at the lower end of the garden that such large numbers of pupæ were destroyed in the Spring, and Mr. Murray hopes that the caterpillars will not appear there later on. The moth is evidently double-brooded in the Duars, the caterpillars being found in May and June, and again in the Autumn.

3. *Capua coffearia*, Nietner. Family *Tortricidæ*. Sub-order *Phalaenæ*. Order *Lepidoptera*.

Mr. E. Ernest Green in a letter dated 10th June, 1901 writes:—"I enclose some remarks on the synonyms of *Capua coffearia*, Nietner, of which you may be able to make some use. You will find reference to the destructiveness of the insect in my circular, Serial No. 19, September 1900—"Some Caterpillar Pests of the Tea Plant," pp. 239-265."

The remarks referred to above consist of some MS. notes by Mr. J. H. Durrant, who writes:—

"In 1890 Mr. E. C. Cotes, of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, submitted to me a dark female of *C. Coffearia*, Nietner. I returned it to him as *Capua menciiana*, Walker. I now consider this identification erroneous, and should regard it as a dark variety of *Homona fasciculana*, Walker. *Capua menciiana* occurs in Japan, Shanghai, Sikkim, the Khasaia, Assam, Borneo, Pulo Laut Island, Celebes, Portuguese Timor, and Batchian, vide Walsingham, Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist., seventh series, vol. V, pp. 482, 483 (1900); but I have not yet seen a specimen of this species from Ceylon. I named your (Green's) specimen referred to in your "Insect Pests of the Tea Plant," pp. 89-93, figs. 17 a-e (1890)—*Homona fasciculana*, Walker. Lord Walsingham and I agreed that *Tortrix coffearia*, Nietner = *Homona fasciculana*, Walker, should be known as *Capua coffearia*, Nietner. A good description of this insect and the damage done by it to the tea-plant will be found in Mr. Ernest Green's Circular, Series I, No. 19—"Some Caterpillar Pests of the Tea Plant," pp. 244-274, nn. 1 and 2 (1900).

4. *Acanthopsyche (Pteroma) plagiophleps*, Hampson. Family *Psychidæ*. Sub-order *Phalaenæ*. Order *Lepidoptera*.

*Pteroma plagiophleps*, Hampson, III, Lep. Het. B. M $\frac{1}{2}$ , vol. IX, p. 6, n. 122, p. 65, pl. clix, fig. 19, male; 19a neuration of male; pl. clxxvi, fig. 13, puparium of male showing projecting pupæ case after the moth has emerged (1893); *Acanthopsyche (Pteroma) plagiophleps*, Hampson, Fauna Brit. Ind. Moths, vol. 1, p. 296, n. 628 (1892).

This moth has hitherto only been known from Nawala-pittia, Ceylon. Hampson describes the male as "uniform pale brown; the underside of the hind wing bluish-white. Larva-case suspended by a long silken thread; both case and thread covered with comminuted fragments of leaves. Expanse: 16 millim" ('6 of an inch). Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, Manager of the Holta Tea Co., Kangra Valley, Punjab, furnishes the following notes on the insect:—

"This bag-worm occurs commonly on tea in the Kangra Valley, doing some damage to isolated bushes but not appearing to spread to any great extent. The larva feeds on the old leaves, seeming to eat under the surface only. The case is formed of minute particles



of leaf attached to the outer surface of the silk-cocoon. When about to pupate the case is suspended by a white thread from a half to one-and-a-half times the length of the cocoon itself; this thread has a few particles of dried leaf usually attached to it. The moths emerge in August and September, and probably at other times of the year. The female is a whitish insect without any scale-covering, having the head-end produced to a slight hook, the scutellate segments being shiny dark-brown. The male has the wings entirely sooty-black on the upper side, but the under side of the hind wing milky-white, with the exception of a dark band along the costa: the abdomen is slight, and the wings rather rounded. The female lays her eggs in the cocoon, from which the young larvae ultimately construct their first cases."

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

"It's an ill wind," etc. The opposition within the ranks of the supporters of the Government to that part of the Budget which remits the corn tax may possibly lead to some reduction of the tea duty. Mr. Chaplin and his friends, who regarded the corn impost as a permanent means of raising money, are very sore about its remission, and some of them would have gladly seen the tea duty reduced instead, and have said so. It remains to be seen whether they are able to make their influence in this direction felt.

Colonel Robert Mitchell Floyd, an American citizen, who should know something about the matter, maintains that tea cannot be raised economically in the United States. Writing to an American trade journal he says, referring to Dr. Shepard's efforts: "Of course, it is a very delightful thing for him to pose as the successful cultivator of tea in the States; but, as far as any direct benefit has been shown to be possible to other parties to attempt this same line of tea cultivation unsupported by the United States Treasury, there is nothing tangible to base a future upon. From all sections of the Orient where tea is a native shrub, the over-production for the last few years has been so great that even with the cheap labour, that costs almost nothing, tea has paid almost a loss. This fact alone should settle the question of the commercial practicability of our attempting to acclimatise and grow this strange plant."

Statistics showing the exports of tea from Japan during the past season, being brought down to April 28, compared with last year, show an increase of 3,397,263 lbs. The quantity sent to Canada, however, was 2,240,000 lbs. less than during the preceding season. The cultivated area under tea in Japan is, approximately, 150,000 acres.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday 6th at  $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. and  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. and closed this evening at  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $12\frac{1}{4}$ d.

This being holy-week, business was suspended entirely on Thursday and Friday and even on Saturday there was not much doing. In spite of two holidays coffee furnished a fair supply of bills and with small amounts still offering from Manaus and Pará and some repassed paper, which put in an appearance, seemed ample to meet all the requirements of the moment. From Pernambuco bills are reported very scarce.

The Coffee Bill has been promulgated at S. Paulo and has been followed by a slight rise of  $\frac{1}{16}$ cts. at New York and other markets. Whether it will continue remains, however, to be seen; but in any case it seems likely that coffee shipments from Santos will be particularly active during the next two months to avoid the 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty which will be applied from 1st July next.

In spite of the two holidays during the week ended 10th April the value of coffee shipped (*Embarques*) at Rio and Santos was comparatively large, being £206,000 against £178,000 the previous week and £307,000 last year.

Declared sales were of course smaller, being 70,000 as against 135,000 the previous week and 136,000 last year.

**Coffee.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, April 11th, 1903.—Joint Entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 10th April, which comprised

two holidays, were 51,761 bags less than the previous week's and 79,982 less than the corresponding week's last year, of which they represent 61.9 per cent.

Entries for the crop were on the 10th instant 2,796,641 less than the previous season of which they represented 79.3 per cent.

With regard to the coming crop 1903-1904, planters seem to be modifying their opinions as regards the yield and are inclined to considerably reduce estimates for Rio and Minas districts for which 5 and even  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million bags were confidently anticipated by merchants in this city. We are informed on very good authority that though certainly better than the present crop, it is probable that it will fall considerably under that of 1901-1902 in weight, the continued dry weather having dried up the cherry too quickly, which in consequence will not yield, in many districts, more than one arroba of coffee to three alqueires of cherry as against one to two-and-a-quarter alqueires for this crop. Should these anticipations prove correct the Rio and Minas crop for 1903-1904 will not exceed four million bags.

SANTOS, April 11th, 1903.—Although there has been very little business during this week our market closed on Wednesday with better feeling. On the 7th instant the lowest point was reached—Hamburg  $25\frac{1}{4}$ , Havre  $30\frac{3}{4}$ , and New York 3-95—and a reaction set in on account of a telegram from Prado Chaves & Co. advising foreign markets that the law (20 per cent. of 300 réis on low coffee) had passed both houses. In consequence better orders (for Superiors from 27s. to 27s. 9d. and Good average  $\frac{1}{3}$  to below) were received and our market firmed up to nearly 3\$900. Commissarios basis 55,000 bags were declared as sold. Lower grades as also Goods and Regulars are in good demand and relatively scarce. On this account proportionally good prices are paid for same.

Primes quote 4\$300 to 4\$500, Superiors 300 réis to 400 réis below, Goods 200 réis below Superiors and Regulars 200 to 300 réis below Goods. Low coffees are not in demand.

The business in specialities has also been smaller. For Washed there is no interest shown and peaberry continue slack.

Receipts—67,000 bags *Passagens* 65,000 for 4 days—are not out of the line and are likely to show a small decrease in the immediate future.

Shipments continue slack. 100,000 bags and our stock amounts to 799,933 bags.

The Pauta is still 410 réis.

It is reported that soon after Easter picking of the new crop will start in the various districts.

**The Coffee Crisis.**—After 38 days warm discussion the bill (to allay the effects of the agricultural crisis) has been passed by the S. Paulo legislature and finally promulgated on the 8th instant. It shows considerable modifications with regard to the original bill, and for that reason we reproduce it entirely:

**Art. I.**—Without prejudice to taxes already existing, an export tax is hereby created on coffees produced in this State of not more than 20 per cent. in kind, or of 300 réis per kilogramme on low grades.

§ 1°. In either case this tax shall be payable from 1st July next.

§ 2°. For payment of this tax in kind the lowest type acceptable shall be determined by the respective authorities and the equivalent be collected and "eliminated" by the process which Government may adopt.

§ 3°. With regard to collection of the tax of 300 réis on low grades Government shall, in the respective regulations, determine the following points:

(a) the classes that shall be subject to this tax.

(b) the fine, equivalent to ten times the value of the mixed or unseparated coffees in prejudice of this law.

**Art. II.**—(1) To aid in the formation of Agricultural Co-operative Associations on approved bases having for their object to bring consumers and producers into more immediate relations.

(2) To come to an understanding with the Federal Government to call an international Congress of coffee-planters to meet in this city to consider the best means of defending production and stimulating consumption everywhere.

(3) To enter into agreements with the other producing States of the Union with the object of raising the value of this product and to ensure the objects of clauses 2 and 5 of this article.

(4) To subsidize to the amount of not more than 400,000\$ per annum the shipping companies willing to reduce freights on coffee sent to other non-producing States.

(5) To encourage the starting of coffee-roasting concerns in the interior where no inter-state duties are levied on the product.

(6) To superintend the roasting industry and impose fines from 100\$ to 500\$ for falsification or admixture, besides confiscation of the goods themselves.

(7) To institute a special mark or stamp by which the quality and origin of coffees from this State shall be authenticated.

**Art. III.**—Government is also authorized—

(1) To employ not more than 25,000,000\$ (about £1,250,000) in aid of the coffee-planters within the State, and with this object to borrow at home or abroad.



(2) To subscribe not more than 50 per cent. of the capital of the agricultural bank created by law 865 of 17th December, 1902, and with this object to dispose of part of the sum mentioned in the preceding article.

*Art. IV.*—In case the agricultural bank were not realized within the period determined by law 865, the product of the transit tax shall be applied to service of the debt created by virtue of clause 1 of article III of this law and to the subvention stipulated in clause 4 of article II and any surplus that may result be applied to further assistance of planters.

*Art. V.*—The aid to planters shall take the form of loans on first mortgage of real state, urban or rural, on the security of crops with collateral guarantee to the satisfaction of the lender or the sole security of railway shares, warrants or bonds of the Federal or Provincial Governments.

§ 1°. No single loan can exceed 50 contos nor may interest exceed 8 per cent. per annum including commissions, with extension of one year on condition of amortisation of 50 per cent. of the respective debt.

§ 2°. These contracts shall be realized through the agency of banks or agricultural syndicates approved by Government.

§ 3°. For this service Government shall give the preference to (1) the Agricultural Bank; (2) Agricultural syndicates, organized under the conditions of the Federal law of 6th January last or to other Banks as Government may determine.

*Art. VI.*—All dispositions to the contrary are hereby revoked.

*April 14th.*—After an exhaustive debate the bill (to improve the price of coffee), as it runs in the preamble, has become law and the Government of S. Paulo stands committed to what we cannot but regard as a most dangerous experiment.

From the 1st July next, in addition to the present specific duties of 11 per cent., shippers will have to pay *in kind* a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on all coffees exported or an alternative surtax of 300 réis per kilogramme (about 1½d. per lb.) on all coffee below a certain grade to be established by Government.

Coffee received in payment of duties will be burned or otherwise destroyed by Government and heavy fines of ten times the value of the coffee imposed for fraudulent mixture of prohibited grades.

The choice of methods will allow the planters to determine for himself which is more profitable—to send his coffee to market unsorted and pay 20 per cent. in kind on the whole, or to sort it before leaving the State and thus avoid payment of freights, commissions and other expenses on 20 per cent., at least, of his produce.

From an economic point of view there can be no doubt as to which is the more advantageous: but from a purely commercial aspect the accumulation of enormous stocks of low-grade coffees in the interior would be a constant menace to consuming markets and act as a certain drag on prices.

The taxation of lower grades, only, entails an official classification that would be most difficult to enforce and would lead to endless disputes. The fine of ten times the value of the coffee will be a constant menace to exporters, who will probably either refuse to ship on these terms or be obliged to obtain a previous certificate of quality from *Commissarios*. All this will make business more difficult, and fall in the end on the producer, who will have to pay the cost.

Whether the measure will really raise prices is hard to determine. Certainly, unless the other States, Minas, Rio, and Espirito Santo come into the arrangement it does not seem to have any chance of success and, even then, with a visible supply equal to nine months' consumption of the world, it does not seem that in the exhausted state of our planters they will be able to stand out long enough to force consumers to their terms.

Were 20 per cent. of Brazilian production really wiped out, no doubt it would be reflected in prices; but whether the rise would even then be proportionate to the sacrifice is not quite certain. The elimination of the lowest grades will not only affect the supply but consumption and, consequently, general demand as well, and tend on its side to depress prices.

With so many and diverse contingencies to allow for it is difficult, if not impossible, to foretell the ulterior influence that the measure may exercise on prices, but at present, the difficulties attending its precise execution, the situation of the article in the world's markets and the exhaustion of our own resources are such as to point to failure rather than to success.

Whether or no the law just voted will be really put into execution we cannot tell. The ways of Governments are often wonderful and beyond the interpretation of ordinary intellects, but it is scarcely to be credited that the Government of S. Paulo would deliberately summon Congress to special sessions to discuss a project of their own elaboration merely to throw dust in the eyes of the planters, amongst whom are many of their own supporters. Still such an impression is abroad, as the following comments of *O Estado de*

*S. Paulo*, a reputable paper, the reliability of whose opinions are at present, however, somewhat tempered by opposition, indicate:

"This is what has been voted, but we may add that from the very first days of the extraordinary sessions it was evident that none of it will be really put into execution. Planting interests will not lose much because there are some measures that kill. What, however, is a matter of real regret is that the comedy of which the last act was enacted yesterday should have cost the Treasury 200,000\$ absolutely thrown away, whilst coffee has fallen to 3\$000 and the State of S. Paulo is on the verge of bankruptcy or obliged to negotiate another ruinous loan."

**Coast Coffee Shipments.**—In 1902 coast shipments of coffee from Rio were, 303,181 as against 245,080 bags in 1901, an increase of 19.1 per cent. and from Santos, 5,490 as compared with 1,119. Deducting 3,797 shipped from Santos in transit to Rio, the net increase at Santos was 524 bags or 46 per cent.

The best customer was Pernambuco which took 85,581 bags, only 7 of which from Santos, Pará coming next with 82,859 bags, none of which from Santos. The State of Rio Grande comes next with 70,497 bags, of which 916 from Santos. A bad fourth comes Manáos with 17,071 bags, 24 of which from Santos, the only other ports receiving over 10,000 bags being Maranhao with 16,370 and Mossoró with 10,551. Ceará, in spite of being a coffee producer, received 6,186 bags, all from Rio.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

With much smaller supplies of Costa Rica and other Central American kinds there has, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 2nd May, 1903, been a decided improvement in values, and a large business has been done at steadily advancing rates. The medium sizes have attracted most attention and are from 1s. to 2s. dearer, while the bold, though still relatively cheaper, has only advanced about 1s. per cwt. Of other kinds, East India has also sold with a better tone, and it has not been possible to follow purchases of last week on quite the same basis. The few fine lots still meet with the most competition, and very high prices have been obtained. In the terminal market quotations have fluctuated only slightly, but close at about the same level as a week ago, although there appears to be a better feeling and an impression that the new law in Brazil will, for a time at least, have some effect upon prices.

## TEA IN LONDON.

**INDIAN TEA.**—The demand was active, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 2nd May, 1903, and prices at the public sales on Monday were firm, but on Wednesday, when the balance of the tea printed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ultimo was offered, an easier tendency prevailed and a considerable quantity was withdrawn. There was, however, no quotable change in values, and the supply of sweet, clean tea under 6½d. continues comparatively very limited, so that there certainly appears to be no immediate prospect of any decline of importance in the lower descriptions. The average quantity for the next few weeks will probably be from 30,000 to 35,000 packages, and after this, and until liberal shipments of the new crop arrive, which will be about the end of July or the beginning of August, the offerings will be on a small scale. The reports from most of the gardens in India do not favour an early season, owing to adverse weather, which indicates poor quality for the early arrivals. At the public sales a larger quantity was offered than in the preceding week, and with the exception of the earlier sales, when prices were fully maintained, there was a less active demand, accompanied with an easier tendency. Teas for price, *viz.*, up to 7d., were in good demand, and prices were practically unchanged, but for the better kinds the market was irregular and a decline in some cases was established, but this was mainly confined to teas showing depreciation in quality.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—This market continues to be well supplied, and the sales on Tuesday passed off with fair competition, although a somewhat quieter tone was noticeable in the bidding. Common to fair Whole Leaf kinds remained steady at recent rates, but purchasers were apparently less eager, and Pekoes and Orange Pekoes over 7½d. went rather irregularly. In Broken Pekoes there was an easier tendency in the lower grades, and prices ruled unevenly, but the few really fine invoices sold freely at enhanced rates. At the public sales 27,600 packages were brought forward, of which about 4,900 were withdrawn.



**CONGOU TEAS.**—The market continues steady for all descriptions, and a fair business has been done. Prices, generally, are firm, especially for Black Leaf kinds, for which there has been a good enquiry. Fine teas are now extremely scarce and difficult to obtain, and quotations, therefore, remain firm. Of the 438 packages of Congou offered at public auction 168 failed to find buyers.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—A small quantity of Green Tea was brought forward for public auction on Thursday, but the quality, in most cases, was poor, and a considerable proportion of the sale was taken out, the selling limits not being reached. There is a strong demand for low-price Caper, and with these descriptions getting into very small compass a dearer market is anticipated. The following are the figures for the week:—361 packages of Fancy Tea were offered, and 686 packages of Green Tea were brought forward, 298 of the latter failing to find buyers.

## THE WORLD'S TEA.

### PRODUCTION DECLINING.

#### INCREASED CONSUMPTION.

An expert writes in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

The decision of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to maintain the duty at the rate of sixpence per pound was not unexpected. Its probability was assumed when the matter was referred to in these columns in December, but it has greatly disappointed producers, who believe that the high duty is a principal cause of the decline in value which has taken place since it was imposed in 1900, because it encourages the importation of inferior tea, and discourages the growth of the finer qualities in Ceylon and India. The dealers' and grocers' policy this year has been to take as little as possible out of bond prior to the Budget, the chance of a reduction being deemed greater than that of an increase, whereas in 1900-2 immense quantities were cleared in advance. The year's revenue from this source may, therefore, prove heavier than during the fiscal year lately ended.

Through a long series of years the record has been one of continuous increase in production, owing to the development of estates in Ceylon and India; of uninterrupted decline in value; of extraordinary increase in the quantity consumed; and of the virtual elimination of China tea as an important factor. The following statistics illustrate these points:

AREA OF THE PLANTATIONS.				
		In India.		In Ceylon.
1872	...	About 100,000 acres	...	None
1882	...	250,000 "	...	22,000 acres
1892	...	365,000 "	...	262,000 "
1902	...	525,000 "	...	395,000 "
TOTAL YEAR'S PRODUCTION.				
		India.		Ceylon.
1872	...	18,000,000 lbs.	...	None
1882	...	59,000,000 "	...	1,000,000 lbs.
1892	...	124,000,000 "	...	72,000,000 "
1902	...	175,000,000 "	...	149,000,000 "
CONSUMPTION OF TEA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
		Total lbs.	British-grown.	China, etc.
1872	...	128 millions	13 per cent.	87 per cent.
1882	...	165 "	31 "	69 "
1892	...	207 "	83 "	17 "
1902	...	255 "	92 "	8 "
AVERAGE SALE PRICE OF CROPS.				
		Indian.		Ceylon.
1882	...	About 1s. 3d per lb.	...	1s. 1d. per lb.
1892	...	10d. "	...	9d. "
1902	...	7½d. "	...	7½d. "

A change has now begun to be clearly manifest: production is diminishing instead of increasing, demand has outstripped supply, and prices have begun to recover, some kinds being quoted by the Mincing-lane brokers 40 or 50 per cent. dearer than they were six months ago.

The causes are said to be as follows: For several years the profit on tea-growing has been small, and it has caused embarrassment; the extension of gardens has ceased, some estates have been abandoned in part, while others have been poorly cultivated for lack of means and labour, with the result that the productive capa-

city has diminished. Tea plants are subject to natural decay, and soil is liable to impoverishment, requiring high cultivation and continuous renewal in order to maintain the yield at a maximum. That was reached in 1900, when 197,000,000 lbs. were made in India, and 149,000,000 lbs. in Ceylon. In 1902 the Indian crop fell to 175,000,000 lbs. and the Ceylon output remained stationary, notwithstanding that a large area of young gardens, planted since 1895, were in full bearing. The decreased production is partly attributable to climatic causes. A more serious matter is the difficulty of obtaining sufficient coolie labour, both in India and Ceylon, notwithstanding the efforts of the recruiting agents. Referring to this, Messrs. Carritt, Moran & Co., of Calcutta, write as follows: "Scarcity continues to a serious extent, and the industry is feeling the effect of recent legislation, or, rather, the obstructive manner in which it is administered, to a very marked degree."

While production stands still or decreases, the world's demand steadily increases for British-grown tea, as its cheapness and attractive quality gain recognition abroad. The effect has been to divert from England to other countries a large portion of the crops, and to establish in Calcutta and Colombo an important trade direct with the Colonies, America, Russia, and Central Asia. The following figures show the growth of this business. In 1896 80,000,000 lbs. were sold in the local markets, of which 27,000,000 lbs. were bought for outside use and 53,000,000 lbs. for England; in 1902, 99,000,000 lbs. were sold, of which 75,000,000 lbs. were taken by Colonial and Foreign buyers and only 24,000,000 lbs. sent here. This diversion of supply will receive a fresh impetus from the manufacture of green tea. A process has been discovered by which pure green tea, equal to any made in China or Japan, can be manufactured without the use of artificial colouring matter: it finds a ready sale in America, and some 15,000,000 lbs. will probably be made this year, lessening to that extent the quantity of black tea produced. The use of green tea in this country has almost ceased, but it is not improbable that it may be revived now that pure tea, free from deleterious matter, can be obtained. Of its potency as a stimulant, preferable to alcohol, there seems to be no question.

From what has been written, it will be seen that the change which is coming over the tea market is due to two causes, *viz.*, diminution in the quantity produced, and increase in the quantity used outside the United Kingdom. The extent to which this foreign demand may expand is really the key to the position. It is being fostered by funds raised for the purpose by means of an export levy or tax, collected by the Governments of India and Ceylon, and applied in the shape of a subsidy to the makers of green tea, or for making the merit of British-grown tea known in countries which hitherto have principally used China or Japan tea. A careful survey of the situation leads to the conclusion that the period of depression in value is drawing to a close, and will be followed by a year or two of evenly-balanced supply and demand, and eventually by deficient supply and a higher range of price. Extensions in India and Ceylon practically ceased in 1900, and four or five years must elapse before new gardens, even if it paid to plant them, could come into bearing.

Of the other sources from which tea can be obtained, China, Japan, and Java, little need be said, as China is the only country which serves this country, and that to the extent of only about twenty or twenty-five million pounds. Unfortunately the deterioration of China tea makes much of it unpalatable. How will the changed conditions affect respectively the producer, the retail vendor, and the consumer?

Producers may, we think, fairly count upon a somewhat better return than they have lately received, and no one will grudge it to them. Mr. Seton, an authority on the subject, states that the capital value of 170 planting companies, which in 1897 stood at a total of £24,000,000, fell in 1902 to £12,000,000. There has since been a recovery, say to about £15,000,000, leaving a large margin to be regained.

For the retail vendors the outlook is not so cheerful, except for those whose customers use the finer sorts of tea, and are prepared to pay a fair price for them; but those whose business depends upon a large sale of the cheaper qualities at low prices may find it difficult to make a profit, for whenever tea becomes scarce the advance begins at the bottom; cheap teas rise rapidly, while good and fine teas either stand still or recede, as at the present time.



The effect upon consumers will depend upon the sort of tea they buy. Those who insist upon paying next to nothing for it may find they are using what is practically the refuse of foreign markets, which are searched for anything cheap enough to keep going what is termed "the low-priced canister." It is reported that the advance in price here has attracted from foreign ports a considerable quantity that will be used for this purpose. But consumers can protect themselves by avoiding these very low-priced teas and buying the best their grocers keep. Experts in Mincinglane say that fine tea is really cheaper than common tea, because it is more economical to use, as well as more wholesome.

A different view of the future is taken by some of the great London retail firms. They say that the higher prices now ruling will induce planters to pluck coarse leaf, which will add to the weight of the crops and reduce their value. There is some chance of this, but it is lessened by the combination into which the Indian and Ceylon growers have entered to adopt a common policy, having for its object the regulation of the quantity made, shipped, and sold on this market. Growers are no longer independent units, but an organised body acting in concert with a definite aim.

How completely the position is changed is shown by the fact that private telegrams from Calcutta state that offers are being received from London to buy entire crops in advance. Business of this nature has already been done in Colombo, and it is believed to be without precedent in the history of the trade.

## THE AUSTRALIAN TEA DUTY.

### AGITATION FOR REIMPOSITION.

At a time when all the Australian State Governments are casting about for means of revenue, it may not be inopportune to remind them of one very lucrative source, the tea duties, which the Federal Parliament cut off from them, and which, being done in error, may some time be restored. Mr. Shiels may, perhaps, prick up his ears when he is told that he might get £130,000 a year from this quarter without taxing the Victorian people a single penny. We are impelled to point this out for a double purpose. The facts being known will prove that some kinds of Customs duties, even when not protective, are no tax on the consumers, and they will illustrate the superiority of the Custom House as a means of levying taxation. In the pre-Federal days the Victorian tariff had a duty of 3d. per lb. on tea. That impost brought into the Victorian Treasury a revenue in 1898 of £123,000. With our present population it would reach £130,000. The Federal Government proposed to continue this, and put 3d. per gallon on kerosene. The duty on the oil was levied for a time, and did not cause a rise in the price. When the Federal tariff was before the House of Representatives the Labor party fighting for a free breakfast table, insisted on making both of these items free. It argued that tea is used by everybody, and kerosene by most, and that the bulk of the revenue from these sources came from the poorer classes, and should be remitted. Seeing that in neither case was there any protectionist principle at stake, there was not much opposition to that view, and freetraders and protectionists both helped the Labor Corner to make tea and kerosene free. We have now had plenty of time in which to study the operation of this remission, which was made with the most benevolent intentions. It did appear to be a reasonable supposition that as tea and kerosene are entirely brought from abroad a remission of the duty would make a corresponding decrease in the price. Has it done so? We are informed on the authority of those who are in the business, directly distributing both classes of goods, that the remission of the duty has not made tea a farthing cheaper to Victorian consumers.

\* \* \*

The duty on tea like the kerosene duty seemed a promising item on which to make a concession to the consumer, more especially as tea worth 6d. per lb. paid the same threepenny duty as that worth 2s. 6d. per lb., which made the poor man's tea pay an *ad valorem* rate five times as high as that consumed by the wealthy. Under the Victorian tariff the revenue from the tea duty reached to an average of £123,000 per annum, at 3d. per lb. When that duty was levied, the average price of tea consumed in Victoria ranged from 10d. to 1s. 3d. There was some sold as low as 8d., and some which ran as high as 4s. To-day there is scarcely a perceptible difference in the cost of tea in a comparison with that time. To be strictly accurate,

the manager of a large business reports his average prices as ranging between 9d. and 1s. 3d. per lb. A small quantity is sold as low as 7d., the same he formerly sold at 8d., but very little of it. The higher priced teas are the same as before and the only difference in his average prices is that the popular teas now range between 9d. and 1s. 3d., as compared with 10d. and 1s. 3d. when the tea paid an aggregate duty of £123,000 into the revenue. Opinions gathered from other sources bear out this testimony. In a few cases some tea importers did make a reduction when the duty was first remitted, but they claimed to be exceptions. However that may be, it is certain the average tea consumer of to-day knows of no benefit from the remission of the tea duty. Some few who use teas of the very lowest grades do get a benefit of 1d. per lb., but they are so few as to be quite inappreciable. It is asserted by some tea merchants that, though the price has not been reduced, the quality has been improved. But this is so entirely problematical as to be unworthy of serious consideration, the average quality of tea being the same as before, as far as the experience of consumers can settle the question.

We are thus compelled to the conclusion that in these articles of tea and kerosene the traders and producers—one or both—put the remitted duties into their pockets and charge their customers the same as before. In kerosene the American oil monopoly has made this possible. In the case of tea, advantage has been taken of the customs of a trade which has always been a very profitable one to the trader and in which gradations of quality leave room for importation. Possibly the extra profit has been divided among the foreign grower, the importer and the local distributor. Wherever it has found its way, the consumer has not shared in it, except to so infinitesimal a degree as to be a negligible quantity in the sum. We thus arrive at the conclusion that when the Federal Parliament remitted those two duties on kerosene and tea it took £160,000 or £170,000 a year out of the Treasury, and conferred no benefit on anybody save middlemen and the wealthy American Oil Trust. These facts will present another problem for the free-trader to ponder over. They show once again that Customs duties are often a tax on the foreigner—a toll he is forced to pay for admission to our domestic markets, and that the free-trade nation has to forego this advantage of making the foreigner contribute to its revenue.—*Age*, April 28.

## TEA CLEARING HOUSE REORGANISATION.

### MEETING OF THE CEYLON ASSOCIATION.

#### CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE'S SCHEME ADOPTED.

A General Meeting of members of the Ceylon Association in London was held on Monday afternoon, May 4th, in the Council Chamber of the London Chamber of Commerce, Botolph House, Eastcheap, to consider the report of the sub-Committee of the London Tea Clearing House Conference and the memorandum and articles of Association submitted for approval. There was a large attendance.

The report to be submitted to the Meeting was signed by Mr. Richard A. Bosanquet, Mr. V. Hugh Smith, and Mr. John Lecky, the sub-Committee appointed by the Clearing House Conference, and it proposed the following scheme for the acceptance of the Conference:—A Clearing House to be formed of all branches of the trade as members with an executive council consisting of four importers (two Indian and two Ceylon), four wharfingers, four buyers (two wholesale dealers and two blenders), and one broker. As this council would be possessed of executive power in dealing with the interests of the London tea trade, it is proposed in the scheme that no Resolution of the council shall become effective unless it be carried by a majority of each section, should a division or vote be called for on party lines, with the stipulation that "should a division or vote be taken on party lines it does not require the assent of the broker to become effective, provided that the importers, wharfingers, and buyers carry the same by a majority in their respective sections." The sub-Committee proposed that the cost of the Clearing House, estimated at £4,500 per annum, should be borne by the importers, wharfingers, and buyers in as nearly even proportions as could be arranged; and it was recommended that each Association should determine for itself how the money should be provided.



Sir J. J. Grinlinton proposed that, in the absence of the President, Mr. R. A. Bosanquet should take the chair. This was unanimously agreed to.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Martin Leake) read the notice convening the Meeting, and added: Before we come to the business of the Meeting I think it is a matter of interest to tell you that telegrams have been received, saying that the proposal for the increase of the Tea Cess for eight months has been abandoned—(applause)—and that, as far as is known, Mr. Rutherford's scheme has been adopted. (Applause.)

The Chairman said he was not quite sure that they were right in putting him in the chair. In the absence of the President, Mr. Bois, and Mr. Rutherford, both of whom were familiarly acquainted with the origin of the subject before the Meeting, he himself was, perhaps, having worked with them, the best person to speak on the subject. He had come to do that—but not to take the chair—chiefly because he thought any Resolution they might think fit to pass should not go forward from him, their representative on the Conference, but direct from themselves, either in approval or disapproval of what was now being laid before them. He would, however, try to lay before them as shortly and as clearly as possible the steps which had been taken and the necessity which had arisen for the making of a new scheme. The Clearing House was first brought into existence on July 1, 1888, and what was known as "the Pool" was started on July 1, 1900. He would give only the bare facts because he wanted to leave as much time as possible for discussion. Gun Wharf applied for entry to the Clearing House in May, 1901, and in the early Autumn of 1902 their opposition commenced to be severely felt. He would pass over the various public utterances which had brought the matter into prominence, and would proceed to refer to the next step, which was the convening of a Conference at the Dock House. The first Meeting, at which Mr. Henry Bois and himself were present, was held on November 6, and was adjourned to enable the importers to lay before the members in writing their objections to the existing Clearing House, and to state what changes they desired in the rules. He had brought with him the letter sent by Mr. Bois and the three other importers, laying down their views on the Clearing House and its rules, and he also had the replies of the Secretary of the Clearing House to that letter, and he would be happy to read the correspondence if it was called for. The Conference met again on November 27, and the importers and the buyers pressed home their demand for the cancellation of Rule 14 of the Clearing House rules. The wharfingers said they objected to this very strongly unless they obtained a *quid pro quo*. The result of the Conference was that the buyers gave a verbal undertaking to the wharfingers, which was, however, recorded on the minutes of the Clearing House, that they would use their influence with their Association to discountenance new bonds for tea to any more wharves. The next Meeting was held on January 27, Mr. Bois and himself having been meantime reappointed to act as Ceylon representatives to assist in drawing up the new rules for the Tea Clearing House. He wrote to Mr. Bois suggesting that they should both meet and draw up roughly what their ideas were, as representatives of the importers, because it was absolutely necessary to submit something definite to a largely attended Conference. Then, most unfortunately, Mr. Bois met with his accident, which they all deplored—(hear, hear)—and at the last moment Mr. Rutherford joined him (the Chairman) as Ceylon representative. He (the Chairman) drew up a memorandum which enabled him first to air the importers' side of the question, and at the Meeting of the Conference on January 27 the wharfingers stated that they had cancelled Rule 14, and had also given notice to terminate the lease of the Clearing House, as, having lost their advantage, they declined any longer to meet the cost of keeping up the house, which they stated amounted to some £1,000 a year. It thus became necessary to get to work at once and draw up a scheme to come into effect on Midsummer Day for a new Clearing House. He need scarcely say they would be able to obtain the same rooms if they were required, but the time was short. A sub-Committee was appointed at the Meeting on the 27th, and in the absence of Mr. Bois he was himself appointed to represent Ceylon, the Indian Association members requesting him to represent them also. Many and long Meetings of the sub-Committee were held, and the result was now before this Meeting in print. In drawing up a scheme to meet such conflicting views it was impossible for any one party to obtain all that they desired, and the present scheme was the result of much

careful work and mutual concession. He thought they were all aware that the power of the old Clearing House was not used for the importers' benefit—(hear, hear)—and a great many of them had felt it was a grievance; as he expressed it at a Meeting of the Ceylon Association recently, it began with pin-pricks and ended with a fretting sore. (Hear, hear.) The scheme was drawn up on an eminently fair basis, and gave fair representation to all branches of the trade, the brokers being the only ones not fully represented, for a very good reason.

A member asked the Chairman to state the reason.

The Chairman said that the brokers acted primarily for the sellers, though there were many points in which they acted as intermediaries for buyers and sellers. Importers and others feared that in the new Clearing House there might be a combination of more than one party to sit upon another party, and the scheme had been drawn up with one saving clause to prevent any such combination having effect. It was pointed out to the importers that if at any time their representatives did not defend their interests better men must be put in their places, and that if no redress could be obtained the only thing to do would be to break up the Clearing House. He thought it was eminently desirable with regard to the brokers that they should not be brought into conflict with one side or the other, either with the importers against the buyers or with the buyers against the importers. But he thought nothing would be done without careful consultation with the brokers. The effect of this Clearing House executive Committee would largely depend upon the men who were sent to represent the importers there, and it also should be clearly understood that those who represented them should refer to the people who appointed them all matters relating to such important questions as the conditions and days of sale. He was willing to answer to the best of his ability any questions that might be put to him on the scheme as laid before them. Might he venture to suggest that it would be very much to the advantage of the importers of Ceylon teas if they formed themselves into an Association for the advancement and protection of their own interests, thereby assuring themselves of a body of men who would first of all elect their own representatives to serve upon the executive council of the Tea Clearing House, and also a body with which such representatives should confer on every important proposal? (Applause.) In conclusion, the Chairman said he had no personal object to serve, no axe to grind, and he did not care personally whether the scheme was accepted or rejected. He had been given certain work to do, and he had done it to the best of his ability, and if they disliked it he hoped they would throw it out. (Applause.)

Mr. C. E. G. Hatherell: Is this a unanimous report?

The Chairman: Have you any other question?

Mr. Hatherell: Yes, only one. Will this new idea cost us any more?

The Chairman: The report, as presented to you in its present form, is quite unanimous. It was only arrived at by mutual concession, and at one time it appeared very probable that you would have a majority report and a minority report. This report, however, has been accepted completely and willingly. As to the provision of cost, it is really a most extraordinarily small sum. All that Ceylon has to find is £750 per annum.

A Member: How much on a chest?

The Chairman: It will come to about 1s. per 100 chests. It will come to about the same amount in your account sales as the item for postages.

A Member asked that Rule 14 of the Clearing House might be read.

The Chairman: It might interest you if I read not only Rule 14, but the letter which was sent in by the representatives of the Indian and Ceylon Associations on November 12. Rule 14 reads:—"No subscriber shall be entitled to warehouse or deposit at or employ in connection with teas any dock company or tea warehouse keeper who is not a member of the Clearing House, or to purchase"—and here is where the crucial point comes in—"or to purchase or sample any tea from the warehouse of a non-member." It practically was making a closed borough for the members of the Clearing House. The object of the Clearing House was right, and it is practically incorporated in our new scheme; but we say that if the object was right the rules were wrong. (Hear, hear.)



A member asked the Chairman to say what would happen if the new scheme were not carried.

The Chairman: I think it must be clear to you all, as business men, that the Tea Clearing House will not cease to exist. Such an organisation as that which has been brought into efficient working, and which is of such material benefit to, at any rate, one class of people, the buyers, is not likely to be dropped. (Hear, hear.) The result, if we refuse to come in, is that we shall be shut out. You have got an opportunity now of asserting yourselves, of coming in and having a say on all matters in connection with the Clearing House. You must remember that we were never consulted with regard to the original rules or those based upon them, or on any subject connected with the house, until November last.

Mr. G. Stehn asked if the Tea Clearing House was not taking up new functions. In the articles of Association it was laid down as part of its functions now to act as arbitrator in the settlement of disputes. It seemed to him that this scheme was the tea exchange of last year under an *alias*.

The Chairman said it was true that the rules printed offered a much wider area of business than was originally contemplated in the Clearing House, and if there were any importers who objected to any of the powers mentioned in the articles, let them say so. But they must remember that upon their articles as allowed by the Board of Trade would depend their work in the future, for they would not be able to get them enlarged.

In reply to another member, the Chairman said that before they commenced work as a sub-Committee he applied to several large firms in London for assistance in the way of plans to work upon. He studied them all, and found them all unsuitable, except the one of which a member had just spoken as the rejected scheme of last year. They had tried to eliminate what they believed to be objectionable and to keep what was good in it. If anybody objected to any point in the scheme, let him speak freely. The articles of Association had not yet been brought up to proper form, but if they were substantially approved it was proposed to submit them to Messrs. Holland, Son and Coward.

A Member: What advantages are we to get by being in this scheme? Would it hurt us to be shut out? Where is the advantage to the importer in going in? According to the printed matter before us the wharfinger and the buyer can block anything as far as I can see.

The Chairman: I don't know how to deal with objections of that sort, and I must say that a man who gets up to raise an objection of that character cannot have studied the subject. The clause he refers to is inserted for his protection. If it is cancelled I don't think he will be much the worse, but I do not think many will be in favour of cancelling it. (Hear, hear.) As to the "advantages," what were we sent to the Conference for? We were sent to get representation, which we have never had before. We have never had a say about things, but the Clearing House has ruled us instead of our ruling the house.

Mr. Thornton Williams said that he would support the scheme as a representative of several importers. (Hear, hear.) It had been a great trouble to draw up. They had got to strengthen their position. They, as importers, with the dock charges they had paid, had carried on a Clearing House in which they had had no voice. The expenses of the Clearing House had been paid almost entirely from the wharf charges they had paid, the only portion outside that having been the subscriptions of members, either buyers or brokers. Now, for the first time, owing to the opposition of an outside wharf, which was not within the ring, there was a chance given to the importers, who ought to rule the trade, for them to have a voice in the management of the Tea Clearing House. (Hear, hear.) Surely it would be folly in them not to embrace the opportunity of having this voice? It was true he, as an importer, would have liked to see importers have a larger control than was suggested. He was sorry to see the number of importers on the council reduced from six to four, but he saw the difficulty of any section getting everything it wanted. As it was they would have four votes out of twelve, and, moreover, they had this advantage, which he admired very much—and he thought it a most ingenious clause, for which he believed Mr. Bosanquet was responsible—that if any section felt that something was proposed in which they had a peculiar interest they could call for what was described as a party division and insist upon the proposal not being carried except by a majority in each section. That would prevent

anything like a combination of two interests against a third. Then as to expense, Ceylon would have to find on the value of the tea imported into this country £750. It was a mere bagatelle, not worth considering, particularly if they had a voice in the control of the institution. (Hear, hear.) The institution was doubtless of great convenience to buyers more particularly, and to wharfingers. If the importers did not embrace this opportunity of having a voice in it it was quite conceivable that the other two sections might combine and re-establish the Clearing House, leaving the importers out in the cold. All the same, the expense would come out of their pockets, he maintained, because they paid the dock charges. He was surprised at one or two of the questions raised, which, as the Chairman had said, showed some ignorance of the state of things that had been existing for some time past. But many of them had been investigating the matter for some time, and recognised the utmost importance to them as importers of having some control of the Tea Clearing House. For that reason he strongly supported the scheme. (Hear, hear.) No doubt the details were subject to modification, but the important thing was whom they should have to represent then on the council, and he would like to express at that juncture his warm appreciation of the labours Mr. Bosanquet had undertaken in their interest—(hear, hear)—and he sincerely trusted that when the Association was formed, as he hoped it would be, Mr. Bosanquet would be one member of the council on behalf of Ceylon importers. (Applause.)

Mr. F. Walker asked if a poor broker might say a word. (Laughter.) Mr. Williams had said that the expenses of the Clearing House came out of the charges on tea in London. It seemed to him (the speaker) that the tea importers of London did want to have some control over their own affairs, and that it would be well if an Association of Ceylon importers could be formed, as Mr. Bosanquet suggested. They would all very much like to see that. But it appeared to him that in asking that they should combine with their natural opponents—he said nothing against them—and be joined with them in the management of their business, the tea importers, as such, were not going to advance their own interests. The brokers were, they all knew, the servants of the importers, but so were the wharfingers, and why should the latter be asked to come into this combine and act with their employers on level terms? Mr. Bosanquet had said that it was desired by the Ceylon section of importers that the representation on this council should be six importers, against three wharfingers and three buyers. They then had a sub-Committee of one from each section, and very naturally it took the form that the three sections should be on level terms, only it required "mutual concessions," as had been said, though they had not heard what they were. Now, Mr. Bosanquet said it had been suggested by some of his friends that an Association should be formed of Ceylon importers. He himself thought that before they went into this scheme, and committed themselves to it and became incorporated, they ought to look very closely into the whole matter. One of the objects of the Clearing House as set forth in the memorandum of Association now submitted for approval was:—“(e) The making of bye-laws and regulations with reference to the objects of the Association, and the conduct, rights, and privileges of its members.” Now, were the importers going to ask the tea dealers and buyers of London to say what their rights and privileges as importers were to be? It was time they pulled themselves together, and saw if they were not giving themselves away completely by putting themselves into the hands of their opponents—who were honourable men, of course, but opponents. Were they working with them that they might bring those systems, which hurt them as importers, into this Clearing House? They were putting themselves into the hands of their servants, the wharfingers, and yet they were actually saying that the brokers, their servants, too, should have no control whatever. He did not think the scheme commended itself to the common sense of the tea importers. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. Forbes Laurie: I think it best to put the scheme to the Meeting and see what it has to say. It appears to me that we want a body in London through which we can all act collectively. We act now so individually that it seems we are at the mercy of the other side. I move: “That the scheme proposed by the sub-Committee of the Conference convened by the Clearing House Committee be approved and adopted.”

Mr. A. Bethune asked what view the Indian importers took of the scheme.



Mr. Alfred Brown seconded the motion. He said that Mr. Walker took it for granted that the warehouses in London in the past had been their humble servants. He could not admit that. They ought to have been their humble servants, but they had not been. When the Clearing House was formed it was a proper institution, which did not concern the importers; it was for the interchange of documents. But it was afterwards transmogrified, and made into something else—a sort of ring fence. A wharf outside the house had broken the fence for the time being, and Mr. Bosanquet's scheme now presented them with an opportunity of getting inside that ring fence, and of helping in the management of the house in future, and preventing it ever becoming a ring fence again. He thought they would be most unwise not to take it on, because of having to pay 1s. for 100 packages. (Hear, hear.)

A member suggested that there might be an amendment in favour of forming an importers' Association.

Mr. J. Sinclair: I suppose if we find the scheme worse than it was before we can easily retire and form an importers' Association?

The Chairman: I do not understand the opposition of the brokers at all, for we have been very careful to protect their interests. I cannot speak of what has passed in the work of the sub-Committee. There are many things that have passed there which must remain a secret among members of the sub-Committee. It would be unfair to speak publicly of the many minor points which were brought up for discussion and practically settled and placed in oblivion. It is evident that the gentleman who has spoken as a broker on behalf of the importers, but against the interests of the importers—

Mr. F. Walker: Not as a broker.

The Chairman: I certainly understood you to be speaking as a broker. I repeat that I have no axe to grind. The work was given me to do, and I have tried to do it. (Hear, hear.) It has taken some time, but I have gained experience which is of value. For you to throw out the scheme would be most unwise. The importers have a chance of coming in now, and if they do not take it they won't have another chance. As to what Mr. Sinclair said (the Chairman continued), if they found the clause framed for their protection was not good enough they would have to get the Indians to work with them and withdraw; he was sure they would both work harmoniously. He had been at many Conferences between the Ceylon and Indian Associations, and there had been good feeling all through. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bethune had asked what was being done by the Indian Association. He had purposely abstained from finding out. They (the Ceylon Association) were leading in this matter, and it was for them to say plainly what they wanted. If they did want a say in the Clearing House it was certain that they must pay for it. In the past the money had come out of their pockets and they got nothing in return. There was a ring fence, as Mr. Brown had said, and he objected to it most strongly. (Hear, hear.) He considered that they had been absolute slaves to the wharfingers. He would leave it to the members' cool deliberation to say whether they would take or reject the scheme. (Hear, hear.)

In answer to Mr. C. Bois, the Chairman said that there was very little time to be lost. It was essential that something should be done before the early date at which the building was to be given up, or they would be left out, and the buyers and wharfingers would get together and do it by themselves again.

Mr. C. Bois moved as an amendment: That further opportunity be given to bring the Resolution before the interests represented by those present.

Mr. Campbell (Kelani Valley Tea Association) seconded.

In reply to Mr. James Sinclair, the Chairman said it was with the very greatest difficulty that certain subjects had been kept out of the report and the articles of Association. Mr. Bois and myself, he proceeded to say, when we went into the matter, were of one mind upon one particular point, and that was that it was to be a Tea Clearing House proper, and I suggest to you that we, as importers, should also form a combine of our own. It stands to reason that there is nothing to prevent the wharfingers also forming a combine. I think each trade should form a combine of itself; at the present day it seems to be a necessity. (Hear, hear.) It would be absurd to say that any rules we could draw up could prevent the wharfingers raising their rates if they thought fit. The wharfingers, if they combine, would have to use their authority and their power, but they would have to use it wisely, or they would find there is an authority and a power behind them—the Board of Trade—which would come in on our side. There is

nothing to prevent a combination among Ceylon men having their own wharf. I do not advocate that, because I think there are difficulties which are beyond the understanding of ordinary people. But I give it as my expectation that if you bring into existence an executive council, such as is suggested here, no important changes with regard to rates and sales would ever be made, except with the approval of your executive council. It would have been absurd for me, as representing the importers at the sub-Committee, to have attempted to take a verbal promise from the wharfingers as to their rates. One thing I said all through was, "It is nothing to do with rates." There is nothing about rates in the constitution of the Tea Clearing House, and our one objection in the past was that they brought the rates question in. That is what I object to. (Hear, hear.) We have two separate Resolutions here, for the motion of Mr. Bois cannot properly be called an amendment. You agree to that, Mr. Bois?

Mr. Bois replied in the affirmative.

The first Resolution, adopting the scheme, was then put to the Meeting and carried by 12 votes to 5, and the Meeting terminated.

## UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

### FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

#### REPORT FOR 1902.

The following extracts are taken from the Sixth Annual Report for 1902 of the United Planters' Association, F. M. S. :

LABOUR.—On the whole the supply of coolies from India has not been maintained, and complaints of shortage are to be heard on all sides. There are various reasons for this. A good paddy season in India, the heavy fall in exchange and consequent increase in the cost of living, higher wages offered by other countries, and a rapidly growing demand for the services of the Tamil coolie wherever his employment is permitted by the Indian Government, all provide an explanation for the inadequate supply in the Malay Peninsula. The Governor in Council has just stated that the F. M. S. during the past year have paid, as forfeit to the British India Company, the sum of \$44,000, the equivalent of 4,000 tickets unused, against the guarantee to which a lengthy reference was made in your last annual report. Two labour Conferences have been convened by the Government, one in Penang, and one more recently in Singapore. At these all classes of Tamil labour employers were represented, your Chairman attending on behalf of the Coffee, Coconut, and Rubber interests of the F. M. S., and it has been finally decided that a monopoly, as regards professional recruiting, will be granted to the Madura Company, Negapatam, the wages offered ranging from 35cts. to 45cts. subject to exchange fluctuations, and according to the locality in which the coolie recruit will have to work. These Conferences were arranged with the double object of ascertaining the views of planters and other unofficial employers, especially with respect to wages, and so of avoiding the risk of friction, attendant upon possible Government competition, and also of considering a scheme for putting the whole question of recruiting upon a sound basis, which emanated from Messrs. O'Sullivan and Hill as the result of a visit which these gentlemen have recently paid to India. It should be clearly understood that, whilst no professional recruiting will be permitted except through the Madura Co., the Kanganay system will not be interfered with in any way. It may be that the offer of wages, so much higher than those ruling at present, will compel the employers of Kanganies to raise their rates also, but that has yet to be seen, especially if recruiting by professionals is practically to be confined to Indentured labour, and there was a remarkable consensus of opinion amongst the various delegates that the wages at present paid are quite insufficient to attract the Tamil coolie, in any numbers, to this country. There can be no doubt that if the Rubber industry is to achieve the success which is at present foreshadowed, the importation of very large numbers of coolies in the near future is distinctly indicated. It will not do for planters to wait until their trees are actually ready to tap, and then look round for labour and expect to find a sufficient supply at hand. Your Committee wish earnestly to impress upon you their emphatic conviction that there exists the most urgent need for anticipating a serious scarcity, by importing labour now largely in excess of present requirements, and at the same time they desire to again



record their appreciation of the strenuous efforts of the Government to get into closer touch with the great labour market of India and, whilst endeavouring to procure sufficient coolies for their own requirements, at the same time to keep in line with unofficial employers.

**EXPERIMENTAL GARDENS.**—During June, 1902, the Committee appointed by the Resident-General to confer with and advise the Superintendent, paid a visit to these gardens. At this time the land had not been finally acquired, and there was but little progress to report. Since that date no official inspection by the Committee has been made, but it is reported that some 60 acres have been felled and cleared, and that the Superintendent's bungalow, with a considerable approach road, has been built. The next report of the Committee, following a further inspection which will be shortly made, will be awaited with interest. The Superintendent has compiled an elaborate treatise upon the extraction and preparation of latex from the Pará Rubber tree (*Hevea Braziliensis*), accompanied by extensive statistics in connection with his experiments. The samples of rubber prepared by him were reported upon by the London experts, at the instance of the Kew Garden authorities, with the most satisfactory results, the best quality being valued at 4/4d. per lb. Your Committee are of opinion that the treatise referred to above is a most valuable contribution to the literature of Rubber, and that the Superintendent has succeeded in absolutely dispelling the idea prevailing in certain quarters, that the rubber produced in this part of the world is of inferior quality.

**AGRICULTURAL BULLETIN.**—This periodical has not only survived the first year of its existence, but is growing in popularity as it is becoming more generally known. A great all-round improvement upon the first numbers has been effected, and some very instructive photographs have been reproduced successfully. The opportunity provided in its pages for the exchange of ideas upon matters agricultural might certainly be more fully availed of, and it is to be hoped that additional interest in this respect may be evidenced during the coming year.

**AGRICULTURAL SHOW.**—It has been decided to hold an Agricultural Show at Kuala Lumpur in July, 1904, and a Committee has been appointed to arrange preliminaries, but at present no definite programme has been drawn up.

**PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF COFFEE.**—This question has, for the time being, been shelved, those interested in Singapore, with whom the matter was left, not having so far made any move.

**SAVINGS BANKS FOR COOLIES.**—The idea of providing facilities for coolies to put by their savings, was suggested to your Association, and recommended to the authorities for consideration, the Protector of Labour signifying his sympathy with the proposal.

**CUSTOMS DUTIES ENACTMENT.**—This has been amended at the instance of your Association, and now stands as below with respect to the export duty on coffee of all grades.

**INSECT PESTS.**—White ants (*Terms gestroi*).—The ravages of this pest have been perceptibly less since it has come to be recognised that a disturbance of the soil round the area of attack, and the destruction of the jungle wood on the ground in which they breed, notably nibong stumps and trunks, do more to disorganise their operations than any other treatment. The percentage of affected trees which actually die, is now comparatively small, at any rate on alluvial land. On the hills it is of course more difficult to get at the ants on account of the depth to which they go, but even there, no more satisfactory remedy than continual disturbance wherever they make their appearance, has yet been discovered.

**THE BEE HAWK MOTH.**—The caterpillars of this species have, during the past year, caused a great deal of anxiety to owners of coffee estates in the Klang district. It has only been by the most sustained effort and the expenditure of very large sums of money, that their ravages have been kept within bounds. A feature of the attack has been its persistent recrudescence, in spite of the apparent completeness of the measures taken for its suppression. A small batch of Ceylon crows were imported by the Government at your Chairman's suggestion, in the hope that these useful birds would settle in the country, and perhaps help, in course of time, to keep the caterpillar pest down. The experiment has so far proved a success in that the birds readily devoured the caterpillars when supplied to them whilst in captivity, and have not since their release deserted the locality. It yet remains to be seen, however, if they will breed.

**COCOANUT BEETLES.**—"The staff which I hope shortly to have at my disposal will, I believe, prove sufficient to carry out the necessary measures for the protection of cocoanut trees, and I trust that before long the disastrous effects caused by the present ravages of the beetles, may be minimised as much as possible." The above is a verbatim extract from a letter addressed by the Federal Inspector of Cocoanut Trees to your Association, when first he entered upon the duties of his appointment, and your Committee have great pleasure in testifying to the excellence and already far-reaching effects of the measures that have been taken for the suppression of the beetle pest. It does not seem too much to hope that within the very near future a serious danger to an important industry will have been averted by the ready and liberal assistance extended by the Government at a most critical juncture.

**CHIEF PLANTING PRODUCTS—COFFEE.**—In spite of the fact that most of the large coffee estates are now thickly planted through with Pará Rubber, which will undoubtedly kill the former product in course of time, the export of coffee from Selangor alone in 1902 amounted to 48,906 piculs, against 37,664 piculs for the previous year, an increase of no less than 11,242 piculs, or about 30%. This result can only be due to the fact that a large acreage has just come into full bearing, and your Committee consider that the returns for 1902 will probably constitute a record for the F. M. S., and further that in two years' time the export will not amount to

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much more than half its present proportions. During the season under review the extensions in coffee alone have been practically nil, but in some cases it is being planted as a catch crop with Pará Rubber at varying distances through the fields, and, of course, if this system appeals to investors, it may be that there will be a continuous, if lessening, supply for some time to come. The outlook, however, is by no means encouraging, and although well opened estates on rich alluvial land can, even at present prices, be worked at a profit, still the counter attractions and prospects of Pará Rubber, Rembong, and Cocoanuts, will probably divert attention from coffee.

**COCOANUTS.**—A return is attached showing that the export of copra from Selangor in 1902 amounted to 15,136 piculs, towards which practically nothing has been contributed by European-owned plantations, which are only now coming into bearing. Splendid growth is reported on all sides and it seems probable that by the time the trees are five years old, heavy pickings will be commencing. From an estate in the Jengra district, four years and four months old at the end of 1902, thousands of nuts are already coming in, and there are many individual trees carrying over 100 each. Given freedom from the beetle pest, there can be no doubt that such fine results must very soon attract capital to the country, especially as the cocoanut planter, his estate once opened, can usually be assured of sufficient labour for his requirements; Chinese and Malays, neither of whom are much used on coffee and rubber estates, being generally available when Tamil coolies are hard to get.

**PARA RUBBER.**—Statistics (incomplete though they are at present) serve to some extent to show how important an industry is growing up in our midst. It is a significant fact that from Ceylon comes the most pronounced inclination to invest in this product. Ceylon planters and capitalists, with the decline of coffee, have had little cause to congratulate themselves on their connection with the Malay Peninsula, yet it is undoubtedly owing chiefly to the visits to, and personal inspection of, our rubber estates, by some of their foremost men, that they are willing and anxious, if they can get an opportunity, to put more money in. Such support, in

your Committee's opinion, is of infinitely greater value to the country and to the enterprise, than would be the influx of capital where expert knowledge on the part of its investors, was absent. As far as it is possible to judge at present, the Malay Peninsula appears to possess every factor necessary to the successful cultivation of rubber. Climate, soil, transport facilities, the quality of the product, and the yield of the trees, leave little to be desired. As regards labour, this country is at any rate, infinitely better off than any other with which we will be brought into competition, excepting Ceylon, and India itself, where, however, some of the other conditions are far less favourable. It may be contended that little is known of the yield over a large area, which is true, but, on the other hand, we do know what considerable numbers of indifferently cultivated individual trees have given, and there is no reason whatever for fearing that our average yield will be less than that of any other country. The vexed question of the proper distance to plant, has yet to be settled, and your Committee would urge upon all those interested, to institute experiments, if they have not already done so, with the object of arriving at a definite conclusion. The distance perhaps most in favour at present is 15 feet by 15 feet, which, allowing for sites for buildings, roads, etc., gives about 175 trees to the acre. 10 feet by 10 feet planting provides more than double that number, and it is a question for serious consideration whether the closer distance is not the best, in view of the very slight additional outlay, and the fact that superfluous trees can always be removed at will. Providing the cost of collection be not prohibitive, the best financial results will be secured from the largest returns per acre, not per tree, and although it must be apparent to all that a space of 10 feet is not sufficient for a tree with a natural spread of, say, 60 feet, still, it is possible that the gross returns from six small trees may be more than from one large one, and also that a system of coppicing may be introduced, or some other method for artificially retarding the upward and whippy growth, and thickening the stems, with a corresponding increase in yield. If such a result can be achieved, those who have their estates planted 20 feet by 20 feet, will find themselves unable to put matters right, for supplies, and additional trees, planted after their neighbours have had a year

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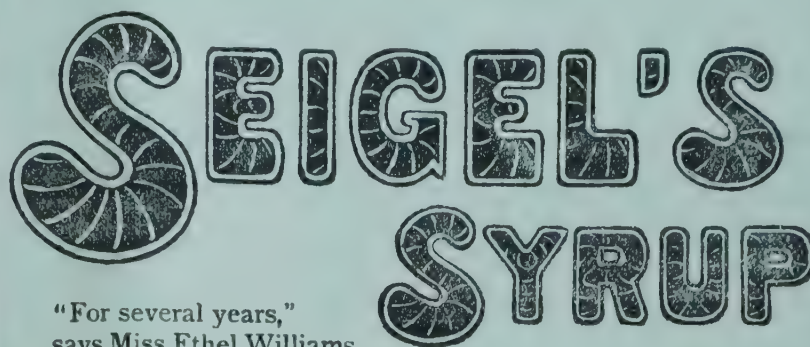
Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacob's Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacob's Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

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### AIDS DIGESTION.

or two start, rarely make good growth. The best method of tapping has not yet been definitely settled either. Ceylon planters appear to favour small V-shaped incisions cut fresh every day. Short herring-bone cuts, gradually widened out by the daily removal of a thin slice of bark, to make the latex flow afresh, are most in vogue in this country, and some interesting experiments are now being carried on in the Singapore Gardens under the direction of Mr. Ridley, which may prove to be the best of all. The injury to the tree is practically nil, only a small piece of bark, about 2 inches long by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide, being removed at a time, and although the daily yield is naturally very much less than by the other methods, the cuts being few and far between, still it seems probable that tapping may be continued almost the whole year round, which of course has also an important bearing upon the distribution of labour. The curing of the latex is now so thoroughly understood that no remarks upon the subject are called for here, but your Committee would draw your attention to the unanimous opinion of all the manufacturers that absolute purity and freedom from foreign matter, is the most important point of all. The latex is easily strained, and all impurities removed, and if, in course of time, over-production begins to make itself felt, those who have established a reputation for the quality of their produce will be the last to suffer.

**GUTTA REMBONG (*Ficus elastica*).**—A small sale of this rubber from about 4-year old trees was put through at \$190 per picul, the average yield per tree being about 10 oz. The lot in question was the most ordinary "scrap" and for really good stuff a much higher price would probably have been paid. The cost of collection was very heavy, the quantity being only a very small one, still the margin of profit is sufficiently wide, at the price quoted, to make the cultivation of Rembong well worth considering. This variety has the advantage of yielding nearly two years sooner than Pará, and gives a heavier return per tree. It is also cheaper to

open, being planted not less than 30 feet by 30 feet spreads with great rapidity, consequently keeping the weeds down well, and is indigenous to the country. It moreover grows with great luxuriance in well-drained peat land where no other cultivation does any good at all. Tapping is easy, and requires nothing like the care that is necessary with Pará, but the latex is slow to coagulate, when poured out it pans, and the value of really good Rembong "biscuits" is at present an unknown quantity. The idea seems to be that the quality of this rubber is inferior, but so little is known about it when really carefully prepared, and the price realised for the "scrap" referred to was so satisfactory, that it would certainly appear to merit much greater attention.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated May 8th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903	1,458,070	1,044,106	76,827
1901-1902	1,582,977	1,102,687	76,925
40,006 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 64,372 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
22,788 " CEYLON			
1,578 " JAVA			

The month's deliveries appear at first sight somewhat disappointing, but clearances in April last year were heavy in anticipation of the Budget, thus unduly depleting London bonded stocks. This year, on the contrary, duty payments before the



Budget were extremely light, while the working days left in April after its declaration were too few for figures to adjust themselves. Clearances so far this month have been very heavy.

Imports of all tea from 1st June to date are considerably less than those of the same period last year, and very far behind the previous year.

INDIAN.—Owing to the large quantity brought forward, buyers displayed considerable hesitation in Monday's sale, and a large proportion was in consequence withdrawn, the teas which sold showing but very little change in price. Wednesday's sale passed with more spirit, confidence among buyers apparently having been restored, while many lots withdrawn on Monday were sold at better prices. Exports to U. K. for the whole of April 243,000 lbs., against 641,000 lbs. last year. Averages:—"Doom Dooma Co. Samdang" and "Seeyok," 1/-; "Amal T E Co. Nahor Kutia," 11½d.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 32,478 pkgs., av. 7.74d. 1902, 21,728 pkgs., av. 6.66d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,135,663 pkgs., av. 7.49d. 1901-2, 1,257,860 pkgs., av. 7.67d.

CEYLON.—The sale passed with fair spirit, and although prices were in some instances irregular, the general tone was fairly steady. Exports to U. K. for April 8,250,000 lbs., against 9,00,000 lbs. in 1902; from 1st January 31,500,000 lbs., against 34,750,000 lbs. last year. Estimate for May 8½ to 9 millions, against 9,750,000 lbs. shipped last May. Averages:—"Sutton," 1/-; "Valamaly," 11d; "C. T. P. Co. Waverley," 10½d; "Dimbula V. T. Co. Tilli-coultry," "Henfold" and "Nuthourne," 9½d; "Drayto," "E. P. & E. Co. Norwood," "Ritnageria Dimbula" and "Talawakelle," 9½d.

Average for week 7.69d, against 6.55d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 338,486 pkgs., av. 7.66d. 1902, 394,800 pkgs., av. 7.04d.

JAVA.—The teas were mostly sold in the room, although prices were perhaps a shade irregular here and there.

### PEPPER.

Firm. In auction 210 bags Alleppy sold at 6d for good, 186 bags fine heavy Tellicherry at 6½d. Fine heavy bold Singapore sold at 6½d, light shelly 4½d, and greyish bought in at 6½d to 6½d. Of *White pepper* 127 bags Singapore offered, and 40 sold at 11½d for fine bold coriander kind; good 10½d to 10½d, fair to fully fair

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.74d., MAY 8TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	186	7.58												
Davara Shola	115 p	7½	36 p	8 11½	20	7½	24	7½	35	6½				
Prospect	71½c	7½	36½c	†8			35½c	7½						
Travancore	1783	6.92												
Atchencoil	33 p	6½			7	6½	13	7½	4	6½			9½c	5½ 6½
Glenmary	136 p	6½	55	6½ 7			30	†7½	15	6½			36 p	5½ 6½
Kan. Dev. H C G	358 p	7	120½c	†7 7½	85 p	6½	84½c	7½	48 p	6½			21½c	6½ 6½
" Periaurrai	170	6½	23	†6½	50	†6½	22	7½	33	†6½			42	5½ †6½
" Sevenmally	440 p	7	198 p	†7 8	57	†6½	57	†7½	76½c	6½			52 p	5½ 6½
MD	40½c	6½	21½c	6½	19½c	6½								
Penshurst	89	6½	20	7½	61	6½	8	6½						
S I T Co Kud Ka	85	7	29	†6½			31	†7½	25	6½				
Stagbrook	224 p	7	170 p	†7 8½	44	6½							10	5½
T T E Co Kolie K.	139	7½	56	7½ 9½	41	6½			20	6½			22	6½
S T T Co Venture.	69 p	6½					38	6½ 7	21	6½			10½c	5½
Wynaad	247	6.82												
Chulika	81 p	7	29½c	7½	29	†6½	16½c	7½	7	6½				
Erramaculla	78 p	6½	15½c	7½	18	6½	22½c	7½	11	6½				
Tanga Mulla	88	6½	42	7 7½	15	6½			8	6½	17	6½ 6½	12½c	5½
													6	6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

9½d. Privately the market for Singapore closes firmer with spot sales at 6½d, and a good business in April-May at 6½d, April-June 6½d, and August-October 6½d per lb. White pepper is firm at 9½d for fair Singapore, and 9½d for fair Penang.

### GINGER.

At auction the heavy supply of 1,411 barrels Jamaica offered, of which the larger proportion sold at rather irregular, but full prices. Good to fine washed brought 52s to 58s, medium dullish to medium washed 42s to 49s 6d, small dullish 42s to 42s 6d. Private advices from Jamaica state there are not likely to be any large shipments later in the season, as was the case last year, and the feeling generally is to hold for firm prices. Unsorted native cut Cochin sold at 53s, small cut being bought in at 42s 6d, bold 72s 6d to 75s. and selected 85s. D. rough ends brought 34s, good cuttings 37s 6d, cut tips 42s 6d per cwt.

### CINCHONA.

The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe during April, 1903, at—

Year.	Amst lbs.	Year.	Amst lbs.
1903 ...	1,074,000	1897 ...	560,000
1902 ...	1,000,000	1896 ...	419,000
1901 ...	800,000	1895 ...	615,000
1900 ...	530,000	1894 ...	515,000
1899 ...	996,000	1893 ...	649,000
1898 ...	856,000		

#### Total Shipments January-April.

Year.	Amst lbs.	Year.	Amst lbs.
1903 ...	3,378,000	1897 ...	1,910,000
1902 ...	3,155,000	1896 ...	2,492,000
1901 ...	3,423,000	1895 ...	2,477,000
1900 ...	2,436,000	1894 ...	2,388,000
1899 ...	3,027,800	1893 ...	2,530,000
1898 ...	3,202,000		

### QUININE.

Practically no business has been done this week. Nearest value is 11½d per oz, spot, in second hands.

### CINNAMON.

At auction ten bales Tellicherry offered and sold at 7½d per lb. for broken quill; 25 bags Ceylon sold at 9d for broken quill, 6½d for quillings, and 2d for coarse chips and bark.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1903.

[No. 23.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 12th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—Wind S.-W. Days fine.

Last week the clouds hanked up so much, that it seemed the monsoon was on us ; now there is no appearance of the same. *Works*—Mapure progressing. *Borer*—Very slight. *Pruning*—Still on, there is an extraordinary quantity of dead work from the December rains. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—The appearance of the countryside with the denes bright green is now lovely.

### THE INDIAN TEA CESS.

At the first meeting of the Committee appointed to administer the Indian Tea Cess the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. ACWORTH represented the U. P. A. S. I., but we have not yet heard whether the Madras Chamber of Commerce was represented or not. The Committee appears to have settled down promptly to work. A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the draft rules forwarded by Government. This is a very necessary preliminary to the opening of the campaign. For the purpose of carrying that campaign on, an Executive Committee was appointed. The members will transact the ordinary business connected with the administration of the Cess, and will no doubt issue periodical reports. A Secretary and an Assistant Secretary were appointed. So much for the organization of a working staff. As regards work to be undertaken, it was resolved that a bonus of 6 pies per pound be offered on four million pounds of green tea to be made during the current season. This will absorb Rs.1,25,000, if the tea is forthcoming. And then the interests

of Southern India were dealt with. The Executive Committee was empowered to allot a sum of Rs.12,000 for the purpose of tea exportation to Southern India at the rate of 2,000 a month for six months, the funds to be remitted to Messrs. PARRY & Co., Madras, for allocation. Lastly, it was resolved that the actual expenses of the members travelling to attend the General Meeting of the Cess Committee be paid from the Cess Funds.

This recognition of Messrs. PARRY & Co.'s work on lines similar to those of the Indian Tea Markets Commission will be noted with great satisfaction by Travancore and Nilgiri planters, and is doubtless due to representations made by the Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH. It is gratifying to note that this gentleman also made another attempt to ally the interests of the South with those of the North. Speaking with reference to the St. Louis Exposition, Mr. ACWORTH expressed the hope that it would be possible to raise about Rs.25,000 in Southern India, provided—(a) that the United Planters' Association of Southern India was permitted to exhibit coffee and cardamoms in addition to tea ; (b) that if brewed tea were sold, brewed coffee might be sold ; and (c) that the Association might have a special show-case of its own in the Tea Pavilion. We are not aware how far Mr. ACWORTH had authority for the above statement regarding probable collections. As far as we have been able to gather, coffee-planters have not shown any great interest in the St. Louis Exposition. There seems to be an idea that, as the United States can have supplies of "mild" coffees from Central and South America—which have a geographical advantage over India—it would be waste of money for India to attempt to find in the States a market for her coffee. We do not share this view. Therefore, we are extremely glad to see that Mr. ACWORTH has taken the matter up. In his estimate of Rs.25,000 he has probably taken into account the probability that assistance may be received from Government. But planters must be fully aware that no such grant is likely to be made if they themselves show symptoms of half-heartedness. While not sanguine that the Americans will ever make large purchases of Indian Coffee, we are certainly of opinion that they might be induced to become customers ; and it must be remembered that every additional ton that can be disposed of in the States is a ton less to be offered in the already overburdened markets of Europe.



In this connection we may say that Mr. ACWORTH gave the Tea Cess Committee some particulars of the progress made in Southern India in the work of pushing the sale of Indian Tea among the native population, most satisfactory progress having been made. This is work that ought to be done in respect to Coffee as well as Tea. Messrs. PARRY & Co., of Madras, and Messrs. ANDREW YULE & Co., of Calcutta, have alike expressed their inability to push coffee as well as tea. This, however, does not lessen the urgency of the need for Coffee sales to be pushed among the natives of India. They number many millions, and if only a small percentage of them can be induced to become regular consumers of Indian Coffee the effect on the planting industry must be great. In the long run, of course, expansion of this kind might help Brazil more than India, unless a Preferential Tariff system were adopted and Indian Coffee, among other products, protected against foreign rivals. Still each *new* consumer of coffee, whether Indian or other, helps to improve the position of the coffee market generally. No effort should be spared to make converts to the creed of coffee drinking. Besides, if planters put their backs into this work and show that they are as energetic in the coffee as in the tea branch, they will have so much the more right to speak on the day, should it ever come, when Mr. CHAMBERLAIN obtains the mandate of the British public to adopt a system of Fiscal Union with a preferential tariff in favour of all parts of the Empire and reasonably protective as against foreign competition. The Indian coffee industry is now small as compared with the Indian tea industry, but perhaps there is yet a chance of the former recovering some of its lost glory.

## THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

APRIL 1903.

**Cocoa (Raw).**—Movements of this article in the United Kingdom last month appeared very irregular when compared with those in April, 1902, and the position of the bonded stocks was completely reversed.

In the first four months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... lbs.	22,464,868	26,319,737	20,562,305
Home consumption ..	15,258,344	23,360,784	19,252,183
Exports ...	4,063,274	4,485,095	3,401,192
Stocks in bond ...	13,601,000	10,953,000	14,607,000
Value of imports ...	£649,882	£780,804	£618,669
Do. exports ...	125,372	126,368	110,916

**Cocoa (prepared).**—In most cases there were increases over the totals in 1902, and the stock in bond was nearly thrice what it was then.

In the first four months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... lbs.	3,573,955	2,918,812	2,806,815
Home consumption...	3,322,243	2,845,182	2,719,019
Exports ...	142,320	246,711	303,092
Stocks in bond ...	186,000	65,000	184,000
Value of imports ...	£354,455	£298,577	£288,455
Do. exports ...	16,698	25,942	32,514

**Coffee.**—There were liberal imports during April, but the clearances did not expand much, and the stock accumulated.

In the first four months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... cwt.	667,920	441,781	551,835
Home consumption. "	92,432	121,008	126,157
Exports ... "	203,331	82,156	194,002
Stocks in bond ... "	895,000	493,000	520,000
Value of imports ...	£1,920,953	£1,329,296	£1,836,907
Do. exports ...	517,816	249,881	585,979

**Chicory.**—Amounts pertaining to 1903 were all small.

In the first four months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... cwt.	30,379	36,514	39,159
Home consumption. "	26,731	32,779	31,540
Exports ... "	62	119	396
Stocks in bond ... "	8,000	10,000	19,000
Value of imports ...	£13,955	£16,116	£18,323
Do. exports ...	65	123	407

**Tea.**—The April importations were of an ample kind, but the home clearances were below the average, and in place of a deficiency there is now a surplus in the bonded stock.

In the first four months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China ... lbs	3,892,201	4,453,237	3,201,066
Do. British East India ..	34,633,960	41,707,826	45,723,989
Do. Ceylon ...	30,796,323	36,788,647	39,224,045
Do. Other countries... "	7,645,852	5,661,467	4,101,444
Total imports ...	76,968,336	88,611,177	92,250,544
Home consumption—China. lbs.	4,553,292	4,954,154	3,970,377
Do. do. B. E. I. ..	47,229,771	60,417,450	70,773,470
Do. do. Ceylon ..	23,306,695	28,648,364	35,521,922
Do. do. O. C. ..	2,961,287	3,401,311	2,188,779
Total ...	78,051,045	97,421,279	112,454,548
Exports—China ... lbs.	3,675,730	3,449,805	3,988,648
Do. British East India ..	3,526,309	4,669,468	5,097,923
Do. Ceylon ...	5,096,298	5,076,801	5,709,368
Do. Other countries ..	432,037	362,818	509,562
Total ...	12,730,374	13,558,892	15,305,501
Stocks in bond ... lbs.	93,237,000	91,776,000	83,654,000
Value of imports ...	£2,397,754	£2,833,840	£2,924,655
Of which British Indian ...	1,088,187	1,394,039	1,468,453
Do. Ceylon ...	958,953	1,149,108	1,225,831
Value of exports ...	554,515	566,321	587,216

## COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee Shrinkage only 135,000 Bags.**—This day, Tuesday, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 5th ultimo, it seemed on the Coffee Exchange that the visible supply of coffee on May 1 would have shrunk only 135,000 bags. A shrinkage of at least 200,000 bags had been expected. It would appear that the arrivals of mild coffee in Europe had been unusually and unexpectedly heavy. At the time of this writing the Coffee Exchange had heard from all its correspondents except the one in New Orleans.

Arrivals of Brazil coffee in the United States in April were 513,039 bags and the deliveries 513,620 bags. The world's visible supply April 1 was 12,380,627 bags.



The 1903 crop of washed Caracas is said to be only 70 per cent. of that of last year. Maracaibo is also said to be less in quantity than last year.

**Coffee in 1903.**—There is a capital chance to work up a profitable coffee trade this year, says the *Grocer*. There is a bumper crop, and prices are low. Some very fine coffee is to be had at quite reasonable prices. Those who have already a large coffee trade are to be congratulated; they seem in for a good time. Coffee may not be so much a Summer as a Winter drink, but it is becoming increasingly popular amongst the male sex as an after-dinner beverage. The ladies stick to their old favourite—tea. The trade in the numerous cafés is pretty good evidence of the improving demand for a good cup of coffee—even in Summer. It is strange how many of us, grocers dawdle with the coffee trade, often resolving to go in for pushing it properly, but getting no farther than the resolution. Now is the opportunity. It is also very likely that now is about the time to lay in a bit of stock.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Coffee prices are a little easier in the actual coffee world so far as the Brazil grades are concerned, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 5th ultimo. Rio No. 7 is now quoted at 5½c. In the option market the week has been somewhat irregular but certainly flat. Prices on the Exchange hover around the 3.70 to 3.75 mark for May. Now and then on the seemingly better tone of the European markets there is a slight advance, which is usually lost on the full Santos interior receipts. A flat period seems in order for some time. The recent activity and the low option price was caused by the heavy liquidation of May coffee and this force has now spent itself. Neither bull nor bear is disposed to do much, prices ruling not being fanciful to the stomachs of either. The year's Brazil stock still grows but deliveries remain very large and in excess of receipts so that the world's visible supply for the first of May should show a decrease of 225,000 bags. The Brazil markets remain too high for business from this side, but the quiet condition seems to have no effect easing the market there. In New York the spot market for spot invoices is uneventful and therefore dull. Closing prices are: Rio No. 8, 4½c.; Rio No. 7, 5½c.; Rio No. 4 5½c.; Santos No. 4, 6c.

Jobbing is reported light, especially in the interior where trading is mostly hand to mouth. Seemingly buyers effect some fall in prices out of the low quotations in the recent market for coffee on the Exchange. Evidently there is much need of a more accurate interpretation of the proceedings on the Exchange. Certainly the little learning afforded by the daily Press is a dangerous thing.

In mild coffees the better grades are receiving some attention from jobbers and prices rule steady. Good Cucuta is quoted at 9¼c. All commoner grades are flat. East India growths are quiet.

It is, says the *American Grocer* of 29th April, the same old story of big visible supply; prospective heavy crops next year; fair demand; overloaded speculative interests trying to realize. Options show no change from 3.75c. as the lowest Spot No. 7 sold at 5½c., but, owing to the comparative scarcity of that grade, there is considerable premium over Exchange quotations. The market closed at 5¼c. for No. 7 Rio; 6½c. for No. 3; 6c. for Santos No. 4. Deliveries are

fair; speculative trading rather light in volume. Mild sorts in fair request; firm for Cucuta, with 9c. easy for Good; Java sorts quiet and steady.

Mr. Arnold Shramm, in commenting on the mild coffee situation, said that trade was quiet. The demand for some grades was fair and Bogotas, as well as unwashed Merida and Cucuta, were the principal sellers. Other kinds dragged. Jobbing lots of good Maracaibo were held at 9c.

Offerings of the low grades of Brazil are light, as a result of the limited supply here.

Offerings of jobbing lots of high grade old crop Maracaibo coffee were readily absorbed at prices ranging from 10c. to 12c., according to grade.

A new low record price for coffee futures was established when May option was sold at 3.70c. per pound.

Advices received from Maracaibo noted that prospects indicate small receipts of Cucuta coffee there for some months to come, as the revolutionists are getting stronger and gaining ground in the neighbourhood of Colon, a town which is between San Cristobal and Cucuta and commands the river through which the coffee must be transported and where it is likely to be blocked.

Advices from Brazil say that the prospects of the coming Rio crop in Rio de Janeiro and Minas are most promising, another record being most confidently spoken of, some placing possibilities as high as 5,500,000 bags. As the weather continues favourable there is every probability that the crop will be earlier this year than usual.

During 1901 Coffee to the value of £12,000 was imported into Galveston (Texas). In 1902 this trade only represented a value of £3,413.

Coffee to the value of £24,480 was imported into Alexandretta in 1902, as against £28,925 in 1901. It was mostly from Santos, very little Mocha being included. There are, by the way, several firms in Calcutta who trade direct with Aleppo, though not in Coffee. Mersum took last year coffee to the value of £8,200, and Adena coffee to the value of £9,647, but not a berry from India.

## TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Listless conditions are observed in the tea market, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 5th ultimo, but owing to the lack of supplies of teas in demand prices remain steady and in the main unchanged. A good-sized order could probably obtain concessions. Monday business began to stir somewhat.

Interest, of course, is now centered in the opening markets in the East. They are high beyond all reason and excite the astonishment of all tea traders. Competition among grocers acting independently of exclusive tea importers permits the Easterners to squeeze the Western buyers, and they are therefore in much and we are out proportionately. In the situation the Japanese were enabled to advance their market 5 cents last year, and this year so much as 10 cents. The Formosa market has shown advances though not so drastic. Unless some understanding is reached ere long, the prices of these teas will be so advanced as to prohibit buying on the part of the consumer. Extreme prices in tea are



damaging in the face of the extremely low prices ruling in coffee. Consumption proceeds along the lines of least cost.

No more rumours are heard of exports of Congous. It would seem that probably some 2,500,000 pounds have been exported since January 1, and that so large an export should not have had a decided influence on the quotations for Congou shows that the quantity of the tea in the American warehouses has been larger than supposed. The tea still seems too heavy to permit market buoyancy. It is to be noted too that in England it is reported that so far very few of these teas have been met with, which would indicate such handling over there that the tea shall not suddenly lower the prices of teas.

London advices say that a good demand has again predominated for all grades up to 7½d., and previous rates have been fully maintained; medium and better teas, however, continue slow of sale, but there is no material change in prices. In China teas there is a fair demand and prices are firm. In Indian teas prices on average ruled steady. All grades up to 7½d. met with good competition, and firm rates were realized, while above that price the demand was slow, but quotations showed little change from those previously ruling. In Ceylon teas a good demand prevailed for all grades up to 7½d., and prices ruling before the holidays were fully maintained, while above that price the demand was slow, but there is no material change in quotations.

**Tea in New York.**—There was, says the *American Grocer* of 29th April, a large export demand from England for Congou teas, and bids on 15,000 packages at a price slightly below spot quotations here were made, resulting in fair-sized transactions.

The shipments of tea from New York to London for this year up to date were unusually heavy and amounted to a total of 37,997 packages, of which about 35,000 packages were Congous and 2,000 packages were Indias.

According to brokers' views it is expected that the market for new crop Japan will open at about the latter part of this week. New crop Formosas were offered at 15c. to 16c. per pound.

Mr. A. R. Robertson, in expressing his opinion about the tea situation, said that importers and jobbers are carrying only small stocks, and such demand as manifests itself is met with a general firm tone in prices.

**Tea by the Siberian Railway.**—The British Commercial agent in Russia reports that, with the forthcoming opening of regular traffic on the Manchurian Railway, the tea trade will receive a considerable impulse from the direct communications organised by the new line, with the steamer service attached to it, enabling tea to be carried direct from Hangkow, Shanghai, and Ceylon (for Ceylon tea) to the chief stations of the Siberian and Russian railway systems, including Moscow, Nijni, St. Petersburg, and Warsaw. The full cost of delivery per pound (36 lbs.) of tea from the above-named ports will be from 4.79 roubles to 5.1 roubles to Moscow; 5.8 roubles to 5.30 roubles to St. Petersburg; and 5.31 roubles to 5.53 roubles to Warsaw, according to port of despatch.

Messrs. George White & Co. in their Report, May 14, say: The sales passed with a better tone, and, generally speaking, any movements were in sellers' favour. A satis-

factory feature was the wider inquiry for the higher grades, especially Broken Pekoes, from 8d. to 10d., such often marking an improvement in price. The exceptional value which has for some time been available in good medium to fine qualities in comparison with common Tea is attracting more attention, and this feature of the market is being brought before the public by distributors. As an example of this an advertisement has appeared in a well-known trade journal in the form of a black page bearing the inscription in white letters, "Execution of Common Teas." It is not, however, necessary to advocate this drastic measure, but both Indian and Ceylon growers of the fine article would certainly welcome any movement calculated to raise the value of their produce in some proportion to the enhancement which has taken place in the lower grades.

Tea is coming into increased use in Aleppo as a beverage. Thousands of Circassians residing to the East of Kaisered drink much tea which at present reaches them from Russia or Persia. The British Consul reports:—"No drinkable tea is sold in this country, and yet that sold commands an excessive price. This trade needs to be developed." It is also stated:—"Indian teas are becoming popular; but no good teas are imported, and prices are comparatively high. The trade could easily be increased considerably."

**Improved System of Drying Green Leaf.**—Mr. G. W. Suttan writes from London to the *Indian Planters' Gazette*:—The manufacture of good tea is dependent to a great extent on the leaf being withered naturally, and having it ready to start to roll early the next day. To do this most factories are provided with space to accommodate for the natural process of withering one and a half to two days leaf, and in addition to this a withering chamber with fans for drawing a current of warm air through the chamber is arranged to accelerate the withering in the rainy season. Even with all this accommodation it frequently happens during the rains the leaf is not sufficiently withered to roll till late in the day, and it has to be rolled under-withered to make room for the incoming leaf.

Every planter knows he cannot make as good tea out of leaf that has been on the withering racks for more than 18 hours, or from leaf that has been artificially withered. To get over the difficulty in a way, several methods of artificial withering have been brought out, which have met with a fair amount of success; but it appears to the writer the inventors have not gone thoroughly into the question of why it takes the leaf much longer to wither on a wet day, than it does on a bright hot sunny day. Of course we all know the leaf plucked on a bright hot sunny day has little if any moisture or rain water among it, and only the weight of the basket is cut from the total weight of the leaf and basket; but on the other hand we have to cut at least half the total weight of a basket of leaf on a pouring wet day, i.e., a basket of leaf weighing 20 lbs. (including basket) the plucker would be credited with 10 lbs. of leaf, and of the rest, 6 lbs. would be cut for water, and 4 lbs. for the wet basket which is only just sufficient, as one often finds out at the end of a week's continuous rain, when all the leaf plucked during the week has been manufactured into tea. So for every 10 lbs. of leaf we take 6 lbs. of water with it to the withering house, which has to be evaporated before the leaf can commence to



wither, and when the air is saturated with moisture (as it generally is in wet weather) it cannot possibly take up any more moisture, so the leaf is kept alive on the withering floors or racks until the sun comes out and warms the air sufficiently so as to make it absorb the moisture, or the leaf has to be collected and spread in the withering loft to be placed in contact with heated air set in motion by means of fans; in either case, the surplus water has to be evaporated before the withering process can commence.

By putting the stalks of fresh cut flowers into water, we can keep them fresh and sweet for days by changing the water, but directly we take the flowers out of the water and leave them for a few hours they wither up and die. Precisely the same action takes place with wet leaf, as the rain-water among the leaves gives them something to feed on and keeps them alive, but not being able to change the water it soon becomes putrid and taints the leaf.

Notwithstanding the large amount of withering space most factories are provided with, there are times when the leaf has to be collected very thickly in the withering houses, and it has to be turned over several times to allow the air to get into it to prevent the rain-water amongst it going bad and tainting the leaf before it can be artificially withered in the loft or spread thinly on the withering floors or racks with the hopes that it may be withered naturally.

Of course this means an enormous amount of labour to handle the leaf, besides knocking it about and damaging it, and the wear and tear on machinery and a large consumption of fuel used in the dryers to warm the air as it is drawn into the withering lofts, and after all this expense in labour and fuel, the quality of the tea is very inferior to that which was being made during the fine weather with a natural wither.

When walking through parts of the gardens that have been plucked (more especially in wet weather), I have found a few shoots left on the bushes and have plucked and put them in my pocket, and on returning to the bungalow, taken them out of my pocket and put them on the table in the verandah. I have noticed this leaf, if left there, has been well withered hours before that brought in by the pluckers at the same time; some may say it withered quickly because it was spread thinly on the table, that may be one reason, but I maintain the real reason was that the lining of the pocket absorbed the moisture from the leaf, so it had nothing to feed on and keep it alive, therefore it withered. Anyone can try the experiment by taking two handfuls of wet leaf and place one in a dry cloth and press the water out with slight pressure so as not to damage the leaf but to dry it, and place this handful along side the other handful of wet leaf on the table, the result is naturally the dried leaf withers hours before the wet. It is a very simple experiment and proves we could get over the difficulty of withering leaf in wet weather if we extract the rain-water from the leaf before it was spread out to wither.

It can be easily done as will be seen below and will save an enormous amount of labour, fuel, withering accommodation, and late work, beside improving the quality of the tea.

I have patented an improved form of machine called the "Green Tea Leaf Water Extractor" for extracting the rain-water from the leaf as it is being weighed into the factory on a wet day.

On a wet day instead of the pluckers taking the leaf to the withering houses they empty the contents of their baskets

into strong open-work canvas bags hung up in a convenient place, each bag will hold about 50 lbs. of leaf, three of these bags full of leaf are placed in the "Green Leaf Water Extractor" and after being whizzed round in the machine for three or four minutes the rain-water is expelled by centrifugal force; the pressure on the leaf is gradually applied as the speed of the revolving cage increases and flattens it out against the side of the cage until all the water has been squeezed out and expelled from it by the centrifugal force.

When it is seen no more water is being expelled from the leaf the driving belt is moved on to the loose pulley and the revolving cage is gradually stopped by a hand-brake and the centrifugal force pressing the leaf ceases, and allows the leaf to open out in the bags and resumes its original form. The three bags of leaf are then removed from the machine and carried away to the withering houses where it is spread out thinly to be *naturally* withered, which it does, *no matter what state the atmosphere is in*, as it has *no water* among it to keep it *alive* as already explained. The leaf is *not damaged or bruised* in any way and it can be treated by the "Green Leaf Water Extractor" almost as fast as it is being weighed into the factory.

By adopting this process a great *saving in labour* is effected, as the leaf only requires to be collected *when withered* and taken to the rolling machines; also a *reduction in the area* of the withering accommodation which entails a *heavy annual expense in repairs* and a *saving in fuel* used in the dryers to *heat the air* for the withering loft, and unnecessary wear and tear on machinery and the *furnaces* of the dryers.

Not only will these "Green Leaf Water Extractors" be most useful during *wet weather*, but it frequently happens during a bright hot day a heavy storm of rain comes on just before the leaf is brought in and soaks the leaf in the baskets, so that it has to be spread in the withering loft to be *artificially withered*, which would be avoided if it were treated in a "Green Leaf Water Extractor" before being spread out to wither.

A 36-inch diameter "Green Leaf Water Extractor" occupies a ground space of 4 feet by 9 feet including countershaft. It requires about 3 H.-P. to start the machine. It takes about four minutes to treat a charge of leaf from start to finish.

The wearing parts are well proportioned, and of ample strength, and the general construction of the machine is neat, strong, and well finished off.

When experimenting with the various types of "Hydro-Extractors" on the market, I found the revolving baskets generally in use were not suitable for treating Green Leaf, but I have designed a special form of basket which gives excellent results. Although the external casing of the machine is adhered to, and many may think any "Hydro-Extractor" will answer the purpose; but this is not the case as I have proved.

Another important improvement in this machine, is the driving pulley on the countershaft is fitted with a Patent Automatic Friction Clutch, which allows the revolving basket, containing the leaf, to start slowly, and gradually increase its speed, by this means the leaf remains stationary in the basket, and it is not turned over or knocked about, as would be the case with fixed pulleys, it also prevents any sudden checks being imparted to the belting, shafting, and engine when starting the machine.



These machines can be fitted with a steam engine or water turbine, and can be placed in any part of a Factory or Leaf House, and thus be independent of shafting and belts.

The *Merchants' Review* of 1st ultimo lets itself go thus:—  
 “*Planting Opinion* of Madras thinks there should be a market for Indian Coffee in the United States, and would have the St. Louis Exposition utilized for the purpose of finding an opening. As all kinds of East Indian coffee have hitherto brought the highest prices in this country there cannot be much doubt that the bean of Hindostan would also do well here. The trouble hitherto has been that the American people have had to work hard and save money in order to get out of the depression produced by several severe panics during the past thirty years; and, besides, they have endeavored to accomplish in half a century what took Europe several centuries to accomplish, namely, the transmutation of a wilderness into productive farmlands, busy cities and beautiful parks and pleasure grounds. At the same time the industrial development has been marvellous, and to do all this money had to be found, and the workers of the miracles had to live hard and work hard and eat cheap. As a consequence low grade groceries were for a long time in almost universal demand here, and the finest Mauritius coffee went to France, along with some other kinds of fancy quality; Porto Rico and Cuba and the Philippines sent superior coffee to Spain; Ceylon and Jamaica sent peerless grades to Great Britain, and Holland and Germany took the best that Java and Sumatra could produce. The United States took what was left; but by the great horn spoon, your Uncle Sammy can afford the best that's going now a days, so send along your choicest berries from Hind, esteemed *Planting Opinion*, and we will receive them as the hungry lion of the desert received the unsophisticated tourist.”

\* \* \*

The tea imported into the U. S. during March, 1903, was 4,158,527 lbs., valued at \$642,895, as compared with 5,252,486 lbs. in March, 1902, valued at \$581,836. Notice the reduction of quantity and the increase of value. Are we at the threshold of a brighter era in the tea trade? asks the *Merchants' Review*. Are the coming events casting their shadows before in this exaltation of quality and depression of quantity? A better sign would be an increase in quality and a moderate increase in quantity, for the latter would tell a story of expanding consumption. We shall have more to say on this subject later, for it is highly important and the tea trade has few competent organs to discuss it.

\* \* \*

**Tea Pests and Blights.**—We have received a copy of the second edition of *The Pests and Blights of the Tea Plant*, first published in 1898, and now brought out by Dr. Watt in collaboration with Mr. Mann. The original edition, only professed to be a record of certain special inquiries in the Kangra Valley and Assam. The Authors have now made it a general account of pests and blights affecting the tea plant in India, and to a certain extent in Ceylon. We must defer a detailed review.

\* \* \*

**The Green-Tea Question.**—Finished or Unfinished? A correspondent asks why people are satisfied with selling unfinished green teas, saying that for the finished article a 42 cents average has been obtained. He attributes the dullness in the green-tea trade to Canada to being satisfied with the unfinished article. In order to elicit the views of green-tea men on the subject, a representative of the *Times of Ceylon* called upon several finishers;

and we are not surprised to hear that the reasons assigned by them for the present dullness in Ceylon green-tea are opposed to the theory put forward by our correspondent. From the first Canada has been our great market for unfinished green teas, they say; and, as long as this market exists, green-tea makers in Ceylon will only be too pleased to supply unfinished green-tea. The finished product is different from the unfinished in colour only; and this fact has been beaten so effectively into the head of the Canadian tea-drinker that he has concluded it is better for his pocket to drink a tea which—though its appearance may be against it—is yet in essentials equally as good as a finished tea for which he has to pay 2d. a lb. more perhaps. So much for Canada.

The United States is the great market for Ceylon finished green teas. The American public will not look at the unfinished tea. Primarily it has a soft spot in its heart for Japan and China tea. The China and Japan merchant has always supplied the American customer with a finished green-tea; and, as there is no Imperial sentiment as in the case of Canada, it is obvious that for Ceylon to secure the market, or a portion of the market, it must at the very least compete on an equality with Japan and China. To do this it had to finish its green-tea, or at least that part of it which entered the American market.

\* \* \*

There is another point about the green-tea question which is worth remembering. In Ceylon the industry is practically in its infancy. The market, so to speak, has not been proved, and it is, therefore, not surprising that the planter, on his estate, has been chary of finishing his tea. The firms in Colombo who at present finish green tea are quite in accord with our correspondent that it is the finished green-tea that secures the better prices, and that it would be to the advantage to finish more green-tea. A representative of one of the firms estimated the finished green-tea exported from Colombo at not more than 10 per cent. of the whole quantity of green-tea sent away. According to him, a great deal of unfinished green-tea was finished in America itself. Another green-tea merchant estimates the quantity of finished green tea which leaves Ceylon at 25 per cent. of the whole. There was a great deal more finished in Colombo, he said, than people were aware of. The reason for the temporary slump in the Ceylon green-tea market, according to the latter gentleman, is that Japan and China could not formerly supply the American demand, and the Americans gave us their custom; but now the China season is at its height, and the Americans have gone back in some degree to their old love.

Briefly, the present position as regards Ceylon green tea is this. The Ceylon finished article has not been on the market long enough to prove itself, and planters are waiting to see it prove itself. There is a good deal of theory about the manufacture yet. At the same time, there are those who are hopeful, by careful manipulation of the market, of inducing Americans, like their Canadian neighbours, to accept the unfinished green-tea, against which at present they assert only an unreasonable prejudice exists.

## NOTES.

### Java Cinchona.

The Java shipments for the first half of May were 622,000 Amsterdam lbs.

### German Quinine.

The exports of quinine, quinine preparations, etc., from Germany during the two months ended February, 1903, amounted to 25,100 kilos., against 24,700 kilos. and 24,100 kilos. for the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901.

### Coffee Substitute.

A new idea in coffee substitutes is called banana coffee. It pretends to have bananas as an ingredient but savors strongly of chicory. It claims the following for itself: “Perfect Imitation of Java and Mocha.” Save the mark!

### Cinchona and Quinine at Amsterdam.

The import of quinine bark in 1902 was large, and prices were in consequence depressed, dropping from 1½d. per unit in January to 0·90d. per unit in August,



recovering in the latter part of the year, and closing in December at 1d. per unit. The production of sulphate of quinine was 714,400 lbs. in 1901 and 705,000 lbs. in 1902, and was sold at prices averaging 1.39d. per unit.

#### Colombo Tea Sale.

Reporting on 27th ultimo Messrs. Somerville & Co., Brokers, said:—

Good liquoring teas were in demand and prices were very firm, common and poor liquoring kinds met with less competition and prices were weaker. Our private wire reports:—"Good medium to fine there is a strong demand and dearer, some parcels shewing as much as  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. advanced. Green teas were in better demand and prices were generally firmer."

#### Soja Bean Coffee.

A new industry in Meherrin, Va., among the German settlers is the cultivation of soja beans, to be used in the place of coffee. Up to a few years ago this bean was unknown in that section, and since it has been substituted for coffee its cultivation has largely increased. It is contended by those who have tried raising the beans that they are unsurpassed for food. The German says he would much rather have them to make his coffee than the Rio grain. A result is that the coffee trade among this class of Germans has somewhat decreased.

#### Cocoa at Amsterdam.

No great changes can be noted in the market for cocoa during the past year. There was a fairly active business and prices were well maintained, with some fluctuations during the last months of the year. In Ceylon cocoa, for which there was an active demand, there was a gradual stiffening of prices, but the market closed quietly. The total importation into the Netherlands was on a larger scale than in the previous year; but the supply from Java, in consequence of the short crop, was reduced, not reaching more than 11,000 bags, as compared with 22,000 bags in 1901.

#### Rubber.

It is stated at Manaos that the amount of rubber gathered ready for delivery is eight or nine times larger than has been delivered in any previous year, and that the accumulated stock is worth between £7,000,000 and £8,000,000 sterling. When Porto Acre surrendered, some 20 steamers and launches, with lighters, were waiting to go up to take cargoes of rubber. This explains why it was worth the while of the Manaos Government to buy out the leader of the late Republic of the Acre at so high a price, and why the syndicate are anxious to hold the Bolivians to their bargain.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

#### TEA MARKETS' EXPANSION.

SIR,—Under this heading I read in the report of the Kanan Devan Association published in *Planting Opinion* of 23rd May "... but although Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. have done much good work and Mr. H. M. Knight's scheme has been floated in Madras it appeared difficult to get anything done on a satisfactory or businesslike footing. Now however..." I think this statement is likely to convey a false impression to those who have subscribed to my scheme, so that a few facts culled from Messrs. Parry & Co.'s last

report will help to show that the scheme has been worked so far on a satisfactory and businesslike footing and will no doubt interest those concerned.

The scheme in its original form has not been adhered to entirely as no support has been received except from Central and South Travancore.

In response to the call for Tea 9,035 lbs. were contributed from the Central Travancore Plantations, of which 2,086 lbs. had been dealt with at end of April last.

BREWED TEA.—A start with the sale of brewed tea was first made in Madras and is now on sale at one pice per cup in nineteen other Towns. Messrs. Parry & Co. write: "Bazaars were rented in suitable thoroughfares and brewed tea as well as loose tea was for sale. These bazaars however did not give satisfactory results and a service of hawkers was introduced; since then consumption has steadily increased. These hawkers (who require a great deal of supervision) now attend daily at all public and mercantile offices in Madras. From Madras the service of brewed tea has been extended to the principal Towns in each District and we append a statement showing the monthly consumption in each Town. Comparing the consumption in some of the Towns with their population the results are not in all cases satisfactory; this is due (1) to the fact that the limited funds at our disposal did not admit of a service of hawkers suitable to the size of the Town, and (2) plague has caused the inhabitants of Towns like Vellore and Bangalore to migrate elsewhere. From the last report of Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. we observe their total sales of brewed tea in February last were 56,388 cups as against our figure of 61,762 cups for April. The price per cup was the same, viz. 3 pies. We are confident that the consumption of brewed tea can be very largely increased, there being several outlets which we have been unable to touch for want of funds, e.g., the Railways of this Presidency."

#### Statement (condensed).

	Brewed Tea Sales.	Loose Tea Sales.	Packet Tea Sales.
January, 1903	2,853 cups.	79½ lbs.	...
February " "	17,277 "	695 "	...
March " "	51,688 "	552 "	223 lbs.
April " "	61,762 "	44 "	397 "
	133,580 cups.	1,370½ lbs.	62 lbs.

Brewed tea and dry tea was sold in April at Madras, Cuddalore, Kumbaconam, Tanjore, Negapatam, Pondicherry, Trichinopoly, Tuticorin, Madura, Bezvada, Samalkot, Cocanada, Erode, Salem, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Cuddappah, Nellore, St. Thomas' Mount, Ammayanaikanur.

In December 1902—1,270 cups of brewed tea were sold, so I have no hesitation in saying that the progress made during the first 5 months, showing as it does an increase of over 60,000 cups, will be considered by all concerned most satisfactory. More no doubt might have been done as Messrs. Parry & Co. state if more money had been forthcoming.

PACKET TEA.—It was thought advisable to re-fire the teas before packing, and with this in view a Sirocco was bought and a fund started to defray the cost of the machine. Central and South Travancore Associations agreed to a voluntary cess of 3 annas per cultivated acre in tea and other friends interested in the welfare of the Tea Industry subscribed liberally.



## Subscriptions.

Per Mr. H. M. KNIGHT.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Carady Goody Estate—Mr. Goldie ...	58	8	0			
Penshurst—Mr. F. M. Parker ...	47	7	0			
Ashley—Mrs. Munro, Mr. Munro ...	24	6	0			
Anakut—Hon'ble Mr. Granville L. Acworth ...	100	0	0			
Fairfield—Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham ...	57	3	0			
Ladrum—Mr. Graham ...	62	4	0			
South India Tea Company, Ltd. ...	223	8	0			
Travancore Tea Estates Company, Ltd. ...	585	6	0			
Messrs. Aspinwall & Co. ...	150	0	0			
" John Grieve & Co. ...	125	0	0			
" Peirce, Leslie & Co., Ltd. ...	125	0	0			
				1,558	10	0

Per Messrs. CAMERON &amp; Co., Quilon.

Messrs. Cameron & Co. ...	100	0	0
Belford—Mr. J. Fraser ...	37	8	0
Atchencoil—Mr. E. W. Ewart ...	22	8	0
Merchiston—Mr. Wm. Marshall ...	57	0	0
Poonmudi Tea Company ...	250	0	0
South Travancore Tea Coy., Ltd. ...	135	0	0
Linwood Estate ...	18	12	0
Invercauld Estate ...	30	0	0
Colombo—Messrs. Davidson & Co., Ltd. ...	150	0	0
			800 12 0

Rs. ... 2,359 6 0

Vembenard and Tuzford Estates promised ... 75 0 0

Rs. ... 2,434 6 0

The teas are put up in lead packets containing 1 lb. at 8 as.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. 4 as., and  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. 2 as. in a very neat wrapper on which is the Trade Mark, a "*Brahminee Bull*," and instructions in English and two Vernaculars, how to make tea. I send a sample. Messrs. Parry & Co. write: "The demand for packet tea is still in its infancy, but we expect it to increase in time"—also "we may say that so far as we know, our sales do not represent sales wrested from anyone else. We hope before long to see the native setting up tea shops on his own account . . . . We propose to continue on similar lines for the present or until we know whether further support will be forthcoming either from the Planters or *via* the Tea Cess." Now that the cess is a "*fait accompli*" I do not for a moment suppose that Planters will render any direct support to the continued working of the scheme, nor is it reasonable to ask them. Our help in the future must—and rightly too—come from the 20 Committee. I do not think it is fair on a small section of the community who have put their hands into their pockets to give the South Indian Tea Exploitation a start, expecting no doubt that others (who benefit equally with them) would come forward in the same liberal spirit, should be allowed to suffer and I hope that the 20 Committee will reimburse the amount subscribed and provide the funds necessary to carry on the work. It cannot be expected that a scheme founded to create a taste for tea drinking among the native hordes of the Madras Presidency, who have up till now never even seen tea, can pay its own way. I do think that a start has been made to pave the way to the introduction of tea to the classes with whom we wish to ingratiate it and at a cost infinitesimal compared with the benefits likely to accrue if the masses acquire the taste we are trying to foist on to them, which seems very probable. Messrs. Parry & Co. are due the thanks of the Tea Planting Community; they have given their services gratuitously, making no charge for supervision or rent of their premises. They are willing, I believe, to carry on the work they have so successfully commenced and I trust that the 20 Committee will recognize the just claim we have upon the Cess Funds

for a liberal grant to meet our obligations and effectually launch the scheme in a manner to which I think it is fairly entitled.

The Hon'ble Mr. Granville L. Acworth and Mr. A. D. Jackson, representing the Planters of South India and Madras Chamber of Commerce respectively on the 20 Committee, may be relied upon to do all in their power at the first meeting to be held on 1st June at Calcutta to obtain a sufficient grant and I hope their endeavours will be crowned with success.

PEERMADE,  
30th May, 1903. }

H. M. KNIGHT.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

If the Chancellor of the Exchequer remains obdurate now or in the future upon the subject of a reduction in the tea duty it will not be for lack of having the position placed before him persistently. The representatives of the Indian and Ceylon tea industries in London have done their best to inform Mr. Ritchie of the grievance tea producers suffer, and now that the advocates of the corn tax have taken up the cause of tea and proposed a reduction of the duty in lieu of that on corn, it may be that the Government will endeavour to compromise on these lines. To-day's deputation it is to be hoped will help matters.

From the figures supplied by Mr. George Seton, relating to tea companies, it is shown that the market value of the shares of the forty-five representative companies, chosen by him for particular observation, has again risen substantially during the month of April, and now stands at over a million pounds sterling higher than on January 1 last. The improvement has again extended nearly "all along the line":—

	£
Face value of 45 companies' shares ..	9,500,000
Market value July 1, 1897 (highest) ...	12,000,000
" " April 1, 1902 ...	6,745,000
" " September 1, 1902 (lowest) ..	6,050,000
" " January 1, 1903..	6,600,000
" " April 1, 1903 ...	7,175,000
" " May 1, 1903 ...	7,650,000

As the grand total of the share and debenture capital of the 170 (or thereabouts) tea companies registered, with sterling capital, in the United Kingdom, amounts to about £19,000,000, the fluctuations of the entire volume, based on these figures, may thus be approximately estimated:—

	£
Face value of (about) 170 companies ..	19,000,000
Highest market value, July 1, 1897 ...	24,000,000
Lowest market value, September 1, 1902..	12,100,000
Present market value, May 1, 1903 ...	15,300,000

Taking 100 as representing the top value, the lowest level would be represented by just above 50, and the present value by nearly 64. The feeling among investors in, and holders of, these shares is still, Mr. Seton observes, optimistic—the optimism, however, being based less upon the expectations of any immediate large increase in profits than on a belief the industry has now entered upon a cycle of renewed prosperity, owing to production being kept more within the capabilities of the world's consumption.

The "Salada" Tea Company announce that they have secured a prominent position in the Ceylon Court of the World's Fair to be held next year in St. Louis, where they will make an exhibit of Ceylon tea. The "Globe," of Toronto, publishes a portrait of Mr. P. C. Larkin, and in the course of a biographical notice, mentions that mainly through his instrumentality "to-day, from the Atlantic to the Pacific in Canada, there is not a town, village, or hamlet where Ceylon tea is not a popular drink, and it is fast becoming so in every part of the United States."



Accounts received from India of the position of coffee planters lead the "London Commercial Record" to take a view of the outlook for Indian coffee which we trust is unduly pessimistic. After describing the unfavourable seasons which have played havoc with the coffee crops, our contemporary says: "The rain destroyed the colour and impaired the liquor, and as a natural result the London consumer would not buy, much to the chagrin of the planters. Our trade has been reproached before now of being too particular, of finding fault too frequently; that may or may not be so, this year certainly there was ample and justifiable room for complaint. Home traders have shown by paying fancy prices for fine East Indian how anxious they were to obtain them, but, unfortunately for all concerned, the fine colour coffee was painfully conspicuous by its absence. To make matters worse, the prices realised in auction for these few fine estates were regarded by planters as the real market value, and any valuation or bid submitted to them, showing a marked difference in price was promptly regarded as untrustworthy or emanating from interested sources. They were therefore not considered worthy of serious consideration. The past has unfortunately shown how wrong planters were and how badly they have been advised. Prices, as we know, did not improve they fell with hardly a break until an average of from 45s. to 50s. landed was reached for crops which only last year were regarded as fine East India. This fall is most lamentable, and it is a pity that owing to the nature of things such calamity could not have been prevented, for we are satisfied that before long we shall be brought to realise the fact that fine East India coffees, such as we used to know them, have become things of the past. If he has been lucky the planter has managed to eke out a mere existence from the returns of his estate; there has been no money available for manuring and thorough and careful cultivation, many plantations have therefore been yielding all they could, and are now used up. Their European owners and superintendents are deserting them. This is a sorry picture, another result of over-production."—*H. & O. Mail.*

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday 13th instant at  $12\frac{1}{32}$ d., rose to  $12\frac{1}{8}$ d. on Tuesday and closed this afternoon at  $12\frac{1}{32}$ d. to  $12\frac{1}{16}$ d.

There is little to write about to exchange—the best that could be said of it. Coffee and other purchase bills are, it is true, getting scarce but money is equally shy and speculation for the moment is quiet.

As regards coffee prices the position is almost identical with last year's, New York quotation for No. 7, being  $5\frac{3}{8}$ d. as against  $5\frac{1}{2}$  and local prices 4\$290 against 4\$370. Shipments it is true are smaller, but not much, their value for the past week having been £225,000 as against £240,000 last year. Last year exchange under similar circumstances was maintained steadily about 12d. all April, whilst in May it rose to  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d. in consequence of speculative selling against the new crop. With a little effort we have no doubt it can be held this year also and not be allowed to fall or to rise much above the present level if proper provision has been made by the Bank, as probably is the case.

Left to itself during the next two months, when the economic balance will be decidedly unfavourable, exchange would fall. But it will not be left to itself, and if any signs of weakness appear the Bank will, we believe, do its best to maintain rates until bills become plentiful again in July or August. What side speculation may take we cannot tell. If it should decide to "bull" the rate the task of the bank will be easier and if to "bear" it, the outcome must depend on the relative strength of the opponent.

It does not, however, seem that with coffee prices so low and the future of coffee so wrapped in uncertainty there will be much inclination to sell futures, and the market for purely speculative paper is too limited to be very dangerous.

At the same time there are several elements of possible disturbance that cannot be overlooked. The present aspect of the Acre question is by no means transquilizing whilst the tightness of money in London, were call money commands  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and Consols have fallen to 90, neither of them make for a rise.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18th April, 1903.—Joint Entries at Rio and Santos for the week ending April 17th were 18,773 bags over the previous

weeks, which comprised two holidays, but 76,276 bags less than the corresponding weeks last year of which they represent 65.4 per cent.

For the crop entries on the 17th April, were 2,873,803 less than for last crop of which they represent 79.1 per cent.

Shipments (*embarques*) were larger, being 13,279 bags more than the previous week and only 286 under the corresponding weeks last year.

Stocks in consequence fell off, being 17,064 less than on the previous Friday and 296,712 less than on the same date last year.

Declared Sales were very large, 54,000 bags more than the preceding week and only 6,000 less than the corresponding week's last year, in spite of local prices being so much over parities.

Prices improved slightly at home, the average for the week being 4\$289 as against 4\$221 for the previous week and 4\$364 last year. At New York the average price fell from 5.23 to 5.22 c. as against 5.52 c. last year.

Nothing further is known with regard to the Coffee Bill, but though there is an idea that it is impracticable and will not be put into execution, we think that it is a mistake and that an attempt will be made and probably abandoned should it, as seems almost certain, turn out ill.

New washed coffees are making their appearance in increasing quantities as the weather is again very favourable for harvesting.

SANTOS, April 17th, 1903.—Coffee business gets poorer and poorer. It seems that the short interest in qualities is now covered to a certain extent, the reason that now nearly all exporters offer on the same basis. Messrs. Crossman's estimate of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  millions for next crop had no influence on the market because it is believed that they will soon be buying. The estimate is here considered much over-rated and the question is how they came by it.

The first sale of new crop washed coffee was effected on Tuesday. It proceeded from Pindamonhangaba, a district in the north of the State of Sao Paulo and of poor quality, and cannot be accepted as the basis for future business here as that district for coffee is hardly considered as Paulista. Arrivals from the Mogyana (gene-

## BASEL MISSION WEAVING ESTABLISHMENT, CALICUT, MALABAR.

## MANUFACTORY OF COTTON GOODS.

VARIOUS PATTERNS IN  
TROUSERINGS AND COATINGS, GINGHAMS  
AND LADIES' DRESS MATERIALS.

## LARGE ASSORTMENT IN

WHITE TABLE LINEN AND TEA TABLE CLOTHS WITH NAPKINS TO  
MATCH (WITH KNITTED OR HEMMED FRINGES ACCORDING  
TO ORDER), TABLE CLOTHS IN DIFFERENT COLORED  
DESIGNS, BED AND TOILET  
LINEN, FACE AND BATH  
TOWELS.

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rally the earliest) that create the basis for the sale of S. Paulo new crop coffees cannot be expected as yet.

The term markets abroad sustained practically their quotations, whilst orders from consuming centres show slightly lower limits—*Superior* from 26s. 6d. to 27s. 6d. and *Good Average* 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. below. It is reported that *Superiors* were done at 26s. 9d. to 27s. for medium types. Currency prices, however, had to give way owing to firmer exchange, *Superiors* being quoted at 4\$000, *Primes* 300 réis above this and *Goods* about 200 réis below, whilst *regulars* were done at 3\$400 to 3\$600. Lower grades also found buyers.

Old yellow coffees are in fair demand, up to 6\$400 being paid for them. *Peaberries* are slack and medium types, *Superior*, difficult to sell at over 4\$200. *Washed* continue neglected. *Fine Bourbons* could be bought freely at 4\$700 to 4\$800.

Entries were small—101,000 bags and *passagens* 88,000. Our stock, nevertheless, does not decrease as shipments are smaller than entries, only 95,000 bags.

The *Pauta* is 460 reis.

Although no improvement can be foreseen for the immediate future, exporters are afraid to accept large orders at present low limits as they can form no idea of the turn the market will take as soon as liquidations are over.

3·85c. at New York is the lowest record known.

**The Coffee Crisis.**—A planter writing to *O Estado* from Moujo-linho proposes the heroic remedy of leaving the coming crop on the trees and, as it leaves a dead loss, to not gather a single berry. We don't know how much it would cost, but if instead of burning coffee and lending money to planters to produce more Government would supply them with enough to pay *custeio* and maintain their forms for another year on condition of not gathering the coffee, there might be something in it. But then, they could never be trusted.

Plans and projects for raising coffee prices are so common that no one takes any further notice of them. Whatever happens coffee will be produced in quantities enough to satisfy consumption.

A good deal of disappointment is felt that the effect of the late coffee legislation has not been immediate, but that instead of going up prices abroad have positively gone down since. But everyone here is in too much of a hurry! At present, prices are apathetic because, for one thing, no one scarcely believes in the law being really executed.

The *Sun* of New York has also been taking the matter up and advocates a tax on coffee because, when Americans took of the import tax Brazilians increased the export duties and got all the advantage. The *Sun* goes on to tax us with ingratitude as America imports from Brazil half a dozen times as much as Brazil imports from them. On the other hand we took more from G. Britain and some other Countries than we sent to them and so helped them to pay for the excess of their imports from the United States and made all things beautiful.

Reciprocity is all very well but Americans do not take our goods out of philanthropy, but because they want them; nor do they refrain from taxing them for our benefit but because they can't produce them themselves and, like sensible people, want them, therefore, as cheap as they can get them! If they clap on a tax they will raise prices, certainly, and probably reduce consumption and injure us that way. But prices are already so low as to make it almost impossible they should fall lower for any long period, and any damage that might be done in that way would certainly fall much more on the American consumer. To tax oneself in order to spite one's neighbour is too silly to recommend itself to so sensible a people as the Americans and is not likely to be done.

Messrs. Alfredo Guedes, José Souza Queiroz, José M. de Camargo Arruda, Barao de Rezende, and Ignacio Mendonça Uchôa, the delegates of the Agricultural Congress that met early in the year, have issued a manifest explaining to planters the outcome of their mission and giving them advice for the future. The co-operation of Government was, they say, disappointing because although adopting several of the measures recommended by the Congress, Government refused to have anything at all to do with compensation of planters for the coffee "eliminated" nor even to approach the Federal Government on the subject. Since the law was passed prices abroad have fallen and everything leads to the conclusion that they will fall lower still and not be sufficient to pay the cost of harvesting. What is to be the outcome of a situation by which the land owner will be ruined and 500,000 labourers left without

work cannot be foreseen. The manifest recommends planters to act all together calmly and hopefully, but does not tell them how. If they are all ruined, and their *colonos* too, and can't even pick their coffee, it seems the best thing to do would be to plant something to eat at any rate. No doubt things are as black as they well can be, but the coffee will be picked that is on the trees, no matter what prices go to, if only to pay the *colono* what is owing.

A Mr. Albert Vinol writes to the Minister of Finance suggesting that the low-grade coffee received in payment of duties be converted into alcohol. Unfortunately we already have more alcohol than we know what to do with.

## TEA CULTURE IN ASSAM.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the Report on Tea Culture in Assam for the year 1902:—

**Area under cultivation.**—The total number of tea gardens in the province at the close of the year was 782, as compared with 805 at the end of the preceding year. Twelve gardens were closed or abandoned during the year, and twelve were amalgamated with other gardens. Only one new garden was opened, in the Goalpara district. In spite of the reduction in the number of gardens the total area held for tea cultivation (including the area taken up by planters but not planted) shows an increase of 16,608 acres. Unfortunately these statistics of total area cannot be relied on, as accurate information is not available for certain districts, and there has not been uniformity of practice on the part of the Managers who furnish returns in regard to the inclusion or omission of areas of abandoned tea. The statistics of area actually under tea are probably more trustworthy, and they show an increase from 338,186 acres to 339,640 acres. The increase of 1,454 acres is practically confined to the districts of Lakhimpur and Darrang, where cultivation continues to expand slowly. On the other hand, there was nowhere any considerable abandonment of tea during the year, and the condition of the industry may be said to have been stationary, the general attitude being one of expectancy. The area under mature plants increased from 308,588 acres to 321,446 acres owing to recent extensions coming into full bearing.

**Management.**—By far the greater number of the gardens are under the superintendence of salaried Managers. From one district only it is reported that in some cases proprietors of shareholders have, for the sake of economy, been resuming the personal management of their estates. Efforts are being made by every means to promote the economy and efficiency of management which are so necessary in the present condition of the industry. Of the total area under cultivation, 11,489 acres only are owned by natives of India.

**Character of the season.**—The rainfall of the year was unfavourably distributed. A good deal of damage was done by hail in the early part of the year, and excessive and prolonged rain accompanied by low temperature in the months of July, August, and September, prevented the bushes from flushing freely. The rains ceased, and cold weather set in, in October, bringing the season to an early and abrupt termination.

**Outturn of tea.**—The weather had an unfavourable influence on the crop. The total outturn of tea for the whole province was 132,117,278 lbs. as compared with 134,896,317 lbs. in the preceding year. In the Brahmaputra Valley the yield increased from 72,530,943 lbs. to 73,862,668 lbs. owing to the increase in the area in full bearing. In the Surma Valley there was a large falling off from 62,365,374 lbs. to 58,254,610 lbs. The average yield per acre was less in both valleys, as shown by the figures given below:—

Yield per acre.		1901.	1902.
		lbs.	lbs.
Surma Valley	...	499	460
Brahmaputra Valley	...	395	379
For the whole province	...	437	411

**Import and export of tea-seed.**—One hundred and eighty-five maunds of tea-seed were exported from, and 147 maunds imported into, the Surma Valley. No tea-seed was imported into, or exported from, the Brahmaputra Valley during 1902. Seed is now usually obtained locally. The average prices of tea per pound in Calcutta,



as furnished by the Secretary to the Indian Tea Association are given below :—

	Prices.	
	1901.	1902.
	As. p.	As. p.
Surma Valley teas	4 7	5 9
Brahmaputra Valley teas	6 1	7 9

The prices for 1902 show a considerable improvement over those for 1901, which, again, were somewhat better than the prices of 1900. The advance in prices appears to be chiefly due to climatic causes, which for two successive seasons have operated to restrict output. The efforts made to develop markets for Indian tea outside the United Kingdom have also had a stimulating effect on the demand.

*Condition of the industry.*—As the result of the rise in prices as well as of increased economy in manufacture, the industry is undoubtedly in a stronger position than it was two years ago. It is universally admitted that the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway has been of the greatest service to tea gardens in the Surma Valley, enabling them to effect a considerable saving of freight, and the development of railway communication in the Assam Valley must ultimately have the same result. In the direction of extending markets much may be hoped for from the imposition of the tea cess recently sanctioned by law. The chief drawback from which the industry at present suffers in Assam is the difficulty of labour supply, and there is good reason for expecting that this will prove to be temporary only. The Chief Commissioner's acknowledgments are due to the Indian Tea Association, and to the Managers and Agents of estates who have furnished the information utilised in this report and in the appended statement.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

There was again a slight reduction in the world's visible supply during last month, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of May 9th, but hardly sufficient to have any effect upon prices. The deliveries from both European ports and the United States were, however, very large, being at the rate of nearly a million tons per annum, a factor which, if continued, would undoubtedly bring about reduced stocks and higher rates. Though very little has been done in the terminal market, there is a distinctly better feeling, and quotations are a shade dearer. The offerings at the auctions have shown a decided falling-off both in quantity and, generally speaking, in quality, but with a good demand both from the home and export trades, last week's advance has not only been maintained, but in some instances, particularly medium and fine Costa Rica, prices are again dearer. A more general assortment of Guatemala and Salvador has been offered, and as the Costa Rica crop shows evident signs of coming to an end, more attention has been paid to these kinds which are relatively cheap. There is no change in East India, but prices are very firm.

### TEA IN LONDON.

**INDIAN TEA**—An easier tone has prevailed in this market, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 9th ultimo, and a slight concession in prices must be recorded, which would have been more pronounced but for the firmness of holders. The bidding at the public sales was less active, and an increased quantity was withdrawn, while a smaller proportion of the latter has been disposed of since the auctions. The continued firmness of importers is attributable to the strong statistical position, and although the bonded stock of Indian does not appear to be so favourable to a continuance of the present high level for the lowest grades, it must not be overlooked that the available supply is considerably less than last season. Teas above the common kinds are nearly as low in price as at this period last year, and in fact they can be bought for ½d. to a 1d. more, showing a much greater difference in value than these figures indicate. This is now appreciated, as is shown by the larger enquiry and the improved business transacted, and the consumer will no doubt be willing to pay, say, from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. for a much superior Tea than can now be retailed at 1s. 2d. The following are the returns for April and the same month last year, and it will be noticed that the stock in bond is slightly larger, but the heavier clearances since the Budget will

no doubt reverse the position by the end of this month. Imports were 2,679,000 lbs. and 1,917,000 lbs. respectively; the deliveries amounted to 11,323,000 lbs. against 16,253,000 lbs.; the stock is about 3,000,000 lbs. larger, while the stock of all growths is practically on a par with last year.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—A good supply was brought forward at the auction on Tuesday, but a better tone was noticeable, and firm prices were paid for most descriptions. Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs up to 7d. remained stationary, with an occasional set-back where inferior quality was displayed, but over that figure prices were slightly irregular. In Broken Pekoes there were a few lower quotations, due to the falling-off in quality, but otherwise recent values were well maintained. At the public sales 22,700 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,100 were withdrawn. The following are the figures for the past month, compared with April last year: the imports were 7,213,000 lbs. against 8,768,000 lbs., the deliveries being 6,166,000 lbs. and 9,183,000 lbs. respectively, while the stock stands at 21,603,000 lbs. as compared with 21,252,000 lbs.

**CONGO TEA.**—At the public auctions only 440 packages were offered, and were all disposed of at steady rates. A considerable quantity has been offered privately, chiefly consisting of the lower kinds of Black Leaf, which are now in considerable demand, and consequently a fair amount was sold. Prices for all descriptions remain firm.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—This market remains steady, and at the public sale of Green Tea held on Thursday last week's prices were well maintained. Good liquoring Gunpowders are now very scarce and difficult to find, except at advanced rates. The demand for common Caper still continues and a fair business has been done. At the public sales 880 packages of Green Tea were offered, of which 172 were withdrawn.

### THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

The *Grocer* of 9th ultimo remarks:—It may interest some of our readers to be reminded that the Hankow market for the new season's Moning opened on the 7th instant. Speaking from the experience gained in 1902, it is to be hoped that the Kintucks will turn out to be a better crop than the last one, which was pronounced by the experts in tasting to have been very bad indeed. The admission of this dismal fact has put China tea yet more out of favour with the few old-fashioned firms who still sell the finer qualities of that growth; and the badness of last year's crop has also driven away nearly all the orders that importers here usually get for China teas from the Continent, Denmark, and Sweden. To produce and ship inferior tea to these countries will only drive consumers there all the more on to Ceylon tea, to which they are already taking very kindly. The Ningchows last year were, on the contrary, a fine crop, but, unfortunately for holders, they are but little wanted by the home trade.

As if to make up for so serious a loss, it has so happened that, near the end of the old season just closed, about 1,500,000 lbs. very fair Monings were imported into the United Kingdom. These at first had been kept back expressly for the Russian buyers; but it was afterwards discovered that the latter did not want them, and the teas were disposed of in London cheaply in consequence. Thus, when a sharp rise subsequently took place in the common grades of Indian and Ceylon, the wholesale dealers quickly absorbed them; and got good value for their money; but at the same time it must be borne in mind that, if the above kinds of tea had not been dear, they would have found no buyers in our market, where the demand is getting less and less every year. It has long been a noticeable habit with the London houses that, after they have picked over and bought in July just enough of the first China crop for their year's wants, they altogether cease to operate in the true sense of the term, and business in the article from November until the following June invariably falls into a low rut, being simply for the completion of retail purchases at most depressed, if not ruinous, rates.

Yet, for all this, a good crop of Kintucks, and especially if a small average one, would find a brisk market here, and bring more satisfactory prices. Foochow teas, on the other hand, are not really used in England, as the bulk of what is landed at this port is by-and-by transhipped to the Continent, and particularly where portions consist of the crack chops of Soo Moos. Panyongs are likewise dealt with in the same way, and during the past season



their quality has been very good and the value excellent; but, as Continental purchasers had bought direct from China, it has been difficult to get rid of them here at any price. Luckily, no common red teas were made or sent hither in 1902, and none have been asked for, making it appear as though Foochow descriptions were dying out, so far as their consumption in the United Kingdom is concerned. As each year other countries are buying more and more from Ceylon direct, it looks—at the moment—as if the aggregate supplies in future will not be sufficiently large for dealers' wants here, and if so the price of common tea may keep at a higher level than usual. It follows then that there may be more demand in the coming season for sweet low-priced Monings at about 4½d. to 5d., as the great blenders are now getting them into their blends, and, once in, they may continue to use them in small quantities. China, therefore, will have to watch the Indian and Ceylon markets, and be guided in shipments accordingly; for it must not be forgotten that China teas, even at the best, are now quite an exclusive and fancy trade, as not many dealers know their value, or will be tempted to stock a package for which they have not a buyer beforehand.

### THE MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS.

It is surprising (remarks a correspondent of the *Englisman*) that the successful growing of cinchona by the Government, has not led to its cultivation being taken up as a private enterprise. At one time we believe one concern near Darjeeling, which still retains "Cinchona" in its title, made a considerable profit out of it, but the time it takes to mature, deters many from undertaking any extensive operations in cinchona. The Scientific Officer of the Tea Association recommended some time ago the planting out of cinchona on the edges of "jhras," and land not utilised for tea planting on account of its difficulty of access or other reasons. Land now lying idle might be used, and the outlay, which would be but trifling, could be regarded as an insurance payment. We do not think it would be found advisable to attempt quinine making, but there is always a brisk demand for the bark. There is a wide field for enterprise waiting to be opened out in India in the manufacture of drugs. The problem of disposing of tea dust would be solved if the manufacture of caffeine was taken up. Every year the quantity used increases, in America the demand grows by leaps and bounds. There is no reason why a well equipped factory situated in the hill districts making quinine and caffeine should not pay handsomely. Caffeine realises something like fifteen shillings a pound, and from tea dust it is said two per cent. could be obtained by an inexpensive process. The utilisation of bye-products and the encouragement of subsidiary industries are now regarded as matters of first rate importance in other lands, and in India it is time there was an awakening.

### REVIEW OF THE SPICE TRADE.

From whatever cause it may arise, whether from a shortening of supplies or an expansion of demand, it is none the less a fact that stocks of spices in London (which port for all practical purposes in those articles represents the whole kingdom) are uncommonly light, and mostly below the amounts in hand at the corresponding period last year. That of black pepper, to select that condiment first, was on the 18th instant only 1,050 tons, against 2,210 tons in 1902, whilst of white pepper there were only 1,075 tons in reserve, instead of 1,795 tons in April last. The landings of the latter kind of spice were a moiety of those in 1902, and the deliveries generally were greatly stinted; yet the prices were rather under the former level. Both chillies and capsicums, however, came in for a heavy delivery without improving the value; and notwithstanding that the imports of pimento were confined to 11,100 bags, in opposition to 17,700 bags last year, the current rates keep low at 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb. Little cassia lignea has appeared in the dock and wharf returns as landed, but without making any difference in the market quotations, which are very moderate. Cinnamon also shows a marked falling off in this year's supply at the old (or reduced) range of prices, while cinnamon chips have continued abundant and cheap. Zanzibar cloves on the spot have scarcely varied in price during the past twelve months, nearly always keeping at 3½d. to 4d. per lb., with a stock almost equal to, arrivals above, and clearances

materially short of, those in the first sixteen weeks of 1902. In Penang and Amboyna cloves, as well as clove stalks, the movements here in 1903 were of the most trifling character, but values for the same were at a decided premium. With scanty receipts and increased requirements of the trade, the stock of West India ginger has fallen to 5,610 packages, against 7,120 packages, and the common qualities of Jamaica have latterly fetched shillings more money. Importations and stocks of Cochin ginger have considerably diminished, but though the deliveries have been satisfactory, prices have receded rather than advanced since last April. Bengal ginger, which this year has ceased to arrive and be delivered in London, is worth 5s. per cwt. more than before; but Japan ginger, as the result of a previous glut, has dropped to 28s. to 30s., in lieu of the figures 36s. to 37s. last year. The statistical position of mace has become much stronger than it was a year ago, the entire stock having shrunk to 780 packages, in contrast with 1,100 packages; and quotations have repeatedly risen, till they are now 6d. to 1s. per lb. higher than they were a year since. Landings of nutmegs have been heavier, and stocks have kept up to a parity with those in 1902, but, with enlarged deliveries for home use and exportation, prices have stiffened from time to time so as to exhibit a total rally of 3d. to 6d. from the extreme point of depression previously shown.

Statistics relating to farinaceous articles, so far as they are identified or connected with the spice trade, possess few features of interest, and only trivial changes have occurred. The quantities of sago and sago flour arriving, warehoused, and delivered have, at the best, been but small, being rather under than over the totals in 1902; but prices, excepting for medium and large grain "pearl," have ruled appreciably above the rates quoted last Spring. The consignments, no less than the deliveries, of arrowroot have been unquestionably lighter than in the preceding year, but as the stock, as made up on the 31st ultimo, presented a great surplus, and amounted to 13,000 barrels, as contrasted with 8,560 barrels in 1902, no surprising enhancement of value has been established. Tapioca shows an excessive stock, both for flake and pearl descriptions, without an augmentation of arrivals, and, with sluggish clearances in general, quotations have been declining during the whole season. In other respects operations in spices and the allied trades have been under much restraint, due in a measure to the suspense in the trade pending the Budget.—*Grocer*.

### COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

Mr. J. L. McClelland writes:—

**Hawaii.**—When the visitor views the well-kept Hawaiian coffee plantation, he looks no further. It strikes him as the ideal life. The long ranks of beautiful little trees, whether loaded with bright red cherries or snow-white blossoms and deep green leaves, are very charming to the eye. Then, the climate in the coffee belt of Hawaii is almost perfection. The only fault the coffee farmer has to find with the business is that it has yielded no profits during the past three or four years. Six years ago the price of coffee was abnormally high, and hundreds of small places were opened in the forests, and the business of coffee raising had a great boom. But prices have steadily declined since then. It has been estimated that as much as ten million dollars has been lost in these islands in the attempt to produce coffee. Nevertheless a few plantations and a number of small farms are still kept up in the Kona district, and several good plantations still survive in the Hamakua district. In fact, the acreage in coffee throughout the islands must amount to many hundreds, as the amount of coffee exported last year is estimated as nearly 750,000 pounds, besides a large quantity consumed at home.

#### TREES THAT BEAR CONSTANTLY.

One peculiar feature of the growth of coffee in the Hamakua belt is that the trees bloom and bear constantly. During the months of September, October, November, and December they yield least, and when the price is low it seldom pays to pick the scattering berries of these months. But during the remaining eight months of the year the work of gathering the crop constantly goes on, with the heaviest returns during the four months beginning with April. In the Kona district, on the west side of the island, the crop is nearly all gathered during August, September, and October. But in any case the picking of coffee is not like the



harvesting of crops of the temperate zone, where trees yield all the ripened product at one gathering. The coffee cherries must be picked from branches loaded with fruit in all stages of growth, and the field must be gone over about once every two weeks.

In the coffee belt of Hamakua there is never an hour in any day of the year when it is too hot for a white man, or for any other man, to do manual labour.

#### IMPRISONING WATER.

The soil is too porous and the lava rocks too broken to permit wells, so that to insure a supply of water for washing the coffee beans, and for other uses about a plantation, it is necessary to construct large tanks for containing rain water. For this reason corrugated roofs are plentiful, often more extensive than are actually required for weather protection, so as to afford surface for catching a large supply of water. Otherwise, in this strange land, where ten feet of rain generally fall during the year, the farm stock would be dying of thirst, and the coffee washing would have to be postponed until the next shower.

In most of the regions that now furnish the world with the material for its favourite beverage nearly all of the processes of preparing the bean for market are performed by hand labour. But in the up-to-date places in Hawaii they are employing more and more machinery, so that ere long Yankee ingenuity will make it possible to win a profit from coffee culture, even should the price continue low. The bean is quickly removed from its pulp by means of a machine something like a corn-sheller, propelled by a gasoline engine. A washing machine run by the same power cleans off all the material clinging to the parchment, which is a thin shell fitting closely to the bean. This thin covering, after thorough drying, either in the sun or, if the weather is damp, in the dry house, by artificial heat, is removed by still another machine, which also polishes the bean and completes its preparation for market.

#### TON OF COFFEE PER ACRE.

In one of the leading plantations twelve acres last year yielded twelve tons of clean coffee. Probably no other country in the world could excel this yield. But a thousand pounds per acre would be considered a good average for the entire plantation, which has nearly two hundred acres in bearing.

Hawaiian coffee is regarded as equal to the best. A number of varieties are cultivated, namely, the Guatemala, Java, and all Arabian varieties, and another that has been grown in the islands in gardens and dooryards so long as to be called the Hawaiian, though it appears to be an Arabian variety. All sorts do well; there is land enough in these islands, above the belt now devoted to cane culture, to produce half the coffee supply of the United States if the price justified the enlargement of the industry.

### THE CEYLON EXPERIMENT STATION AT PERADENIYA.

[FROM THE REPORT OF THE CONTROLLER.]

#### CARDAMOMS.

The cultivation of cardamoms is being extended in many up-country districts, and nearly 10,000 acres of forest are now occupied with this product in Ceylon. Hitherto planters have adopted the "stool" method of cultivation, and effected the curing by means of sunlight and fumes of burning sulphur. There are few products which lend themselves better to experiment both in methods of cultivation and curing, and the following plots have been arranged with these objects in view. The time of planting and condition of plants when put out was very unsatisfactory, and much replanting will have to be done in these plots.

#### Varieties.

In Ceylon there are two forms in cultivation, distinguished respectively as the Mysore and Malabar varieties. There is much confusion as to the equivalent of these varieties with those in India, and many assert that the names as applied in Ceylon are reversed in India. In order to avoid further confusion it will be necessary to define the characters of the varieties chosen.

The Mysore cardamoms are characterized by a larger habit, glossy leaves, and usually erect inflorescence; the fruits are elongate and rarely cornered.

The Malabars are characterized by a layer of silky hairs on the under surface of the leaves, a trailing inflorescence, and a more globular and shorter fruit than the Mysore.

The most striking difference is in the erect inflorescence of the Mysore, as against the trailing flower system of the Malabar variety.

The other characters form a continuous series of variations, and the two kinds of cardamoms cannot be regarded as anything but varieties of the same species. From examination of the development and form of the fruit it occurred to me that the Mysore variety was probably the more advanced form in cultivation; the stages presented in the development of the fruit of the Malabar variety were observed in the Mysore variety, but the latter proceeded one stage further, giving a fruit more elongate in outline.

In order to determine the relation of the varieties recognized in Ceylon as 'Mysore and Malabar,' specimens of the true "Mysore" of India were obtained from an experienced Mysore planter. These have been planted in a separate plot.

The wild cardamom (*Elettaria Cardamomum*, Mat.) is said to be common in the wet forests of Ceylon up to 3,000 feet. It can be distinguished from the cultivated varieties by its short and sparsely flowered inflorescence, and when opportunity occurs a plot will be established. It may be possible to improve the Ceylon wild form, and efforts will be made in this direction.

Many natives in Ceylon class several species of *Amomum* as "wild cardamoms." In the Matale district *Amomum pterocarpum*, Thw., and *A. floribundum*, Thw., are thus recorded. Up to the present no attempts have been made to cultivate these species, though the seeds of the former are decidedly aromatic. The genera *Elettaria*, Mat., and *Amomum*, L., are so closely allied that it would appear reasonable to expect profitable results to follow from the experimental cultivation of the aromatic species of *Amomum*.

#### Cultivation.

The only form of cultivation in vogue in Ceylon is the "stool" system. The bulbs are planted two together or one double bulb per hole, the holes being 7 to 8 feet apart. In 4 to 6 years a clump or stool of plants is produced, measuring 3 to 4 feet in diameter. The stool increases in size from within outwards; the old bulbs occupying the central position gradually die down. Such a method of cultivation has been found to yield profitable results, and has been adopted by most cardamom planters in Ceylon. It is, I think, accompanied by several disadvantages. In the first case the stools occupy a limited area, and the roots of the few score of bulbs in each stool have to obtain their nutrition from the immediate neighbourhood. The roots often extend several feet beyond the stool, but the large space between the stools is rarely drawn upon to any great extent. The stools being in lines along hillsides, it is obvious that the rains will successfully carry away the greater part of the soluble materials in the soil between the stools. In order to prevent this, an experimental half-acre plot of each variety has been laid out with a view to establishing what we may call the "terrace" system. In this system single bulbs have been planted 4 feet apart, and their growth will only be allowed to continue in the direction of lines running at right angles to the slope of the hill. The lines will be kept at from two to three bulbs wide.

By this means the whole of the materials washed down the hillsides by the rain will become lodged along the lines of cardamoms, and as their root system will extend upwards and downwards there ought to be minimum loss of nutritive materials.

The original number of plants in these plots is the same as in those which are being cultivated on the "stool" system, the only difference being that they are planted singly 4 feet apart instead of in pairs 3 feet apart.

In the second place the stool method lends itself to the establishment of many fungi, myxomycetes, etc.; in consequence of the crowded nature of the plants preventing the access of light on the lower part of the bulbs. In the terrace system the light will have easier access to the bulbs, and may consequently keep fungi in check.

#### FIBRES.

In view of the opening up of the Northern Province by the new railway an inquiry was made into the native plants most likely to yield commercial fibres.

As a result of this inquiry it has been decided to start experimental plots of *Sansevieria guineensis*, *Sansevieria zeylanica*, *Calotropis gigantea*, and *Musa sapientum*. The object of these ex-



periments will be to determine the yield per acre from the selected species.

The plantain fibre has attracted considerable attention in India and Ceylon during the past year, and I have received excellent samples from Mr. Proudlock, Curator, Ootacamund.

#### CASTOR OIL PLANT.

The extent to which the products of the seeds of this plant are now used in Ceylon is a sufficient reason for carrying out experiments to determine the yield per acre. Seeds of the following varieties have been obtained:—"Calcutta" and "Patana" varieties from the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, and of the "Madras" variety from the Government Botanist, Madras.

Apropos of cardamoms Mr. W. A. Tytler, of Matale, writes:—

The writer of the Report refers to the unfortunate reversal of the nomenclature of the two varieties of cardamoms in Ceylon. I was engaged in the cultivation of cardamoms for six years in Mysore, and I fully established the fact that what the planters in Ceylon call the *Malabar* is the true and only *Mysore* variety.

What the planters in Ceylon call the *Mysore* is the Allepy or Malabar variety. The former—the true Mysore—has a layer of silky hairs on the under-surface of the leaves, and a trailing inflorescence or raceme.

The latter—the Allepy or Malabar—has a glabrous under-surface of the leaves and an erect inflorescence or raceme. The sowing of seeds obtained from an experienced Mysore planter, in order to settle the point, is a belated though sure method of doing so.

I obtained seeds of the robust or glabrous variety and raised plants from the same which astonished the Mysore natives considerably.

I understand that Travancore has both varieties. Mr. J. A. Hunter can speak of this.

The origin of the mistake, I believe, was stated by the late Mr. Macartney. The first lot was obtained from Travancore, which was the true *Mysore*, and it was named *Malabar*. Another variety arrived and this was ignorantly named the *Mysore*, thus, as I have said before, entirely reversing the names.

KOTUWAGEDERA, MATALE, May 21st.

P.S.—A good way to distinguish the varieties is to call one the *glabrous* and the other the *pubescent*, but it is too late now to attempt to alter the marks in the London market.—W. A. T.

#### ADULTERATED PEPPER.

There appears to be quite a serious recrudescence of the adulteration of white pepper by the admixture of ground olive kernels, *alias* poivrette says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 9th ultimo. In the most recent case of prosecution for this offence, as in previous ones, it is the retailer who suffers in his good name, if not in pocket also, although he is certainly quite innocent of any intent to defraud. The pepper appears to have passed through many hands, always under a guarantee of purity, and the originators of the fraud have as usual not even been exposed by the prosecution. The mixture is supposed to emanate from Liverpool, or from the Continent *via* Liverpool, but it has evidently become widely distributed, and although the prosecutions so far have been confined to Lancashire, where the analysts and inspectors are very much alive, other districts are bound to be on the look out for the evil. Unfortunately, some parts of the country which are well-known to the adulterators, differ from Lancashire, the Food and Drugs Acts are very loosely administered, and the districts in question are to a great extent closed to traders in genuine pepper and other spices. The worst feature of the whole matter is the failure to trace these adulterations to their source and to fix the punishment on the guilty parties; but as there appears to be no hope of this being done, the only remedy retailers have is to make themselves absolutely certain that they are procuring their supplies from the many perfectly reliable wholesale dealers, packed and labelled—if need be. It is clear that no ordinary trader can detect a mixture with "poivrette," especially as the fraudulent mixtures are sold probably at the same price as real pepper. As for "Guarantees of Purity," they seem to be in many cases not worth the paper upon which they are written.

The following is from the *Bacup Times*, of May 2nd, 1903:—

At the Rawtenstall Police Court on Thursday, before the Hon. Wm. Brooks and Mr. R. J. C. Mitchell, William Arthur Hobson,

grocer, etc., 8, Bank Street, Rawtenstall, was summoned for selling adulterated pepper. Mr. W. H. Wilson, from the office of the Clerk of the Peace, Preston, appeared for the prosecution, which was undertaken by Superintendent Whittaker on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, and Mr. J. L. Whittaker appeared to watch the case in the interests of the defendant on behalf of Mr. Joseph Pennington, of Bury, wholesale grocer, and Mr. Pilkington Turner, of Manchester, barrister-at-law (instructed by Messrs. J. C. Walker, Dean & Co., of Manchester), appeared for Messrs. Mayoh & Co., of Manchester, wholesale dealers.

Mr. Wilson said that Police-Sergeant Bland visited the defendant's shop on the 18th March, and asked for six ounces of white pepper which were supplied to him, and for which he paid 5½d., and then stated that he had purchased it for Superintendent Whittaker for analysis, and that it would be divided into three parts, one part for the County Analyst, one for the Superintendent of Police (Mr. Whittaker), and the other for the defendant himself to keep. The defendant said the pepper of which the samples were taken should have been purchased under a warranty, and he produced an invoice, dated January 7th, 1903, but there was no mention of warranty on the invoice, which was from S. Pennington of Bury. The proceedings were taken, Mr. Walton added, under section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1875, and the maximum penalty was £20. The Analysis of the pepper showed that it contained 10 per cent. of brown olive stone which was brought from Italy and ground here. White pepper varied from £85 to £100 per ton. Therefore, the 10 per cent. came to £10 per ton, and if they reckoned that on £5,000 per annum it would give a legitimate profit to the grinder of the pepper of £500 per annum. They did not want, Mr. Wilson said, to get at the small shopkeepers unduly, but for 15 years they had had practically no complaints of the adulteration of pepper by a mixture of olives. It was a most extraordinary thing, but it had now spread over almost all Lancashire. The defendant in this case had his remedy against Mr. Joseph Pennington, of Bury, whom he (Mr. Wilson) had subpoenaed to give evidence. Mr. Pennington purchased the pepper under a warranty from a firm in Manchester, and that firm purchased it under a warranty from the Liverpool grinders. Mr. Justice Wills held, two years ago, in reference to the arsenic poisoning in beer, that "when a man sells an article of food he is supposed to sell something which is wholesome and which is asked for," and, therefore, heavy damages were merited if an offence was proved. He (Mr. Wilson) suggested that if it were proved that the pepper was adulterated the Bench should inflict a heavy penalty on the defendant, because he himself would not have it to pay. The defendant had his remedy against Pennington, and Pennington had his remedy against the man who gave him the warranty, and the latter had his remedy against the original grinder; and that was the only way in which justice could be done, and a stop put to this illegitimate and fraudulent trade.

P. S. Bland gave evidence of the purchase of the pepper as stated by Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Walter Collins Williams, B.Sc., one of the County analysts, gave evidence as to the nature and properties of the adulteration. The last-named said he and Dr. Campbell Brown had identified the stuff as ground olive stones. It was of no value, and as an article of food it was a deliberate fraud and unnecessary for any purpose. He (Mr. Wilson) said he would like to say that in his opinion, the adulteration was never practised, directly, by the retailer. The retailer could not get ground olive stones. It was always the wholesale dealer who got them, and the retailer, of course, got a warranty. The prices of pepper were subject to great variations. Sometimes it was very cheap, and sometimes comparatively very dear. It would go up to three or four times its value. When the price was high they invariably found a large amount of adulterations; when pepper was cheap they could afford to be honest, and it was sold as a pure article.

Joseph Pennington, wholesale confectioner and grocer in Bury, said he had a warehouse in Bury, and also a retail shop. He admitted the transaction with P. S. Bland.

In the course of some discussion between Mr. Wilson and counsel and Mr. Whittaker, as to the matter of disclosing where pepper was obtained from, apart from this case, Mr. Whittaker contending that Mr. Wilson was seeking to drag into the case people who were not parties to the proceedings, and who could not be there to defend themselves, the Bench decided that they had better stick to the case so far as it concerned the sample of pepper before them.



Mr. Wilson then elicited from Mr. Pennington that it was a portion of Mayoh's pepper that he sold to the defendant.

P. C. Nolan said he was with P. S. Bland on the 18th March and saw the purchase made of the pepper, and also the invoice which the defendant produced. He did not see the date. The invoice was from Pennington's.

The Hon. Wm. Brooks: What was the pepper taken out of?

Witness: Out of a jar.

And what was there on the jar? Any label?—No, Sir. And I did not see any label on a drawer. I asked for white pepper.

To Mr. Pennington: What price do you sell that pepper to?—11½d. a pound.

It was a good price?—You can get it for 1s. 3d.

Mr. Turner said that in view of the way in which Mr. Wilson had conducted the case, and the weighty issue raised on a very small part of the affair, he might just say he was going to make one or two observations, with their Worships' permission, and, if they could see their way, ask them to adjourn the case in order that the defence might be taken up by Mayohs' and properly defended, and perhaps it would be more convenient to suggest that course at that stage rather than after the defendant had said what he had to say.

Mr. Wilson: Of course, Sir, if you feel any difficulty at all in hearing the emphatic evidence you can send simply to Somerset House.

The Hon. Wm. Brooks: We do not see sufficient reason for adjourning the case.

The defendant said he had nothing further to say.

Mr. Turner said he was very much obliged for the consideration which their worships' had shown to him in the matter, and, in reply to the assumption that the pepper came from them, said it might be that it was obtained by the defendant somewhere else.

Mr. Wilson said it had been admitted otherwise, as shown by the production of the invoice.

The Bench retired to consider their decision, and after a brief absence returned into court and announced that the defendant would be fined £20 and costs, with the alternative, in default, of two months' imprisonment. Advocate's fee and witness's costs were also granted.

## DR. WEBER ON RUBBERS.

In the literature bearing upon india-rubber we very frequently find the statement that even the most carefully prepared and purified rubber on exposure to the light and atmosphere soon loses its white colour, and turns dark brown owing to oxidation. I am in a position to declare this statement entirely erroneous. I possess samples of Castilloa rubber prepared by myself on the large scale, and which for over eight months have been exposed to air and light without the slightest change in their colour having taken place. The fact that these samples are entirely free from every trace of albumen goes a long way to prove that the well-known discoloration of india-rubber is really due to the albumen it contains.

Even washed and dried rubber may be very far from being a pure product. Cases are by no means exceptional of even the better qualities of African rubbers in the washed and dried state containing not more than 85 per cent. or even less of actual pure rubber. This is a point which certainly fully deserves the attention of the rubber manufacturer. By way of an example, I quote the analysis of a washed sample of black Kassai, which, on receipt at the factory, was not considered altogether satisfactory, but was, in spite of this, taken into work, with the result that no end of trouble arose about the goods manufactured from it. These were the results of the analysis (of the washed and dried rubber be it noted:—

Resins	...	...	...	5.3 per cent.
Albumen	...	...	...	7.4 "
Oxygen	...	...	...	5.3 "
Ash	...	...	...	2.3 "

20.3 per cent.

From these figures it will be seen that this washed and dried rubber which the manufacturer assumed "to be practically pure" rubber, contained not more than 80 per cent. as actual rubber the rest consisting of rather considerable percentages of impurities. —*India-Rubber Journal*, March 30.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (LONDON).

#### TEA CLEARING HOUSE REORGANISATION.

A meeting of members of the Indian Tea Association (London) was held on Wednesday, the 13th ultimo, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Botolph House, 10, Eastcheap, London, E.C., Mr. George Henderson presiding, to consider the terms of a resolution which was adopted by the general committee of the Association on the 5th instant as follows:—"This committee approves in principle of the proposal that there shall be a Tea Clearing House under the joint control of importers, buyers, and wharfingers, and recommends it for acceptance to a meeting of the members of the Association to be called at an early date."

Mr. Ernest Tye (the Secretary) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, the resolution which Mr. Tye has read was passed at a meeting of the general committee, and as the proposal formed a new departure in the trade, we thought it necessary before proceeding further to have it confirmed by a general meeting of the Association. Those of you who have followed with attention questions connected with the tea trade must be cognisant of all that has passed connected with the Tea Clearing House, and with the agitation which has marked the last eight or ten months. In case some of you are not, I think I had better put before you briefly the position as it appears to me. Hitherto the Clearing House (an establishment to facilitate the handling of tea) has been managed entirely by the warehousemen, who paid the expenses, looked after the staff and the clerical work, and generally ran it on their own account. The Clearing House consisted (first) of Members who were warehousemen, some of whom formed the "pool" and others who were not members of the "pool"—and (secondly) of Subscribers—buyers and brokers—who paid an annual subscription, and who made use of the Clearing House without having any part in its control or management. The Importers, who, it might be thought, would have the largest interest, had no voice in it whatever. They were consulted neither as to its working nor as to its rules.

The objects of the Clearing House originally were perfectly good, and if the Clearing House had confined their operations to them we should not have had this meeting. But in the course of time the Clearing House became a close monopoly of warehousemen—a "ring"—which used the Clearing House as a means to maintain and strengthen their monopoly in warehousing tea. One of the rules provided for a discount on rent and favourable charges to subscribers as compared with outsiders, and then another rule (No. 14) went on to say that subscribers might not deal with warehouses who were not Members of the Clearing House. The effect of this rule was to prevent buyers from dealing with tea at any warehouses outside the "ring." The same rule applied to brokers buying or selling. We, as importers, were, of course, affected in the same way, because we could not warehouse our teas at a warehouse at which buyers were precluded from buying.

Well, at the commencement of last season an outside wharf, of which you have all heard—Gun Wharf—started warehousing tea, and got a large amount of support from importers. Immediately the Clearing House Committee, seeing their monopoly in danger, put into force their Rule 14, prohibiting buyers and brokers from dealing in tea from Gun Wharf on pain of losing the benefits of the Clearing House. Those subscribers who, in spite of this, ventured to deal at Gun Wharf were promptly expelled from the Clearing House; they lost their facilities for clearing tea, not only at Gun Wharf, but at all the other warehouses. They forfeited their rebates, and rates were put up against them as against buyers who continued to support the "ring." Naturally, there was a great commotion in the trade, and in September and October last the dispute seemed to threaten to bring business to a standstill, and it became necessary for the general committee to intervene. That we did, in concert with the Ceylon Committee, with whom, I may say, we have acted throughout. We claimed (first) that we should have freedom to store our tea where we liked. This we could not do



so long as the "ring" enforced these penalties against certain warehouses; (second) that the Tea Clearing House should be restored to its proper function—that is, to facilitate the transfer of tea warrants, and business of that sort; and (third) that we, as importers, should in future have a voice in the management. There was a good deal of correspondence and many conferences, and eventually our claim was accepted. It was agreed that the Clearing House should be remodelled on a new basis, and a sub-committee was appointed to draw up a scheme. This they have done, and it is now before the various Associations. The sub-committee recommended that the Clearing House should be under the joint control of the three sections of the trade—importers, wharfingers, and buyers; each with an equal voice in the management, and each paying its proportionate share of the expenses. The expenses were put down as £1,500 a year, which I think is rather too much. Of that amount £1,500 would be met by each section of the trade of which the Indian importers' share is £750, equal to about 1s. in every 100 chests. This report came before your general committee, and the resolution which you have heard was passed accepting the principle of joint control. If you agree to that principle the matter will then go back to the general committee for the discussion and settlement of details. I do not propose to go into details now, because I do not think a meeting like this can deal with them. But there is one point I should like to bring to your notice, because there seems to be a certain amount of misconception about it. The new Tea Clearing House would be a Clearing House pure and simple, and not a Tea Exchange, as seems to be the general idea. (Applause.) That question was raised at one of the meetings of the conference, and though personally I do not see that there is much objection to such an extension, it does not come before us now. I will now move the following resolution:—"That this meeting approves of the principle that the Tea Clearing House be reconstituted under the joint control of importers, wharfingers, and buyers, and authorises the general committee to carry the scheme into effect."

Mr. R. B. Magor: I shall be very pleased to second that resolution. I think, if most of us carry our minds back to last August and September, we will have a very vivid recollection of the difficulties the sale of tea was placed under by the existence of the Clearing House as then constituted. Seeing the amount of trouble that has been taken to bring the warehousemen round to the opinion that their Clearing House rules must be cancelled, and that a more open Clearing House must be established, I was rather surprised to find some reluctance on the part of some importers to join in an undertaking similar to this, which gave them a voice in the control of what I maintain is their own tea until it is delivered to the buyers, and in which, I also maintain, they are considerably interested even after it leaves their hands, because any obstacles or difficulties which may be placed in the way of the buyers in obtaining possession of that tea in the easiest possible way must react, as we know from experience, on the man who sells it, that is the importer. Well, at the last committee meeting a letter was read from a firm pointing out that they objected to joining another "ring," as they called it. I had an opportunity of seeing the representative of that firm during this past week, and I said, "What was in your mind when you wrote that letter, because as far as I know the very object of those on the Committee is to abolish the "ring," and to take the power which formerly existed out of the hands of the wharfingers, and give the importers some control?" He replied that he had not gone into the matter very thoroughly, but he did not like to join with the wharfingers and buyers. He thought the buyers might make use of it for their own ends, and so on. I explained there are three Associations—the Indian, the Ceylon, and the Brokers'—and we will assume that there is a Wharfingers' Association. According to these articles, it is not even required that a man should be a member of either of these Associations to take advantage of this Clearing House. The aim and object of the whole thing, as far as I can see, is that every man who sells a pound of tea in London will be entitled to have it passed through the Clearing House. We want to have it an absolutely distinct thing. It has nothing to do with the Associations as Associations, but is simply a Clearing House to facilitate the transfer from one to another. As far as a "ring" is concerned, we will assume, for the sake of argument, that one warehouse joins this Clearing House. There is nothing to prevent that warehouse from reducing its rates 50 per cent.;

it remains in the Clearing House. It may be turned out of the Wharfingers' Association, because their object will be to maintain equal rates throughout, but this Clearing House is totally distinct from all the Associations. The Wharfingers' Association has rights in dealing with its own members, but it has no rights here. Then there is a suspicion that this may be made a means of interfering with the conditions of sale, or something of that kind, but then the objects are quite different. If an Exchange is desirable, and it is proved to the satisfaction of all concerned that it should be carried out, it may be carried out, but it seems to me that if we do not take advantage of the present opportunity for exercising more control than we have had hitherto, we shall be missing an opportunity that we may not get again for many years to come. We should probably be thrown back into the same state as we were before. There is no doubt that our produce, handed to the warehousemen, was made use of to restrict the buyers to our detriment. There may be things to object to; I do not say there are not. Details might be left to the committee, so long as it is distinctly understood that the Clearing House should be a Clearing House pure and simple.

In reply to a question the Chairman said that the meeting was asked only to approve the principle of joint control; they were not asked to vote on details of any sort. The general committee had not, as a fact, expressed any opinion on the details of the report of the sub-committee. They had merely approved the principle that the Tea Clearing House should be reconstituted under joint control. He was of opinion that when the committee received the authority of the Association to proceed they would draw up a scheme and submit it to the members for final approval.

Mr. D. M. Stewart: In that case the words "a scheme" in the resolution would be better than "the scheme."

The Chairman: I have no objection to that at all.

Mr. Arthur Bryans: Though I am in entire accord with what the Chairman and Mr. Magor have said as to what we desire to do, I take rather a different view of past history. The old Clearing House, it seems to me, was formed to facilitate the buyer's business, and for the convenience of their trade. The wharfingers knew that the transmission of documents was inconvenient and troublesome, and they made the suggestion—in 1888, I think—that a Clearing House should be formed. The wharfingers made the suggestion to the buyers, who said, "Yes, this would be a very useful thing to us; and are you going to pay for it?" "Of course," they replied, "we will pay for it, but we want you to agree not to have any more warehouses, and we want the insertion of this Rule 14." The buyers said at that time, "Oh, we don't want any more warehouses. There are too many at present. We will agree to that." Time went on, and our market troubles were accentuated, and I suppose the buying community saw that if they could make a little bonfire something might result in the way of lower prices. That is the way I look at the position. I think this business was brought about very much to upset the market, and it *did* upset the market. The whole disturbance went on for weeks and weeks, and all the time it was playing into the hands of the buyers. They were our chestnuts that were in the fire. Our goods were being used for making this bonfire, and we were the sufferers. Naturally, we objected to the position, and we insisted at last on the abrogation of this Rule 14. That gives you a very clear indication of how the movement was brought about and how we were made the catspaw. Then it was suggested that we should have some control in the Clearing House, quite properly I think, and it seems to me that this circular, drawn up by the sub-committee, really embodies almost all we want. But at the same time, very elaborate memorandum and articles of association have been submitted to the general committee, dealing with a whole lot of objects that do not seem to be those of a Tea Clearing House at all. In fact, there is really only one clause which does—(Applause)—and therefore I feel very strongly that we should be very careful what we are doing. If we can get a voice in the control of the Clearing House, such Clearing House should exist merely to give facilities to the wholesale trade for the lodgement and transmission of documents and so on, as per the old rules, then if we can get a voice in the management, we may save ourselves from being landed again into such a position as we were in the past year. If we agree to that principle to-day we should do very right, but why we should make provision for a much vaster scheme I do not know, and I am not at present prepared to support anything more than that we should have a voice in the control.



In the new rules there is a suggestion that nothing fresh can be passed without a clear majority of each section of the trade. That is very good so far as it goes, if you know who are going to be your representatives, but I should like to add a rider to the effect that nothing beyond the business of a Tea Clearing House proper shall be sanctioned by our representatives without reference to us as importers. (Hear, hear.) I think it would be a very wise thing to pay £750 to keep us from another mess such as we got into during the past year. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. N. Stuart: I gather from the applause which has greeted the remarks with reference to making this a Tea Clearing House pure and simple, that a great number on that side of the table agree with the majority of the general committee in thinking that this should be a Tea Clearing House pure and simple, and I think if we added to the resolution the words "That it be an instruction to the general committee that no provision is to be made for extending the scope of the Tea Clearing House beyond that connected with the delivery and handling of tea," that we should help the general committee in dealing with the others who are interested in the scheme. It would show the buyers very clearly that we intend to make a stand on that point, and that they need not hope that they will be able to make a Tea Exchange or something to their special advantage out of it. With regard to the memorandum and articles of Association, they are for a Tea Clearing House incorporated. The reason for putting in all those extraneous articles, allowing us to do almost everything under the sun, is because if you do not take the powers at first, you cannot get them at all. But it seems to me that the simplest way is not to incorporate at all, and to make the rules afterwards, when everyone agrees. (Applause.)

Mr. D. M. Stewart said he entirely concurred with Mr. J. N. Stuart's ideas, and he was sure that others around him were with him in that respect. (Hear, hear.)

After some desultory conversation the Chairman altered his motion to the following form:—"That this meeting approves of the proposal that the Tea Clearing House should be reconstituted under the joint control of importers, wharfingers, and buyers, and authorises the general committee to draw up a scheme to carry this into effect, and that it be an instruction to the general committee that no provision be made for extending the scope of the Tea Clearing House beyond that connected with the handling and delivery of tea."

Mr. Magor formally seconded the resolution, which was adopted. The Chairman said that the completed scheme would be submitted to a meeting of members of the Association, and, he thought of all importers. (Hear, hear.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated May 15th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

		Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	...	1,487,986	1,066,080	81,289
1901-1902	...	1,601,546	1,129,593	78,027
29,916 pkgs. INDIAN	} Total 56,352 packages were offered in public auction this week.			
21,974 " CEYLON				
4,462 " JAVA				

Under the influence of smaller auctions the market somewhat hardened, with more general bidding throughout the week.

CONSUMPTION OF TEA IN INDIA.—Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., the Commissioners of the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Com-

## "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

USE

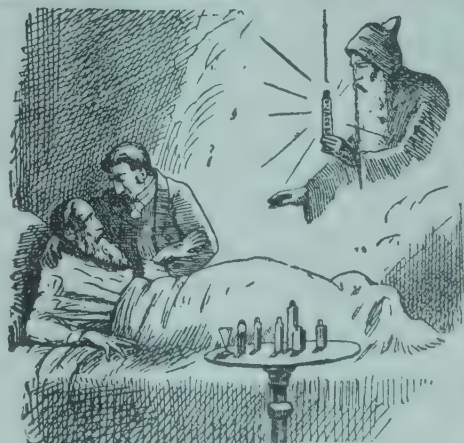
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FOR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

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SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

# CONQUERS PAIN





mission, have issued an interesting report of their first 18 months' working, ending 31st January, 1903. This shows that good work has been done and that prospects are encouraging. The number of pice packets sold in the first six months amounted to 390,977, in the second six months to 907,089, and the third to 1,239,807, making a total of 2,537,873 packets. The number of cups of tea sold in the first six months was 85,535, in the second six months 217,375, and the third 305,715; a total of 608,625. The total quantity of tea disposed of in the eighteen months reached 430,480 lbs.

**IMPORTS FROM AMERICA.**—Owing to the advance in price of Common Tea, large quantities have recently been brought from America, especially of China Tea. The following figures, kindly furnished us by the Customs House authorities, show the total of all Tea recently imported here from the United States, viz., 1902, September 126 lbs., October nil, November 62,197 lbs., December 129,157 lbs.; 1903, January 211,076 lbs., February 447,600 lbs., March 615,725 lbs., April 1,624,826 lbs. Total from 31st December 2,899,227 lbs.

**INDIAN.**—The smaller sale induced decidedly better competition, common kinds remaining steady, while medium and fine grades appeared to attract rather better attention.

*Revised Imports of Customs Indian and Ceylon Tea from 1st June to end of February:—*

Bengal Presidency (including Calcutta and Chittagong) ...	133,906,088	1902-03. lbs.	141,333,380	1901-02. lbs.
Madras Presidency (including Travancore) ...	3,624,450	138,426,224	3,287,115	145,371,518
Bombay Presidency ...	895,686		751,023	
Ceylon Tea ...		75,143,465		75,722,362

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 24,101 pkgs., av. 7-71d. 1902, 15,477 pkgs., av. 6-50d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,159,764 pkgs., av. 7-49d. 1901-2, 1,273,337 pkgs., av. 7-64d.

**EXPORTS OF INDIAN TEA FROM CALCUTTA AND CHITTAGONG, FROM 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MARCH, AS SHOWN BY INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION'S FIGURES.**

	1902-3.	1901-02.	1900-01.	1899-0.	1898-9.	1897-8.	1896-7
Australia and New Zealand ...	5,774,407	8,505,772	10,350,715	8,340,665	6,293,950	6,777,500	6,156,984
America ...	8,244,003	2,166,589	4,229,236	6,249,729	3,232,027	2,486,191	2,864,593
Other Places ...	14,417,103	10,405,436	10,997,164	8,172,299	9,136,740	5,273,927	5,185,501
Total outside the U. K. ...	28,435,513	21,077,797	25,577,115	22,762,693	18,662,717	14,537,618	14,207,078
United Kingdom ...	145,552,931	152,658,286	160,487,164	149,330,050	135,402,527	133,755,749	132,305,762
Total lbs. ...	173,988,444	173,736,083	186,064,269	172,092,743	154,065,244	148,293,367	146,512,840

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-71d., MAY 15TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
New Hope ...	75 p	7	20 p	7 1/4	28	7	...	...	23	6 1/2	...	...	4 1/2 c	6 1/2
Travancore ...	689	6-88												
Invercauld ...	67 p	6 1/2	18	7	22	6 1/2	...	...	23	6 1/2	...	...	4 1/2 c	5 1/2
Kangra V T Co G... 207 1/2 c		7	69 1/2 c	7 1/2	...	...	103 1/2 c	7 1/2	...	...	...	...	35 1/2 c	6 1/2
Ladrum ...	109	7	14	7 1/2	46	6 1/2	17	7 1/2	13	6 1/2	...	...	19	6 1/2
Lockhart ...	37 1/2 c	6 1/2	...	...	37 1/2 c	6 1/2	...	...	24	6 1/2	...	...	...	...
S T T Co Venture... 107 p		7	...	...	43	7	30	7 1/2	...	...	...	...	10 1/2 c	5 1/2
T T E Co Bon Ami. 92		7	21	7	40	6 1/2	31	7 1/2	...	...	...	...	...	...
White Hills ...	70	6 1/2	7	7 1/2	38	6 1/2	20	6 1/2	...	...	...	...	5	5 1/2
Wynaad ...	182	7-00												
Cherambadi ...	63	7	33	7 1/2	13	6 1/2	...	...	17	6	...	...	...	...
Pootoomulla ...	119	7	37 1/2 c	8 1/2	...	...	41	7	...	...	41	6 1/2	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. 1/2 c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

**CEYLON.**—Prices for all grades were firm. Medium and fine Teas attracted more attention, better descriptions occasionally realising higher prices.

Average for week 7-72d, against 6-60d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 356,355 pkgs., av. 7-67d. 1902, 419,072 pkgs., av. 6-99d.

**JAVA.**—The comparatively heavy auction passed with good spirit at firm prices with good general competition. 216 pkgs. "Goalpara" averaged 9 1/2 d, 120 pkgs. "Tanawatte," and 240 packages "Perbawatte" 7 1/2 d. 2,379 pkgs. are printed for next Monday.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4 1/8. Colombo 1/4 3/8.

### CINCHONA.

During the eleven months ended February 1902-3 the exports from British India amounted to 1,310,618 lbs. against 1,695,089 during 1901-2, and 2,561,838 during 1900-1. In auction a parcel of good flat yellow from Antofagasta was held for 1s 8d per lb.

### QUININE.

The market closed easier after the Amsterdam cinchona-sale last week with a few small sales in second hands at 11d, and buyerst. This week the feeling has been rather steadier, the usual German brands of sulphate being quoted 11 1/2 d, but no business is reported. The makers' price is unchanged at 1s 1 1/2 d per oz.

### CARDAMOMS.

The supply was again large, but with a good demand the bulk of the catalogues were cleared, fine selling at irregular, but generally full up to occasionally 1d dearer rates. Medium and common grades were lower; and seeds were unchanged, at from 1s 2d to 1s 3d per lb. The following prices were paid for the pod: Ceylon-Mysore: Good bold pale, well bleached, smooth, 3s to 3s 1d; medium to bold pale, 1s 8d to 2s; small and medium pale, 1s 4d to 1s 6d; small pale, 1s to 1s 2d; peas, 10d to 11d; brown, split and pickings, 9d to 11d. Bold pale splits, 2s 2d; medium splits, 1s 6d; small and medium splits, 1s 1d; bold dull splits, 1s 6d; medium-sized dull splits, 11 1/2 d, subject. Several parcels of Mangalore and Aleppy cardamoms were bought in.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1903.

[No. 24.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 19th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*June 8th.—Weather—*Days generally fine, nights generally wet. The atmosphere is very damp, and there is much fever about. There is a Monsoon look about, but it can hardly be said to have broken yet. *Crop—*Trees in good heart for next year, but this crop will be small. *Plant diseases—*Borer slight, leaf disease none. *Works—*Getting ready for planting. *Health—*Moderate. *Labour—*Abundant.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 10th June.—Weather—*It seemed as if the Monsoon had set in last week, but on Saturday last a severe thunderstorm passed over the district from the N.-E. Since then there has been no rain and it is warm and close. *Crop—*The berries have swelled perceptibly, but it is feared that crops won't be up to much. *Plant diseases—*Borer trees are being removed and burnt. There are not much of them this season. Coffee has put on a fine flush and is looking grand. *Labour—*Abundant, for time of year. *General health—*Fair. Plague is reported to have broken out at Veerajapett in S. Coorg.

### SCIENCE AND THE PLANTER.

#### AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY IN MYSORE, 1901-02.

Dr. LEHMANN's report on the Department of Agriculture, Mysore, for the year 1901-02 is full of interesting matter. There are various remarks made that reveal how great is Dr. LEHMANN's desire that this Department should be worthy of its name. The Bangalore paper touched upon this subject the other day, urging that the Mysore Government should

not be content with an Agricultural Department that comprises but one scientific expert; and from the report before us it is obvious that this one man cannot cope, cannot be reasonably expected to cope, with the heavy work that ought to be done in his department. The work of the department may be classified under five heads:—(i) analytical work; (ii) tours; (iii) the distribution of information on agricultural matters; (iv) agricultural experiments; (v) the fitting of the remainder of the laboratory. To this classification of Dr. LEHMANN's we would add correspondence and office work, as much of the former must make demands upon the personal attention of the Agricultural Chemist. It stands to reason that while Dr. LEHMANN is away on tour analytical work suffers. On the other hand, there is experimental work to be conducted in the open air as well as in the laboratory, and if both these branches have to be under the care of one man, one or both must suffer. When it is stated that 105 samples were analysed during the year, some of our readers may think the number small. But after a little reflection as to the amount of work involved in even the simplest analytical problem, and the immense demand made upon the time and the brain of the analyst when complicated problems have to be solved, it will be understood that this branch of work takes up a good deal of the Agricultural Chemist's time.

In spite of this, ten tours were made during the year, and among these probably the most interesting to our readers was one made to the Shevaroy's for the purpose of seeing the effect of cutting out every alternate tree on the estate of Mr. LEEMING. The remarks on the Leeming system of coffee cultivation are given in full on another page. Dr. LEHMANN writes with all the caution of the scientist, but is apparently disposed to think that there is much overcrowding of coffee, and that experiments alone can determine how far apart trees on a given piece of land should be to give the most favourable returns. He does not consider that trees planted farther apart than is customary now would be more open to the attacks of borer, unless just for a short time after thinning out. As regards fertilisers Dr. LEHMANN has much to say, and we commend his remarks to the attention of all coffee-planters. He also writes at some length on Insect Pests, and concludes this part of his report with these significant words:—"In the interests of Agriculture I should heartily welcome an



Entomologist to those parts of India in which the services of such a scientist are urgently needed." Again, in remarks about Agricultural Experiments conducted during the year it is but too clearly evident that under present conditions this class of work suffers because the chief part of it must be conducted in the vicinity of Dr. LEHMANN'S headquarters, while experiments made on coffee estates cannot receive that constant scientific care which alone would make them really valuable and reliable.

Experiments with fertilisers on Coffee were made on twelve plots of land on as many estates; but these have afforded no useful information so far. In some cases planters were unable to proceed with the experiments, and the almost total failure of the coffee crop rendered valueless those which were carried out. The object was to ascertain what kind of plant-food was chiefly needed in each case, and to get some indications as to the kind of plant-food most required by coffee. In order to obtain information on the latter subject it is necessary to know as thoroughly as possible the composition of the soil on which experiments are made. Samples were taken for analysis in the cases referred to, and when more favourable conditions occur we shall doubtless hear more about these experiments. So far as coffee-planters are concerned the report for 1901-02 is distinctly disappointing, but for this Dr. LEHMANN cannot be blamed. Throughout the whole report there is evidence that coffee is but one product among many that have to be studied. Some of his work in connection with coffee is still in an incomplete stage. Some can only be properly conducted under normal atmospheric and soil conditions. That he is working along the right lines and to the very best ability of a man who is practically single-handed, we feel assured; and the whole tone and tenor of his report goes to show how urgent is the need for a closer application of scientific investigation and experiment to agriculture in Mysore.

### THE "LEEMING SYSTEM" OF COFFEE CULTIVATION.

In our editorial columns allusion is made to a tour undertaken by the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Mysore with a view to investigating the "Leeming system of coffee cultivation." We extract the following from Dr. Lehmann's interesting report:—

The tour to the Shevaroyas was for the purpose of seeing the effect of cutting out every alternate tree on the estate of Mr. Leeming, the energetic planter who first practised and advocated this system.

#### LEEMING'S SYSTEM.

Every agriculturist seeing coffee, as generally grown in Southern India for the first time, must be struck by the fact of its being crowded very much. Whether such crowding is necessary or not, or whether coffee will thrive and crop equally well per acre when not crowded so much and whether the soil can be kept in as good or better tilth when the coffee is not so crowded are all questions which can be debated almost indefinitely. They have all their *pros* and *cons*, and in how far the one overbalances the other can only be proved by experiment. For absurd as it may seem to a casual inexperienced observer, the crowding system has something in its favour.

#### DISTANCE BETWEEN COFFEE.

No doubt coffee trees ought, like other plants, to grow a proper distance apart. And no doubt, like in other plants, there is some latitude in this distance for the same soil and the same climate. For example, in sugar-cane practically the same yield of sugar was one year obtained per acre at the New Orleans' Experiment Station

when the rows were three feet apart and when double that distance, and the intervening distances gave almost the same result. In this case we may say that  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart was the proper distance, but by giving one-and-a-half feet either way we still got practically the same yield per acre. Similarly if we know the proper distance to plant coffee we should likely find that planting it a little closer or a little wider apart would make little difference in the yield per acre. But what is the right distance on one estate may not be the right distance for another estate. There is no doubt that on one field I have seen on which the coffee was, I think, planted 6 feet by 6 feet it was not overcrowded, while, on another field, in the same district planted practically the same distance apart there was no doubt of the coffee being overcrowded. In cases where the coffee is overcrowded an attempt is sometimes made to atone for this by heavy pruning. Within certain limits this is, no doubt, effective. But undoubtedly it is expensive, both on account of the extra labour involved and on account of the energy and plant-food wasted by the trees. Sometimes the overcrowding is, however, so great that even heavy pruning will not keep down the wood to the limits the space will permit. Instead of producing crop the trees run to wood. A deep digging may possibly check some of the tendency to produce wood by cutting off a lot of the roots and reducing the vigour of the tree. But there are fields on which even this check was not able to keep the trees within the desired limits. They still produced wood instead of crop. So far as my present experience goes it leads me to believe that the knife should be very sparingly used, and if trees require heavy pruning they are growing too close together. How far the branches of neighbouring trees should be permitted to touch each other it is difficult to say at present. This involves not only the subject of what is best for the tree itself as such but also the welfare of the soil; and the condition of the latter, of course, reacts on the former. For the trees themselves it is probably of advantage to have them so far from each other that none of the branches of neighbouring trees touch each other. For the mechanical condition of the soil, it is, however, more than likely that the closer the trees the better. The soil will have more shade, more mulch and be less likely to become infested with grass. The benefit of these latter factors is not fully recognised as yet. Still it will be difficult to overestimate them. Of course, the fewer the number of trees the larger the crop from each individual tree must be to make up the yield per acre. Just how far the trees should be apart on a given piece of land to give the most favourable returns when considering all the factors, experiments alone can show. They have shown us that in certain places the coffee is undoubtedly too crowded. But to judge from this that the coffee is overcrowded in all places would be a fatal mistake. For they have not even proved to us that it is overcrowded as a rule. And as it is easier to cut down a tree than to grow one, it would not be wise to experiment on too large a scale.

#### BORER.

Fears have been expressed by many that if the trees were further apart than they are, as a general rule, now, the borer would be likely to create more havoc among them. This may be the case shortly after the trees have thinned out. But when they have grown that way for a year or two (provided, of course, that the need of thinning out was indicated by their vigorous growth) the trees protect their own stems to such an extent by the drooping branches which touch the ground that little fear need be entertained on this score, provided the life history of the borer as generally accepted at present is correct. The stem will be even more perfectly shaded by its own branches than it was before notwithstanding that its neighbour is removed.

#### MANURES, CULTIVATION, SUCKERS, BRANCHES.

These and other subjects are often discussed in conjunction with that of growing coffee further apart. They require to be experimented with much more than has been done at present before anything which deserves to carry weight can be said about them in this connection. I cannot see how the distance between the trees can have any influence upon the quantity of manure which ought to be applied provided the same crop of coffee per acre is expected. Cultivation is made easier on the one hand by the trees being further apart, but on the other hand the branches being so much lower makes it more difficult. Furthermore as has been proved in Coorg, the stirring of the soil is, to say the least, not necessary as a rule if the coffee is close enough to cover the ground.



Trenches are supposed to have given marvellous results. Why they should do so it is difficult to say, except that the earth thrown out may possibly act as a mulch. If that be the case the natural mulch of leaves, if it exists, is doubtless much better than the mulch of earth thrown out of the trenches. By making the latter the planter will lose his mulch of leaves for the time being to a large extent and produce an uneven surface and thereby prevent a uniform distribution of his mulch of leaves (a very important matter) for sometime to come. Where surface wash exists and the trenches are used to catch this their beneficial influence can of course be easily explained. If under the existing circumstances on any particular estate they are really showing beneficial results of course well and good, and I sincerely hope that we may find out the cause for this beneficial result so as to be able to apply the trenches intelligibly. For it is not likely that trenching can be practised under all circumstances with success.

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

The following extracts are taken from the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Mysore, 1901-02:—

#### SHADE FOR COFFEE.

At the request of some of the leading South Mysore planters, twelve samples of leaves from some of the best shade trees have been analysed. The leaves were collected and named by Graham Anderson, Esq., C.I.E., and there could be no better guarantee of the samples being true to name. The analyses are not quite complete at present, the potash in several samples not having been determined. Furthermore there ought to be a few samples of leaves from proverbially bad shade for comparison before the results can be intelligently discussed. I therefore simply give the analytical results at present, with the one comment that many of the leaves contain a higher percentage of nitrogen than might be expected, considering they are those which have dropped from the trees in the natural course of events, when a large portion of the nitrogen is doubtlessly re-absorbed by the tree in the protoplasm which travels back to the stem before the leaves drop.

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH FERTILIZERS ON COFFEE.

Twelve plots of coffee were selected on as many different estates for experiments with fertilizers. These experiments have the double object of telling the planter of what kind of plant-food his estate is in greatest need, and of giving some indication as to the kind of plant-food most required by coffee. For, as is well known, some plants require more of one kind of plant-food to be given them, while for other crops it may be advisable to let another kind of plant-food predominate. For example, for most grains, other things being equal, nitrogenous fertilizers respond best, while legumes generally require potash and phosphoric acid most. What coffee requires most on an average soil is quite unknown. The experiments are therefore primarily to test the soil of the estate on which they are carried on and as such are only applicable to the estate on which they are carried on. But the secondary object of finding out some general principles as to the manuring of coffee is of course of general interest and a very important one. In order to be able to get any information on this latter subject it is necessary to know as thoroughly as possible the composition of the soil on which the experiments were made. As was reported last year, great care was bestowed on the taking of these samples. Two were taken from each plot, one representing the top foot,

another the second foot of soil. Each sample was made up of 10 to 25 different borings taken at regular intervals. Unfortunately several of the planters who had undertaken these experiments discovered afterwards that they were unable to carry them out; and owing to the almost total failure of the coffee crop, those experiments which were carried out are this year practically valueless. For, since the cause of the failure of the crop cannot be attributed to the lack of fertility in the soil, the application of fertilizers to the soil can have had very little, if any, effect on the very small crop picked this year. The results of the experiments this year would be misleading if any difference in crop, is attributed to the fertilizers applied. They are therefore not given, and as the analyses of the samples of soils taken from these plots are principally of no value when studying these experiments they are also omitted, notwithstanding that about half of the work connected with these analyses has been done.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in Amsterdam.**—The quantity of all descriptions of coffee imported in 1902 shows a considerable increase over the imports in the previous year, both in Java and Brazil sorts. Prices, fairly satisfactory at the commencement of the season, gradually declined during the year in consequence of the increased quantity offering. Good ordinary Java coffee quoted at 6d. in January fell to 5d. in June, closing at 6d. in December. Santos declined in the course of the year from 4d. to 3½d. per lb. The prospects for 1903 are not considered to be satisfactory. Dealings in futures during 1902 were livelier than in the preceding year, the total in Holland reaching 3,412,500 bags, as compared with 2,833,000 bags in 1901, being nearly exclusively in Santos coffee.

**Getting Rid of Coffee.**—The *San Francisco Grocer* says: On the proposed destruction of one-fifth of the Brazil coffee crop the *Merchants' Review* says:

"There are better ways of using that 20 per cent. of production than by burning or otherwise destroying it. If distributed free or at a nominal price in countries not largely addicted to coffee the yearly consumption of the berry should profit and demand and supply soon be adjusted more equably."

Free distribution would demoralize the market and greatly diminish the consumption instead of promoting it. If we are not mistaken, Adam Smith deals with this subject, in connection, we believe, with the destruction of spices by the Dutch in the spice islands some centuries back order to sustain in the market prices. He showed, as we remember, that the circulation of the Bible was greatly diminished by the action of some well-meaning people who for a time distributed it gratuitously; because it was found that no dealer would carry the book in stock so long as any of the gratuitous copies were unabsorbed. Not so many years ago it was proposed in this State to turn over the excess unsaleable fruit to the Salvation Army to be by them distributed gratuitously. We immediately pointed out that the scheme was impracticable; because even if the farmers allowed the fruit to go free of charge, all the cost of gathering, curing, packing, transportation and distribution would still have to be provided and paid for in cash, and that as these, in the case of fruit, constitute by far the greater part of its market value, the advantage to the recipients would be very trifling.

The *Merchants' Review* remarks:—"Corn Meal" Murphy, the agent of the American Government, has had very fair success in his work to make corn popular in Europe by means of free samples. However, it looks as though those Brazilians thought too highly of the value of their coffee to give it away to European barbarians.



**U. S. April Coffee Statement.**—The shrinkage of coffee drinking April is made out by the Coffee Exchange to be 132,349 bags, which is much smaller than expected and due chiefly to the large arrivals of mild coffee in Europe, which swelled inordinately the grand total. This was May 1, 12,248,278 bags against 12,380,627 bags April 1. The world's visible supply has decreased 985,006 bags since November 1, 1902, when top-notch records were reached, but the supply is 865,532 bags in excess of the total visible May 1, 1902.

**Sao Paulo Legislation.**—Report and Comment thereon by the U. S. Vice-Consul-General. Writing from Rio de Janeiro, Mr. L. C. Irvine, U. S. Vice-Consul-General, says that the agitation over the excessive production of coffee has taken definite shape in a bill which has passed the lower branch of the Sao Paulo State Legislature after summarising the Bill, he adds:—

“Of course, any plan of this kind would prove abortive unless the other coffee-producing States—Minas, Rio, and Espirito Santo—decreed like measures; but, owing to interstate jealousies and diverse economical conditions, it is not at all likely that the various interests will be so reconciled as to bring about united effort. It is generally believed here that no Government measures can prove permanently effectual, and that any expedients will only serve to temporarily ameliorate the condition of the planters. It is pointed out that this country will pay the entire cost of these projects, and the foreign markets, with their existing enormous stocks, will, in all probability, reap as great benefit as Brazil. The one real remedy, it is said, is to let the crisis take care of itself, and then prices will go low enough to force out some of the plantations, and thus give consumption a chance to catch up with supply. From entries of coffee (Rio and Santos) up to date, the year's crop up to June 30 would appear to be not far from 12,000,000 bags, which is too much for requirements, and the following crop, from June 1, 1903, to June 30, 1904, promises a yield fully equal to the present one.”

The *South American Journal* considers that the most efficacious way of promoting consumption of coffee would be to concentrate all the resources and energies, at present disseminated, on a single effort to popularise the consumption in England, the greatest unworked market in the world, if only they would take to it.

Under date of the 7th ultimo it is remarked by Messrs. Carey & Browne, brokers, that “the Costa Rica crop, which this season was abnormally early, is now showing unmistakable signs of diminishing imports, and so far 109,227 bags have been catalogued as compared with 74,338 bags in the same period last season, the yield generally being reported to be about the same.” This week the market has continued tolerably active, and the again rather extensive public sales have passed off with a fair competition, though at uneven rates. Amongst the finer coloury qualities, for example, the wide divergence in value so long perceptible is beginning to disappear, No. 1 (bold) sizes being now disposable only at drooping rates, while No. 2 and the more medium sorts, on the other hand, are commanding repeatedly stiffer prices, thus bringing the general currencies for fancy grades of coffee

closer together, instead of their ruling as before from 10s. to 20s. per cwt. apart.

**Coffee Drinking Increasing in the U. S.**—Last year, says the *Spice Mill*, each one of us drank  $17\frac{1}{2}$  gallons of beer,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of coffee, a gallon and a third of whiskey, two-thirds of a gallon of wine and a pound of tea. That is, probably many of us did not imbibe exactly these quantities, particularly of some of the beverages mentioned, but the total quantities consumed in the United States in 1902 were equal to these amounts for every man, woman and child in the country. If you drank no beer, then somebody else drank twice the quantity mentioned above, to make the average good; and if you drank 27 pounds of coffee, then somebody else got along without a drop of this most popular beverage. To give the figures of the total consumption of coffee, beer, spirits, etc., is not particularly impressive, but the figures of the *per capita* consumption make it much more plain. And from those *per capita* figures for 1902, which the Government has just published, we find several things of interest. A comparison with the *per capita* consumption of ten years ago is given below.

Year.	Per capita consumption of				
	Tea.	Coffee.	Wines.	Spirits.	Liquors.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Gals.	Gals.	Malt. Gals.
1871	1.14	7.91	0.40	1.62	6.10
1881	1.54	8.25	0.47	1.38	8.65
1891	1.29	8.00	0.45	1.43	15.31
1901	1.14	10.60	0.37	1.33	16.20
1902	0.94	13.37	0.63	1.36	17.49

Thus we see that people are drinking twice as much coffee as they did a generation ago. Of course coffee is cheaper now than it was then, and it is evident that the many warnings against the use of coffee by those who manufacture “substitutes” for it are not taken very seriously. Tea drinking seems to be a little on the decrease and so does the use of distilled spirits. On the whole, there is much comfort in these figures for the trade.

April deliveries in the United States were 574,164 bags, of which 61,125 bags were mild sorts; 513,039 bags Brazil; against 555,628 bags all kinds April, 1902.

Karl Krische & Co., Rio, estimate that May receipts at Rio and Santos will reach 600,000 bags. This would indicate total receipts for the trade year ending June 30, of over 12,000,000 bags.

On May 1 there was a stock at New York of 11,460 bags Central American coffee; 15,581 bags Maracaibo; 15,298 bags Savanilla. Bogota ranges from  $8\frac{1}{2}$  @ 14c. in invoice lots, with fancy and desirable 1 to 2c. higher in a jobbing way. Good Cucuta, 9c.; choice, 12c.

Lovers of coffee are indignant at the specious and exaggerated statements about coffee being injurious. A correspondent of the *Boston Post*, Mr. T. M. Proctor, of Essex, Mass., says:

“Having seen a great many reports printed which attempt to show the injuriousness of coffee, I wish to state that I am 83 years of age, and have drunk coffee since I was 10 years of age, seldom missing a morning cup, and sometimes three times a day I drink coffee. I think that anyone who drinks the best of coffee cannot feel harmful effects.



"I shall celebrate my fiftieth wedding anniversary to-morrow, and I want you to come and try my coffee. I wish this put into print in your paper, to show that good coffee is not harmful, but on the contrary, a food and drink to the body."

The *American Grocer* remarks :—  
The libelers of coffee are the makers of cheap and nasty baked cereal and other substitutes, devoid of as much nutriment as skim milk.

In 1815 there was printed in London a pamphlet on coffee as an article of diet and medicine, containing a statement of the particular diseases in which it has been found beneficial, from the experience of the most eminent physicians. It claims that "there are many nervous disorders which are much alleviated by the use of coffee. Its effects tend to produce a pleasing sensation and hilarity of mind. . . . Coffee is the proper beverage for those that burn the midnight oil, and wish to have their mental powers awake to the spur of the moment."

That sort of testimony doesn't suit the Battle Creek literary bureau, whose sole aim is to discredit coffee, for what?—a mixture that costs about 2 cents a pound to manufacture and many times that for advertising it in a way to create the impression that it is a sort of cure-all for human maladies. And all the time the consumption of coffee, "which comforteth the heart and aideth digestion," goes forward, and has made the United States a billion pound coffee consumer.

Giuseppe Parini, fifty years ago, wrote a poem, "The Day," which celebrates a day's occupation of a gentleman of fashion. This was translated by Howells and that portion which records the giving of a signal to the cavalier that it is time for the ladies to leave the table as "the grateful odor of the coffee" rises, bids the guests "Drink in the nectar of the feast divine."

We avail ourselves of the statement obtained by the *New York Journal of Commerce*, which explains why buyers cannot secure coffee at 3·80 cents per pound, the Coffee Exchange net cash price for No. 7 coffee. The standard on which transactions are based on the Coffee Exchange is "low ordinary No. 7." There are nine standards on which all deliveries are graded, having various values either above or below standard No. 7. They are as follows :

Exchange standard :			
No. 1	...	...	Valued 3c. per lb. above No. 7
" 2	...	...	" 2½c. " " " 7
" 3	...	...	" 2c. " " " 7
" 4	...	...	" 1½c. " " " 7
" 5	...	...	" 1c. " " " 7
" 6	...	...	" ½c. " " " 7
" 7	...	...	Basis of all contracts.
" 8	...	...	Valued ¼c. per lb. below No. 7
" 9	...	...	" 1c. " " " 7

The question is daily asked why the buyer cannot buy any desired grade of coffee on the basis of the Coffee Exchange prices. It is because the price on the Exchange is governed by the value of the grades most in supply and the least wanted. At present a buyer of coffee on the Exchange would probably receive Rio coffee grading about No. 2, which, at the difference between grades, would cost 2½ cents per pound above No. 7. The standard on which the contract is based with April at 3·80, the coffee delivered would cost the receiver 6·30 cents per pound net cash. Every grade from standard No. 4 and below commands a premium above the Exchange option prices. The grades most difficult to secure are standards Nos. 6, 7, and 8. To put this clearly, below is given the present market prices of the different grades in New York for 1,000-bag invoices, and the cost to the buyer if he could select and receive the corresponding grade on the Coffee Exchange, showing that the only grades that could be delivered at near invoice values are Nos. 1, 2, and 3 :

Standard :	No. 1	...	...	Invoice price.		Exchange value to
				Rio.	Santos.	
	No. 1	...	...	7½c.	7½c.	6·80c. per lb.
	" 2	...	...	6¾c.	6¾c.	6·30c. "
	" 3	...	...	5½c.	6¼c.	5·80c. "
	" 4	...	...	5½c.	6c.	5·30c. "
	" 5	...	...	5¼c.	5½c.	4·80c. "
	" 6	...	...	5¼c.	5¼c.	4·30c. "
	" 7	...	...	5¼c.	5¼c.	3·80c. "
	" 8	...	...	5c.	5¼c.	3·30c. "
	" 9	...	...	4¾c.	5c.	2·80c. "
				*	*	*

Coffee continues in an abnormal situation, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of New York. The prices for actual and speculative coffee are at the lowest level, although, viewed statistically, the situation is not so bad as that presented at this time one year ago. The crop that has about all been sent to market is not so large by several million bags and altogether promises to be short of the world's consumption. The visible supply, too, has shrunk one million bags since November, whereas twelve months ago it had grown to the largest figures on record. Viewed thus, coffee, from the standpoint of price, should be at least in the same situation that prevailed one year ago, but speaking generally the commodity is one cent lower. A trouble, in fact the trouble, is the crop now about to be sent to market. On the Herculean quantity of this estimates agree in a most melancholy way. Even should the crop fall short of the least reasonable expectation, such a happening cannot be realized to the full before the passing of one-half year at least. Meantime the market would ail. The peep into the future with all its blind uncertainty consequently sways for the time being the market movements. A fervent wish must be that the lowest price conditions may come with quickness, precision, and certainty. Then the market would take on some buoyancy and yield profits. Such is the practice in trade, which shows obstinate disinclination to buy at falling prices and rushes in without rhyme or reason to buy when prices meet an advancing current. It is always only a few who are wise and courageous enough to gorge themselves when prices are lowest to disengage when they are dearest.

Word has been received in New York that the law proposed in Sao Paulo curtailing the coffee crop has been enacted and will go in force July 1. Official information has still to be received.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The market in coffee is quiet to dullness but prices are steady, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 12th ultimo. These are so low as seemingly to permit no further decline, yet buyers are not tempted to stock up. It would seem that they are already carrying all their requirements call for and are disinclined to store up for a rise. Capital is needed in other directions. Brazil continues indisposed to listen for orders except at figures too high for business from this side. A sample is a firm offer of Santos Nos. 3 and 4 at 6¼c. c. and f. In spot invoices neither roasters nor jobbers are making offers to any extent. Prices closed Rio No. 8, 4¾c., Rio No. 7, 5½c., Rio No. 4, 5½ to 5¾c., Santos No. 4, 6 to 6½c. Dullness also is heard of in jobbing lines.  
The market in futures is flat and slow, showing little change. Interest seems to have almost entirely withdrawn from the market. At any rate orders are few. Santos interior receipts are one day gratifyingly low and on the



next top-notch full. May hovers around 3.80c. The difference between November and December is now 35 points. A change in the grading next Winter is regarded as certain. European markets are also dull.

In milds prices are steady. It would seem that the crop will be shorter than anticipated. The low price of coffee has discouraged coffee-growers in not a few instances, and further the war in South America continues to hold back the supplies there, if they are large at all. At any rate transportation of these coffees by canoes is slow work, and if no relief from such slow locomotion ensues Bogotas and Maracaibos will be comparatively scarce this season. Javas too are in poor supply and moreover their quality is unsatisfactory. Santos coffee will probably have to be drawn upon to make good the shortage. All in all, trading is inactive. Good Cucutas are 8½ to 9c.

\* \* \*

Total stock in United States May 1, 2,531,917 bags against 2,307,894 bags May 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States May 9, in store and afloat, 2,548,767 bags against 2,355,637 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 331,192 bags, against 319,985 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York May 9, 2,038,158. Stock in New York in other coffees May 1, 235,435, in San Francisco, 86,552 bags and in New Orleans, 9,205 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, May 1, 12,248,278 bags.

### TEA NOTES.

**Tea at Amsterdam.**—There is little to report as to transactions in tea in the past year. Imports into Amsterdam, almost entirely from Java, amounted to 88,511 chests. Prices ruled low throughout the year, some improvement being experienced in the last month. British India and Ceylon teas were entirely absent from the market.

\* \* \*

**Tea in the States.**—The Consular report on United States trade last year says that the imports of tea to the States show an increase of over 40,000,000 lbs. over 1901, when the imports were very low, and 12,000,000 lbs. over 1900, which year is taken as a basis of comparisons. Japanese tea shows an increase of a little over 1,000,000 lbs.; China, 6,000,000 lbs.; the United Kingdom, 3,000,000 lbs.; and East Indies, 2,500,000 lbs. In 1900 the United Kingdom and East Indies together were credited with 5½ per cent. of all tea importation, while in 1902 this has increased to over 10 per cent. This is a much more satisfactory return than had been expected, and at last it seems that there is a prospect of Indian teas getting the recognition in the States that their quality warrants. To Chicago the direct importations of tea have fallen off and are the lowest for the five years of which there are records to hand, while the imports from the United Kingdom have advanced and are the highest. For the first time tea merchants speak hopefully of the outlook, but tea merchants and growers are warned not to rush in stocks on speculation, as the increase must be gradual, and any attempt to force sales or to leave large stocks in the bonded warehouses will result in a fall in prices and heavy losses to speculators.

\* \* \*

**Tea for Price.**—It is rather good, says the *Grocer*, that the wholesale and packet tea trade should be lecturing grocers about selling low-priced tea, as if it was they who had begun

it. They did not start selling tenpenny tea in packets. The ordinary grocer was unwillingly forced into the low tea trade by the wholesale packet firms and the multiple-shop companies, and would heartily welcome a demand for better class tea. But getting an advanced price on anything now-a-days is not so easy as it may seem to an outsider.

\* \* \*

In Japan the finest teas are generally packed in earthenware jars.

\* \* \*

When green the tea leaf has no particular flavor, being, in that respect, like coffee and the peanut before roasting.

\* \* \*

The exporters of China and Japan teas are not quite accustomed to sending the best tea here, but the spice imports have much improved in late years and some coffee we get is also a superior grade, says the *Merchants' Review of New York*.

\* \* \*

**Foochow Oolongs, under Standard, must go.**—The recent decision of the Board of Tea Appraisers sustaining the rejection of some 500,000 of Foochow teas has been declared valid by the United States Attorney-General Mr. Knox, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 5th ultimo. The decision of the Board was attacked as illegal, in that it was conducted before only two appraisers, whereas, seemingly, the law required the presence of three appraisers. A re-opening of the case was thus granted, and still in progress when the decision of the Attorney-General was announced Saturday last. Proceedings were opened pending instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury whether or not Mr. Knox's decision should be accepted as final and the re-opening dismissed. This seemed most probable as the decision of Mr. Knox also stated that the Board's decision could not be changed.

The examination began Friday last and one half of the tea under refusal was tested. The importers involved were represented by Counsel, who, as a first thing, presented the following demands:

#### NINE REQUESTS.

We request that the Board instruct such experts as follows:

1. That all consideration of the appearance or so-called style of the dry leaf shall be omitted.
2. That the quality must be equal to the standard, but the flavour may be different, so long as it is equal in sweetness.
3. That by sweetness as here used is meant as distinguished from very sour or otherwise sharp taste, being not sound or wholesome. That by sound and wholesome is meant having a fresh, natural taste, as distinguished from a taste that is stale, sour or rancid.
4. That if any of the experts called has any pecuniary interest or any transactions pending, relating to teas of the same general character as the Foochow teas covered by the protest, he should disclose the fact to the Board and should be excused from acting as an expert or adviser.
5. That if any of the experts called has heretofore formed or expressed an opinion as to the admissibility of the teas in question, he should disclose the fact to the Board and be excused from acting as an expert.
6. That in passing upon the admissibility of the teas the experts are confined to the ground of rejection stated by the examiner, to wit, the quality of the tea, and that by quality of the tea is meant the cup quality of the tea.
7. That the amount of broken leaf or fannings is not to be considered in passing upon the admissibility of the teas.
8. The importers also request the Board to instruct the experts or advisers, who they may call, that the merchantability or market value of the teas is not to be considered in determining their admissibility under the tea act.



9. Also that the sole duty of the experts, or advisers, is to compare it with the standard as it now is, and not as in the opinion of the experts or advisers may it have been when it was established, and unless they find that the teas are inferior to the standard in quality, sweetness and brightness of infused leaf they are not to be rejected, although in flavour and taste they may differ from the flavour and taste of the teas as palatable as the standard.

Nearly all of these requests were favoured affirmatively. Indeed the Board continues to show the complainants the most unusual courtesy and consideration, leaning even to partiality, in order that they and all those who are recognized as opponents of the Tea Standard Act may claim no official prejudice against their legal procedure. As to the quality of the tea Mr. Sharretts said that the Board felt that it had a right to pass upon the quality, on all the necessities provided in the law, and that it was not confined to the particular specifications made by the examiner. Mr Sharretts also ruled that the importers could see the list of experts upon whom the Board was calling for service, and if any were found objectionable to the importers the names would be stricken out. Counselor Bishop produced the list and struck out the objectionable names.

This was extraordinary condescension and unsolved in no small way the previous opinion of the appellants. The list had been made from several names suggested by the men who were plaintiffs, one of whom felt himself as doing nothing immodest in lending his own as a tea expert.

These same selected experts had rejected the Oolong tea of their sponsors, and their judgment was therefore all the more cruel. The list consequently needed revision and was duly blue penciled.

Monday afternoon, May 4, the Board dismissed the re-opening proceedings. Chairman Sharretts said: "According to instructions received from the Treasury Department at Washington, based on the decision of Attorney-General Knox, the Board withdraws its consent for a re-hearing of the cases."

The former decision hence stands. Those who led in the reopening of the case, as interested in the rejected teas were Jardine, Mathieson & Co., W. J. Buttfield, and Brandenstein & Co. All refused to discuss the dismissal. It is believed the rejection will, in some manner, be taken to the courts. The teas will have to be shipped out of the country or destroyed.

\* \* \*

**Exit 1s. Tea.**—It is with much satisfaction, says the *Grocer*, that we are enabled to announce that at a meeting held in London this week, consisting of a large number of "many-shop firms," amongst whom were the International Tea Company (Limited), Lipton's (Limited), the Home and Colonial Stores (Limited), the Empress and Star Companies, Pegram's (Limited), the Maypole Company (Limited), Ridgways (Limited), Hunters the Teamen (Limited), Pearks, Gunston, and Tea (Limited), and D. Melia & Co. (Limited), it was decided to abolish 1s. tea from Wednesday next, the 20th instant, on which date none of the firms mentioned will sell any tea under 1s. 2d., and those firms who have been selling "over-weight tea" at 1s. 6d. will now charge 1s. 8d. It is hardly necessary to point out that this will give our readers a splendid opportunity, not only to abolish the shilling canister, but to improve the occasion by educating their customers to drink better tea, for there can be no doubt that those retailers who have taken our advice in the past, and have induced their customers to buy 1s. 8d. or 2s. tea have

found the results exceedingly encouraging. The present state of the tea market is such that for many months there is not likely to be any great, if, indeed, any, downward change, but rather the opposite; and thus very little, if any, profit can be hoped for on 1s. 4d. or lower-priced teas. We understand that there is a probability of the above firms further arranging minimum prices for several articles that have been seriously cut of late.

\* \* \*

**March U. S. Export and Import Statistics.**—Statistics for March as printed by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department give the tea exports from the United States during the month at 415,421 pounds and for the last nine months at 1,235,611 pounds. As has been heretofore written examinations of manifests of ships make the totals much larger.

The imports of tea during March according to this authority were 4,158,527 pounds and for the last nine months 100,943,165 pounds against 69,369,297 pounds during the same period ended March 31, 1902. The following table is shown :

Imported from	Nine months ending March 31.	
	1902	1903
	Pounds.	Pounds.
United Kingdom ... ..	2,624,000	4,748,343
British North America ... ..	1,205,926	1,610,288
Chinese Empire ... ..	34,433,284	54,428,074
East Indies ... ..	2,055,444	5,396,075
Japan ... ..	28,723,649	34,323,037
Other Asia and Oceania ... ..	269,042	431,671
Other countries... ..	57,952	5,677
Total ... ..	69,369,297	100,943,165

\* \* \*

At the monthly meeting of the South Shields Grocers' Association, Alderman Imrie, J. P. (President) said: Every-body seemed to be selling tea now-a-days. If the duty was doubled it would send a tremendous lot of stuff out of the market that should never be in the market, and should certainly not be put into the stomach, because it would not be worth the duty, and they should not see the low-priced rubbish that they saw to-day—it would not come into the country. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would stick to his guns, and whether we liked the corn tax or not that he would not touch tea.

\* \* \*

"It may be well for producers to note," say Messrs. Thomas, Cumberlege and Moss in their report, May 22, "that the action of many large distributing firms in now asking the public to contribute some share of the general advance in the price of tea is resulting in the inferior and undesirable kinds falling into less request. With excessive trade competition no longer, however, sacrificing quality to cheapness the consumer will probably get a better article, and there does not appear to be any good reason to believe that an advance of 2d. per lb. in the retail price will materially affect consumption." Messrs. Wm. Jas and Hy. Thompson say:—"In view of the fact that, with a duty remaining at 6d. per lb., the low-priced canister has ceased to be remunerative, buyers are looking to a future trade based upon the sale of tea of better quality. Some of the largest blenders last week met and decided to discourage as much as possible any further sales of the commonest tea—an important decision, and, if adhered to, likely to affect the industry as a whole very favourably, but it is to be hoped the public will



assist them and not compel the sale of blends which can only be obtained by the purchase of the lowest class tea produced—unsatisfactory alike to both seller and buyer. Supplies are not excessive—nor from latest telegraphic information is the Indian crop likely to prove an early one—while both home consumption and export continue on a favourable scale.”

\* \* \*

Tea is in as abnormal state as coffee, but with a difference, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of New York. For once it is not an abundance of supply that colours the view but changing conditions brought about by the advance in prices, which has favoured most lines of tea. It would appear that the keynote which was heard with no uncertain sound in 1902 proclaiming dearer prices would sound with an intensified shrill this season, a significant point in instance being the Japan market, which has opened at a considerable advance over the opening one year ago. This tea has had an interesting history in the year. It advanced in price, and has maintained it with the most confident firmness despite that it was produced in larger quantity than in the year previous. It was especially firm in the United States, where more than the usual supply was offered owing to the refusal of Canada to take its customary quota, which fell short several million pounds. This was replaced by India and Ceylon teas. Usual market rules would suggest that the tea should for this year, perhaps, rule lower. The prospect is that the advance of the price in the tea will call out a larger crop, which will naturally be offered to the United States, the almost exclusive market for the tea, and here also will have to be taken the probable increased rejection of the tea in Canada. Yet in the face of all this the tea opens much higher, and there is general confession of confidence in the outlook. The high price of the tea would seem to threaten its supremacy, as assailed by the Ceylon and India Greens, which have been threatening to come over 14,000,000 pounds strong. But probably no such quantity will be realized. The preference of the Ceylon and India grower is for the black tea, in which he can make more profit unless prices decidedly fall. But these have risen considerably in the last two months, and are such now as to make the advantage of black tea manufacture more desirable. Moreover, the India men are much hampered for lack of capital to introduce green tea machinery, and such capital as they may command is needed to take care of a very short labour market. Doubtless, the Ceylon and India men who have entered upon contracts to furnish green tea will produce them, but it may be safely dismissed that this class of green tea will figure very largely in the immediate tea market. As to other black teas, Formosa excepted, it is more than probable that the low prices that have ruled for them will discourage their manufacture. This will turn more towards the making of the green tea, whose prices have so improved. All in all, the situation seems a most healthy one for tea, and even if the considerable advance in the prices looks alarming, it is after all, only relative, and is the long delayed reaction from the low prices that have prevailed, the recession from which has a long road before it, should the aim be to reach the goal of high prices that prevailed years ago.

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**U. S. Tea Imports.**—The imports of tea for the first nine months of the fiscal year ending June 30 were 19,601,367 pounds, duty free, and 81,341,798 pounds dutiable; total, 100,943,165 pounds, against 69,369,297 pounds for the same

time in 1902; 82,451,690 pounds in 1901. The imports this year are largely in excess of a year's requirements, fully 10,000,000 pounds, and point to a supply far enough ahead of the demand to make a weak market. Consumption must make a big leap forward to keep the market steady to firm.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—There is more demand for tea, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 12th ultimo, and the opinion is that at least a moderate market will rule from now on until the fall. Supplies in first hand of course, are limited and prices should, as at present, rule steady.

Some 4,500 packages of Congous were sold for export to London. The tea remains firm on the old basis of prices. London reports that the arrivals of “prices teas” have been shown but the market value allows no profit to the importers, and consequently little of it has changed hands. It may be that very little of it will anyway. It is not improbable that large packet tea houses have bought the teas, and this means no re-selling. New crop Ceylons and Indias are now arriving in considerable quantity. Samples show good quality. The greens are maintaining the favourable impression held of them. Prices hold firm in natural response to the firmer market in London.

Interest centres in the opening markets in the East, Japan and Formosa. They continue very firm. Cable advices from Japan report that all the first crop has been secured for the American market; otherwise no new features are at hand. The China green tea markets open next month. There is some concern whether they too will open at an advance. The high prices for them that have existed should call out larger supplies and therefore stir more competition to sell with the consequent reduction in values. Blacks should suffer by this eagerness to produce greens but they, excepting Formosas have been so plentiful as to be well able to afford a reduction in quantity.

## NOTES.

### Pepper in New York.

The supplies of black pepper here and in Europe are, says the *Merchants' Review*, much smaller than for several years at this date. The exports of black pepper from Singapore and Penang since the first of the year have aggregated 4,035 tons, compared with 4,060 tons corresponding time in 1902 and 3,100 tons corresponding time in 1901.

### Calcutta Tea Sales.

At the sale on 5th instant 7,883 packages were offered for sale and 6,300 were sold. The tone of the market was irregular. Common teas were easier, and medium teas were in fair demand. There was good competition for quality teas, which were generally good and useful. The Russian buyers were active. The Bombay demand is returning. Advance musters indicate a good future quality.

### Adulterated Chicory.

From a French source it is learned that chicory does not escape adulteration. In order to make chicory weigh heavy, it has been proved to be the fraudulent custom in Europe to add to the produce the residues of breweries, grain distilleries and, sugar factories, as well as the residues from the preparation of chicory itself, and a certain proportion of spent animal black.



In a word, everything is to be found in "Chicory"—except, ing chicory! The adulterants most used are horse-chestnuts-acorns, and coffee sediments—substances which most closely resemble coffee with chicory in appearance.

#### Cocoa in the U. S.

Cocoa importations during March into United States, were 5,524,273 lbs. against 4,369,045 lbs. during March, 1902. Total importations for the 9 months ended March 31, were 50,821,232 compared with 38,265,012 lbs. imported during the nine months ended March 31, 1902. "Up! up! up! goes the record of imports of cocoa," says the *American Grocer*. "In February they reached 7,477,644 pounds; in March, 5,524,273 pounds; for the nine months ending March, 50,821,232 pounds, against 38,265,012 pounds for the same time in 1902 and 31,557,634 pounds in 1901. There is an increase in two years of nearly 60 per cent. The high tariff on manufactured cocoa, with free crude cocoa, is doing the business for American manufacturers."

#### The South African Markets.

The coffee men, and the tea men too, should, says the *Merchants' Review*, carry the war into Africa and attack the substitute for their products on the ground of their inferior wholesomeness. People who drink tea and coffee, properly made, seldom suffer from digestive troubles, the high temperature of these beverages, when they are drunk with discretion, preventing or relieving indigestion in a seemingly miraculous manner. When you have safeguarded the digestive organs the doctors find little to do, for most of the ills that flesh is heir to come from digestive troubles originally. If the grocery store deserves to rank as a pharmacy nearly as high as the drug store, as we have contended, then coffee and tea have had a great share in putting the grocery store into that enviable position.

#### The Java Cinchona Trade.

The British Consul, reporting on the trade of Java for the year 1902, says that exports of cinchona bark, almost the whole of which find their way to Holland, were heavier than ever. Taking this circumstance into consideration, prices obtained were fairly satisfactory, although the average unit price for the 75,000 bales sold at the 10 Amsterdam auctions was only 6.90c. (1 $\frac{2}{3}$ d.), as compared with 8.44c. (1 $\frac{7}{10}$ d.) average in 1901. The 22,000 bales sold at the 12 London auctions fetched an average unit price of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., as compared with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in 1901. The quantity of sulphate of quinine sold by the Bandong Quinine Factory at auction and by tender in Batavia was 821,608 ozs., most of which went to the United States, the average price at the 11 sales being about 11d. per oz. In future the above company's product will be disposed of by tender only. A combination of Java cinchona planters, controlling more than one-third of the total area under cinchona, came to an arrangement in September, 1902, to limit the unit-selling price of the bark in Holland up till the end of March next year to 6c. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.), with a view to preventing temporary over-supply in Europe and consequent low prices, and they have now extended the period for which this limit is in force till the end of 1903. Seeing that this island produces probably 75 per cent. or more of the world's supply, this measure should, if consistently carried out, result in a higher scale of prices both for bark and quinine.

#### Exploiting the Cardamom-market.

The *Chemist and Druggist* says:—Mr. J. A. Spence, of Duckwari, Rangalle, a well-known cardamom-planter and visiting agent, left Ceylon by the Orient steamer *Omrah* on May 4 for the southern colonies, as representative of the Ceylon Planters' Association, bearing with him letters of introduction from Sir West Ridgeway to the Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth and the Governor of New Zealand. The southern colonies, it appears, obtain their supplies of cardamoms entirely from London, and Mr. Spence is to point out to importers the advantages they will obtain from dealing direct with Ceylon. As it is difficult to find out the names of the importers and others concerned in the trade, official assistance at the different Customs will be requisitioned. After spending five or six months in Australia and New Zealand, Mr. Spence will return to Ceylon, and then visit South Africa on a somewhat similar mission. He will afterwards visit this country and finally Russia, still on behalf of the Planters' Association and the cardamom-growers. This mission is another instance of the desire to establish more direct trade relations between the grower and consumer, but we do not think it will be successful in diverting trade from London to Ceylon. We have yet to learn on what basis Mr. Spence is to fix prices, but so far as regards his own (Duckwari) mark it has always brought the top rates in the London auctions, although it must be admitted that prices have dropped considerably owing to over-production.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### COFFEE IN LONDON.

There has been no improvement in the demand in the terminal market, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of May 16, 1903, the position is still one in which operators are afraid to take sides, not knowing whether the new law will be carried out, and unable to determine what the effect will be if it is. The daily receipts in Brazil are, moreover, too large to encourage speculators to look for any immediate improvement in prices. The auctions have not been as heavy as recently, and the quality of the various marks shows unmistakeable signs that the end of the crop is coming forward. Particularly is this the case with Costa Rica, and, in consequence, prices have further hardened, and, with the exception of Wednesday, have been from day to day rather dearer. A rather larger supply of Colombian has been offered, but the quality is not very attractive to the Home trade and the bulk has been taken for export, either to the Continent or to America. Prices have been firm, and for the second size are decidedly higher. Mocha has been in more demand, particularly short berry, of which there is not much fine quality offering.

#### LONDON TEA MARKET.

INDIAN TEA.—For the quantity brought forward at auction, which was about 10,000 packages less than on Monday week, there was brisk competition, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 16th ultimo, and the market was generally firmer. The medium grades have attracted more attention, which, considering the excellent value offering, is not surprising. That there will be an increasing demand for these descriptions is almost certain, as the difference in value in their favour compared with the next lower sorts is most marked. The present, therefore, is an opportunity to secure teas at prices showing no material rise from the easy rates ruling some time ago, and it is highly probable that, with a falling-off in the supply later on, buyers will experience difficulty in purchasing on the present favourable terms. The quantity of the fine and finest qualities is being gradually reduced, and the limited offerings met with active competition at hardening rates, while in all probability values will be further enhanced, as there is not likely to be any



additional supply for some time to come. There was stronger bidding for the lower descriptions at firm to slightly higher prices, and as the bids made were in most cases up to the importers' limits, a larger proportion passed the hammer. The later advices of the new crop are not satisfactory, the weather in most districts being detrimental to the production, and a later season than was at one time expected seems probable. The quantity catalogued for next Monday is smaller than in the preceding week, and firm prices are anticipated.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—There was rather more enquiry at the auctions this week, and the moderate supplies on offer were readily taken at firm rates. Whole Leaf kinds up to 7d. were rather stronger, and a smaller quantity was withdrawn, while the medium sorts remained unchanged. More attention was paid to the medium and better grades of Broken Pekoes, and occasionally higher prices were realised, but teas of average quality met with less support. The supply of dusts and fannings continues very small, and the best lines were strongly competed for. At the public sales 21,970 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,900 were withdrawn.

**CONGOU TEA.**—Business in all kinds has been quiet, and no sales of much importance have taken place either privately or at auction. There has been more enquiry for low Black Leafs, which are now being largely used by the blenders, and prices generally remain firm.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—The market remains steady for all descriptions of Green Tea, and a fair business has been transacted during the past week. At Thursday's public auction 1,040 packages were brought forward, of which 482 were withdrawn. Capers are unchanged.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Saturday, April 25th, 1903.—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday at  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d., rose to  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d. on Thursday and closed this evening at  $12\frac{3}{4}$ d. to  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The market is featureless with few bills and less money and no speculation worth mentioning. Exports are now very small and neither coffee nor rubber can supply many ready bills. The value of all the coffee shipped last week was only £156,000 as against £225,000 the previous week and £261,000 last year. It is probable that importers are fairly supplied with bills for the present but before long they are likely to be on the market again when it is to be hoped the Bank of the Republic will be able to supply them. At present the Bank seems to be doing very well and to be keeping the rate steady, as it should do, without much effort. But as the supply of ready bills grows smaller the effort must become more serious. Fortunately there is little or no speculation and the shipment of all the Santos stock, which is sure to take place before 1st July, if the new coffee law comes into effect, will assist the market and help to steady rates. All the same the steadiness of the rate with coffee down to record prices abroad and export business practically paralyzed is remarkable, and if not too dearly achieved, most creditable to the Bank of the Republic, to whom it is unquestionably largely attributable.

**Coffee.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, April 25th, 1903.—Joint Entries at Rio and Santos for the week ended 24th April fell off again and were 43,648 bags less than the previous weeks and 99,268 less than the same week's last year, of which they represent only 50.4 per cent. For the crop entries up to 24th April were 2,973,170 less than for last season of which they represented 78.6 per cent. Should entries continue on the same scale, 50.4 per cent., as last week to the end of the season, their total for Rio and Santos will not exceed 11,69,830 bags; the new crop, however, is unmistakably early and will probably inflate entries towards the end of June and in July disproportionately and raise the total for the season up to 12,000,000 bags. A good deal of new *terreiro* coffee is already offering here, a lot of 1,000 bags having been disposed of. The berry, however, is generally small and poor.

Shipments (*embarques*) fell off both here and at Santos being 47,589 bags less than the previous week and 66,527 under last year.

Stocks, however, fell off a bit and on the 24th were 13,123 bags less than on the corresponding Friday last year.

Prices dropped, the average for the week for No. 9 at Rio being 4\$236 as against 4\$289 for the previous week and 4\$255 last year.

At New York spot No. 7 averaged 5.19 cts. as against 5.22 cts. the previous week and 5.43 cts. last year. On Thursday 23rd options were quoted at 3.70 cts. the lowest yet recorded!

Exchange oscillated between  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**SANTOS, April 24th, 1903.**—A quiet and declining week again. On Saturday and Monday we had a slightly better market owing to the really moderate *passagens* but Wednesday the market weakened off again and so continued for the rest of the week. Consuming markets should be satisfied this month with the receipts here, as, for the month of April they seem likely to fall below our estimates.

New York again broke the record, with quotations of only, on Thursday 3.70 cts.

With a declining market on present prices business becomes day by day more dangerous. It is reported that the Rio Coffee market is disorganized owing to the principal buyer, of late months, having withdrawn and this will not fail to influence other markets.

Exporters were able to buy "Superiors" at 4\$000 and condition lots occasionally cheaper. "Primes" command a premium of only 250 réis. "Goods" 300 réis and "Regulars" 700 réis below. Old bellow coffees maintain more or less their former prices. Fine "Bourbons" were sold at 4\$600. Fine "Peas," Green, at 4\$700 (medium tyres). Low coffees and Washed are neglected. Peaberry are slack and with very little demand.

Entries 66,000 and *Passagens* 72,000 were reasonable. Entries are 35,000 bags less than last week. Shipments (77,000) continue poor and our stock is still 94,209 bags. Exchange kept steady at  $12\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $12\frac{5}{8}$ d. The *Pauta* is still 400 réis. Orders for Superiors ruled to-day round 27s. and Good Average 1s. 3d. below. Receipts for next month are estimated to be slightly below those of this month.

As to whether the law lately passed by the S. Paulo Legislature will be really put into practice nothing has yet transpired but we see no reason to believe that the Government of S. Paulo will, after going to the trouble and expense of summoning the Legislature on purpose, hesitate to put its proposals into execution. There seems little doubt, however, that it would be accompanied at first, at least, by a heavy fall of prices here, as orders have already been given to reduce all offers by the equivalent of the tax, whatever it may be. Exporters, however, are as much in the dark as ourselves both as to what the minimum type may prove to be and generally as to the intention of the Government, all which tends to make business more difficult and to check exports. Local prices here are so much above parity with foreign markets that to make business in any case extremely difficult so that with the additional impediment it is practically paralyzed.

The probable effect of a duty of 3\$000 per 10 kilos. on low grades No. 9 downwards, would be to check entries of higher grades as the *fazendeiro* would probably refuse to separate. There would then be so much less high grades which would command a premium instead of being at a discount as at present. The consequence of such a measure would be an abundance of medium grades, probably 5 to 7 bringing the bulk down to 6 or 7 and be sold on that basis and put higher grades to a premium. The effect on New York exchange would be to create a scarcity of high grades to deliver so that option market would rise all round perhaps to a level with the spot market.

The Lloyd Brasileiro proposes to reduce its rates for coffee 75 per cent. At present the freight of a bag of coffee from here to Manaus cost 5\$, or four times as much as to New York, and even with the reduction will cost the same!

## THE U. S. TEA MARKET.

Mr. A. R. Robertson writes in the *Spice Mill* :—

In reviewing the tea market for the month of April, it would be natural to comment upon the unusually quiet condition of trade, but this must be looked for, when deliveries during January and February are thought of.

At the close of the month more inquiry became noticeable, and even if purchases were not large they were scattered, and small lots of various kinds were in demand, demonstrating that the grocers were again looking to the jobber, who did not have any large stock himself.

The markets of the East have opened up, Japan showing heavy advance over last year's opening figures, with active competition.



The tea is reported as especially good, and evidences are not wanting of great care in manufacture to produce the best article. It is allowed that the Japanese are quite alive to the manner in which India and Ceylon growers are pushing their "green teas" on to this Continent, and preparations are being made to meet emergencies.

Formosa market opened strong, with moderate buying. It still remains to be seen what course will be pursued by buyers from United States. The spot market shows something of a drop in quotations of "Formosa" the past day or two, but it is not generally considered likely that any great or permanent cutting in price will continue.

Foochows are easier, while the export of Congou tea to London has shown no particular effect here, unless, possibly, the hardening in price for lowest grades.

Green teas are in small supply, very strong in price and little change to be reported.

India and Ceylon teas have received more attention, and some buying for English market stimulated inquires for lower and medium grades. The prices remain firm and some good qualities are offering, with occasional demands for "finest."

India and Ceylon Greens are quiet, with no change in price.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

The large and important deputation which waited on the Prime Minister last Friday included representatives of the Indian and Ceylon tea industries, and Mr. Henderson, on behalf of the Indian and Ceylon Tea Associations, protested against the way in which the claims of tea have been passed over by the Government. But outside this protest there was but little reference in the speeches to tea. Mr. Balfour's answer to the deputation disposes of any lingering uncertainty which may have existed on the subject of a reduction of duty. The Government stands absolutely by its proposals. It will not lower the tea duty, and will not meet its opponents half-way by retaining the tax on flour while abolishing that on grain.

Though the Liberal Party as a whole declines to support Mr. Chaplin's amendment on the Second Reading of the Finance Bill, it is understood that in Committee a motion will be made from the Opposition Benches to reduce the tea duty by twopence. Mr. Trevelyan proposes to amend the Chaplin resolution dealing with the reduction of the tea duty by inserting words approving of the remission of the corn tax. The object of this is to make clear the question of Liberal tactics. It is not intended to put the Government into the position of saying that if the House likes to lower the tea duty it must accept the reimposition of the corn tax. It is stated that the following are the terms of Mr. Chaplin's amendment: "This House considers the financial policy of His Majesty's Government in the remission of indirect taxation imposed only last year for the purpose of a permanent character involves a needless and injurious disturbance of trade and a serious loss to the revenue without substantial relief to the consumer, and that if any remission of indirect taxation is considered necessary by His Majesty's Government such remission ought to be made by a reduction of the duties proposed to be levied on tea and other articles of general consumption."

While the Tea Association of London and the majority of growers have been doing all in their power to bring about a reduction in the tea duty, one member at least of the fraternity of grocers does not sympathise with them. Mr. Imrie, J.P., President of the South Shields Grocers' Association, is, so far as regards tea, content with things as they are. He scorns the idea of a reduction of duty, and he explained why at the monthly meeting of his Association. "Everybody seemed to be selling tea now-a-days. If the duty was doubled it would send a tremendous lot of stuff out of the market that should never be in the market, and should certainly not be put into the stomach, because it would not be worth the duty, and they should not see the low-priced rubbish that they saw to-day—it would not come into the country. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would stick to his guns, and whether we liked the corn tax or not that he would not touch tea."

But the days of shilling tea seem numbered. We hear that a number of the large dealers, including Liptons, the International Tea Company, and others, have decided to abolish the sale of 1s.

tea at once. These firms will not sell any tea under 1s. 2d., and those of them who have been selling over-weight tea at 1s. 6d. will now charge 1s. 8d.

Consul Fraser, of Hankow, in his latest report to the Foreign Office, states that the local supplies of Hankow teas during the season were 505,177, against 531,389 half-chests in 1901, and the settlements 453,123, against 479,587 half-chests. For Kiukiang teas the settlements were 200,982, against 190,620 half-chests last season. Shipments to Shanghai on native account amounted to 60,832, against 62,687 half-chests in 1901. Shipments to London direct were resumed, and amounted to 1,404,702 lbs. The exports show a further decrease of demand in the United Kingdom and a heavy decline in shipments to Russia, against which may be set the doubling of the amount sent to Russia in Asia and a recovery of the United States and Canada figures. The amount of leaf, brick, stalk, and dust sent up the Han River for Mongolia and Siberia fell off again nearly 40 per cent. to 4,177,867 lbs.; the value is returned at £39,230. The market opened on May 5 by the purchase of a few of the more attractive parcels of Ningchows, Khemins being settled the next day as soon as shown. Opening quotations ranged from 31 to 60 taels per picul for the first, from 38 to 63 taels for the second (say from 7d. to 1s. 2d. per lb.), the quality of both crops being considered fully good. Later on Ningchows of good value were obtainable at 20 to 43 taels, while the Khemin market remained firm throughout. Of Hankow teas only Oonfaas sold readily as high as 33 taels, and others were of quite ordinary quality. Seangtans were fair, and one or two of the best chops sold at 12 to 14½ taels. For the two crack chops of Ichang teas 72 taels were paid, and for the second parcels 58 taels. At Kiukiang there were again no settlements, and as a buying market the days of this port seem to have passed. The season's business was conducted quietly and without any special eagerness to buy, but by the end of May the greater portion of the first crop had been disposed of. The Siberian railway route, used for tea for the first time this year, can hardly fail to affect considerably the trade in Russia, since, by its means, large supplies will be able to reach the consuming markets at a date for earlier than before. During this season some 3,000,000 lbs. were thus diverted from the Odessa route. One effect may be to throw the *onus* of holding the teas more on the native sellers, when it is no longer necessary to fill and dispatch, in a very limited time, steamers under special charter for Odessa. The average cost of first-crop tea laid down in London was 7½d. per lb., against 9d. per lb. in 1901; 9½d. per lb. in 1900; 8¾d. per lb. in 1899; and 9d. per lb. in 1898.—*H. & C. Mail.*

### COFFEES AND SPICES.

Mr. W. H. Bennett writes in the *Spice Mill* :—

At a dinner party which I attended last week, the host informed his friends that while he had to pay his grocer 30 cents a pound for the coffee, it could be bought wholesale for 4 cents, and the grocer was making the very exorbitant profit of 26 cents a pound on it. As the coffee seemed very palatable, I inquired of whom he bought and what he asked for. He informed me that it was a combination of Mocha and Java and seemed quite surprised when I told him if that were true, I should be very glad to buy it in a large way at four times the price at which he said he could buy it at wholesale.

He informed me that this was the price quoted in the papers for coffee and naturally, he supposed that it was correct. Now, absurd as his ideas were on coffee, they were not much more so than those of some of the trade who expect to buy good roasting 7's at the price quoted on the exchange. They don't seem to realize that the exchange price is one thing and the price of the actual coffee is another. On buying on the exchange you are obliged to accept anything which may be tendered to you and nothing that could be sold on the street at the price on the exchange would be tendered. Only the most undesirable coffees are delivered on the exchange.

The market for the past month has been quiet, particularly so in the last week. Desirable coffees of all grades are getting scarce. The principal and chief source of supply seems to be exhausted for good roasting coffees and they are not being replaced; consequently, the jobbers are doing more business than they have for some time.



In mild coffees there has been scarcely any change, although Maracaibos, ranging from 8 to 9 cents are very hard to obtain.

The spice market for the past month has been comparatively quiet with more or less agitation in the East in the pepper market, owing to the advance in the price of silver, which, being the currency used in those countries, is bound to affect the price of their produce.

The price of pepper has been going higher and there are buyers here in the market for Singapore black at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents for June-August delivery. Peppers are very scarce. There is very little in transit to this country, and with diminished stocks, it would seem as if the price would go higher. The stock of peppers of all descriptions is very much less than at the corresponding period of last year.

While the spot price of cassia is unchanged, yet the shipment price on case cassia has advanced fully a half-cent a pound.

Zanzibar cloves have advanced from  $7\frac{1}{8}$  to 8 cents and are very firmly held.

The stocks of ginger have increased in the past month and there is a little more pressure to sell, consequently they have declined from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{5}$  cent a pound for Cochin. African is unchanged and Jamaica seems to be tending upward.

Mace and nutmegs are unchanged.

Tapiocas are a little higher.

### TO REDUCE COFFEE PRODUCTION.

The weakness of the Brazil coffee market has awakened planters and exporters to the necessity of doing something to protect the industry, and naturally the first remedy that suggests itself is to restrict the production, says the *Canadian Grocer*. Though there are many objections to this, indications are that the movement will gain rather than lose strength. It is stated that the visible supply of coffee six years ago was 4,000,000 bags, and although there has been an increase in the consumption, it has not been sufficient to keep in proportion with the increased output, the visible supply now being about three times the above amount.

Out of many suggested remedies there are only two which are regarded seriously as likely to bring about the desired result, namely, better prices for coffee. One of those is that a tax should be imposed amounting to about 20 per cent. of the total production, the tax to be paid in kind in the lower grades of coffee. This plan is opposed on account of the great waste which would ensue from growing and marketing the coffee, much of which would then be destroyed. Another proposal is to cut down 20 per cent. of the trees, which would grow again, and ultimately there would be no loss of capital, the production of coffee in the meantime being reduced.

Both the above plans have their supporters, and one of them is likely to be acted upon, if nothing else can be found to answer the purpose. At present it is not known which of them, if either, will be adopted.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, April 23, 1903.

There has been a fair business done in teas since our last issue at fully up prices. Wholesalers, however, show little disposition to stock up, their purchases being more of the character of immediate requirements. The most recent advices from England show a decidedly firm market for all low and medium grades, these teas all changing hands at fully advanced prices. It is anticipated that an active demand will follow immediately upon the publication of the Budget, as many buyers are holding back pending its issue and the prospects are, therefore, of still further hardening. We have received reliable information of the Japan crop promising to be of an exceptionally good character in quality and that there is every probability of the first-crop teas being 10 per cent. higher in price than at the opening of last year's market.

MONTREAL, April 23, 1903.

The tea market abroad, so far as Indian and colonial teas are concerned, exhibits a firm disposition, advices from Colombo,

Calcutta, and London this week being unanimous to that effect. On spot teas for a price are decidedly scarce, and in the execution of the bulk of the current business, sellers experience little difficulty in realizing full figures. In Japans, with the old season's crop passing off, and buyers figuring on the new, demand is of a rather uncertain kind, and prices have eased off a little, but with stocks as they are, it would not be surprising if a reaction was developed before the new crop was offering on the market in any quantity. The first arrivals of early Japans are not expected here before the end of May or the beginning of June. These early Japan pickings have opened up the season fully 2 to 3c. per lb. higher than last, but offers of second and third crop on the other hand have been made in some cases at rather lower prices than they opened at last year. There has been a fair inquiry for China teas, and green teas are rather scarce.

WINNIPEG, April 20, 1903.

The lower grades of Indian teas show an advance of 2 to 3c. over the opening prices of last year. There is nothing much to say as to the trade here as it is steady all the year round.

### THE BRITISH TEA DUTIES.

#### DEPUTATION TO THE PREMIER.

A large and influential deputation waited upon the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Grand Committee Room of the House of Commons on Friday May 15, to urge upon the Government the great objections entertained by numbers of their supporters and others to the repeal of the corn duty, and advocating instead remission of the duty on tea, and urging that the duties on grain and flour in some form, especially on flour, should be retained.

Amongst the Associations represented were the Indian Tea Association and the Ceylon Association in London.

Mr. Chaplin, M.P., in introducing the deputation, explained that the deputation included representatives of agricultural bodies, chambers of commerce, a great number of members of both Houses of Parliament, and taxpayers generally. He pointed out that the proposed repeal of the corn tax was looked upon as a blot on the financial proposals of the Government, and so serious a blot as to mar and spoil what would otherwise be regarded as an excellent Budget. He implored the Government to reconsider what was a deplorable decision, and what might end by being a fatal mistake. (Loud cheers.)

The Duke of Rutland, Mr. W. F. Lawrence, M.P., Mr. Henderson on behalf of the Indian and Ceylon tea industries, and other speakers also addressed the Premier.

Mr. Balfour asked if it was likely the Government had any desire to do anything or suggest anything injurious to the farmers' interests? The Government's position was: They said the tax on introduction was not a protective tax, but it turned out by an accident to have an effect other than was intended. It surely did not constitute a grievance because it was not proposed to retain the tax. He well remembered, when the tax was considered by the Cabinet, the most acute argument against it was that this was an impost which was not merely a trifling one upon corn, but was a tax on the raw material which farmers used in their industry. The point was very seriously considered by the Cabinet. He had made inquiries yesterday, and found that of the £2,500,000 which the tax produced, less than one-fourth, and more than one-fifth, was actually levied on feeding stuffs—in other words, on the raw material. It was unique in the history of the Government of this country that a great deputation should protest against the remission of a tax, and that the deputation should largely consist of persons the raw material of whose industry paid so much of the tax. The tax was imposed with the object and hope that it would form part of the general fiscal system of the country. It was a war tax, of course, and if there had been no war it would not have been suggested. It was quite plain that the hopes which were formed were fallacious, and he did not believe that any one believed that it could form a permanent part of the fiscal system. He maintained that when it became clear that the corn tax divided the two political parties of the country it also became clear that it could not be a permanent part of our system—such as the income-tax, tea duty, etc. He did not believe that any tax which revived the ancient controversies could be a permanent



part of our general system. He did not think the experiment had been altogether in vain; but the corn tax could not survive as an independent tax. It must be connected with a great national need or some great change in policy. Protection could not be introduced quietly, and, as it were, by accident. If it should ever be done it must be on the impulse of the whole of the people of this country. He believed in universal Free Trade; but at present every other civilised country was protected except our own, and we gained greatly by that in many ways. The universal desire of the country and of the colonies to bind themselves more closely together was one which was extremely difficult to carry out by political or constitutional means. It might some day be possible, and there was the other question, which was also a difficult one, of a fiscal union. A movement of that kind, however, must come, not from the representatives of one or two industries, but from the heart, conscience, and intellect of the great body and masses of the people.

### SOUTH CAROLINA TEA GROWING.

Mr. T. R. Tighe writes in the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* :—

In Japan a tea is grown under the shelter of matting overspreading the garden whereby the direct sunlight does not strike the plants. The results is a large, blue-tinted, soft leaf, which is adapted for the production of an extremely delicate and sweetish tea, valued in that country at many times that grown in the open. It must be stated that few Americans are of sufficiently effeminate taste to drink what the great public would term simply warm water, so faint are the colour and taste. Nevertheless, it is just such teas that mark the cultivation of the tea taste for many centuries; and it would be just as pertinent to ask why some wines are worth fifty to one hundred times as much money in some communities as some whiskeys are in others, as to fail to appreciate the delicacy of such teas. The sweetish taste is, we are told, due to the habit of plants to store up starch during the night time, which

when the sunlight returns undergoes various chemical changes. But in the case of the sheltered teas, the sunlight is not allowed to reach the protected plants; the leaves become highly charged with starch, which is readily converted into dextrine and sugar in the process of curing.

One great reason why such teas have not been introduced to the wealthy people of this country has been that without "firing," (i.e., drying with artificial heat) at a temperature which is destructive of the best qualities of such teas, they are not capable of withstanding the effects of long ocean transportation. It is very much as with the best Bordeaux wines; they cannot be safely transported across the ocean without fortifying them with brandy, and that addition impairs the delicacy of flavour, which constitutes their chief merit.

#### A PINEHURST EXPERIMENT.

This process of tea production has been attempted on a small scale at Pinehurst. Some years ago a part of a tea garden of healthy plants was boxed in with boards on the top and sides, (about 7 feet high,) but with the exception of frequent watering to compensate for the deprivation of dew and light showers, the bushes were cultivated as if in the open. There resulted on the plants in midsummer such a creation of all animal life that crawls, skips or flies, that it was deemed indispensable to the preservation of the bushes to take the shelter down. Towards the close of the season of 1900 a frame work was erected over half (one-third of an acre) of the Sand Hill garden and covered with rather thick cocoa matting lying on 4-inch woven wire. The matting was spread only by day and during sunny weather.

The same experiment was repeated in the season of 1901, with the introduction of surface irrigation for both open and sheltered halves. During the brief period of trial in 1900 the sheltered part produced slightly more tea than the open. In 1901 the yield of the open half was one-fourth larger than that of the sheltered. There was no appreciable development of animal life and the plants remained healthy throughout the season.

The American tea seed that was introduced into this country many (perhaps fifty) years ago, has proved as hardy and productive

# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/11 & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes :—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



as any imported. It requires the richest of soils or active stimulation for the best results of either quality or quantity. By careful selection it should be capable of great improvement. It is better adapted for black teas; they are strong and somewhat fragrant. As the reader may not know the difference between the black and green teas, it may be stated that green tea is the product after subjecting the freshly-plucked leaf to those two processes of rolling and drying which are indispensable to all tea manufacture. That means that green tea stand nearest in all respects to the original leaf. But if there be introduced between these processes that of oxidation by exposure to the air, the result is black tea. These names in the trade refer to the colour of the dry tea; in China the same teas are called according to the colours of the liquors made from them, *viz.*: green and red.

In reference to the colour of dry green tea, it has long been the general practice in the far Orient to artificially intensify that colour especially (exclusively had better be written,) for the American market, by the addition of Prussian blue and other pigments. But latterly, as the public has begun to appreciate this reprehensible feature of the preparation, there has been a larger demand for the unadulterated, natural coloured, green teas. That colour is a brownish olive-green; but more accurately, it is the colour of translucent horn shavings.

But early last season it was ascertained at Pinehurst (simultaneously with the same observation in British East India, after a lapse of many years from the former practice of the same process) that the simple attrition of particles of dry tea on each other was all that was requisite for imparting a decidedly light green colour to non-oxidized tea. At Pinehurst excellent results have been attained from the use of a simple butter churn or revolving barrel. But care should be exercised to avoid the pulverization of the tea particles; as all dust must be removed from tea before being offered for sale, and this might constitute a serious loss in the absence of a satisfactory market for the dust.

The rotary sterilizer, invented at Pinehurst, has done good service during the past season in the manufacture of green tea. Improvements are being introduced into the charging of the apparatus, so that less cool air can find admittance and the temperature requisite for the sterilization of the oxidized enzymes may be readily obtained. With these new improvements it is confidently expected that the machine must perform its function more thoroughly and cheaply than before. The succession of bright, hot, windless days, which occur in the early and late Summer, are well adapted for the curing of tea by direct sunlight. The freshly-gathered leaf is exposed on fine woven wire trays to the direct rays of the sun until it has softened and is largely in a suitable condition for rolling. It should then be screened through a half-inch wire mesh; what does not pass through is again placed in the sunshine, until all has sufficiently withered for the subsequent rolling. The action of the sun's rays on the leaf appears to disrupt and remove

those astringent qualities which characterize inferior (although, alas! popular) teas, and the result is a tea extremely delicate and yet sufficiently strong for any refined taste.

#### TROUBLESOME PARASITES.

Partly because the cocoa matting had become so rotten that it could not be handled without tearing, and partly because of the great expense in rolling up and spreading it, it was allowed to remain spread over the plants until the middle of the Summer, when plant lice began to appear on the bushes quite abundantly. The matting was rolled up and the bushes pruned back to half of the wood already made during the Summer. When, a few days thereafter, the new tea shoots began to grow the matting was replaced, and remained spread for the rest of the season. The tea from the open half of the garden exceeded that grown under shelter by about one-fifth of a pound.

The sheltered possesses the characteristics of that grown under similar conditions in Japan. The smaller quantity, from the protected half, has been sold at several times the sum obtained for that grown in the open; and so far as heard from has given satisfaction to the few who care for that sort of tea. The experiment will be continued during the approaching season, although it may be necessary to substitute cheese cloth, or a lace work of plaster-laths for the cocoa matting.

#### CLEANLINESS OF MACHINERY.

Manual labour has been so restricted in the factory work by the introduction of machinery that almost no manipulation of the tea, whether green or black, occurs. This revolution in English-speaking countries in the manufacture of tea should appeal to that steadily increasing element in our land which, although derisively termed fastidious by certain interested parties, naturally objects to that blend of the product of the tea bush with the perspiration, etc., of not over-cleanly or always healthy Orientals, which has frequently disgusted Bayard Taylor and other travellers in the East. It is sought at Pinehurst to obviate those bacteriological examinations which must ultimately invade the domain of tea, even though by a system of factory cleanliness the question be raised in the minds of those entirely conversant with the Oriental practices whether any tea is actually cured in the Pinehurst establishment.

The United States Government, and more particularly the department of agriculture, has contributed of late years most important aid towards the accomplishment of these investigations. The most liberal aid has been extended, particularly of late in the purchase of rare tea seed and the importation of new tea machinery.

#### DUTY ON TEA.

So far as Pinehurst interests extend it is a matter of little concern whether foreign tea be dutiable or not: the novelty of the product is sufficient to insure the sale of its drop in the bucket. But as regards the establishment of a national tea industry, it can never be brought about except by the imposition of such a duty on foreign teas as shall counterbalance the difference in the

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

**CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S**  
By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to  
His Majesty  
The King.



**CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES**



price of American and Oriental labour. This fact was abundantly demonstrated on the occasion of the repeal of the war tax on foreign teas. A number of moneyed men had been seriously entertaining the thought of embarking in tea planting to a very large extent; but on the revocation of the duty immediately dropped all consideration of the subject. Unfortunately the tea industry, like those of the cane and beet sugar, requires a rather large initial expenditure and the services of an experienced director—one versed not only in agriculture and manufacture, but a good tea judge and a general business man. It is almost needless to indicate that one who can fill these desiderata is always worth a good price in the markets of the world and that it must take a great many acres of tea gardens to contribute enough profit to retain his services.

#### BEST TEA GROWN LATE.

An interesting feature of the Pinehurst crop is that the strongest and, therefore, the most commercially valuable tea, is made during the latter part of the summer, probably due to the greater maturity of the plants, i.e., at the greatest time from the annual spring pruning. The early summer flushes follow each other with great rapidity and the leaves, although very tender, have not probably the requisite time for the chemical changes which produce the strength of the later pluckings. In the very early flushes there appears to be less of those oxidizing ferments whose function in the production of black tea is so important. Therefore the manufacture of green tea in the early part of the season and of black in the latter part is clearly indicated.

When the special tea seed chosen for some gardens already prepared for their reception arrives and they have been duly planted the area in tea at Pinehurst will amount to about 100 acres, which it is not calculated to exceed, as that amount should suffice to answer the original question as to whether commercial tea may be profitably made in the Southern States.

#### MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.

It is remarkable how greatly our estimate of ourselves and our qualities differs from the estimate formed of us by others. If the thing were practicable, many folks would realise heavily by selling themselves at their own valuation (if they could find customers), and afterwards buying themselves back on the basis of other people's notion of their worth. The more numerous and the harder the blows aimed at our self-conceit in the days of our youth, the better for us. They pulverise, as it were, the worser part of our nature, and nothing survives the process but what deserves to endure. "And what are you?" asked a Lord Chief Justice of England of a witness who had just given some rambling and discreditable evidence. "I employ myself as a surgeon," said the witness. "But does anybody else employ you as a surgeon? Are you a surgeon?" asked the judge. And thereat the witness collapsed.

It is claimed for all medicines that they effect cures, though the fact is that some do and some do not. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup has been very extensively used for thirty-five years, and is to-day the principal domestic medicine in sixteen different countries. The number of cures it has effected (especially among persons suffering from indigestion and bilious diseases) is quite incalculable. Of the many thousands of testimonials as to its efficacy voluntarily given, here is an interesting one from a mother and daughter. "For several years," writes Mrs. Hutchison, of Newcastle Road, Jesmond, N.S.W., on October 19th, 1902, "I suffered agonies from indigestion and liver complaint. I could neither eat, sleep, nor work—in fact, did not know what it was to enjoy a single hour of freedom from pain. I was attended by two of the cleverest medical men in the Newcastle district, but their treatment failed to bring me any relief. Indeed, I went steadily downhill, and began to fear that my case was beyond the aid of medicine. I grew weakly and thin, and became dejected, when, two years ago, I was advised to try what Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup could do for me. It was a happy decision, for before I had taken a quarter of the first bottle my health was much improved. I continued to take the medicine according to the directions for five weeks, by the end of which time I was cured. The cure is evidently a permanent one, for I have remained well and sound to the present day."

This is good testimony—testimony to be proud of. But it don't stop here. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup not only cured Mrs.

Hutchison of her indigestion and liver complaint, but, in the case of her daughter Agnes, arrested the progress of an insidious and dangerous malady which, if allowed to range unchecked, might have had fatal results. Here is Mrs. Hutchison's own description of her daughter's case: "My daughter," she says, "was in a very bad way. She was suffering from severe nervous debility. She wasted away to a skeleton, and appeared to have no blood in her body. She was so weakly that she could not walk without assistance, and was often compelled to keep to bed for days together. The doctors seemed to be much in the dark as to her ailment, and as impotent in treating her case as they had been in their treatment of mine, so I determined to experiment on her with the medicine which had proved such a boon to myself. The result was that within two months a few bottles of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup changed her from a helpless invalid into a hearty, healthy, happy girl. She remains as well as one could wish her to be."

Mrs. Hutchison is well known in Jesmond and Lambton, and has lived in these places for twenty years. She is a native of Scotland, and came to Australia in 1872.

#### MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated May 22nd, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1902-1903	1,516,459	1,093,446	83,668
1901-1902	1,601,546	1,129,593	78,027
28,473 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 58,218 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
27,366 " CEYLON			
2,379 " JAVA			

Countries outside the United Kingdom show a satisfactory record for the first quarter of 1903, a larger quantity of both Indian and Ceylon Tea having been taken than in the corresponding period of 1902.

This increase is specially encouraging in view of the higher prices lately ruling for the lower grades, and the fear entertained by some that a check might thus be caused to the expansion of outside markets. The chief advance so far has been in Australasia, which for the corresponding period of last year showed comparatively poor results.

Export of Indian and Ceylon Tea (in lbs.) to places outside U. K. from 1st January to 31st March.

	INDIAN TEA.			
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K.	2,863,094	3,395,469	3,694,517	2,306,419
Transshipments from U. K.	606,827	604,891	489,793	555,289
Direct expts. from Calcutta	4,193,710	3,117,675	4,341,829	2,041,274
Total lbs...	7,663,631	7,118,035	8,526,139	4,875,982

	CEYLON TEA.			
	1903	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K.	3,894,330	3,483,758	4,300,274	2,830,104
Transshipments from U. K.	373,182	782,510	847,093	482,898
Direct expts. from Ceylon	9,820,935	6,890,138	7,776,838	7,372,900
Total lbs...	14,088,447	11,156,406	12,924,205	10,685,902

Duty payments since the commencement of the month have been very heavy, clearances up to 20th having amounted to 15,567,698 lbs., against 8,734,826 lbs. last year.

INDIAN.—There has been a fair market, medium and better liquoring teas showing a slight improvement, while commoner kinds evinced a little weakness. The official wire gives exports to U. K. for the first half of May as 564,000 lbs., against 520,000 lbs. during the same period last year; making the total from 1st April 807,000 lbs., against 1,161,000 lbs. in 1902.

Southern India is becoming more and more an important factor in the auctions, and since the commencement of the season 53,270 packages from Travancore have been sold at an average of 606d, against 49,241 packages, averaging 631d last year.



Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 22,968 pkgs., av. 7-66d. 1902, — pkgs., av. —.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,182,732 pkgs., av. 7-52d. 1901-2, 1,273,337 pkgs., av. 7-64d

CEYLON.—With a comparatively heavy sale the market was somewhat irregular, and while commonest kinds were slightly weaker, good and medium sorts were in good demand; fine kinds showed distinct advances. An invoice of fine flavoured tea from the "Sutton" estate realized an average of 1/3.

Private telegraphic advice gives exports to U. K. for the first half of May as 5,500,000 lbs., against 4,500,000 lbs. last year, making the quantity from 1st January 37,000,000 lbs., against 39,250,000 lbs. during the same period 1902.

Average for week 7-76d, against — in 1902. (Whitsuntide.)

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 379,214 pkgs., av. 7-67d. 1902, 419,072 pkgs., av. 6-99d.

JAVAS.—Sold without material alteration in price with good general competition, ten estates being represented in the auction.

Bank Rate  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:— Calcutta  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{7}{8}$ . Colombo  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

### CINCHONA.

At the London auction on Tuesday there was a good demand for bark, and practically all the catalogues (with the exception of soft Colombian) were cleared at and after the sale at an average unit of between  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d and  $1\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb., against  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d at the last London auctions, and a slight improvement on the last Amsterdam sale-price of  $1\frac{5}{8}$ d.

The following table shows the quantities of bark offered and sold:—

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
East Indian cinchona ...	720	407
Calisaya cinchona ...	488	406
Soft Colombian cinchona ...	301	...
Ceylon cinchona ...	180	173
Java cinchona ...	17	17
	1,706	1,003

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Indian ...	7,663,631	7,118,035	8,526,139	4,875,982	4,994,148	4,631,650	7,090,639
Ceylon ...	14,088,447	11,156,408	12,924,205	10,685,902	7,788,345	7,641,405	6,060,271
Total lbs. ...	21,752,078	18,274,441	21,450,344	15,561,884	12,782,493	12,273,055	13,150,910

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-66d., MAY 22ND.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
Seaforth	69½c	7½	18½c	8½	22½c	7	14½c	7½	...	...	...	...	15½c	6½
Travancore	431	6-58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherian Mallay	24 p	6½	...	...	10	6½	6	6½	6	6½	...	...	2½c	6
Ellangy	84 p	6	...	...	33	+6	20	6½	20	6	...	...	11½c	5½
Lockhart	74½c	7½	40½c	6½ 9½	31½c	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	3½c	5½
Riviera	50	5½	...	...	33	5½	11	6	...	...	2	5½	4	5
S T T Co Venture...	99	7	...	...	49	+6½	28	7½	22	+6½	...	...	...	...
T T E Co Mount ...	100	6½	...	...	31	+6½	25	+7	10	6½	5	+6½	29	+6½
Wynaad	409	7-18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrapetta T Co A...	60	7	...	...	...	...	50	7	10	6½	...	...	...	...
Askern	87 p	6½	49 p	7 7½	23	6½	...	...	10	6½	5	6½	...	...
Kanambyle & Cher...	78	8½	18	1/1½	44	6½	16	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pootoomulla	62	6½	...	...	16	6½	25	7	...	...	21	6½	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per...	122 p	7	...	...	39	+7	60½c	+6½ +8	23	+6½	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

The following were the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	lbs.
American factory ...	64,326
Zimmer and Frankfort factories.	27,234
Messrs. Howards & Sons	15,994
Mannheim and Amsterdam factories	5,560
Brunswick factory	3,005
Druggists, brokers, etc.	49,493

Total quantity sold	165,612
Bought in or withdrawn	139,650

305,262

The following prices were paid:

SOUTH AMERICAN.—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya, quill,  $5\frac{1}{8}$ d to  $6\frac{1}{8}$ d per lb.; branch,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d; 300 bales old soft Colombian were bought in.

JAVA.—Ledgeriana, branch, 7d to  $7\frac{5}{8}$ d; and root,  $6\frac{1}{8}$ d per lb. Succirubra root,  $3\frac{5}{8}$ d; hybrid branch, 7d.

CEYLON.—Succirubra, ordinary to fair stem chips,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $3\frac{5}{8}$ d; and renewed ditto,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.

EAST INDIAN.—Officinalis, good,  $6\frac{3}{8}$ d; ordinary to fair,  $2\frac{1}{8}$ d to 4d; renewed chips,  $8\frac{1}{8}$ d; fair,  $3\frac{1}{8}$ d to  $3\frac{3}{8}$ d; ordinary to good root,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $6\frac{1}{4}$ d; and branch  $1\frac{3}{8}$ d to  $2\frac{1}{8}$ d. Ledgeriana chips,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. Succirubra, stem chips and shavings,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.

The shipments from Java for the first half of the month amounted to 621,800 Amsterdam lbs., against 465,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year.

### QUININE.

On Wednesday the makers announced a reduction of  $\frac{1}{8}$ d per oz., and now quote German sulphate in bulk at 1s 1d. Whiffen's brand has also been reduced  $\frac{1}{8}$ d to 1s 1d and Howards have lowered their price by 1d (as on the last occasion when German sulphate was reduced they made no change). They now quote 1s 2d, their price for vials in 1,000-oz. lots being 1s 4d. P. and G. (French) make is quoted 1s 0½d. The market in second hands has continued very quiet, with a small spot-business at  $11\frac{1}{8}$ d per oz. for German sulphate, and on Wednesday there were sellers of August delivery at  $11\frac{3}{8}$ d. To-day's market is quiet and quotations unchanged.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1903.

[No. 25.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 26th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 17th June.—*Weather*—Monsoon burst here on 12th. Heavy rain first two days. Light since Monday inclusive. *Plant diseases*—It will be an exceptionally short year for borer. There are no signs of leaf-disease. *Works*—Weeding and supply-holing. It is said supply-planting has been finished on one place where it was begun in May! *Labour*—Sufficient.

### NOTICE.

Friday the 26th instant, will be a general holiday in commemoration of the anniversary of the birth of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

There will consequently be no issue of *Planting Opinion* next week.

### THE PESTS AND BLIGHTS OF THE TEA-PLANT.

THE second edition of this book should be possessed and studied by every planter. To the coffee and cinchona planter it conveys useful information; to the tea-planter it is a veritable encyclopædia. The title by no means shows the full character of the contents of the book. While its main purpose is to deal with pests and blights that attack the tea-plant, it contains some very instructive chapters on plant-life, on races of the tea-plant, seed gardens, the improvement of seed, and methods of cultivation of the plant and drainage of the soil. The principles of pruning are discussed, as well as methods of plucking and manuring, the joint authors no doubt desiring to emphasise the lesson that the tea-plant

must be guarded against disease as well by building up its constitution as by resort to measures that are akin to the use of surgery and medicines in the case of diseased human beings. Sir GEORGE WATT and Mr. HAROLD H. MANN proceed throughout with the caution of the skilled scientist. They “make no pretence to finality in any way.” From personal observation and experiment, and from the statements of planters of long experience, they form a work that is not merely a text-book but a standard work of reference. Planters are not invited to accept these experts’ conclusions as final or their suggestions as conclusive; but a mass of information is placed before readers, which they can sift for themselves, adapting it to their own requirements, modifying it according to their own experiences, or accepting it merely as a basis for experiment or for every-day work. The fault will lie with him and not with the authors if every single planter does not profit to some extent by the instruction that is placed at his disposal. We would add also that the authors will doubtless welcome any comments or criticisms that may be made on the basis of experiments or investigations concluded by planters. There is still much to be learnt about the vagaries of plants and blights in different districts and under various conditions; and any information furnished to the above gentlemen will enable them to revise, to verify or to modify certain of their conclusions or opinions.

It is essential to the tea-planter that he should grasp the fundamental principles of plant life and growth. When he has done this, he can proceed to the work of cultivation in the confidence that he has reasons for adopting this or that practice. Competition becomes keener every year. It cannot be doubted that the success of Indian and Ceylon teas in competition with China leaf has resulted very largely from the application of intelligence, aided by science, to the cultivation of the plant. With processes of manufacture the work under review does not concern itself. Its aim is to show planters the lines along which they should proceed to produce healthy and sound tea leaf in its raw state. To do this, they must give the plant every reasonable care from the time of the selection of seed to the time when the leaf-bearing stage is reached. They must strengthen, while refining, the constitution of the plant, and must safeguard it as far as possible from disease, and from the ravages of pests and blights. The planter who reads this book with care and



also refers to it whenever in doubt or whenever his plants appear to be attacked by some insect or fungoid form, cannot go far wrong. He will be able to trace with its aid the cause of any affliction he may observe. He will be able to select the right remedy. If he fails to check an outbreak it will probably be either because he fails to grasp the meaning of the advice at his disposal, or because he is faced by some form with which the authors of the book have not yet had an opportunity to grapple. Their list of enemies is so lengthy that the latter event is scarcely likely to occur, while the former may be regarded as equally improbable, looking to the generally high order of intelligence among those who devote their time to the cultivation of tea.

It would scarcely be fair to quote at any great length from the book. Priced at Rs.3 per copy it is within the reach of all. Its admirably executed plates will facilitate the understanding of advice given and the identification of pests referred to. Some planters have probably had the luck to be free from all such foes hitherto. That is no reason why they should ignore this book, for the enemy may come upon them while they are sleeping. The more the care bestowed upon raising crops of one product in a particular case, the greater the risk of attack on the part of insects. When such an attack has to be made safety lies to a very great extent in prompt action. Insect life multiplies at a marvellous rate, and it is very necessary that any particular pest should be stamped out before it has gathered in such force as to render its extirpation impossible at a cost commensurate with the value of the work. Armed with the fruits of study, and with this book, the planter should be ready to face any pest or blight that is likely to trouble him; for it describes all that have yet been noticed, and gives very valuable hints as to the use of insecticides and fungicides, with formulæ for their preparation. The book is one of a value that cannot be estimated, and the arrangement of its contents is worthy of their great value.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**Adulterated Coffee.**—The annual report of Mr. J. F. Liversedge, public analyst for the city of Birmingham, states that seven of the 132 samples of coffee received, or 5 per cent., were adulterated with chicory. Four other samples contained small quantities of chicory, probably as the result of accident. Five per cent. of the samples of coffee were adulterated last year. This proportion was the same as in 1901, but lower than any other recent year. The report of the Local Government Board for 1901 stated that 11 per cent. of the samples of coffee analysed in London, and 7 per cent. of those analysed in England and Wales, as a whole, were adulterated. It appeared that the local grocers were more careful than those of London and other parts of the country to sell their mixtures of coffee and chicory as mixtures, and not as coffee

\* \* \*

**The Health Coffee Fake.**—The people who allow themselves to be frightened away from the matutinal cup of "Mocha and Java" by the attacks of the cereal coffee people, should take courage from the following communication to the *Boston Post*, reprinted in *Acker's Weekly*:

To the Editor of the *Post*:

SIR,—Having seen a great many reports printed which attempt to show the injuriousness of coffee, I wish to state that I am 83

years of age and have drunk coffee since I was 10 years of age, seldom missing a morning cup, and sometimes three times a day I drank coffee. I think that anyone who drinks the best of coffee cannot feel harmful effects.

I shall celebrate my 50th wedding anniversary to-morrow, and I want you to come and try my coffee. I wish this put into print in your paper, to show that good coffee is not harmful, but on the contrary a food and drink to the body.

Yours truly,

T. M. PROCTOR.

ESSEX, MASS., April 13.

We can cap his experience by the experience of the present writer's father, an octogenarian who drinks two or three cups of strong coffee every morning of his life and who looks good for another ten or twenty years of existence. Coffee never hurt anybody whose liver was sound and who used it in moderation. Moreover, a great many people use it to excess and still do not suffer noticeably from disagreeable symptoms.

There are thousands of shrewd, kind-hearted and experienced housewives of German birth who would laugh to scorn the notion that coffee-drinking is harmful. Two cups at breakfast, as many at lunch, three or four at the mid-afternoon meal so dear to the hearts of those good dames, are their minimum rate of consumption, and there is no more robust class of people on the face of the earth.

Go to, thou Postum Ananias? Are the people paretic, that they should believe the coffee slanders from Battle Creek? —*Merchants' Review*.

\* \* \*

**Coffee in Manitoba.**—The demand is good and prices are without change. The market here is practically unaffected by the regulation *re* green coffees from Holland, as the only effect it can have is to increase direct importation from Java, and this would naturally come by way of Vancouver. Indeed, Vancouver is quite elated over the possible opening of a direct import trade. The heavy business of this market is in Rios, which are extensively bought by the Germans, Russians, and Ice-landers, and these continue at 7½ to 8½c. Jobbers anticipate an increased consumption of coffee from the influx of Americans, but the difference at present is not appreciable.

\* \* \*

**Landed Coffee.**—Some surprising changes have occurred in the movements of the article this year, says the *Grocer*, as a few statistics will plainly show. First, we extract the following figures from the Board of Trade returns, giving the imports and exports (in cwts.) for the United Kingdom during the four months ended April 30 last, as compared with those in the previous year:—

Imports from—	1903.	1902.	Exports to—	1903.	1902.
Central America	127,186	101,624	Sweden	8,084	1,968
Brazil ..	144,288	82,212	Germany	76,786	31,240
O. foreign countries..	241,477	167,369	Holland	35,051	15,420
Ceylon	2,227	1,969	Belgium	13,663	7,438
O. Brit. possessions...	152,742	88,607	Other countries	69,747	26,090
Total cwts ..	667,920	441,781	Total cwts...	203,331	82,156

In each instance it will be noticed that the quantities of coffee imported exhibit a marked increase over those in the first four months of 1902, which clearly proves that the London market has been furnished with supplies of the new season's crops both earlier and more liberally than in the former year, and that an excellent opportunity has been



offered the trade at large to replenish their exhausted stocks which remained on hand at the close of the old season. As a counterpoise to this excess in the arrivals of coffee it is in a certain sense satisfactory to find that the shipments hence for 1903 to date have considerably more than doubled those in 1902, and have in a corresponding degree relieved the London market of a supply which otherwise must have become very burdensome to importers and troublesome to distributors. Among the latter we include the wholesale dealers, who have acted very cautiously throughout, taking out of the bonded warehouses of the United Kingdom only 2,432 cwts., in lieu of 121,008 cwts. last year, with the undesirable result that the stock in bond, as officially rendered on the 30th ultimo, was augmented to 895,000 cwts., in contrast with 493,000 cwts. in the preceding year.

Private returns of the movements of coffee in London alone point to similar conclusions. For example, the clearances of coffee for home use during the first twenty weeks of the present year have been curtailed to an equivalent of 6,940 tons, against 7,910 tons in the same period of 1902; and the aggregate stock on the 16th instant was piled up to 38,250 tons, as contrasted with 22,880 tons in May, 1902. More significant still are the landings at this port, which have reached 31,580 tons, in comparison with 23,170 tons last May; and for what might be called almost a phenomenal event, the exports in the twenty weeks have been equal to 10,920 tons, as opposed to 4,750 tons in 1892. By dissecting these figures, and separating one class of coffee from another, we find that Central American sorts, which also embrace the growths of Costa Rica and Guatemala, were represented in this year's gross shipments from London by about 75,000 bags, in opposition to 36,600 bags in the previous season. Here was an expansion of 38,400 bags in one kind of coffee, whereas the extra amount of Central American kinds delivered exclusively on home trade account was only 7,700 bags, as the difference between 65,700 bags and 58,000 bags in the two years.

It is this divergence of operations between the home traders and exporters that constitutes the peculiarity of the London coffee market this season. Contrary to last year, when they were first in, buyers for consumption in the kingdom have, for reasons best known to themselves, hung back, while shippers to the Continent have rushed boldly forward the moment consignments of the new season's crops of Costa Rica, etc., began to appear on offer, and have thus secured the best portions of the general supply at a time when prices were at their most moderate point in March. An advantage so palpable has practically been lost to the home trade through their tardiness in buying, and on all sides it is witnessed that, the choicest of the coloury growths having been worked off, the dealers are only now waking up to the fact that, unless they wish to be deprived of the benefits of new season's crops, they must bestir themselves, or the bulk of the fancy new coffee will be taken for shipment abroad, leaving only the faded and more indifferent grades to select from, as they come along towards the close of the year. Such mismanagement in operating is like letting the foreign purchaser come in and clear off the cream of the fresh supply and handing over the refuse portion to the home dealers at stiffer rates. Already there has been a strong reaction in prices, and medium qualities from 56s. per cwt and upwards have materially advanced in value. Comparing one sort of raw coffee with another, it is mostly admitted by valuers and

others that the finer kinds of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and East India plantation are just now the dearest, and that Salvador and such like descriptions are relatively the cheapest to be met with, and consequently well worthy of attention whenever they are put up for sale by auction.

\* \* \*

The legislation that the Sao Paulo congress has discussed providing for an elimination of one-fifth of the coffee crop growing in that State is now said to be law in effect July 1. It will be interesting, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, to watch its career, for, apart from other consideration, should it prove even only moderately operative, it must have its influence on coffee prices. It will not be the first time such a law will have been tried. The Dutch employed the device when over-production made spice growing unprofitable. But their situation was not quite that which bothers Sao Paulo. The Dutch were united and in control of the spice trade, something which cannot be said for the Santos men. Their legislation applies only to their State, which, although it grows a very large proportion of the superabundant Brazil coffee, leaves not a little to be supplied by other Brazilian States. These are in no hurry to adopt the severe Santos measures, and should prices be affected for the better by the restrictions made use of by Santos, they would share in the improved conditions, and probably to realize the most possible in them be anxious to extend their own coffee plantations. Then would come again the inevitable over-production. There are other influences too, that should operate against the Sao Paulo law, influences contained in other provisions of the law not enumerated. The situation is complicated. The outlook, consequently, is most uncertain, and should the worst happen only an exasperating addition will have been contributed to the injuries inflicted by the outraged law of supply and demand. Moreover, it yet remains to be seen whether coffee is selling below the cost of production. Reports are current to the contrary, and if true, coffee growing will go on with still more lavish production. Economic forces will not have done all they have been called upon to perform, and there will be still more to hear from as to what ails the coffee market.

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**North Dakota's Pure Food Law.**—The North Dakota pure food law goes into effect July 1, 1903. Coffees must be pure, free from chicory, unglazed, not polished, and not extracted.

\* \* \*

A quiet market, with spot quotations steady and unchanged. A review of the April movement will be found elsewhere and also other trade items. Even at present at nominally low cost there are, says the *American Grocer*, those who look for a still further decline. On the spot, Rio No. 7 still held at 5½c.; No. 3, at 6½c.; Santo No. 4, at 6c. Good Cucuta, 9c. Mild sorts are unchanged and with light demand. General conditions are unchanged.

\* \* \*

C. E. Bickford's coffee circular says: "Coffee markets in all consuming countries are greatly depressed. Prices for Brazils in New York have gone lower than in the history of the article, while mild growths are seeking outlets at irregular figures, tending lower everywhere when sold. Arrivals here since the first of April exceed those of any former period of like duration. Offerings have been free and the constant



pressure to sell has resulted in a steady decline, but with considerable business done. Not all holders are following the movement in a competitive way, and our quotations are therefore somewhat irregular. To-day's first hand stock consists of 20,231 bags Costa Rica, 2,188 Nicaragua, 26,231 Salvador, 41,564 Guatemala, 5,226 Mexican, and 8,527 various; in all, 103,967 bags."

\* \* \*

Excessive boiling of coffee is about as bad as any boiling of tea, for in each case there are substances dissolved in the water which ought not to be allowed to pass into the human stomach. The boiled tea gives out tannin, which is good for making leather, but bad for the stomach, and the over-boiled coffee yields a certain acid or acids which are unpleasant to the taste and discomforting to the stomach.

\* \* \*

**Checking Coffee Production.**—The Sao Paulo State Legislature has adopted the bill to aid the coffee-planters, but the opinion of the best-informed people is that nothing useful will result, and that the question of excessive supply must be left to settle itself, just the same as it does when it is a matter of oversupply of wheat or corn or cotton.

The United States Vice-Consul at Rio Janeiro expresses himself very shrewdly as follows:

"Of course, any plan of this kind would prove abortive unless the other coffee producing States—Minas, Rio, and Espirito Santo—decreed like measures; but, owing to interstate jealousies and diverse economical conditions, it is not at all likely that the various interests will be so reconciled as to bring about united effort. Sao Paulo is by far the largest producing State, having yielded in the crop year 1901-2 (the largest ever known) about two-thirds of the total crop. But it is generally believed here that no Government measures can prove permanently effectual, and that any expedients will only serve to temporarily ameliorate the condition of the planters. It is pointed out that this country will pay the entire cost of these projects, and the foreign markets, with their existing enormous stocks, will, in all probability, reap as great benefit as Brazil. The one real remedy, it is said, is to let the crisis take care of itself, and then prices will go low enough to force out some of the plantations and thus give consumption a chance to catch up with the supply. From entries of coffee (Rio and Santos) up to date, the year's crop up to June 30 would appear to be not far from 12,000,000 bags, which is too much for requirements, and the following crop, from July 1, 1903, to June 30, 1904, promises a yield fully equal to the present one."

Among the sections of the bill which may interest our readers, says the *Merchants' Review*, are several providing, first, for encouraging the starting of coffee-roasting plants in the interior of the Union where coffee is admitted free of interstate duty; second, to promote the creation of commercial and industrial establishments for sale of Sao Paulo coffee abroad, granting favours to the same; third, to pay certain subsidies and impose fines for falsification or admixture of coffee.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Coffee is steady but the market is dull and listless, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 19th ultimo. The only trouble is the great quantity in supply and the over-stocked condition everywhere. It would seem probable that the season of 1903-04, commencing July 1, will begin with a world's visible supply of 12,500,000 bags. This is a record breaker, and then there is the invisible supply, which probably is abnormally large. On top of both now will come the new crop harvested, which, it is feared, will pass all previous records. Little confidence is placed in Brazil legislation curtailing the

supply. The forces of commerce usually brush away such obstructions as if they were mere spider webs. 'Tis a pity to be writing bearishly so much of the time, but regard for truth permits no other indulgence.

The spot market closed flat but a little easier. Sellers are more inclined to listen to bids on bases hitherto not entertained. The prices at the close were 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 8, 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 7, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. to 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. for Santos No. 4.

In Europe and Brazil the close was unchanged. Firm offers from Brazil were Santos Nos. 3 to 9, averaging No. 6, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. c. and f.

In the option market deadness prevails. Interest seemingly has entirely died out. The trading is very limited. Especially watched are the Santos receipts, which continue full for this time of the season. May option hovers around 3 $\cdot$ 80.

In the mild market steady conditions are observed. There is fair interest, especially in Bogotas and Maracaibos, but sales are few and not large. Good Cucuta is selling on the basis of 9c. East India growths are quiet.

Total stock in United States May 1, 2,531,917 bags against 2,307,894 bags May 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States May 16, in store and afloat, 2,501,643 bags against 2,346,579 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 357,733 bags, against 331,192 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York May 16, 2,017,857. Stock in New York in other coffees May 11, 244,891, in San Francisco, 103,967 bags, and in New Orleans, 8,875 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, May 1, 12,248,278 bags.

\* \* \*

**The New York Market.**—New crop Formosa in primary market opened higher than last season. Good Congou, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. latest quotation by cable.

London has again been buying Congous. Saturday's steamer took about 4,000 packages.

New crop Japan tea is fully 20 per cent. higher than last season.

Basket-fired Japan, fancy, offered by jobbers at 45c.; sun-dried, 35c.; pan-fired, 35c. Claimed to be "the fanciest quality obtainable." Oolong of same high grade, 52c. A line of Oolong as low as 15c. Hyson, special, 16c.; some good lines of Japan, 21@22c.

\* \* \*

*Anco-Special*, the sprightly journal issued by Austin Nichols & Co., says:

"The higher the price of the coffee the less it takes to make a cup of the desired strength.

"Besides that, the higher-priced coffees have infinitely better flavour than the cheaper grades, so that all things considered the dearest coffee is the most satisfactory to buy."

\* \* \*

**Brazilian Bank's View on Brazil Coffee Situation.**—The London and Brazilian Bank reporting May 4 to its stockholders says of coffee in Brazil:

"The situation is becoming complicated owing to the labour question. The liberated slaves have been replaced by immigrants, principally Italians, who are spending very little money and are sending almost their entire wages abroad which fact contributes to restricting circulation and business and in view of the present crisis labour is likely to be scarce. Relative to the recent law to benefit the Brazil coffee trade enacted by the S. Paulo Legislature, such as it is, it certainly



makes numerous malcontents among the planters because they cannot count on an immediate compensation from the new tax which will be exacted from them. This is the principal reason for their dissatisfaction and this is also a reason which should make Bernardina de Campos hesitate. Entirely imperfect and incomplete as it certainly is in its dispositions, the law must be applied; it will not be a definite remedy; it will not at all solve the crisis; but it will be a palliative which will only postpone the solution and permit enterprising planters to safeguard as soon as possible, their interests so greatly compromised by their own faults. However this may be, it is probable that the President will not sanction this law without having the assurance of the co-operation of the other Brazil States, which will not be easy judging from the lively opposition manifested by the States of Rio and Minas, which say, that having nothing to do with the creation of the crisis which is to be averted, they cannot see why they should suffer the consequences."

\* \* \*

**Coffea Laurentii (Robusta), Hort. Kew.**—This is a new species of coffee growing in the Botanic Garden at Entebbe, in Uganda. The plant was received from Kew in 1901 as a seedling, and has now attained a height of 5 feet. The shining green leaves and the clusters of white flowers show that the plant is very ornamental, but probably this is the least valuable of its qualities, as it is hoped that its robust habit will give it immunity from fungous and other pests which have so seriously interfered with the cultivation of coffee in Ceylon and other countries.

\* \* \*

**A Good Cup of Coffee.**—The secret of making palatable, non-injurious coffee, lies in the two words: quick infusion.

In the first place, have the Coffee ground to the finest powder, so that its full virtue may be quickly extracted. Allow a dessert-spoonful for each person, mix it with just enough cold water to make it thick paste, and let it stand until five minutes before the time to serve. Have fresh water boiling, pour on a cupful for each person, and two more for the persons who are likely to (but should not) wish a second cup. Put the cup over the fire and let the infusion come to a boil, settle with a dash of cold water, or a clean egg shell, and serve immediately. This is a cup of coffee and not a cup of tannin Coffee made in this way may be taken morning, noon and night without injury, but the quantity drunk at one time should not be greater than one cupful.

Coffee that has boiled, or stood more than five minutes, should be thrown away.

### TEA NOTES.

**Tea Examinations in New York.**—Following, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, is the statement showing the quantity of tea that has been examined in accordance with the provisions of the national tea standard act at the port of New York during the last ten months ended April 30. The entire import of tea of the United States during that time was a trifle in excess of 100,000,000 lbs., and as the teas inspected here were in excess of 66,000,000 lbs. it will be seen that New York does two-thirds of the tea business of the land so far as importations are concerned. Formosa tea heads the list, closely followed by Congous, and

not far away are the India and Ceylons, which in tables go together like Siamese twins. The importation of Japan teas during the last ten months was 34,000,000 lbs., and as New York handled only a little more than 9,000,000 lbs. it follows that the city does only about one quarter of the business in Japan teas. Chicago is headquarters for that tea. In the other teas New York has a safe lead.

Surprisingly large is the quantity of tea rejected for being under standard. The quantity in the ten months was 1,248,100 lbs., or two per cent. The statement follows: Accepted—

	Pkgs.	Pounds.
Formosa	379,633	12,130,597
Congou	203,899	11,900,148
Japan	111,288	9,700,300
Pingsuey	275,126	9,612,915
India and Ceylon	122,379	9,232,028
Foochow	132,350	6,151,461
Country Green...	86,905	5,199,490
Japan Dust	10,564	838,820
Canton	1,928	80,739
Capers	974	18,969
Scented Pekoe	768	15,225
Ceylon Dust	108	8,100
Total	1,325,922	64,878,292
Rejected—		
Foochow	15,497	680,743
Congou	5,126	276,250
Pingsuey	3,391	137,950
Country Green...	743	64,400
India and Ceylon	1,459	48,669
Japan	303	21,060
India and Ceylon Dust	160	13,168
India and Ceylon Green	38	2,500
Canton	11	2,460
Total	26,728	1,248,100
Grand Total	1,352,640	66,126,392

\* \* \*

**Morocco and Green Tea.**—It is not generally known that Morocco is a country of importance to tea, but that is a fact, and how important may be seen from the circumstance that the recent political troubles there made the London green tea market so nervous that it completely collapsed. Much green tea is drunk in Morocco, and a revolution naturally would have its influence on selling tea there, and London, which supplied the tea, knew it well.

\* \* \*

**Tower Tea.**—The report for the year ended March 31, 1903, shows an amount of £20,469 (including £2,200 received as premium on new shares) to be disposed of, after providing for trading expenses. The Directors recommend that a dividend be paid at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the last six months, making 8 per cent. for the year, and interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum since the dates of payment of the instalments on the new ordinary shares, and that £3,000 be carried to reserve.

\* \* \*

**Increased Use of Java Tea.**—A feature of the Java tea enterprise is said to be the very considerable and steadily increasing proportion of the produce which is shipped direct to Holland. This means the gradual conversion of a good many of the Dutch people to afternoon, and, perhaps morning, tea. If this process continues, and Belgium, as well as the adjacent portion of Germany—the people of the Groningen and East Friesland Provinces have always been great tea-drinkers—were induced to consume increasing quantities of



Java tea, no one would regret some expansion in the Dutch planting enterprise.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—A fairly active market at steady prices is noticed in tea, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 19th ultimo. The higher opening of the Eastern markets is making its influence felt, so that more inquiry is met for such teas as are in stock here, which, high though they be, look desirable when viewed in the light of prices ruling abroad. A firm market at least may be expected for the rest of the season and even a hardening one, should the Eastern markets show no diminution in their demands. The next market of interest to open will be the green tea, which is expected to show a large advance because of the firmness and high price of the tea during the past season. There should be an abundance in quantity, for beyond doubt many teas heretofore turned into a black, will be made into a green this year. This is what has probably happened to the Congous, the rise in the opening price of which is explained in this way. Detailed reports are that the market has opened at an advance of ten per cent. for the high grades and twenty per cent. for the medium grades, the comparison being with the prices at the opening one year ago.

In Japans there is no further news than that the market continues to rule high. Speaking generally the advance is twenty per cent. over the opening prices one year ago. It is said that the prospects are favourable for a large yield of the second crop. A considerable quantity of samples of the new tea arrived in the United States this week. The samples are, of course, of the better grades.

The Formosa market continues firm at the higher rates. The advance has induced some trading in the old tea at hand in New York; 6,000 packages changed hands last week at firm rates.

The green teas are very scarce, firmly held and high. Ceylons and Greens are coming in fair quantity but rule firm in response to the strong London market.

Advices from London say that the offerings at the auctions have been on a larger scale. A fair demand has prevailed, at generally steady rates but later a quieter tone has predominated, and, to sell, lower prices have had to be accepted, most noticeably in the medium grades. In Indian teas, owing to the large quantity brought forward, buyers have displayed considerable hesitation, and a large proportion was in consequence withdrawn, the teas which sold showing but very little change in price. In Ceylon teas the sales have passed with fair spirit, and although prices were in some instances irregular, the general tone has been fairly steady. Average for the week ending May 9, 7.69d., against 6.55d. in 1902. There has been a fair inquiry for all kinds of China teas from exporters, but so far the response is small. There has been a brisk demand for Scented Capers up to 6d. per pound. The Green tea market is stagnant.

*The Ohemiker Zeitung* report the results of experiments made by G. Wahgel, which indicate that the aroma of tea is due to the presence of special kinds of bacteria.

The U. S. tea imports during the fiscal year have been so liberal as to remove all fears that high prices will prevail for the remainder of the season. Somehow firmness in the tea market seldom lasts long. As with coffee and sugar, the preponderance of production is generally the feature of the

tea market. Population grows, but not so fast as the production of staple products of the soil.

Until quite recently there has been little machinery used by the tea trade in this country, says the *Spice Mill* (New York). The wholesaler or jobber has merely sold packages of tea—packages just as received by him—without any manipulation of their contents. This is in great contrast to the conduct of the coffee business, in which careful manipulation of the goods is considered essential to success.

Perhaps the great increase of coffee consumption in this country, compared with that of tea, has been partly due to the competitive efforts of so many coffee dealers, all producing blended goods such as will suit the varied tastes of consumers. Think how few straight coffees—just as received in the original import bags—ever go to the consumer. If straight coffees are the exception, straight teas are certainly the rule; and yet it is admitted that the possibilities for producing a great variety of acceptable blends is quite as great with tea as with coffee.

Blending is done, of course, by the retail tea dealer; but the trouble here, as with coffee, is that most retailers do not know the goods well enough (or have not sufficient command of uniform supplies) to get results which give continued satisfaction. This hurts the tea trade immeasurably.

Many large dealers now recognize this fact, and see that by wholesale blending, combining expert tea knowledge and free command of supplies, they will not only help tea consumption as a whole, but can establish an appreciative demand for their own special output.

## NOTES.

### Ceará Coffee.

Ceará is falling back as an exporter of Coffee. From 42 tons in 1900 to 23 tons in 1901, and only 10 tons in 1903 is a smart decline, especially in view of the drop that has occurred in prices.

### A New Rubber.

The plant *Landolphia thralloni* has been discovered in the French Congo. Produce valuable rubber which is selling at 3s. per lb. It is claimed that the new discovery will revolutionise the rubber industry.

### The Agricultural Ledger.

The latest numbers of this valuable publication are No. 2 of 1903, "The Agricultural Value of City Sewage in India," by Dr. Leather, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, with a note by Mr. J. Mollison, Inspector-General of Agriculture; and No. 3 of 1903, "On a Plague of Grasshoppers in the Central Provinces," by Mr. Stewart Dockman, C.V.D.

### Cocoa and Coffee in Jamaica.

Of the Jamaica coffee crop it is said: "The crop is nearly all in and only small lots 25s. to 60s. are to be had." In regard to cocoa it is said: "Cocoa is coming freely to market; 41s. to 44s. as to quality. Ginger stocks are held locally for 28s. to 32s. Honey at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 9d. per gallon; scarce owing to severe drouth and consequent akma of flowers. Pimento crop over and stocks held for 17s. 6d. per 100 pounds; new on north side will be late owing to dry weather; the south side will be ready by June.



**Tea and Coffee for Texas.**

Mr. Samuel J. Wilde, of New York, has been travelling in Texas, and the Fort Worth Register reports his observations, which include the availability of the Texan soil for coffee-growing. He said: "The soil is almost identical with that of the island of Ceylon, and the climate is perfect for the successful growing of coffee. I have looked into the tea-growing section of South Carolina, and compared some of this tea with that imported from China and Japan, and in some respects I find the tea grown in this country superior to the imported article. And I am certain that coffee culture could be followed with profit in South Texas."

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**

At the tea sale at Calcutta on 12th instant 7,475 packages were sold. The market was fully firm for all except common teas. The demand for Russia, the Colonies, and Bombay was good, with exceptional prices. The following conditions have been added to the conditions of sale to take effect on and after the 1st April:—"A sum corresponding to the rate of the tea cess, one-fourth pie per lb., shall be charged by brokers to sellers' account and deducted from the buyers' bill." "In calculating charges an odd fraction up to half-a-pie shall be disregarded; if exceeding half-a-pie it shall be taken as one pie."

**Yet another Rubber.**

Experts sent by the Philippine Government to the island of Mindoro report that a fine quality of rubber equal to that from India, and known by the natives as "ducting aha," was found to exist in large quantities. At nearly all points visited were signs of the rubber vine, which, in size, is from one-half to one inch in diameter. It grows to a length of from forty to sixty feet. This vine, however, is to be found only in dry forests. The natives do not know the real value of the vines and use them for no other than medical purposes. They rub it on burns, sores, and wounds, and outside of its usefulness for healing purposes they place no other value upon the rubber. A large quantity of low-grade guttapercha was also found in several places.

**London Tea Market.**

Weekly special telegram dated 11th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton of Colombo reports demand is strong for fine kinds and that medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (¼d. less than the previous report) and the average 7½d. (same as last report). The average for the same period last year was 6½d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea as follows good demand at fully previous rates and Broken Pekoe firm; for all the fine teas Pekoe Souchong steady; fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6¼d. (same as last report) and the average for the week is 7½d. (same as last report). 26,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 24,000 disposed of; while of the 28,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 21,000 were sold at an average of 7½d. (¼d. higher than last report).

**Java Quinine.**

In his annual report on the trade of Java during 1902, the British Consul at Batavia reports that the quantity of quinine sold by the Bandong quinine factory at auction and by tender

was 821,608 oz., most of which went to the United States, the average price of the eleven sales being about 11d. per oz. The combination of Java cinchona-planters controlling more than one-third of the area under cinchona have now decided to extend the period of their agreement until the end of 1903. The exports of quinine from Java have been—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Oz. ...	794,400	1,032,800	766,400

The result of the tender held at Batavia on May 27 was as follows: Of 7,452 kilos. Ed. II. offered, 71 kilos. sold at an average of 17f per kilo. (about equal to 6¼c. Amsterdam unit), against 20f. per kilo. at the previous tender. The next tender will take place on June 24.

**Journal d'Agriculture  
Tropicale.**

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 23 (mis en vente à Paris le 31 mai 1903):* 15 contributions inédites, de MM. Berthelot du Chesnay, Apfelbaum, Poulain, Judge, Cibot, Hamel Smith, Bardey, Karpelès, de Sornay, Bertoni, Main, Couturier, Dulieu, Tabel.—Une usine de défibrage d'aloès en Algérie.—Le Palmier à huile, comme porte-ombre.—Un débouché nouveau du kapok.—Culture moderne de la ramie au Bengal.—Le riz en brasserie.—La machine paraguayenne, pour casser les noix d'Acrocomia.—Les dessoucheuses à bras (av. 3 fig.).—Articles et notes sur l'oranger, l'arachide, le coton, le séné, le thé, le caoutchouc, la canne, la banane, le patchouli, le henequen, le manioc, le poivre, le cocotier, les termites, les tiques, le surra.—Etudes commerciales sur le caoutchouc, le cacao, le café.—24 analyses bibliographiques (N.-S.-Wales, Chine, Inde française, Java, Sumatra, Anatolie, Afrique en général, Egypte, Algérie, Antilles.—Canne, tabac, plantes potagères en général, oignons, riz, café, coton, soie).

**Canton Tea.**

In his report on the Trade of Canton for the year 1902 Mr. Consul-General Scott says:—"Tea, chiefly Congou, again shows a decline, amounting to 1,800,000 lbs., and this notwithstanding the reduction of duty levied during the past year. Canton teas are principally used for blending purposes, and cannot be produced at lower prices than those now ruling, so that it is impossible for them to compete in the European market with cheap Indian and Ceylon teas, which, for blending purposes, answer equally well. The result is that growers, who can readily dispose of their leaf in the form of Pouchong, both at home and in the United States and the Colonies, are losing all interest in the European trade, which would appear to be rapidly approaching total extinction." It is noteworthy that 5,645 cwt. of Tea was imported from foreign countries, as against 2,483 in 1901 and 2,900, the average of the last five years. The Exports of tea (black) in 1902 were 27,476 cwt., as against 7,924 in 1901 and 14,300, the average of the last five years—figures that are not reconcilable with the Consular remarks quoted above.

**Tea and Coffee in  
America.**

The complaint frequently heard that the best teas and coffees are to be had in the retail stores only after severe questioning, should be heeded by the trade, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, and a thorough and abiding reform instituted. There are very many Americans that want the best of coffee, literally the best coffee, but are unable to obtain it owing to the subterfuges of the retail dealers, who seemingly purposefully throw difficulties in the



way of the consummation of such a purpose or sale. . . . . All merchants want the largest profits, and all know that the best coffee always contains the most of this ingredient of success. How all the more lamentable, then, when there is a world waiting about willing to be led into using the best! The same is true of tea. How frequent is the sign—"The Finest Formosa 60 Cents a Pound." Far from this price is the finest of this tea. Where the good sense comes in that permits the perpetration of this deception we cannot see. We appeal to coffee and tea men who unconsciously or otherwise thus sin and others who can influence such sinners to approve an extension into the nomenclature employed in the selling of teas and coffees of the maxim that "honesty is the best policy."

GENERAL ARTICLES.

COFFEE IN LONDON.

At the auctions supplies have been freely but not excessively offered, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of May 23, 1903, what falling-off has taken place has been in Costa Rica, for, as we have already pointed out, the crop came to hand so early this year that it will all be sold much before the usual time. The demand for this growth has continued good, and prices are from 2s. to 4s. up from the recent lowest point. A further advance is for the time checked by better supplies of Salvador and Nicaragua, which are taken on the Continent in place of Costa Rica, if there is sufficient difference in the price. These kinds have been selling freely and rates have tended upwards. East India is also very decidedly dearer, although supplies continue to arrive plentifully, and the quality shows a very decided falling-off. There are indeed very few parcels coming to hand now that are really suited to the home trade, and as the season advances this will increasingly be the case. Colombian has been offered in larger quantities, but it is still almost entirely damaged and of inferior quality; some really good parcels would do much to check the advance in Costa Rica, but from all accounts there does not seem much prospect of such arriving.

LONDON COFFEE RETURNS.

	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT		STOCK.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
For the week ended May 16 ...	Tons. 359	Tons 405	Tons. 830	Tons. 306	Tons. 38,240	Tons. 22,863
For 20 weeks ended May 16 ...	6,934	7,893	10,912	4,757	...	...

TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—The demand has improved, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of May 23, 1903, and most of the 28,000 packages offered at the auctions met with buyers. The fine and finest qualities which are gradually getting into very limited supply were readily bought at improved rates, and as there is every probability of a further diminution later on, still higher values may be expected. Medium descriptions continue in much stronger demand, and have been taken freely at firmer rates, and now that the lowest retail price has been advanced to 1s. 2d., these kinds will, no doubt, attract a larger share of the consumption. At any rate, the difference in values is so marked compared with the lower sorts that the medium kinds are almost certain to meet with an increased share of atten-

tion. For the lower grades the tendency of the market is weaker and some lower quotations were established, caused mainly by the poor quality and undesirable leaf which characterises most of the common teas now coming forward. The deliveries are on a satisfactory basis, showing an increase of 6,500,000 lbs. up to the 19th of this month as compared with the same period in May, 1902, and the improvement is likely to continue with a further deficiency in the available supply.

CEYLON TEAS.—The offerings at the auctions this week were again on a fairly large scale, but prices ruled firm for all descriptions. The lowest grades of Pekoe and Pekoe Souchongs met with a ready sale at late rates, only a few common Colombo bought teas selling under 6½d., which is still practically the lowest quotation. There was more enquiry for the medium Broken Pekoes, which class of Ceylon is the cheapest now offering, and many invoices showed a fractional advance on previous prices. Finest kinds have been in small supply, and the few lots offered sold well. At the public sales 27,360 packages were brought forward, of which about 4,400 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—At the public auctions held on Wednesday a larger quantity was offered, consisting almost entirely of the lower kinds. Most of the teas offered were disposed of, and realised steady rates. There has been a much better enquiry for Panyongs, and a good business has been done. These teas show excellent value against anything that can be bought at the price. Of the 1,475 packages offered at public auction, 528 failed to pass the hammer.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—No public sales of Green Tea have been held this week, and the market remains unchanged. Common Capers and Oolongs are wanted, and a fair business is reported, but the demand for the finer grades continues somewhat restricted.

FACTS ABOUT TEA.

Mr. Thomas A. Phelan, President, National Tea Association, writes in the *Spice Mill* :—

Most women think they know everything about tea, or at least enough, but, as a matter of fact, I don't believe there is any other single article that appears on American tables about which the consumers know so little.

Before 1897 there was practically no protective legislation for this import, and the United States was a sort of dumping ground for the refuse brands which could find a sale nowhere else in the world. Throughout the South, where the majority of the buyers and handlers were not experts, whole sections and States practically gave up the use of tea because of its inferior quality, though they did not know where to turn for a remedy. So clever were the imitations that only an expert could detect them, but they were no less spurious for that. Many herbs, some of them harmless, but having no relation whatever to the tea plant, were shipped here by the million pounds and sold as tea. By some chemical process they were colored so that to the eye they were identical with the genuine article.

While many of them were not injurious to health, they had no more right to be sold as tea than would, for instance, a paper imitation of a beefsteak painted red. They were green painted weeds, and the country was flooded with them for so long that even now American consumption of tea is still as low as a pound *per-capita* per annum, while in Canada it is four pounds, in England six, and in Australia seven. There, you see, they try to out-English the English. So far as the average housewife is concerned, she simply knows that she likes this brand or that, black tea or green, and in the matter of making she is doubtless as ignorant.

Now, the fact is that of the so-called black tea alone there are at least five hundred varieties, with as many flavors as are known to the most luxurious flower garden. The greens and Japans might each be sub-divided into a like number. One of the black teas, the so-called English breakfast, a name unknown incidentally in either China or England, is really the Congou, of which alone there are at least two hundred different flavors and grades. Other varieties of black tea are the Oolongs from Foochow and the island of Formosa and the Ceylons and Indias. All these are sold as "black tea," but there is as much difference in taste between an Oolong and a Congou as between coffee and chocolate, or whiskey and claret. The Congou, Ceylon



and India are fermented in their preparation or allowed to "stew in their own juice," so to speak, which gives them a heavy, malty flavor. The Oolong is prepared like green tea, without fermentation, and is fired almost immediately after picking, giving it a bright, toasty character, which results in a light colored infusion. They are equally good, despite their differences.

As a rule the English, Irish, and their descendants drink the Congous, while the older residents of America, and especially of New York and Boston, prefer the Oologs. The variations in soil and temperature under which the different teas are grown produce the radically different flavors so dear to the true tea lover and so inexplicable to the uninitiated. The North Congous, for instance, are sub-divided into fifty districts, the leaves from each having a flavor differing as distinctly from the others as does the Bartlett pear from the Seckel, and of each variety there are half-a-dozen or more different grades. The Spring, early and late Summer and the Autumn gatherings all have different flavors which the expert can distinguish blindfolded.

Since the law of 1897 went into effect only tea that is tea has been admitted into the United States. Inferior grades, of course, are allowed, just as we do 25-cent silk as well as that which costs \$25 a yard, but, though poor, it is all genuine tea. The retail price to-day is no higher than it was back in the 70's and 80's when the country was flooded with adulterations. The individual consumer pays the same money, only now he gets his money's worth.

Perhaps one woman in a hundred knows how to make tea as it should be made. Properly prepared, it can be chemically demonstrated that tea has no more injurious effect upon the nerves than has cocoa or even water. Cocoa, indeed, unless properly prepared by the manufacturer, contains an amount of cocaine which decidedly impairs digestion if taken for any length of time. Tea, to be a pure tonic and wholly harmless, should be made with water which has not only "come to a boil," but has boiled hard for at least five minutes. The leaves then should be steeped for about five minutes; by no means more than seven. Previous to that time the tonic property only is developed; after seven minutes the tannin becomes operative and the decoction more and more injurious with the increase of time. You can imagine the state of affairs in restaurants and such places where the tea is made in the morning, to last all day, or even every few hours. The English have it upon the ideal time for drinking tea, at breakfast and between luncheon and dinner. Taken then it is the best sort of a tonic.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

In its review of the working of Ceylon tea companies during 1902, the *Financial Times* points out in evidence of the magnitude of the Ceylon tea industry that there exist altogether nearly seventy different English companies, large and small. After complimenting the administrations of these undertakings on the promptness with which the accounts are rendered, our contemporary says:—"The last of the produce can scarcely be marketed before the end of March, and yet the last day of April saw reports issued, and in many cases the annual meetings held, by very nearly all of them. The average price of Ceylon tea continued to rule low during the first three quarters of the selling season, which extended, roughly, from the beginning of 1902 to the end of March last, and it was not until well on in January that any material improvement occurred, and even then it was confined mainly to the lower grades, on which demand has continued chiefly to run. This recovery towards the close was brought about mainly by the ascertained shortage of the Indian crop of 1902 and by the increased diversion direct, both from Calcutta and from Colombo, to markets other than London—more notably to America and Russia. The better prices ruling at the close, however, failed to bring up the average realised for the twelve months even to the comparatively low range of the previous year. But by means of economies, both in working costs and also in some cases in administrative expenses, the overhead profit was increased, although it is satisfactory to note that a larger proportion than usual has been devoted to writings off for depreciation.

"A bird's-eye view of the main results achieved may be obtained from the following table, which, however, we should explain, is prepared on a basis somewhat different from that of a similar one

which appeared in our issue of May 20 of last year, the profits being now computed before deduction of debenture interest where this is incurred. The companies having debentures in issue are marked with an asterisk:—

Company.	Profits.		Appropriations to Reserve or Depreciation.		Dividends.	
	1901. £	1902. £	1901. £	1902. £	1902. %	1902. %
Alliance *	7,560	8,275	1,000	1,000	6	7
Ceylon Plantations	37,200	37,975	5,000	10,000	15	15
Dimbula Valley	14,000	13,950	2,500	500	8	8
Eastern Produce *	24,060	29,900	11,490	11,000	3	3
General Ceylon *	10,720	8,200	2,000	2,000	nil.	nil.
Imperial *	4,360	3,170	500	500	3	3
Nuwara Eliya *	13,690	17,600	2,000	2,000	6	6
Ouvah	6,060	8,600	500	1,500	6	7
Ragalla	5,680	7,000	200	1,300	4½	4½
Scottish Ceylon	4,150	3,200	430	495	8	5
Standard...	8,960	10,375	...	1,500	15	15
Yatiantota	5,960	8,160	1,000	1,000	2½	5
Total or average ...	142,400	156,405	26,620	32,795	6.42	6.54

It will be seen that the total profit was about 10 per cent. more in 1902 than in 1901, while the appropriations to depreciation, etc., amount to nearly 20 per cent. more. All of the companies, however, except the Alliance, the Dimbula Valley, the Nuwara Eliya, and Ouvah, made inroads on the balances brought forward, while all except the Ouvah carried sums of varying amounts (as much as £8,000 in the case of Eastern Produce) to the debit of block account, thus relieving revenue to that extent. To make this clear, and also to show the relative financial soundness of the various companies, we have compiled, as accurately as is possible from the varying material in the different reports, the following further table:—

Company.	Additions to block during year.	Total reserves, etc.	Capital Account.	
			Debit.	Credit.
	£	£	£	£
Alliance	920	1,240	...	75
Ceylon Tea Plant	1,655	106,130	95,900	...
Dimbula Valley	345	6,680	...	3,720
Eastern Produce	8,720	31,620	15,000	...
General	1,320	6,425	...	5,420
Imperial	1,210	765	2,680	...
Nuwara Eliya	1,420	3,590	...	2,150
Ouvah	...	4,350	1,000	...
Ragalla	995	76	1,325	...
Scottish	...	7,260	2,365	...
Standard	830	14,110	12,800	...
Yatiantota	240	2,030	...	7,180
Total	17,655	184,276	131,070	18,545

From this it appears that, overhead, appropriations to depreciations have been offset by additions to block of about one-half the amount.

"As regards the heavy debits on capital accounts, these are, of course, in most cases offset by good accumulations of reserve—notably in the case of the Ceylon Plantations, the Eastern Produce, and the Standard. As regards the Ceylon Plantations Company, it may be noted that about £55,000 out of the reserve has been sunk in cocoanut plantations, which are expected to yield good profits before long, and this company is to be specially commended in thus securing a second string to its bow, rendering it not entirely dependent on the uncertain profits from tea alone. The Eastern Produce Company, too, has a reserve double the amount by which its block exceeds its capital, and while steadily improving its property by betterments over a series of years, it has steadily reduced its debenture debt by a sinking fund of £8,500 per annum, this sink-



ing fund still being in existence. The Standard Company sails rather close to the wind—practically its entire reserves being sunk in improvements; but the company is reputed to possess very fine estates indeed. Of course, these figures must be taken in conjunction with the size of, as well as with the amount of capital issued by, each company, but they will help investors to judge for themselves of the soundness or otherwise of the various undertakings. In regard to the future the establishment of a rational relation between supply and demand seems likely to result in a more profitable future for the industry both in India and in Ceylon, while the greater solidarity that is now being manifested among the planting communities, as represented by the Ceylon Association in London and the Indian Tea Association, is likely to have a decided influence for good on all that concerns the trade. The imposition of the Government directed cesses both in India and Ceylon (about which our readers have from time to time been informed in these columns) should provide sinews of war for the various campaigns for developing a taste for tea—and especially for British-grown tea—in the many new markets of the world. In the bi-weekly share reports supplied to us by the Indian Tea Share Exchange, our readers will find the market for this important group of securities closely followed."

The report of Liptons shows that this year the expenses of advertising were defrayed by the company, instead of being, as in the previous year, paid out of Sir Thomas Lipton's pocket. A gross trading profit is reported of £226,915, whilst expenses of management absorbed £45,559. The heavy increase in working expenses is due to the inclusion of advertising expenses in the present accounts. The Directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, which, with the interim dividend, makes 8 per cent. for the year. £10,000 is placed to reserve, and £4,814 is carried forward. The sum of £19,630 is written off for depreciation. Directors express themselves as very well satisfied, taking into account the state of the markets and the conditions of trading generally, and they add that the volume of business shows an increase. But the gross profit has been almost stationary, and is substantially lower than it was a few years ago.

According to advices recently received from Ceylon, Pará rubber is "rapidly taking its place as one of the most important cultivations of the island." During the past year 250,000 seeds were distributed from the trees in the Henaratgoda Gardens, from which good yields have been obtained. With these satisfactory observations a note of warning is given to planters. It is important, it is urged, that the Ceylon name in the London market as representing the best quality of this rubber should be maintained, and that carelessly prepared or inferior rubber should not be exported. Rubber, it is hoped, will prove one of the most valuable of the crops of Ceylon.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## THE VANILLA INDUSTRY IN MAURITIUS.

A document has just been communicated by the Government to the local Press which is of very considerable importance to those persons who are engaged in the cultivation of vanilla; a pursuit which at one time was of much greater importance to the Colony than it is at present and which, in the opinion of all those who are competent to form one, might with reasonable intelligence and care be made to take the place of a valuable and satisfactory secondary industry.

The document we refer to is the Report of the Committee appointed by the Governor some months ago to consider and report upon the draft Ordinance, "to amend and consolidate the laws relating to vanilla." In it the President of the Committee, Mr. Joseph Vankeirsbilck, the Director of Forests and Gardens, informs His Excellency that it is hardly possible to give an exact estimate of the area of land cultivated in vanilla, most of the planters growing it in their gardens and private grounds and in small quantities. There are supposed to be about 3,000 vanilla planters in the Colony, but of that number there are not thought to be more than a hundred who grow yearly 50 kilos. or above. The production of 1902 was about 15 tons of green vanilla, yielding nearly 3,500 kilos. of vanilla prepared for exportation. The Com-

mittee is of opinion that the cultivation of the plant might be easily developed, and that if the planters were protected by good laws they would extend the industry. It is a matter of notoriety that the vanilla pods sold in the markets or hawked about the country are the product of thefts, and with a view of putting an end to such a state of things, the Committee make the following recommendations: (1) that each seller and preparer of vanilla shall have to take out a license, (2) that every grower shall have a special mark for his green vanilla pods, (3) the area under cultivation shall be declared to the authorities every year, (4) the vanilla shall not be gathered until notice thereof has been given to the authorities, (5) the plants or pods shall not be sold or given away without the purchaser or donee taking a certificate of origin, (6) that power be given to the police to arrest delinquents, with or without warrant, (7) that the declarations that have been hitherto made at a police station shall, in future, be made; first to the Magistrate of the district and afterwards to the police, and (8) the appointment of a special vanilla Inspector whose duty it will be to visit plantations, factories, etc., and who will make monthly report to the Receiver General, under whose direct orders he will be placed. He will receive a salary of at least Rs.3,600 per annum, his expenses and a share of the fines inflicted under the law. He must be well versed in the cultivation and preparation of vanilla, as well as of the local laws and shall have the right to enter any plantation or factory and then make any enquiry he may think proper.

The above are, as we have said, the recommendations of the Committee; but three of its members have sent in a dissent to certain of those suggestions. Those gentlemen are Messrs. Langlois, Péguilhan and de St. Pern, the principal growers and preparers of vanilla in the Colony; and they say that as in their opinion—the object of the law must be to give security to the planters and thereby to extend the cultivation of the plant—considering the large number of small growers and the fact that they are generally at a more or less long distance from the Magistrates' office, it will not be possible to ask or expect them to fulfil the various formalities required by the proposed law, and they therefore think that a simple declaration made before the crops, either to the Magistrate or to the nearest police station, would be sufficient and would not have the effect of discouraging small growers, and that, as regards the fifth recommendation of the Committee, they think that a simple register to be kept by the purchaser of vanilla would be sufficient.

In the Seychelles, where the laws are strict and where, on account of the nature of the plantations and the physical conditions of the country, the industry can be carried on with comparative—security, great success has attended the efforts of the people to improve and extend the cultivation—so much so that vanilla is now the staple industry of that dependency, and although we do not suppose it can ever occupy a corresponding position in this Colony, there is no reason why it should not receive a great extension and provide employment for many persons who are not seeking for it in vain.—*Mauritius Planters' and Commercial Gazette.*

## ADULTERATION OF CHICORY.

Our scientific French contemporary "Science, Arts, Nature," writing on the adulteration of chicory, asserts that, in spite of its low price, chicory is subjected to a variety of forms of adulteration. The following may be cited as the average chemical composition of chicory:—Water, 12·70; nitrogenised matters, 6·25; fatty matters, 2·35; sugar, 16·25; non-nitrogenised extracted matters, 44·50; cellulose, 11·85; ashes 6·10—100 per cent. It may be added that the proportion of ashes varies according to the quality of the chicory. Our contemporary says that the powdered state in which coffee containing chicory goes into consumption greatly facilitates adulteration. In order to make chicory weigh heavy, it has been proved to be the fraudulent custom to add to the product the residues of breweries, grain distilleries, and sugar factories, as well as the residues from the preparation of chicory itself, and a certain proportion of spent animal black. In a word, adds our contemporary, everything is to be found in "chicory"—excepting chicory! The adulterants most used are horse chestnuts, acorns, and coffee sediments—substances which most closely resemble coffee with chicory in appearance. By means of microscopical examination, however,



the adulteration can be detected. Moreover, the amount of ashes is a certain indication as to the nature of the product sold under the name of "chicory," for if the quantity of ashes be higher than 12 per cent. it may be accepted that the product contains certain foreign mineral matters. Under the microscope chicory can be recognised by the very special cellular tissue, composed of large transparent cells containing small clusters of a greenish-yellow matter; and the presence of amylaceous matters can be detected by the violet coloration which a decoction of chicory will assume in the presence of iodine. The fact should not be overlooked that coffee becomes coloured upon the addition of chicory, and hence it is not always correct to assume that coffee is of good quality merely owing to its being of good colour.

### NITRATE PRODUCTION IN CHILE.

Consul R. E. Mansfield writes from Valparaiso:

The annual report of the Nitrate Association contains statistics that are of general interest, as practically all of the world's supply of nitrate comes from Chile.

The production in 1902 amounted to 2,982,967,900 pounds, or 146,131,900 pounds, as compared with 2,738,522,800 pounds more than in 1901. The exportation amounted to 3,008,944 pounds, as compared with 2,738,522,800 pounds in the previous year. The deliveries for consumption showed a considerable decrease in the period of greatest demand—January to May—as compared with the corresponding period in 1901. The total deliveries in 1902 amounted to 2,840,084,000 pounds, or 293,703,200 pounds less than in 1901. The decrease to Europe and other countries was 333,999,800 pounds; to the United States there was a gain of 40,200,000 pounds.

The total deliveries in each year of the quinquennial—1898—1902—were:

	Pounds.
1898	2,768,322,200
1899	3,071,276,900
1900	3,044,304,000
1901	3,133,787,200
1902	2,840,084,000

The visible supplies on December 31, 1902, were as under:

	Pounds.
On shore	576,607,400
Afloat	1,071,617,000
Supplies for foreign markets	1,648,224,400
Stocks on the coast	548,400,000
Total	2,196,624,400

The smallest number of works in operation in the four years was 44 in February, 1899, and the largest was 78 in December, 1902. The total of the quotas already assigned amounts to 4,041,500,000 pounds, and it will soon be necessary to take into consideration the quotas for several new works, now in course of erection.

### THE NEW RUBBER.

Mr. J. C. Willis, of Ceylon, though he confesses ignorance of this particular plant, Mr. Willis has observed that the *Landolphia* is a well-known genus of rubber, of which there are many species found in tropical Africa. New rubber plants were, he said to a representative of the *Times of Ceylon*, constantly being brought to light, and "of course if you found them in your jungle they would be worth attending to. I don't think 3s. per lb. is anything out of the way for African rubber," he said. "To the best of my knowledge African rubber is generally worth at present from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb., and 4s. 3d. has recently been paid for the best Pará; so that it doesn't strike me that this new plant is anything unusually good.

"Of course any new find in Africa is sure to be made the most of, because everybody is looking for rubber now and, owing to the extremely wasteful manner in which rubber trees are tapped where native labour is employed, new trees are constantly having to be found; and the old trees are given up. Those interested in rubber have to go further inland to find their rubber. In order to prevent this, to some extent, I think in the British West African Colonies the Government does not allow the trees to be thus wastefully

dealt with and they have something like a Forest Department to protect the industry. Naturally if you leave it to a private Company to come in, you may be pretty certain that the Company will take all the rubber it can get away; and that means that the trees will be more or less killed, unless the Company has sense enough to see that it pays to tap gently."

Mr. Willis instanced, as a result of this ruthless tapping, the fact that those in search of rubber on the Amazon have to go an immense distance up the river and then far inland before they can find the rubber trees; all this means heavy freight charges, and consequently the industry does not in the end pay so well as it might do. He also pointed out the significant fact that rubber cost more in Pará than rubber grown in Ceylon did when sold on the London market.

"Turning again to the *Landolphia* species, it occurs all over tropical Africa, as above-mentioned. It is found in German East Africa, British West Africa, and in many parts of the Soudan. Mr. Broun, our late Conservator of Forests and now Director of Forests in the Soudan, has been finding the *Landolphia* genus of rubber over a good part of the Soudan forests—that is, of course, the Egyptian Soudan. The French Congo touches this district, and there is reason," said Mr. Willis, "why there should not be *Landolphia* in the French Congo."

In conclusion he said: "But the new variety can only revolutionise the industry if it is found in such enormous quantities as to swamp the market and reduce prices all round. Then it would be very serious. Otherwise it is nothing to be alarmed at. Three shillings is a good price, but it is not the top price. The best Pará is 3s. 8d. per lb."

### THE COFFEE INDUSTRY.

Coffee is now consumed by the people of the United States to the amount of 1,000,000,000 lbs. annually, says the *Canadian Grocer*. Since 1894 the imports have more than doubled, and within the same period the *per-capita* consumption has increased four pounds, the gain being greater than that made by any article used as a beverage. A division of this 1,000,000,000 lbs. among the inhabitants of the country gives to each man, woman and child about 14½ lbs., remarks the *Chicago Tribune*.

For a family of five persons this would mean one pound each five days, or 73 lbs. a year. A fair average price for coffee of good grade at retail is 20c. per pound, involving an annual expenditure for this bean, which delights the palate, aids digestion, and makes the user thankful for the pleasures of the table, to the amount of \$14.60. This would make the annual expenditure of the people of the United States for coffee alone exceed \$200,000,000.

Imports for 1901 reached the grand total of 1,072,009,182 lbs. In 1902 there was a slight decrease, the amount being 955,283,919 lbs., making the annual average for the two years 1,013,646,550 lbs. The source of this supply, together with the percentage of the total import contributed by each country, is shown in the following table. The figures are official and were compiled from the Government records:

	lbs.	Per cent.
Brazil	764,658,963	80.1
Other countries, South America	63,824,056	6.7
Central America...	45,512,114	4.8
Mexico	30,719,800	3.2
East Indies	20,814,403	2.2
West Indies	20,429,314	2.1
Other Asia and Oceanica	5,003,563	...
United Kingdom	1,778,461	...
Netherlands	1,828,935	...
All other countries	714,310	...
Totals	955,283,919	99.1

It will be observed that from the western continent alone came almost 95 per cent. of the entire imports. Brazil furnished over 80 per cent. of the amount, while other South American countries, Central America and Mexico, sent us about 15 per cent. Of the 5 per cent. coming from coffee-producing countries other than those located in the western hemisphere, the entire East Indies sent to us but 2.2 per cent. The product of the island of Java, which is but a fraction of this 2.2 per cent., is considered the best of all coffees, and notwithstanding the small amount reaching us, it can,



thanks to the enterprise of the American grocer, be obtained at any and all stores selling coffee.

Coffee sells at wholesale at from 8½c. to 33c. per pound for the green or unroasted article, the former being the lowest grade of Rio and the latter the best Java. A fair average price is around 15 to 18c. a pound. The range of prices on the roasted article is about the same as on the green, and the average near the same figure, perhaps 2 to 3c. higher. In roasting there is a shrinkage of about 15 per cent., and for roasting about 50c. per bag of 130 lbs. is charged. The article is also sold ground or pulverized, and in broken grains, siftings or crushed. In whatever form desired it is packed in bulk, cans or packages to suit the wishes of the retailer, who finds it among the most profitable articles of merchandise. The profit varies from 25 per cent. to 40 per cent., and, like sugar, is a staple with a regular and steady sale, which yields a handsome return.

As a substitute for and adulterant of coffee chicory easily leads the list. It is largely grown in European countries, and in some localities takes the place of the coffee bean entirely. In other lands it is used in connection with coffee for the preparation of the decoction which so universally pleases mankind. This latter is its almost universal use in the United States, and epicures claim that it imparts an agreeable flavour to the drink unattainable without its presence. Chicory is known to be entirely harmless, whether used as an entire substitute for coffee or in connection with it. Until within comparatively few years all chicory consumed in the United States was imported, the main supplies coming from Germany. It now is grown in large quantities in several of the western states, Nebraska being the principal producer, where its culture and preparation for market occupies the time of several thousand persons.

A chemical fact in connection with coffee should ever be remembered by the housewife. Green (unroasted) coffee improves with age up to about four years, from which time it rapidly deteriorates in quality. Roasted coffee, on the other hand, quickly loses strength and flavour after leaving the ovens, and even when rigidly excluded from the air is not nearly so good as when first roasted. Coffee should never be ground or pulverized until the hour of its need if one is anxious to preserve the delightful aroma indicative of a really good cup of this popular beverage, nor should it ever be boiled, for the same reason. The French or drip process is considered by epicures to be the best method of preparing it. This makes an infusion instead of a decoction.

Should no great disaster strike the coffee industry prices are almost certain to remain low for years to come. Brazil has more than quadrupled its production since 1880, and despite the fact that the grower realizes quite low prices, plantations are being extended in all of the most available sections of the country. Mexico is making rapid strides as a coffee-producing nation, the bean there grown being of a fine flavour and by some considered the peer of any raised.

## AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA.

### AN INTERESTING REPORT.

A special report of considerable interest has been published by the Foreign Office on the exotic plants of economic value now being experimented upon in the botanic gardens at Entebbe, Uganda. In view of the fact that the world's natural supplies of rubber are practically determinable by the greater or less activity of the collectors, the cultivation of the various rubber-yielding trees has naturally been one of the first things taken in hand. Many seedlings of the Pará species (*Hevea brasiliensis*) were brought out from Kew, but a two months' journey and a long period of drought combined to make their success a matter of doubt. The survivors, however, seem at present to be doing well, which is rather remarkable, for the tree is from the low country of the Amazons, and the Entebbe gardens appear to be at an elevation of some 4,000 feet or more. It is probable that it is only in the neighbourhood of the Victoria Nyanza that they are likely to get the climate suitable for them. The Central American rubber (*Castilloa elastica*) is more or less a highland plant, and may, therefore, be expected to do well in its new home. So far it has succeeded well, and its seeds are, therefore, to be introduced in quantity, direct from Mexico. The Ceará rubber (*Minikot glazovii*) grows very vigorously; but it is by no means the best of the rubbers, and is

sometimes scarcely worth growing. The Lagos silk rubber, as *Funtumia elastica* is called, is said to have a future before it in the lake region; but its cultivation has been delayed owing to a fire which burned up a large batch of seedlings waiting to be distributed. The rubber vine (*Landolphia*) is indigenous, but it is rather curious that it does not seem to do very well under cultivation, growing very slowly, and much resenting transplanting.

Cacao does excellently, in spite of the elevation. It is probable, as Mr. Mahon states, that there is no country where it is grown for commercial purposes at a height of 4,000 feet above the sea, and it would be interesting if Uganda should prove an exception. Of the coffees, an indigenous species allied to the large-leaved West Coast types responds rapidly to cultivation, and a Congou sort, *C. robusta*, grows splendidly. Other kinds are also under trial; but with the world's market overstocked as it is at present it would hardly be wise to do more than provide for local wants. The rain at Entebbe is hardly sufficient for tea, though Mr. Scott Elliot thinks that a considerable part of the Ruwenzori country offers a fine field for its cultivation. That vanilla is only growing moderately well is scarcely to be wondered at seeing that it is essentially a tropical lowland orchid. Among various introduced fruits are oranges and other citrus fruits, including limes, as well as custard apples, soursops, mangoes, granadillas, pineapples, bananas, and the delicious Moluccan Canari nut.

The introduction of timber trees of the most suitable kinds has been specially taken in hand. Mahogany will be extensively planted, and a large selection of the Australian acacias, both useful and ornamental, have been established. Many of the best Malayan timber trees are among recent introductions, but it seems practically impossible to get any of the Australian gums to succeed owing to the ravages of the white ants, which quickly ringbark the young trees as they are put out. The injury is done just below the surface, and is immediately fatal to the tree, and almost all the species of the genus yet tried seem to be equally liable to attack. Indigenous cotton is by no means bad, and imported sorts hitherto experimented with do very well, the fibre being favourably reported on in Manchester. A certain amount of exportation of *Sansevieria* and *Raphia* fibres has begun. Both are very abundant. Ramie grass has also been planted, and it is considered that many parts of the country are specially suitable for growing this product. Though Mr. Mahon speaks very encouragingly, on the whole, as to the agricultural capabilities of the country, he admits that "exotic vegetation has hosts of insidious insects to battle against here—to a greater extent, in my opinion, than in many other tropical countries."

## APRIL COFFEE MOVEMENT IN THE U. S.

Thus far, says the *American Grocer*, the deliveries of coffee for the first ten months of the current trade year are 549,719 bags ahead of the same time in 1901-02, and 1,516,690 bags more than the corresponding period in 1900-01. If the May and June deliveries are up to the average monthly deliveries for the year the total for 1902-03 will show the heaviest deliveries on record, exceeding 16,000,000 bags.

Since July 1, 1902, the world's visible supply has increased 986,947 bags, proving conclusively that expansion in distribution is not as great as expansion in production, and thus in obedience to the law of supply and demand prices rule low and are below the corresponding date of last year.

April deliveries were lighter than for each of the preceding months of 1903, but to a small extent. For Europe and the United States they fell 143,420 bags behind March, but were above the monthly average for the year.

The total visible supply of the world on May 1 was 12,248,278 bags, against 12,380,627 bags April 1, 1903, and 11,247,903 bags April 1, 1902. Highest visible, 13,233,284 bags, November 1, 1902. On May 1, 1901, it was 7,359,112 bags, showing an increase in three years of 4,889,166 bags.

The receipts at Rio for the first ten months of the trade year 1902-03 were 3,543,000 bags; at Santos, 7,525,000 bags; at both ports, 11,068,000 bags, against 13,981,000 bags in 1901-02; 9,906,000 bags in 1900-01. During three previous semi-annual crop years the receipts for this period averaged 91.3 per cent. of the total crop. On this basis the total receipts for the year should be over 12,500,000 bags.



The following statement shows the April movement in detail :

Stocks, April 1, 1903—	Bags.	Bags.
United States ..	2,502,406	
Europe ..	7,395,721—	9,898,127
Receipts during April—		
United States ..	634,141	
Europe ..	700,233—	1,334,347
Total supply, May 1, 1903		11,232,501
Less stocks, May 1, 1903 —		
United States ..	2,531,917	
Europe ..	7,369,861—	9,901,778
Deliveries, April, 1903—		
United States ..	604,630	
Europe ..	726,093—	1,330,723
Deliveries, April, 1903		1,198,208
Increase as compared with April, 1902		132,515
Deliveries, July, 1902		1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902		1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902		1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902		1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902		1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902		1,183,298
Deliveries, January, 1903		1,407,123
Deliveries, February, 1903		1,320,514
Deliveries, March, 1903		1,474,143
Deliveries, April, 1903		1,330,723
Total deliveries, ten months, 1902-03		13,412,637
Total deliveries, ten months, 1902		12,862,918
Total deliveries, ten months, 1901		11,895,947
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902		15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901		14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly, year 1901-02		1,293,055
Average deliveries, ten months, 1902-03		1,341,637

The March sales of options were 854,000 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 3.65 cents for May; the highest, 5.00 cents for March.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 513,620 bags were Brazil and 91,010 bags of all other sorts. Over 85 per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 15 per cent. of all other kinds. This shows a loss of 3½ per cent. in the deliveries of mild coffee as compared with March. The receipts were 121,102 bags out of total receipts of 634,141, or 19 per cent. The receipts at New York are behind last year's record by 1,076,616 bags.

The outlook is for a continued low level of prices, as the world's crops in 1903-04 promise to be much larger than during this year. If Brazil turns out 14,000,000 bags next year there will result a total supply of 30,000,000 bags or over to meet requirements of 16,000,000 bags. Nothing but some great reduction in supply or miraculous increase in consumption can bring about a much higher level of cost than at present exists. It is claimed that even at the present low basis, planters fully equipped and working under the most economical condition can make a profit cultivating coffee. At any rate, whatever may result, it is certain that there never was a more favourable time to make money in roasted coffee than now. Never were conditions more favourable to sell coffee at a good profit and push for an extension of demand.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

COORG.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held at the North Coorg Club House, Mercara, on Saturday, June 6th, 1903. PRESENT :—Messrs. H. F. Davy, G. K. Martin, C. J. Maclean, M. I. Maudanna, James T. Morgan, A. J. Wright and A. Lambert, *Honorary Secretary*.

Mr. Martin was duly elected to the Chair. Read Minutes of last Quarterly Meeting held on February 14th at the Bamboo Club, Polli Betta. PRESENT: Messrs. Boponna, H. Cockerton, H. G. Grant, A. H. Jackson, J. Logan, F. Macrae, H. G. Parsons, H. T. Shaw, Bidunda Ganapathy, M. I. Maudanna and A. Lambert, *Honorary Secretary*.

*Re Deputation to the Commissioner* in December last, and non-submittance of Report thereon, the Honorary Secretary read letter from Mr. Sprott—which was considered satisfactory by the Members present.

**Non-receipt of notices of sales of land** by holders of Estates adjoining such lands. The Honorary Secretary stated that he understood that such notices are now being issued.

**New Fishing Regulation and Rod Fishing.**—Government has no power to make any special exemptions, a river closed for the purpose of protecting and preserving fish must be entirely closed to all kinds of fishing during certain periods as laid down.

**The Deputation to the Chief Commissioner** was, in every way, satisfactory. The two Tax remission questions, and the suggestion as to the alteration in the Revenue rules in the interests of the destruction and eradication of "Borer", being favourably received and approved of by the Chief. In regard to the Railway, Sir Donald Robertson advised us to send in a formal representation to Government stating that we were prepared to pay a Cess to guarantee interest on capital utilised for construction of that part of the Line which would run through Coorg, provided that was the feeling amongst our Members generally. A Farewell address was offered to the Chief Commissioner—who replied in a suitable manner.

**New Labour Act.**—The Honorary Secretary read correspondence thereon, showing that to put an optional clause in the Act was quite impossible and would be against all precedent, but stated that there was no likelihood of the Act being applied to Coorg without ample prior discussion, and thus we may rest assured that there is no necessity to fear its being forced upon us against our wish.

AGENDA PAPER OF GENERAL MEETING.

Mr. Martin read the Honorary Secretary's Annual Report, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN.—It is again my pleasing duty to lay before you the Annual Report of our Proceedings during the past season, and to submit for your approval the accounts—which I trust you will find in order. I do not propose to deal at length with any of the questions which have been before us during the past year, but merely to give a synopsis of the work done during that period by our Association. It will not be necessary, moreover, for me to more than refer to the Annual Meeting, U. P. A. S. I., a short and concise report of the Proceedings of which having already been rendered by our delegate, Mr. Sprott, and published in our Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on November 1st last. In any case the business of the U. P. A. S. I. is, altogether, on too great a scale to meet with more than a passing reference in the space available in my Annual Report. The *New Labour Act* has at last been passed, and I consider that, taking it on the whole, and especially in these days of modern legislation, it is as fair and impartial a Bill as any one of us could reasonably have expected, and I think our best thanks are due to Sir Geo. Arbuthnot and the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth for the excellent work they did as Members of the Select Committee thereon. The *Proposed Coffee Cess* which has occupied a good deal of our attention during the past season has not, apparently, met with general approval and support, owing, I think, chiefly to the fact that there does not appear to exist any definite or feasible scheme for the utilisation of the funds to be raised by the said Cess, before the Planting Public. The *Railway question* has not, I fear, progressed much since our last Annual Meeting. Though H. E. the Viceroy received our Deputation graciously, and in reply to our Railway Memorial spoke in a sympathetic and practical manner, giving us much sound advice—some of which has already borne fruit in the favourable manner in which the suggestion to raise funds by means of a small special Railway cess to be levied with a view to at first guaranteeing the interest on the capital expended during the construction of the Line through Coorg Territory, and afterwards to be utilised, in a subsidiary manner, in case of the said Railway failing to pay the required rate of interest, and we are now advised by our Chief Commissioner to represent to Government that we are prepared to pay a cess for such a purpose. I may add that the chief difficulties in the way of advancing the Mysore-Coorg-Tellicherry Railway scheme now appear to lie with our neighbours on either side, and that it therefore behoves us to do our best and exert to the full extent our influence in endeavouring to persuade the powers that be in those countries to take a more favourable view of the project. However, without wearying you by going into further details



on the various subjects which we have had before us, and have dealt with successfully during the season now ending. I will merely mention the following: new rules for the protection of rivers and fishing in Coorg, remission of taxes on wet lands, or uncultivated paisari, alteration in the Coorg Revenue rules in the interest of the destruction and eradication of "Borer," alteration in, and improved delivery of English Mails in the Province, and many other more or less purely local matters—which, while not affecting the general welfare of the whole Province, are of real benefit to the few whose interests they chiefly concern. We received a final visit from our Chief Commissioner, Sir Donald Robertson, K.C.S.I., in February last, pending his retirement—and it was with genuine regret that we wished him farewell, as not only by his social qualities, but by his unfailingly capable and sympathetic support of all affairs affecting Planting interests he has endeared himself to all connected with the Planting Industry in the Province and we offer our sincere congratulations to him on his recent appointment to Knighthood. The Association still keeps up a fair average of Members—there now being 59 names on the list—though several of the Members are at present in Europe. The coffee crops this season have been very good throughout the Province, but the very inferior quality of the berry and the consequent ruinously low prices which are being obtained therefor, have caused it to be one of the worst seasons ever experienced amongst Planters in Coorg—and we can but hope that there are brighter times in store for us in the near future.

**Roads and Communications.**—I think we may fairly congratulate both our Executive Engineer and ourselves on the general satisfactory condition of these. In any case, complaints have been practically *nil*. Though we have received one or two suggestions as to repairs and improvements of a minor description which, on representation, have been promptly attended to by the authorities. The following works and improvements directly affecting the convenience of Planters and other residents in the Province have either been successfully carried out or commenced during the last season.

The Madapur Bridge has been opened for Traffic as well as that over the Hatti river.

The Bridges on the Wynaad Road have been put in hand. Luxmanthista bridge has both abutments and piers well up. The foundations of Ramanthista and Poojakal bridges will be done shortly. This work has been much delayed by sickness, I am given to understand. Raising the Embankment between Veerajpett and Bettangal is in hand. The road between Napoklu and Nalknad has been opened to fair weather traffic and the approaches to the Kudiyy and Hudgoor Ferries near Fraserpett are being metalled.

In conclusion, Gentlemen. I beg to tender the resignations of your President, Honorary Secretary and Committee, and to thank those Members who, by their help and the sympathetic interest they have always taken in our Proceedings, have rendered our task less arduous, and I sincerely trust that the number of such Members will continue to increase for the future and that our Association will also continue to flourish for many years to come in spite of the difficulties with which it is, at present, coping. The following is a statement of the yearly accounts of the S. Coorg Coffee-stealing Prevention Fund which the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Fred. W. Gerrard, has asked me to embody in my Annual Report.

There was only one case of theft with conviction during the season, and a reward of Rs.20 was paid.

	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
To Cash in hand end				By 100 reward notices in Tamil.	5	0	0
of season 01/02	289	3	9	„ 100 reward notices in Cana-			
				rese and English	4	6	0
				„ Postages	0	15	0
				„ Reward in Cowri Kadu case.	20	0	0
				„ Cash in hand	258	14	9
	Rs..	289	3 9		Rs..	289	3 9

MERCARA, {  
June 6, 1903. }

A. LAMBERT,  
Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.

# "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

USE

## ST. JACOBS OIL

**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

# CONQUERS PAIN





The C. P. A. accounts were then submitted, and these, together with the Annual Report, were approved of and passed.

*The Honorary Secretary in account with the Coorg Planters' Association, season 1902-03.*

Cr.		Dr.	
May 31, 1903—			
By Amount of subscriptions collected during season		Debit balance from last season	
1902-03 ..		"Planting Opinion" accounts including subscriptions to Journal, printing and circulating C. T. A. papers, etc., season 1901-02 ..	
„ Debit balance end of season 1902-03 ..		Postages, stationery, etc., season 1902-03 ..	
RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	
900	0	0	86 8 11
199	15	11	63 3 0
			58 4 0
			25 12 0
			20 0 0
			20 0 0
			72 0 0
			400 0 0
			100 0 0
			22 8 0
			5 0 0
			10 12 0
			216 0 0
Rs.. 1,099 15 11		Rs.. 1,099 15 11	

*Assets and Liabilities, C. P. A.*

June 1, 1903—		June 6, 1903.	
Due for outstanding subscriptions up to May 31, 1903 ..		Still due for outstanding accounts ..	
Actual deficit after the settlement of all claims to and from the Association. ..		Debit balance at end of season 1902-03 ..	
RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	
324	0	0	152 6 0
28	5	11	199 15 11
Rs.. 352 5 11		Rs.. 352 5 11	

MERCARA, }  
June 6, 1903. }

E. & O. E.

A. LAMBERT,  
Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.

Votes of thanks to Sir Geo. Arbuthnot and the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth were heartily approved of by the Members present, also congratulations to Sir Donald Robertson, K.C.S.I., our Chief Commissioner on his Knighthood.

**Funds.**—After some examination of the Report and suggestions of our Committee, and a general discussion on the subject, the following Resolution was put to the Meeting—proposed by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Lambert and was carried unanimously—

That this Meeting is unanimously of opinion that in view of the unsatisfactory state of the finances of the Association as shown in the statement of accounts placed before them, the support given to the Association is insufficient for its needs, and therefore no useful purpose can be served by continuing on the present lines. We recommend therefore

1. That the Association go into voluntary liquidation.
2. That a Committee of four Members be formed to effect the liquidation.
3. That in the meanwhile the usual subscriptions for the new year be not collected, and no office-bearers be elected, or further expenditure be incurred until the Liquidation Committee present their Report.

4. *Addition suggested by Mr. Maclean*—that by reason of the paucity of Members attending this Meeting and of the extreme measures suggested in Mr. Martin's resolution, an Extraordinary General Meeting be called at an early date, at Polli Betta, with a view to finally deciding what is to be done in the matter, and to thoroughly discuss the question of either dissolution or reconstruction of the Association.

(Signed) G. K. MARTIN.  
( „ ) A. LAMBERT.

The Ballotting papers were, therefore, not opened, in conformance with the above Resolution. The present Honorary Secretary also consented to remain in office until the date of the next Meeting (Extraordinary General).

**Railway.**—Read correspondence in connection therewith. *Resolved*, that it was not advisable to make any further move in the matter at present.

**Enhanced Coffee rates.**—On the Southern Mahratta Railway, read correspondence thereon, decided that the Association, hereafter, take up the matter strongly, also that it be represented to the U. P. A. S. I. and brought up at its next Annual Meeting.

**General.**—U. P. A. S. I. affairs, etc.

**St. Louis Exhibition.**—Agreed that it would be judicious for the U. P. A. to associate itself with the Indian Tea Association with a view to coffee representation thereat. Enquiry made as to whether Government is prepared to subscribe any funds towards the representation of coffee and tea at the said Exhibition.

**Brazil Delegate.**—It was the general opinion that a subscription list, for such a purpose, would meet with poor success in Coorg.

**The Annual Meeting.**—U. P. A. S. I. opens on August 3rd next at Bangalore.

Copies of the Revenue Manual (Vol. I) containing the Coorg Land and Revenue Regulation, 1899 and the rules issued thereunder are available for sale at Re.1 per copy at the Government offices in Mercara.

The Association loan of Rs.500 has been liquidated.

A vote of thanks to the Chair and Honorary Secretary by Mr. A. J. Wright terminated the Proceedings.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proceedings of Shevaroy P. A. Meeting, dated March 9, 1903.

Do. Nellimpathy do. do. 27 „  
Do. Wynaad do. May 6 „

Report on the Administration of Coorg for the year 1901-02.

Various papers connected with the Tea Industry.

The following gentlemen have been duly appointed "River Wardens" with powers to effect arrests without warrant for offences under sections 4 or 5 of the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897 (IV of 1897) or under rule of section 6 thereof subject to the conditions laid down in section 7 of the said Act.

Messrs. H. F. Davy, C. J. Maclean, J. A. Graham, W. F. A. Bracken, A. Lambert, Cheppudirā Somaiya R. B., Apparandra Maudanna R. B. and Colevendra Appaiya.

MERCARA, } (Signed) A. LAMBERT,  
June 6, 1903. } Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated May 29th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1902-1903 ..	1,547,779	1,122,040	85,432
1901-1902 ..	1,626,581	1,159,793	80,470
31,320 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 61,678 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
28,594 „ CEYLON			
1,764 „ JAVA			

The market closed for Whitsuntide with a rather better tone for medium and good teas, while common kinds were inclined to droop a little. There will in all probability be no more auctions until the week commencing 8th June.

Duty payments are continuing very satisfactory, and it is evident that deliveries for May will be exceptionally large, while the next few months will probably show much heavier clearances than last year; consequently stock in bonded warehouses is likely soon to be very much reduced.



Green tea is becoming a feature in the auctions, 1,256 packages from India and 1,279 packages from Ceylon having been brought forward during May.

The distribution of direct exports from Calcutta shows a heavy falling off in shipments to Australasia with a slight increase to "Indian ports" (mostly for the Persian Gulf). Exports to Russia are steadily growing, while Persia and Arabia have also taken larger quantities. The figures to North America, showing an apparently heavy increase, included many teas entered to that country on an "optional" Bill of Lading, many of which were ultimately landed in the United Kingdom; this causes the total to appear unduly large.

INDIAN.—Desirable liquoring teas frequently sold at slightly improved rates, common kinds on the other hand displayed weakness. "Last of the season" invoices are now being very freely printed, and it is probable that less tea remains in Importers' hands than is generally realised by the Trade, while the possibility of a somewhat late season in India may considerably retard the arrival of new teas in London. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Amal T. E. Co. Namroop" and "Rungajaun," 11½d.

Week's av. of tea sold on Garden Account 1903, 25,255 pkgs., av. 7.70d. 1902, 18,396 pkgs., av. 6.97.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,207,987 pkgs., av. 7.48d. 1901-2, 1,291,724 pkgs., av. 7.65d.

CEYLON.—The heavy sale met with good attention, good and fine teas showing an advance of ½d to 1d per lb. Common teas were inclined to be a trifle easier here and there. The following averages may be mentioned:—"Alliance T Co. Udar." & "Tala-wakelle T E Co.," 11d.

Average for week 7.61d, against 6.77d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 404,608 pkgs., av. 7.66d. 1902, 445,941 pkgs., av. 6.99d.

JAVA.—Javas were not in full supply. With good competition offerings were mostly sold in the room; some teas brought over from Holland were included in the auction.

Bank Rate 3½ per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4½. Colombo 1/4½.

## CINCHONA.

A bale of thin Guayaquil sold, "without reserve," at 4½d.

## QUININE.

After the close of our last report values of good German sulphate in bulk dropped to 10½d in second hands, at which small sales were made, but this week the market has been steadier, with rather buyers at 10½d and sellers at 11d. For delivery, October has been sold at 11d and December at 11½d per oz.

The Amsterdam Quinine-works have reduced their price by 1½f. and 1f. per kilo., and now quote Ed. II. at 22f. and Ed. III. at 27f. per kilo.

## CARDAMOMS.

The excessive quantities offered were brought to a very dull market, and met with an irregular decline of from 2d to 3d per lb. on the finer qualities, but the medium and lower grades were about steady. Seeds were 1d easier, selling at 1s 2d per lb. The following prices were paid for the pod: Ceylon-Mysore, bold pale, well bleached, 2s 1d; medium and bold pale, 1s 10d to 2s; bold medium pale, 1s 6d to 1s 9d; small and medium pale, 1s 1d to 1s 2d; extra bold dull, 1s 7d; medium and bold dull, 1s 3d to 1s 5d; small and medium dullish, 11½d to 1s; peas, 8½d to 9½d; brown, split and pickings, 8½d to 10d. Extra bold well-bleached were held at 2s 10d, a bid of 2s 8d being declined. Travancore, small to medium long, sold at 1s 4d; brownish ditto, 1s 2d; and small brown, 11d to 1s per lb.

## CINNAMON.

The usual quarterly auctions were held last Monday. Good and superior qualities, being in short supply, brought steady rates; but ordinary and common descriptions were ½d per lb. lower. Superior firsts sold at 1s 4d to 1s 8d per lb.; seconds at 1s 6d (1s 2d to 1s 3d being refused for slightly inferior); thirds at 1s 1d to 1s 4d; and fourths, 9d to 11d; good firsts brought 11½d to 1s; seconds, 10½d; thirds, 8½d to 9½d; and fourths, 7½d; ordinary firsts realised 10½d; seconds, 9d; thirds, 8½d; and fourths, 7d to 7½d. Common dull and hard sold at 8d down to 4½d, according to quality. Fine quillings and pieces sold at 9d to 9½d per lb. Chips partly sold at 1½d to 2d per lb. for ordinary, being ¼d to ¾d per lb. lower.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.70d., MAY 29TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	405	7.57												
Davara Shola	139 p	7	41½c	7¼ +9¼			42	7 7¼	21	6½			35	6½
Kodanaad	68 p	8½	30½c	10½ 11½	26	7¼	12½c	6¾						
Pillay Mallay	37	8	37	8										
Prospect	109½c	8	40½c	8			69½c	7½ 8						
Vellingherry	52	7¼			20	7	15	8	17	6¾				
Travancore	1991	6.75												
Arnakal	120 p	6¾	29 p	7½ +7¾	74	+6½ +6¾	14	+6¾						
Balamore	170½c	6¼			119½c	6 6¼	43½c	+6¼					31½c	5¾
Corrimony	160½c	6¼			70½c	6½	60½c	7	25½c	5¾	4½c	6	4½c	6
Glenmary	104	7	50	7			30	7¼	15	6¾	1½c	6½	4½c	5½
Kan. Dev. H C K	155	6¾	38	7¼	49	+6½	27	+7½	26	+6¼			9	6¾
" Munaar	2	5¾											15	5½ 6½
" Nallattani	220 p	6¾	55	+6¾	57	6¾	30	+7¼	50	6½			2	5¾
" Perivurrai	4 p	6¾	1½c	7			2	7½					48 p	5½ 6½
" Yellapathy	225 p	7	73½c	+7¼	39	+6¾	73 p	+7¾ 8½	34	+6½			1	5½
Seafield	119½c	7			64½c	7	36½c	+7½	17½c	6¼	1½c	5½	6 p	5½ 6
Stagbrook	149 p	6¾	66 p	6¾ 7	43	6¾	24	6¾	16	6¼			1½c	5¼
"	139 p	6¾	75 p	6¾ 8¼	44	6¾	11	6¾						
S T T Co Venture	122	7			54	6¾	52	7 7½					9	5½
T T E Co Kolie Ka	66 p	6¾	20	+7	36	+6½							16½c	5¾
" Munja Malai	53	6¾	8	7	14	6¾	16	+7	4	6¼	4	6¼	10½c	5¾
Wallardi	183 p	6½	128	6½ +6¾	40	6¼							7	6½
Wynaad	165	6.61											15½c	6¼
Askern	56 p	6½	22 p	7	8	6½			7	6	10	6¼	9	6½
Arrapetta T Co A	45	6½			29	+6½	16	6¾						
Golesland	64	6¼	10	7½	15	6½	23	6¾	16	6½				

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1903.

[No. 26.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 10th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*June 22nd.*—*Weather*—The weather this last week has been continuously damp, rain every day except Saturday, average  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch daily. *Works*—Principally preparing for planting. Weeds growing apace. *Coffee*—Luxuriant. *Health*—Better now the rain has properly come. *Labour*—Sufficient.

#### Kotagiri.

*24th June.*—The monsoon burst here on the 11th instant, but the wind has been unsteady and showers very light. Mornings are generally fine, clouding up in the afternoon. Only 2.20 inches has fallen in 11 days. *Work*—Not enough rain yet for planting. Manuring is mostly finished, and there is a general lack of work all round, except on Tea Estates, to which the light showers have been very beneficial. *Health*—Ootacamund is declared plague infected, but it is hoped that it will be stamped out long before crop commences, or we are likely to have a bad time of it. *Labour*—More than enough for present requirements.

#### Kotagiri.

*1st July.*—*Weather*—Only very slightly monsoonish. Light showers, but mostly fine days. Grand weather for putting on wood and leaf. Rainfall for June 3.02 inches; 11 rainy days. *Work*—Manuring finished on most Estates. Second weeding of the season just commencing. *Coffee*—on the whole is looking very fine, and quite recovered from last season's heavy crops. *Health*—Good on the whole, but there are more fresh cases of plague in Ootacamund than is altogether pleasant. *Labour*—More than sufficient.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 24th June.*—*Weather*—The monsoon has been very weak for some time. *Crop*—The last blossom in May seems to have set well. *Plant diseases*—Borer is still being removed

and burnt. There will not be much of it. *Works*—Besides above, supply-holing, weeding and some handling are being carried on. Planting out supplies has also been done to some small extent. *Interesting item*—Plague is said to be abating at Veerajapett.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 1st July.*—*Weather*—The monsoon is still continuing to be very light. Paddy fields require more rain. Coffee is looking well and is covered with good growth. Borer cannot be complained of this season. *Crop*—is looking up much better than was expected. *Labour*—Some places are a bit short. *Health*—Very fair.

### COFFEE PROSPECTS.

FROM all quarters comes the same tale of depressed markets and hopefulness as to the future. As regards the chief producing country, Brazil, interest hinges on two points: the possibility of a decrease in crop during the season now opening, and the effects of recent legislation in S. Paulo, should that legislation ever take effect. News as to the first point is vague, but some interesting remarks appear in Messrs. DUURING & ZOON's latest report, which are given on another page. As to the second point, it may be well to remind our readers what S. Paulo legislation aims at. The Bill lately passed in the lower branch of the S. Paulo State Legislature provides:—Article 1. The executive is authorized—(1) To levy a tax from July 1 next not over 20 per cent. in kind on all coffee exported, or *ad valorem* on the lower grades, which shall be appraised to taxation of this law and insuring taxation of higher types being less than that of lower. (5) To provide for the roasting of coffee for purposes of propaganda in those States of the Union where roasted coffee is admitted free of interstate duty. (6) To promote the creation of commercial and industrial establishments for sale of São Paulo coffee abroad, granting favors to the same. (7) To finance the trade in roasted and ground coffee, in order to prevent admixture or falsification. Article 2. The executive is hereby authorized to expend up to 10,000,000 milréis in aid to planters and to undertake the necessary credit operations entailed thereby, on the basis of the pauta, or official valuation, in addition to



existing duties. (2) To punish with fines, equivalent to ten times the value of the goods, all admixture made with intention to elude the stipulations of this law. (3) To grant subsidies up to 200,000 milreis (the average market value of the milreis is at present 20 cents) to shipping companies willing to reduce freights on coffee between Santos and other non-producing Brazilian States. (4) To create official types of coffee, with the object of regulating the execution. Article 3. In case the Banco de Crédito Agricola be not organized within the period determined by the law of December, 1902, the product of the transit tax shall be applied to the service of the loan or payment of differences of exchange and the subsidy mentioned in Article III. Article 4. Aid to planters shall take the form of loans on first mortgage, on agricultural mortgage (penhor agricola) with collateral guarantee, on collateral securities alone, and be realized through the agency of banks or agricultural syndicates approved and financed by the Government. Article 5. No loan to any planter can exceed 50,000 milreis, on which interest at a rate not exceeding 8 per cent. per annum shall be paid. Article 6. Loans on mortgage are not to exceed three years, with payment of interest annually and amortizations in three instalments of 20, 30, and 50 per cent. of the loan. Loans on the other specified classes of security shall be for one year only, renewable for one year more on amortization of at least 50 per cent. Article 7. The executive is authorized to treat with the Union Government to promote the meeting of an international congress of coffee-planters in this city, to determine the best manner to defend the interests of producers and consumers of this article. Article 8. The executive is also authorized to come to an agreement with the Governments of other producing States of the Union for the protection of this product and execution of the stipulations of this law. Article 9. All provisions to the contrary are hereby revoked.

Of course, any plan of this kind would prove abortive unless the other coffee-producing States—Minas, Rio, and Espirito Santo—decreed like measures; but, owing to inter-state jealousies and diverse economical conditions, it is, in the opinion of the American Vice-Consul-General at Rio, not at all likely that the various interests will be so reconciled as to bring about united effort. São Paulo is by far the largest producing State, having yielded in the crop year 1901-2 (the largest ever known) about two-thirds of the total crop. But it is generally believed at Rio that no Government measures can prove permanently effectual, and that any expedients will only serve to temporarily ameliorate the condition of the planters. It is pointed out that Brazil will pay the entire cost of these projects, and the foreign markets, with their existing enormous stocks, will, in all probability, reap as great benefit as Brazil. The one real remedy, it is said, is to let the crisis take care of itself, and then prices will go low enough to force out some of the plantations, and thus give consumption a chance to catch up with supply. Nevertheless, the *Grocer* remarks upon the Bill as having been passed "in order to give the coffee market a strong upward tendency," and remarks:—"In other words, nearly one-fourth of the Santos supply is to be destroyed to save the producers, who are in financial perplexities, from ruin, since many of them find it increasingly difficult to obtain the necessary loans from the money-lenders, whilst others are abandoning such coffee estates as do not pay ordinary working expenses. By this law the Brazilian coffee-planter will likewise have the option of retaining his coffee by paying a fine equal to about 15s.

per cwt., so that he may, if he likes, take his chance of doing better by keeping the coffee, in the event of the market going up, instead of allowing it to be thrown away. The newly-made law may, after all, be an ineffectual remedy against over-production, which should be rather checked by permitting the trees to go out of cultivation in a natural way than by resorting to artificial devices for creating scarcity. There are parties who entirely disapprove of the policy of appealing for State aid to lift them out of their monetary difficulties, and would prefer taking all risks to sanctioning Government interference; but to avert commercial panic, which would scatter misfortune all around, it has been deemed advisable to take such means of restoring confidence, and it is to be hoped that the result will be satisfactory."

American advices are of a contradictory character. A New York paper states in its report on the market:—"It would seem that no change can occur until the receipts of the new crop in Brazil swell the grand totals until they look afreshingly alarming and so bear down prices to a lower level than yet reached and then there should ensue a recovery. Meantime prices continue very low." Commenting on prospects, the same papers states:—"Although the coffee market is exceeding quiet at present, with prices very low and the possibility imminent of 3.50c. option coffee, a bull movement of marked power in the fall of the present year is within the range of sane mental contemplation and manipulation. It is not a paradox we are discussing. The Brazil crop now about to be closed will not have yielded much more than 12,000,000 bags, and so the world's consumption will have disposed of all the coffee grown in the last year, leaving the market at the worst but little poorer off than were conditions one year ago when the 15,000,000-bag Brazil crop was shipped. It is generally agreed that while the Brazil crop now about to be offered will be in excess of that shipped during the last twelve months, in other words be about 14,000,000 bags, inasmuch as the world's consumption shows an annual increase of at least 500,000 bags, this crop will be taken care of by the consuming world. Moreover, nearly all the coffee grown is actually sold and taken care of by the legitimate users of it, and so at the most there is only left some 2,000,000 bags as a surplus not provided for by the consuming markets. This is by no means an extraordinary over-supply, which would quickly disappear on the prospect of an effective curtailment of crops in Brazil by the legislation enacted or by such acts of nature to which crops are at any time liable. A bull movement would thus have a plausible basis on which to operate." There are good many assumptions or "ifs" here, and we fear that coffee-planters will incur disappointment if they rely much upon ideas either that Brazilian crops will fall far below the mark of consumption, or that S. Paulo legislation will cause a sharp rise in prices.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Painting Coffee.**—In a letter from Rio de Janeiro on coffee printed in the *Honolulu Bulletin* occurs:

"Painting of coffee—this statement will probably be denied by some of our grocers. They will tell you that they can tell Mocha and Java by the smell or the colour of the grain. Don't you believe them. The coffee as it comes from the plantation, the Simonpure genuine article, is often far different from



that which goes away on the ships. I have visited here in Rio enormous establishments who make a business of painting coffee and dressing it up for the markets. In South Africa, for instance, the people want black coffee beans. It seems that the coffee they have been buying is of that colour. The bags that come from the plantation are filled with olive green beans. They are turned into a great mill and rolled round and round in contact with coloured powder. Just what it is, Lord only knows, but when the beans come out they are as black as any coffee that can be grown in Africa. Other grades are given a tinge of yellow by the use of other colours, and others are varnished in different shades of green. Some of the colouring stuff is unhealthful, and the men use gloves when they handle it. In one Portuguese house I saw them colouring 30,000 bags for the Cape of Good Hope, and in another they were colouring coffee for the Argentine market. This is no fiction. I saw it myself, although I am told that the most of the coffee sent to the United States goes there in its natural colour."

**Java.**—The Government crop is estimated at 204,000 Peculs against 200,000 Peculs in May.

**Borneo Liberian Coffee.**—Messrs. Shand, Haldane & Co., London, have reported favourably on Borneo grown-Liberian Coffee as treated by Mr. Carnarvon:—The sample of Coffee was in parchment and peeled. *Process.*—After pulping all skins it is washed off in the usual way, then lime water is run on to the coffee, and left for  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 hour steeping—or until glucose is mostly all dissolved, then fresh clean water is turned on and the coffee washed off and dried in the usual way. The brokers report:—"We send herewith sample of Liberian Coffee roasted as desired. In tasting this Coffee in company with others, we find that the flavour peculiar to the growth is still there, but in a less degree. Formerly we found that a mixture of 8 per cent. of Liberian with other Coffee was noticeable in the liquor, but of this lot a 30 per cent. admixture is barely discernible."

**Cuban Duty on Coffee Increased.**—The Cuban congress has passed a bill increasing the duty on coffee from \$12 to \$18 per 100 kilos. While the measure was being debated in the senate Senor Bravo declared that the increase was necessary to save the coffee industry in the province of Santiago. Senor Bustamente pointed out that the increase would enhance the cost to the consumer to the extent of \$1,200,000, as the greater portion of the coffee used in Cuba is imported from Brazil.

The stock of coffee at Hamburg June 1 shows an unexpected decrease of 175,000 bags owing to a recount of stock, which showed that an error had been committed in previous counting; the shrinkage was augmented 97,000 bags.

Coffee does not vary so widely as tea in the matter of yielding liquor, but the finer kinds generally allow of a larger proportion of water than the cheap, rank Rios. It ought to pay any grocer to test all his coffees and teas for liquor-making qualities as well as for flavour and "strength." They should be compared with one another, and the exact amount of water required to bring out the best flavour should be noted and printed on the label under which the goods are sold.

The quality of some of the Nicaragua and Mexican is again this year exceptionally good, and much of it is being used for home consumption in place of Costa Rica.

Of coffee there were 111,223 cwt. exported from Jamaica last year, (ending 31st March, 1903) against 100,861 cwt. in the previous year—an increase of over 10,000 cwt. America is almost altogether responsible for the increase.

**The Coffee Duty in France.**—A deputation, representing the Chambers of Commerce and the coffee syndicates of Havre, Marseilles, and Bordeaux, accompanied by some deputies, waited upon M. Rouvier at Paris on June 9 to discuss the further increase which has been announced of the duty on coffee to 156f. per 100 kilos. The deputation asked when the new tariff would come into force. The Minister replied that Budget considerations had compelled him to raise the duty by 20f., and said that he would ask for the denunciation of the Franco-Brazilian Treaty before June 30, in order that the new tariff might be applied before the end of the year. Since the above was received, cable advices have announced the confirmation of Trade Conventions with France relating to India and Ceylon.

San Francisco trade advices dated 21st ultimo say that the coffee market continues dull and weak. Arrivals of Central Americans have been far heavier than last year at this time and stocks are about twice as large. Nearly all low-grade coffees are in the market in great abundance and can be bought at almost any price.

In the annual report of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras for the year 1902-03 there is the following paragraph relating to *Coffea Arabica*:—Four dozen plants were presented to the Gardens by Mr. L. E. Kirwan. The old leaf pits in the south-west corner of the Botanic Gardens have been filled in and the Coffee has been put out in rows 10 feet apart. The site should be admirably suited to the experimental culture of Coffee, the whole ground being not too heavily shaded with *Ficus Indica* and *Parkia biglandulosa*. There are also a few plants of Coffee hybrids of Arabian crossed with Liberian. Seeds of this hybrid were presented by Mr. W. Mackinlay, of Meppadi, Wynaad. These, it is intended also to plant. A noteworthy feature is that none of the coffee plants in Madras show any sign of leaf-disease.

The value of Exports of Coffee from Costa Rica last year was over £6,30,000, showing an increase of about £75,000 over the previous year's figures. About 15 per cent. of this Coffee goes to the United States, 75 per cent. to England, and the rest to other countries.

Hawaiian Kona coffee of high grade retails on the Pacific Coast at 35 cents per pound. The finest Guatemala realises from 14 cents upward.

The Porto Rico coffee growers have, perhaps, the least reason to complain, as the coffee region has suffered least from the drought and the present prospects are quite encouraging.

The *Brazilian Review* remarks:—We have already commented on Mr. Lacerda's opinions when they appeared in



*O. Estado de S. Paulo.* The matter is now settled, for the present, at any rate, as far as Government interference is concerned and, good as Mr. Lacerda's recommendations are, there is now no use in discussing them.

Mr. Lacerda calculates the cost of production as follows:

For a plantation of 100,000 trees:

Weeding ...	8:000\$
Harvesting ...	6:000\$
Cartage on Estate, drying and sorting ...	6:000\$
Cartage to Station ...	600\$
Maintenance of machinery, animals, carts, roads, etc. ...	2:500\$
Administration ...	4:000\$
Eventual expenses ...	1:000\$
Municipal taxes ...	240\$

28:340\$

Calculating the average yield at 60 *arrobas* per 1,000 trees, in all 6,000 *arrobas*, the cost of production comes out at 4\$000 per *arropa*.

Expenses of delivery at Santos are estimated as follows:

Freight per Railway of empty sacks from Santos ...	\$012.5
Average Railway freight on one sack of coffee ...	1\$250
Transit tax ...	\$037.5
Cartage to store at Santos ...	\$0100
Commission to <i>Commissarios</i> ...	\$0200
Municipal tax Santos... ..	\$015

1\$615

Expenses of export:

Classification and bag ...	\$340
Tax on Jute bagging ...	\$085
Export duty 11 per cent. on 4\$200... ..	\$693
Dock charges ...	\$075
Cartage to Dock ...	\$00

1\$293

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

Production per <i>arropa</i> ... ..	4\$723
Cost of delivery at Santos ...	1\$615
Expenses for Export ...	1\$203

Total per *arropa* ... 7\$631

At present coffee is selling at 6\$300 per *arropa* or less, which according to this is 17.4 per cent. below cost.

The cost of production has no doubt been falling continuously for the last five years. In 1898 we published an elaborate estimate of the cost of the plantations and production of coffee... which, at 60 *arrobas* per 1,000 trees, worked out at Rs.8 \$159 per *arropa* delivered at a station and exclusive of freights and expenses at Santos and exclusive of interest on capital. Since, exchange has risen from 6½d. to 12d. and paper money has doubled in sterling value. No doubt this has reduced many items of cost, but we doubt whether the price of labour has fallen in proportion, or whether, without a very further considerable rise of exchange and simultaneous fall in the price of labour, any further reduction is possible. Unfortunately, whilst exchange has risen and thus tended to reduce cost, taxes have increased almost in proportion and the benefit derived from higher exchange is greatly discounted. Still there has been some reduction and if planters' judgment were sounder, instead of impossible plans for burning or further taxing coffee, they would insist on the cost of Government accompanying exchange and on taxation being reduced as the value of the currency goes up. Otherwise there can be no equilibrium and they will be always in difficulties, because taxation is out of proportion to their earnings.

\* \* \*

**The Coffee Problem in Australia.**—Senor Don J. J. Tellechea, a Chilean gentleman resident in Sydney, N. S. W.,

sends a Home paper the following interesting note upon the coffee question:—"For a long time I have noticed the sound practical advice you have been giving in your columns to South American coffee producers upon how to solve the coffee problem. They might do worse than put your advice to the test in Australia, as this would be a virgin market for that article. The coffee that is imported here (N. S. W.) amounts to some 400 and odd tons; this would represent a consumption of a little more than three-fifths of a pound per head per annum, which is poor enough; but considering the quality of the stuff that is retailed here I don't wonder why Australians are such inveterate tea drinkers. To whoever has tasted Brazilian or Central American coffee, the stuff sold here is simply abominable, but so depraved has become the public taste, that no coffee is appreciated unless it be richly blended with chicory. Local merchants, you may depend, are not slow to profit of this, yet their horrible concoction is given out to an unsophisticated public as "prime coffee" at 2s. per lb. retail. Our sources of supply are mainly Ceylon and the Pacific Islands."

\* \* \*

### Visible Supply of Coffee

	on June 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		429,900	379,300	238,590	241,900	232,250
to { afloat — Brazil ...		24,720	26,280	27,730	11,610	6,300
to { loading — do. ...		2,240	2,940	1,240	...	...
Europe { afloat — the East ..		1,830	2,000	1,080	3,050	3,120
do. — U S. A. ...		820	1,230	2,530	1,000	350
		459,510	411,750	271,170	257,560	242,020
Stocks U. S. of North-America		152,120	135,290	78,470	69,760	77,410
to { afloat — Brazil ...		9,710	28,820	17,120	4,940	21,700
U. S. A. { loading — do. ...		1,590	4,060	2,230	...	...
do. { afloat — the East ..		1,710	1,940	1,120	...	1,470
		624,640	581,860	370,110	332,260	342,600
Stocks in Rio ...		31,650	35,470	13,940	10,060	13,060
Do. Santos ...		49,880	55,470	35,590	15,900	17,590
Do. Bahia ...		3,530	2,820	3,060	710	760
Total		709,700	675,620	422,700	358,930	374,010
On May 1st ...		726,070	677,890	437,590	368,430	379,040

\* \* \*

### Stocks, Arrivals and Deliveries in Europe and the United States of North-America.

	STOCKS on June 1st	ARRIVALS		DELIVERIES	
		in May	in 5 months	in May	in 5 months
1903.	582,017 Tons	74,868 Tons	427,075 Tons	84,342 Tons	428,752 Tons
1902	514,594 "	77,919 "	448,933 "	79,640 "	364,493 "
1901.	317,060 "	86,084 "	387,889 "	72,276 "	366,472 "
1900.	311,664 "	60,573 "	375,896 "	61,041 "	369,811 "
1899.	309,661 "	77,155 "	384,895 "	73,450 "	353,735 "

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market is quiet and prices are steady, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 2nd ultimo. The same depressing conditions that have been the keynote of all reports for so long a time depress the market. It would seem that the forthcoming receipts in Brazil would cause pressure to sell, but the sellers, if they ease at all in their demands, do not do so worth the while. Apparently stocks everywhere are so large as not to stir any interest on the part of buyers, though prices are very low compared with the low ones ruling one year ago. It would seem besides that still worse bear tidings are looked for, but it is a question whether even greater unfavourable news would still further depress market quotations. It is probable that the world's visible supply on June 1 will show little change. No large decrease in the supply is expected. In the United States the deliveries for the month have been less than normal and it is thought that conditions about the same have prevailed elsewhere. The receipts have been full at the same time.

On offer from Brazil a sale of 2,000 bags was made in New York at 5c. c. and f. for Rio No. 6, which is a fair sample of what was



done in that line last week locally. In spot invoices the market closed flat and quiet with prices 4<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c. for Rio No. 8, 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>c. for Rio No. 7, 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> to 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c. for Rio No. 4, and 5<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> to 6c. for Santos No. 4.

There is a little movement in jobbing business.

In speculative circles trading continues limited. There is little to encourage interest. The European markets are weak and the Santos interior receipts too full for anything except derision. June hovers around 3.70 bid and September at 3.95. It seems most probable that a change in the grading of coffee on the Exchange will be ordered. This has for some time been foreshadowed in the difference that rules between November and December options, the change taking place, if at all, in November. The new legal regulations in Sao Paulo, it is contended, will compel a marked increase in the shipping of lower grade coffees, putting a premium on the high grades. The abundance will lie with the medium grades, Nos. 5 to 7, bringing the bulk down to Nos. 6 or 7.

Mild coffees are quiet too. There is always good inquiry for good drinking coffees, which are reported scarce. The market is really easier and good Cucuta has declined to 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>c. East India growths are steady.

Total stock in United States May 1, 2,531,917 bags against 2,307,894 bags May 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States May 29, in store and afloat, 2,381,747 bags against 2,465,479 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 372,839 bags, against 323,094 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York May 29, 1,963,676. Stock in New York in other coffees May 25, 163,961, in San Francisco, 101,283 bags and in New Orleans, 7,565 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, May 1, 12,248,278 bags.

TEA NOTES.

**London Tea Market.**—Special telegram dated 18th ultimo from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Columbo reports a dull tone generally among buyers and that medium liquoring Pekoes is weak while the market for teas for price is easier. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. (same as last week) and the average 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d. down). The average for the same period last year was 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. Renter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea as follows common to medium qualities easier and Broken Pekoe fine qualities firm, common are slightly easier. Pekoe Souchong steady; Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d. down). 35,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 32,000 disposed of; while of the 22,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 20,000 were sold at an average of 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d. down).

**Tea Statistics.**—Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, of London, issued no circular on June 2nd, as there were no sales that week. They prepared, however, the following table showing.—Quantity of tea (all growths) on which duty has been paid during the current month up to 31st ultimo 22,311,965 lbs. against 14,215,673 lbs. during the same period last year.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

Movements (in lbs.) of Indian and Ceylon tea during			
	May, 1903.		May, 1902.
	Indian.	Ceylon.	
Imports ...	1,237,782	8,556,729	974,935
Deliveries..	15,115,499	8,898,156	9,033,499
Stock ...	40,950,765	21,261,933	44,157,070

Movements (in lbs.) of Indian and Ceylon tea from			
	1st June, 1902 to 31st May, 1903.		1st June, 1901 to 31st May, 1902.
	Indian.	Ceylon	
Imports ...	146,734,670	95,974,024	155,757,498
Deliveries...	149,941,025	97,016,395	150,490,003

**Tea in Jamaica.**—It is stated that an expert has arrived in Kingston on behalf of Sir Alfred Jones, who was knighted for his services to Jamaica, to inquire into the possibility of tea cultivation here on an extensive scale. The idea is to make of Jamaica another Ceylon, if conditions are found to be favourable to tea growing.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the fourth tea auction of the season at Calcutta, on the 19th ultimo, 9,900 packages were sold. The market was strong for all kinds, which sold at advancing rates. There was keen competition. Bombay and Persian Gulf buyers were keen for all suitable kinds, buying at three pies over last sale. Russian, Colonial, and Continental operators took an unusually large proportion of the offerings, about 5,000 packages being taken off the London market. the quality continues good for the season.

**Indian Tea Exports Still Short.**—The exports of tea to the United Kingdom, according to the Calcutta Customs, for the first half of June, are 2,602,068 lbs. against 3,153,232 lbs. for the corresponding fortnight of 1902. The total exports from the 1st April to the 15th June are 5,091,420 lbs., against 6,542,783 lbs. last year.

**The British Tea Duty.**—The House of Commons went into Committee on the Finance Bill, and Mr. Francis Allston Channing, Radical M.P. for East Northamptonshire, moved an amendment to make the duty on tea 4d. He declared that the extra 2d had resulted in a marked diminution of imports and an increase of price. Mr. Ritchie refused to accept the amendment.

During 1902 tea to the value of £16,720 was imported at the Turkish port of Bussorah. The whole of this was from India, only the cheapest kinds being in demand.

The Treasury Department has instructed the Collector of Customs at Chicago to make a test case to determine what are "unusual" coverings for tea. Certain importers' claim that tea in canisters should pay duty on the package, as they are offered as an inducement or premium to buyers, and by being admitted here free of duty a competition is created which is unfair and difficult, if not impossible, to meet. Those who import teas in the canisters or special coverings contend that they should be free of duty.

The *Merchants' Review* points out to its readers that the finest teas of India and Ceylon growth yield twice as many cups of beverage to the pound as the common sorts, and the flavour is more agreeable. Superior China teas also have more body than the cheaper kinds. Grocers always should warn consumers against boiling tea.

Why shouldn't grocers pack tea in ten or twenty-five cent lots instead of by the pound or half was the question which the *Review* has several times put to the trade. Why not put up special kinds in special packages, in order to induce people to try a new brand of tea? Why not, we urged, have a big basket placed just outside the door, containing fine tea in 5c. or 10c. sample boxes, with a big placard describing the article and giving the price in this fashion: "Only 5c. Take one!" Why not? Well Finley Acker & Co. have answered. In their Weekly they say:

We've secured several thousand little tins, decorated with the figure of a Ceylon maiden and we've had them packed with Acker's Ceylon Blend Tea.



While they last, 5c. each; 55c. doz.  
Getting out of the beaten track has taken Finley Acker & Co. very far, but it appears that they are still moving.

Shilling (25c.) tea in England is frowned upon by the big houses of the trade, and they will hereafter sell no tea below 1s. 2d., or say 29c. The *Merchants' Review* of New York asks:—If the Britishers can't stand 25c. tea, how in the world does this country consume the tea that some of the grocers sell at 20 cents?

The tea trade needs a strong tonic, says the *Merchants' Review*, one which may take the shape of an advertising campaign in behalf of standard brands under wholesale or importing labels, which shall be absolutely uniform in quality and yield a good profit to the retailer.

New crop Japan teas to arrive early June week have been sold to a New York wholesale grocery house at 35 to 40c. They are first arrivals and hence high grade.

**Tea Imports** to the amount of 500,000 pounds are involved in a matter before the Tea Board of the United States General Appraisers. Several large importers are endeavouring to convince the Board that certain importations of Foochow Oolong teas, rejected by the tea inspector as not being up to standard, should be admitted for consumption in the United States. The Board of Experts has again confirmed the judgment of the tea examiners at New York in the rejection of Foochow teas in addition to the large quantity rejected some time ago.

**Tea in the West.**—Reporting on the trade of California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona for 1902 Mr. Consul-General Bennett remarks:—"Although tea to the value of over £1,80,000 was imported into San Francisco in 1902, over £1,60,000 worth came from China and Japan. For some strange reason or other tea seems to be a decreasing import in California. Probably good Ceylon tea, if pressed, might find a market, as in spite of statistics it is alleged that the taste for tea is growing here."

"A gigantic tea competition," as it is termed, has been organised by Messrs. Black & White, tea merchants, of Manchester and other places. Purchasers are invited to save coupons supplied with packets of tea, and at the end of the year a cottage, or 250l. in cash, will be given to the person sending in the largest number of coupons. Fifteen hundred other prizes, ranging in value from 40l. to 5s., will also be given.

**Russian Tea and Sugar in Persia.**—The Board of Trade have received a despatch from Odessa in which it is stated that 350,000 lbs. to 400,000 lbs. of Chinese tea is annually sent from Odessa to Persia by way of Baku. The Russian Consul-General at Bender-Bushire, reporting on the sugar trade, says that in Persia local tastes and ideas must be taken into account, as the consumer judges the sugar by its outward appearance, shape, size of loaves ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. recommended), and packing. Loaf sugar sells best if offered in small loaves of not more than two kilogrammes, the end rather flattened and the bottom concave. It should be easily soluble in hot water and make no froth, though as cheap as possible. Each loaf should be first wrapped in thin white and then in thick blue paper, and then tied crosswise with thin string, and given a black factory mark. The loaves must be packed in wooden boxes of sufficient strength, hooped with willow-withes. No case to contain over thirty-two loaves, which must be wrapped in straw and other

packing materials to avoid breakage when carried on beasts of burden. In a word, the more the sugar imported at the ports of the Persian Gulf resembles French, the better its chance of success. Of sand sugar the most saleable is cheap sugar in large crystals, white and pure, in double or even treble (if for Shiraz or Isfahan) sacks of which the inner one must be the stronger and of closer texture, and the outer one thinner and with the mark of the factory. No bag must contain more than 2 cwts. Just as it is necessary for refined sugar to be made in imitation of French sugar, so the sand sugar must copy Austrian sugar.

**Growing American Tea.**—"The department of agriculture is studying the sciences that are grouped around the production of tea. Encouraging progress is being made. We are introducing the best kinds of tea from oriental countries and studying the preparation of the leaves for the market without chemicals. There is hope that we shall succeed in making higher priced teas economically. There are plenty of idle young people who can pick tea in the localities where the tea plant is at home."—Mr. Wilson, secretary of agriculture in a recent address.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—"The activity in the tea market continues rising, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 2nd ultimo. There is more trading in the teas on hand, and of course more interest than ever in the markets abroad. Since the last writing the eastern markets have become if anything, stronger, and they do not seem to be at all influenced by the small business done here. Formosa continues very firm with a fair business doing on a basis of 16c. for strict good, 18c. for strict superior, 24c. for strict fine, and 28c. for strict finest.

The Hankow market is extremely active with prices tending upward all the time. First crop Keemuns are reported entirely bought up. Ningchows are said to be one cent higher and actively competed for, the supply being scanty. It is currently reported that the exportation to America this season will be fully 15 per cent. shorter than last year.

The Japan market remains very dear. Some of the grades have felt an advance of 50 per cent. over the opening prices of one year ago. Mail advices say that the bulk has been bought by one American firm. The new teas that are open to sale here are fair in quality and are being extensively examined. Very few sales are reported. Evidently the trade is slow to accustom itself to the high prices asked.

Not a few sales are heard in India and Ceylons which continue firm at the rates hitherto ruling.

Ceylon greens are being viewed to take the place of the dear Japans. However, as a considerable disparity exists in price between Ceylon blacks and greens, same grade, the grower will give the blacks preference and greens will not be so abundant.

## NOTES.

### Java Quinine.

The exports from Java during March amount to 106 cases. From January 1 to March 31 the shipments have been

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Cases ...	489	412	500	470	337

### Quinine in London.

The decrease in the London stock which was noticeable in the April returns continued during May. There were 3,433,520 oz. in the public warehouse at the end of May against 3,824,368 oz. at the corresponding period of 1902. The landings during May were 78,304 oz. and the deliveries 42,672 oz.

### A new Coffee Journal.

"El Cafetal" (The Coffee Tree) is the title of a new monthly publication, printed in two languages (Spanish and Portuguese), and designed to promote the interests of producers of coffee in Latin-America. The journal is subsidized by the Government of the different countries in which the coffee industry



is located. It will contain official data of different character, including statistical tables.

#### Cocoa in Madras.

The specimen in the border at the East end of No. 2 Palm House continues to make strong healthy growth, says the annual report of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras. It was in full flower in September and a number of blossoms were fertilised and a good crop of fruits has been obtained. These are now reaching the ripening stage. Up to the present the plant has remained healthy, there being no sign of any fungoid growth.

#### How to make Quinine.

The Italian Central Military Pharmacy has published the method now decided upon of preparing the "State Quinine." The difficulty to be overcome was the probable loss of water, and this has been solved by the following method: 100 kilos. of quinine bisulphate is dried at a temperature of 55° to 60° C. (a loss of about six molecules of water, or 20 per cent. by weight, is observed), and is then mixed with 20 kilos. of sugar of milk and 20 kilos. of alcohol. The mass is dried at 45° C., until its weight is about 100 kilos., then powdered and formed into tablets of 20 centigrammes (about 3 grs.) each. Ten of these are sold in a gelatin tube for 2½d.

#### Protected Pepper.

The protection that is given to French Indo-China pepper on entering France has so largely stimulated pepper-growing in Cochin-China among Europeans and Chinese, says the *Straits Times*, that the French market is glutted with spice from that colony. Growing the article has therefore become unprofitable. The European planters seek to ward off heavy loss by starting an agitation against Chinese pepper-planters being allowed to share in the preferential tariff-rates, which would mean ruin to the Chinese planters. The opinion is that the planters should seek to meet the bad times by turning to other markets and by resorting to improved business-methods.

#### Sisal in Madras.

*Agave rigida* var. *Sisalana*.—The piece of ground put under cultivation with these plants is doing well, says the annual report of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras. The plants have a healthy appearance and average about 2 feet in height. In all about 900 plants have been put out in two squares separated by the main avenue. As the square on the north side containing 500 plants is considered sufficient for experimental and stock purposes, it is suggested to part with the rest when a reasonable offer is received, and to utilise the ground for other purposes. A few rows of other fibre yielding plants have also been planted, and it is intended to add to them as opportunity occurs.

#### Austrian Quinine in Malaria.

The Austrian Government is advocating the general use of quinine in the malarial districts of the country, and has organised a system of treatment. An order was recently issued by the Austrian Minister of the Interior, stating that the necessary quinine was to be prepared in pastilles in the Royal Hospital at Vienna and sold through the pharmacies. This order really amounts to a State monopoly for quinine similar to that which already exists in Italy.

*The Zeitschrift des allgem. oesterreich. Apotheker-Vereines* says that the order must be regarded as exceptional, and that the State has adopted this course in order to supply the poor in the malarial districts with quinine at the lowest possible price. That journal expresses the hope that it will remain exceptional, otherwise Austrian pharmacists will sink into mere purveyors of prepared medicaments.

#### Java Cinchona.

The auctions to be held on June 18 were to consist of 10,890 bales and 556 cases, weighing 996,509 kilos. The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe during May, 1903, as follows:—

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	1,188,000	1897 ...	600,000
1902 ...	1,044,000	1896 ...	768,000
1901 ...	746,000	1895 ...	402,700
1900 ...	816,000	1894 ...	900,000
1899 ...	943,000	1893 ...	714,000
1898 ...	672,000		
Total Shipments January - May.			
Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	4,566,000	1897 ...	2,510,000
1902 ...	4,199,000	1896 ...	3,260,000
1901 ...	4,169,000	1895 ...	2,879,700
1900 ...	3,252,000	1894 ...	3,288,000
1899 ...	3,964,800	1893 ...	3,244,000
1898 ...	3,884,000		

#### Pepper.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon report:—Spot business continued quiet whilst terme has been extremely active and speculative buying during the course of this month systematically continued. Cost freight offers from Java were considerably beyond. . . parity and holders not inclined to make any concession. Dealings amounted to 45,200 bags or 132,000 bags since January 1st. Values slowly improved, quotations now are 32½cts. per June/July, 32½cts. per August, 32½cts. per September/October, 32½cts. per November, 33cts. per December/January, 33½cts. per February, and 33½cts. per March. May dealings 31,800 bags of which 7,000 bags were tendered.

Stocks of all kinds on the principal markets of Europe:

	May 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.
Netherlands	...	41,300 bags.	66,600 bags.	71,700 bags.
London...	...	40,700 "	79,500 "	95,600 "
Hamburg	...	4,400 "	12,500 "	13,400 "
Håvre	...	17,600 "	60,700 "	57,500 "
Bordeaux	...	200 "	2,300 "	1,400 "
Marseilles	...	2,200 "	5,400 "	3,400 "
Trieste	...	9,800 "	12,000 "	19,000 "
Total	...	116,200 bags.	239,000 bags.	262,000 bags.
On April 1st	...	135,700 "	238,400 "	268,700 "

#### Java Cinchona Combination.

H. M. Consul at Batavia reports that the exports of cinchona bark from Java, almost the whole of which find their way to Holland, were heavier than ever in 1902. Taking this circumstance into consideration, prices obtained were fairly satisfactory, although the average unit price for the 75,000 bales sold at the 10 Amsterdam auctions was only 6·90c. (1½d.), as compared with 8·44c. (1⅞d.) average in 1901. The 22,000 bales sold at the 12 London auctions fetched an average unit price of 1½d., as compared with 1½d. in 1901. A combination of Java cinchona planters, controlling more than one-third of the total area under cinchona, came to an arrangement in September, 1902, to limit the unit selling price of the bark in Holland up to the end of March next



year to 6c. (1½d.) with a view to preventing temporary oversupply in Europe and consequent low prices, and they have now extended the period for which this limit is in force till the end of 1903. Seeing that Java produces probably 75 per cent. or more of the world's supply, this measure should, if consistently carried out, result in a higher scale of prices both for bark and quinine.

#### A Rubber Vine in Central America.

The *Scientific American* says:—"Recently Señor Don Floriano Davadi, Governor of the Department of Conyagua, Honduras, informed the American Consul at Tequicigalpa that, some time previous, he discovered in the Pijo mountains a vine growing in an uncultivated state, varying in diameter from 4 inches to 2 feet, which on cutting produces a sap the nature of which is rubber. These vines grow to 100 feet in length, and they are said to belong to the African family of rubber vines. In Honduras no one seems to know the name of the vine or the botanical family to which it belongs. The discoverer regards it as superior in quality to the Pará rubber of commerce, and asserts that his convictions are borne out by the analysis made by American and European chemists. The vine thrives at great altitudes, as well as in the lower valley level. Such luxuriance of growth has this plant attained that it is quite capable of being cut in commercial quantities. It may be quickly propagated in the rich soil of the department by means of seedlings, and, growth being so much faster than that of rubber trees, Señor Davadi thinks the quantity of gum obtained would be large. The trees require six years' attention before tapping can begin. It has been proposed to form a company for the exploitation of rubber in the Toro district, but, though the names of several prominent men have been connected with the enterprise, nothing has, as yet, been done to begin operations."

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 25th ultimo from Messrs. Gow, Wilson Stanton reports the market is generally steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is also steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 7½d. (½d. down). The average for the same period last year was 6¼d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea as follows good to fine qualities very firm, medium irregular and Broken Pekoe fine qualities firm, common are slightly easier. Pekoe Souchong steady; Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6¼d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7½d. (½d. down). 22,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 21,000 disposed of; while of the 21,000 packages of Indian tea offered, 20,000 were sold at an average of 7½d. (½d. down). On 26th ultimo, 10,400 packages were sold. Dooars and Cachars comprised more than three-fourths of the offerings. The quality generally was below that of the last sale. The market was firm for common sorts, and some Darjeeling invoices sold in the sellers' favour. Bombay and Persian Gulf buyers took all suitable kinds, and buyers for other outside markets were also busy. 137 chests greens from Mount Somerset and Kangra Valley averaged seven annas. Since the opening of the season four gardens, which usually sell in Calcutta, have sold the entire crops forward for London.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### TEA IN CANADA.

The *Canadian Grocer* reports:—

TORONTO, May 28, 1903.

The trade done in tea since our last issue has been satisfactory and prices are ruling from at previous quotations.

MONTREAL, May 28, 1903.

The dominant fact of the tea market is the firm tone displayed in all descriptions of the staple with prospects of much higher prices if the present tendency at primary markets is maintained. As a result of this a good inquiry is experienced for all sorts of teas which are offering here and sellers find no difficulty in securing their own figures, while it is noticeable that they are not urging sales to any extent. Male advices from Japan state that the advance in the opening prices of new-crop teas was in some instances 50 per cent. higher than those of 1902 and that the bulk of the offerings were bought by one large American firm. Cable advices from China reported the market for Congou tea higher, and quoted United States standard at 10c. A cable from Hankow stated that prices for medium grade Congous were 2c. per lb. higher than last year at 11c., as against 9c. a year ago.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

A marked reduction in the total European imports during May and a decided increase in the deliveries have combined to produce a reduction in the European stocks of some 13,000 tons, and in the world's visible supply of, roughly, 17,000 tons, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of June 6, 1903. We have several times pointed out that the different crops were arriving much sooner than they generally do, so that it was to be expected that the heaviest stock would be reached at a period earlier than usual. During the next few months the deliveries will probably not be heavy, but, as far as London is concerned, the stocks other than Santos are much below the average at this time of year, and prices are at such an extremely low level that an advance can hardly fail to take place in the Autumn when a renewal of the heavy trade may be looked for. During the holidays very little coffee has arrived, so that the auctions, which re-commenced on Thursday, have been small and unattractive, while prices have been well maintained. In the terminal market quotations have been irregular, closing at about the same level as last week.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—Owing to the suspension of public sales during the past fortnight, and the intervention of the Whitsuntide holidays, the market has been practically closed, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of June 6, and only very limited transactions have taken place. For Monday, the 8th instant, about 30,000 packages have been catalogued, comprising several final and a large number of the last but one invoices of the past season, most of which are of the more popular marks. There will probably be a good demand at firm prices, especially for those of a stand-out character, as the supply is likely to be well within requirements. For the lower grades little or no change in values is expected. It will be seen by the under-mentioned figures that the removals from bond in May were largely in excess of the same period last year, and instead of a surplus of 3,000,000 lbs., as was the case at the end of April, there is now a deficiency of upwards of 3,000,000 lbs. while the total stock of all growths is 7,400,000 lbs. smaller than in 1902, or 74,634,000 lbs. against 82,035,000 lbs. The following are the returns for the end of May compared with those of last year: The imports were 1,237,000 lbs. and 974,000 lbs., the deliveries amounted to 15,115,000 lbs. as compared with 9,033,000 lbs., the stock now standing at 40,950,000 lbs. against 44,157,000 lbs. Later advices from Calcutta report more favourable weather generally, and consequently prospects are brighter for an increased out-turn, and the quality of the teas is said to be above the average at the early part of last season.

CEYLON TEAS.—This market has not yet opened, no sales having been held since the holiday. The next auctions will take place on



Tuesday, 9th instant, when about 25,700 packages will be brought forward. The following are the figures for the past month compared with May last year: The imports were 8,557,000 lbs. against 8,075,000 lbs., the deliveries being 8,898,000 lbs. and 7,028,000 lbs. respectively, while the stock stands at 21,262,000 lbs. is compared with 22,304,000 lbs.

**CONGOU TEA.**—Business has been limited, partly owing to the fact that there have been no public auctions during the week. The market for new season's Blacks opened in Hankow on the 10th May, and according to a recent telegram it appears that Kintucks and Keemans are much finer than last year, and prices are also higher.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—Green and Scented teas remain unaltered in value.

## BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, 16th May, 1903.—Ninety days' Bank Rate on London opened on Monday 11th instant at 12½ and rose without interruption to 12½ on Saturday, when it closed at 12½ to 12½d.

Confirmation of the loan having been definitely settled on what cannot but be regarded as exceptionally favourable terms gave a little animation to a market otherwise featureless and rates were inclined to boom. Fortunately, however, none of the banks seem inclined to assist speculation and this kind of paper is not in request. No doubt the Bank of the Republic will do all in its power by drawing prudently or refusing to draw at all and even by if necessary to keep rates down but in spite of its efforts, it is possible that, if people at home take into their heads that the time for a rise has come, to send out orders to draw, the Bank may be unable to resist the pressure and rates boom in spite of all precautions. The lack of elasticity in the currency makes such oscillations inevitable and, were the Bank at any time to be reorganized, it would be well to provide a fund for such purposes, allowing paper to be issued against gold or gold-bonds and *vice versa*.

It is said that exchange will not be allowed to go over 13d. but unless the Bank utilized the 45,000,000\$ in deposit, mostly belonging to Government, for the purpose of keeping it steady, it seems doubtful if it can be prevented.

On the question of the advisability of doing so there can be no doubt. Spot Coffee is already down to 5½c. at New York. The rise of exchange here has not been accompanied by any improvement in prices on the other side, which are already below parity with our own. Hence, prices have fallen to 3\$968 per 10 kilos. and will certainly go lower if exchange rise and the new crop be entered under the most depressing and ruinous conditions for planters, without any immediate prospect of improvement. The President of the Republic who is himself a planter, is fully aware of this and may be relied on not to allow rates to boom if it is in his power to prevent it. After the loan is issued and done with, it is, therefore, reasonable to believe that a reaction will set in. Until then it might not be politic.

How necessary and opportune the loan really was, is shown by the value of coffee shipments which fell off to only £130,000, here and at Santos, compared with £216,000 the previous week, and £259,000 last year; declared sales being also smaller, 111,000 bags against 122,000 and 144,000 for the previous week and year respectively.

**Coffee.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, 16th May, 1903.—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended May 15th were 676 bags smaller than the previous week and 16,836 under those of the corresponding week last year of which they represent 89 per cent.

For the crop entries on the 15th instant were 3,088,752 bags less than last crop of which they represented 8·6 per cent.

Shipments (*Embarques*) were smaller, 67,936 bags under the previous week's and 73,923 bags less than last year.

Stocks consequently increased and on the 15th instant showed 45,651 bags more than on the previous Friday but 374,055 less than on the corresponding date last year.

Declared Sales were likewise smaller, being 11,000 bags under the previous week's and 22,000 less than the corresponding week's last year.

Local prices accompanied the fall of exchange, the average for the week for No. 7 being 3\$968 per 10 kilos. as against 4\$017 the

previous week and 4\$296 last year. Abroad prices also fell, the average at New York for No. 7 being 5½c. as against 5½ for the previous week and 5½ last year. Exchange rose uninterruptedly during the week from 12½ to 12½d.

**SANTOS, 15th May.**—This week the first new "Terreiro" was offered; although the new coffee contains a large percentage of unripe beans it is very well dried and shows, on the whole, satisfactory quality. The quantity is as yet small but by the end of the month we may see sufficient new coffee, considering the early stage of the season. Our market kept quiet and was occasionally even weak owing to the rise in exchange closing at 12½ to-day, term market keeping practically unchanged. Orders for *Superiors* were executed at from 26s. 9d. to 27s. 6d. *Good Average* 1/3 to 1/6 below. *Primes* were sold at 4\$200 to 4\$500; *Superiors* 300 réis below; *Goods* 500 to 600 réis below and *Regulars* at 3\$300 to 3\$400; *Low Coffees* from 2\$300 to 3\$000 showed a slightly better demand. *Peaberrys* continued slack at 4\$100 to 4\$300 for *Superior Peaberry*; *Old Yellow* is somewhat slower on former prices. *Washed* are very irregular attracting little attention. Receipts (83,000) *Passagens* (81,000) are increasing and the total for the month is likely to exceed 400,000 owing to new coffee coming in. Shipments are poor. Our stock this morning was 889,457. *Pauta* remains unchanged at 380 réis.

A correspondent of the *Correio Paulistano* describes the state of plantations in the Campinas district as magnificent. Shrubs planted one hundred years ago are still bearing. The type is almost exclusively "bourbon" and commands better prices than any other districts. The percentage of very low types is extremely small in this district where the prospect of 20 per cent. duty raised the greatest opposition. The plantations are well cared for and are in a better position, perhaps, than any other place, to face the crisis.

The Minas Agricultural Congress has recommended the imposition of differential duties for coffee exported from that state in addition to the current 9 per cent. on the following scale: 50 per cent. on unclassified (*escolha*); 30 per cent. on No 9, New York type and 12 per cent. on No 8; all above that to pay the current 9 per cent.

Messrs. Prado Chaves estimate the coming crop for Rio, Minas, and Espirito Santo at 3,000,000 bags. This seems to us very low as that figure will probably be exceeded by Rio and Minas alone. So far as we have been able to gather, the Rio and Minas crop will be about 75 per cent. of 1900-1901. In an article signed by Sr. Alberto Salles *O Estado de Sao Paulo* estimates the coming crop in that State at 9,000,000 bags, which is probably a maximum if half the reports of drought and frost are true.

## LIPTON (LIMITED).

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Wednesday June 3, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Sir T. Lipton presiding.—The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report, said he was pleased to say that, although they had had on the whole a continuance of unfavourable markets to contend with, he did not think the shareholders could feel other than gratified at the results shown in the report. The improvement which they naturally anticipated after the long spell of high prices which had been ruling for the past few years for the materials used in their manufactures, as well as for other goods dealt in by the company, had not been realised, and, in addition, they had had to face the keenest competition, which had frequently meant selling goods at a dead loss, and in some cases without a profit. They had not only been able to meet all forms of competition, as he expected they always would be able to do, but they had also obtained results from the trading which, he thought, they would regard as satisfactory. They would have been better pleased had the results been more favourable, and he could only hope that the time was not far distant when they would have a return to their former favourable trading conditions. The item of stock showed a decrease of 43,000l. as compared with last year, the directors believing that it was in the best interests of the company to keep the stock as low as possible in view of the unsatisfactory state of the markets. The trading profit for the past year, after deducting wages and working expenses, was 226,915l., which was several thousand pounds better than the previous year. The general expenses and expenses of management, including advertising, had increased by about 17,000l. Ample provision had



been made for depreciation, and the branches had been, in a great many instances, thoroughly overhauled; and improved at considerable expenses; all of which had been charged to revenue. With the amount brought forward—9,865*l.*—they had a balance of 164,814*l.* at their disposal. The interest on the debenture stock and the dividends on the preference shares absorbed 70,000*l.*, and an interim dividend had been paid on the ordinary shares amounting to 40,000*l.*, which left a balance of 54,814*l.* They now proposed to pay a further dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. for the past half-year, which would absorb 40,000*l.*; to place 10,000*l.* to the reserve account, and to carry forward 4,814*l.* As to

#### THE PROSPECTS OF THE BUSINESS,

in view of their experiences of the past few years the rôle of a prophet was not a very safe one to assume. All he could say was that it very greatly depended on the condition of the markets. If they went in the company's favour the directors were alert and ready to take the fullest advantage of every favourable opportunity which might present itself for the benefit of the business. At the same time, he thought they might reasonably hope that better times were in store for them. In any event, whether markets were favourable or unfavourable, their aim would be, as it always had been, to cater for the public wants in such a manner as to merit their custom and support. The fact that their turnover was a good deal better than last year showed that they had got the customers, and that they had been able, in face of all competition, to more than hold their own was the best proof that the business was on the right tack.

Mr. D. McDiarmid seconded the motion.

Mr. J. M. Goldie said he was surprised that the directors should say that they considered the results of the past year satisfactory. In the first year of the company's business the balance left for appropriation between reserve and dividend on the ordinary shares was 108,000*l.*, while last year the amount had dropped to 54,814*l.* He also considered that the expenses were unnecessarily high.

After further discussion the report was adopted.

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## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

In the discussion of the proposed change in the fiscal policy of Great Britain and its effect on the Colonies, very little mention has been made of India. In referring to the speeches on the subject last week in the House of Commons, Sir Charles Dilke pointed out that a striking omission was one that robbed the new policy of all claims to be considered as a truly Imperial one, and that was that the 300 millions of India were excluded. India paid her share of running the Empire, which was not done by other people, and they could not leave India out in any scheme of federal union. India and Ceylon tea planters will be anxious to learn, when Mr. Chamberlain's plan is revealed, how it will affect them, but doubtless they think, with many other people, that the new proposals are merely in the air, and may remain in that position.

On the subject of tea and its price the *Grocer* has the following: "As to the desirability of persuading consumers to use better tea there are no two opinions. For some years there has been such excellent value about in the medium and lower grades, and there has been so much pushing of those qualities by the multiple-shop companies, that the public have acquired a disposition to pay gradually less and less for their tea, and now that an advance has taken place the situation has been rendered awkward. Moreover, the advance threatens to be of a permanent kind. It is satisfactory to note that shilling tea has been abolished, and that 1*s.* 2*d.* is now the lowest price; but what good is it to a grocer or to anybody else to be retailing tea now at 1*s.* 2*d.*? Clean Indian or Ceylon tea cannot be bought on the London market for less than 6½*d.* or 6½*d.* On the top of that there is 6*d.* and ¼ per cent. duty; to many places over a farthing a pound carriage; retailed "full weight without the wrapper"; also the wholesaler's profit to be added. We know that some one-and-twopenny blends have been lowered by the use of common China tea bought on the market at about 3½*d.* per lb.; but such tinkering can only cause dissatisfaction to retail customers. Respecting the price alteration, is anything being done by the grocers' associations to acquaint the public with the fact that they must expect to pay more for their tea—that there is a short supply and an advance in the wholesale price? These facts might with advantage be advertised in local papers, as is sometimes done in regard to advances in sugar, and with good results. This is one of the ways by which grocers' associations can, and do, please the rank and file of their members, because an official announcement carries conviction to the public mind and enables tradesmen to obtain an advance with much less trouble than would otherwise be the case."

The methods of the firms who sell tea and offer pensions are receiving some attention just now from writers on financial topics. The *Financial Times*, referring to the pension system, says:—"If properly arranged the scheme would be useful, but it is beyond doubt that the present arrangement is wrong. Much more is being given to present beneficiaries than can possibly be continued, and the result will be that after, at the most, a few years the allowances will drop very far below the much smaller sum which might have been given all along if the rates had been based on actuarial principles instead of being made by rule-of-thumb, with a keen eye to the advertising value of the round half-sovereign weekly."

In order to give the coffee market a strong upward tendency, the Congress in Santos have passed a Bill by which 20 per cent. of the low qualities in the Santos receipts will be confiscated from and after July 1 next. This means that nearly one-fourth of the Santos supply is to be destroyed to save the producers, who are in financial perplexities, from ruin, since many of them find it increasingly difficult to obtain the necessary loans from the moneylenders, while others are abandoning such coffee estates as do not pay ordinary working expenses. By this law the Brazilian coffee planter will likewise have the option of retaining his coffee by paying a fine equal to about 15*s.* per cwt., so that he may, if he likes, take his chance of doing better by keeping the coffee, in the event of the market going up, instead of allowing it to be thrown away.

In the first bulletin issued by the Board of Trade from the Imperial Institute there are references to products recently received



from British Central Africa, including coffee, tea, tobacco, rubber fibres, beeswax, ginger, chillies, gum, cotton, and timbers. The coffee leaf-disease is as yet unknown in the Shire Highlands. Chillies grow freely and require little attention. In recent years chilli cultivation has been taken up by almost every planter in Nyassaland. Fibres from Sierra Leone and cohune nuts from British Honduras are dealt with, and there are articles on the chemical analysis of gutta percha as a guide in its cultivation and valuation, rubber cultivation in the Congou Free State, the cultivation of economic plants in Uganda, cassava as a source of starch and allied products, and the cultivation of aloe fibres.—*H. & C. Mail*, June 5th.

If at a first glance the large majority in the House of Commons against Mr. Chaplin's amendment in favour of a reduction of the tea duty as against the remission of the tax on corn seems to indicate that the case for the reduction of the duty on tea does not find much support in Parliament, further consideration of the subject will allay fears. The members who opposed Mr. Chaplin were more concerned with corn and the question of Free Trade than tea, and although there may be nothing to be hoped for under existing circumstances in the way of a reduction of duty, tea growers may console themselves with the knowledge that the question of the duty has cropped up prominently in connection with the whole economic position, and that the adverse majority recorded against Mr. Chaplin was really a protest against the corn duty, and was no indication of the feelings of the majority about tea.

On all sides it seems recognised that a reduction of the duty on tea was a reasonable expectation, and that the continuance of it at its present rate is unfair, both to the consumer and the grower. Whether Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal proposals are ultimately accepted by the country or not, the admissions made by politicians, irrespective of party, show that the tea duty question demands attention at the first opportunity. The ease with which the duty on tea can be gathered into the Treasury has no doubt assisted successive Chancellors of the Exchequer in keeping a blind eye to the claims of justice in this matter. Mr. Ritchie, by maintaining the present duty on tea and abandoning the new impost on corn, has defeated the purpose which the Government put forward as the justification of their policy last year.

There seems to be no real change in the methods of either the Chinese Government or the tea-grower in regard to the taxation, production, or treatment of tea. The report of the Statistical Secretary to the Chinese Maritime Customs on the foreign trade of China for the past year has now reached this country. The exports of tea were higher than in the previous year; but Mr. Taylor has great misgivings about the trade, for the Chinese will take no advice about the production and treatment of tea, and the taxation on it is still very high. Hence the quality has seriously declined. Mr. Taylor says that the three most important events of the year connected with trade were the negotiation of the Mackay Treaty, the revision of the import tariff, and the heavy fall in exchange. The new tariff has left the duties very much as before, because of the fall in exchange and the rise in silver prices during recent years. This fall also, which leads to higher currency prices for new imports, coupled with the uncertainty in the future movements of silver, naturally disturbs the import trade, and, by increasing the amount China has to pay to meet its gold obligations, has led to heavier internal taxation, and has thus tended to counteract the temporary advantage of low exchange to exports.

We notice that Mr. Chamney, lately an Assam planter, has presented a report to the Assam branch of the Tea Association on the prospects of tea in South Africa. It is pointed out that the tea-producing capacity, which is at present confined to Natal, is limited to an area of 3,000 acres, and the labour is imported from India at great expense. The import duty of 6d. per lb. protects the colonial tea. The balance of tea to South Africa comes from Ceylon, and there is very little from India. All duties except on tea are 2d. per lb. The present consumption of tea is small, and there is a clear field for exploitation. The selling price of tea is 2s. 6d. to 3s. per lb., and India could supply profitably, selling at 1s. 7d. per lb. and paying all expenses. He strongly recommends India exploiting South Africa.

In this connection it may be pointed out that the annual report of the Durban Chamber of Commerce for 1902 gives figures in excess of Mr. Chamney's estimate, although he mentioned that tea cultivation was extending. According to this report, owing to increased planting on several of the estates, the total acreage of tea plantations in Natal reaches now about 4,000 acres, of which about 3,700 acres will have been picked from during the current season 1902-1903. The manufacture will be about 1,600,000 lbs. weight. The shortage in rainfall will account for reduced output in all districts. The prospective yield for next season should, in consequence of a considerable portion of the acreage of the young tea planted three years ago coming into fuller yield, amount to 2,000,000 lbs. The demand is steadily increasing, and there is room for further development provided the necessary labour is obtainable.

In their fortnightly tea report, which we printed last week, Messrs. Lloyd, Matheson and Carritt showed that in the past ten seasons the consumption of India tea has grown from 48 to 54 per cent., and that of Ceylon tea from 30 to 35 per cent., while the figure for China tea has dropped from 21 to 9 per cent. Comparing the two seasons 1902-3 and 1901-2, the percentage of India tea has remained stationary at 54, but that of Ceylon has receded from 36 to 35 per cent., to the advantage of China, which has risen from 8 to 9 per cent. This is the first upward movement shown by the China product in ten years, though in the previous season the decline had been arrested. It is noticeable that imports of India tea record a shrinkage of 9 million lbs. for the season ended 31st ultimo, while the previous season itself exhibited a decrease of 15 million lbs. Meantime the deliveries for the three seasons have remained stationary at 150 million lbs. Owing to Budget influences the imports into this country for 1900-1 were exceptionally heavy, and the two following years suffer by comparison, but the consumption in America and elsewhere, with the exception of Australia, has increased largely in the period.

Speaking on the subject of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals last week, Sir J. B. Maple said: "A four-shilling duty on wheat would bring in nearly ten millions, and would mean only an increase in the price of the loaf of a farthing per day per working-man, or 1½d. a week. To counteract that increase in the price of the loaf he declared that something could be taken off sugar, and, perhaps, 6d. off tea. No working-man would grudge 1½d. a week more for bread for his family if he can get 3d. or, perhaps, 6d. off his tea. He was a Free Trader, but it must be Free Trade for everybody."

The British Consul-General at Odessa, referring to the tea annually sent from that port into Persia by way of Baku, gives the amount at 350,000 to 400,000 lbs. It is nearly all Chinese tea, and very little has been sent up to the present by the Persian Gulf steamers, but a large quantity is sent from Moscow by rail to Baku and so into Persia. The business is highly profitable to the merchants engaged in it, the tea being mostly of the poorest quality, while the exporters get the benefit of substantial bounties and heavily subsidised transport. But Indian tea is so superior that it would be sure to monopolise the Persian market if it found free and direct entrance overland from the country of its production. To prevent that, the Shah, under Russian influence, seeks to bar it out by heavy Customs dues; while the quarantine regulations are so vexatiously used against incoming caravans that the cost of transport from Quetta is seriously augmented.—*H. & C. Mail*.

#### ABOUT TEAS AND HOW TO JUDGE THEM.

Every dealer in tea should have an apparatus to draw his teas. The importers, jobbers, and wholesale grocers have copper kettles in which the water is boiled with the use of gas; also small tea scales and teacups made for the express purpose; these cups are rather expensive. Some of the country dealers, who have not the benefit of gas, use alcohol for boiling, using the ordinary teacup. By drawing teas in this way the buyer can soon become expert enough to recognize the flavour that pleases his customers.

In drawing teas one should be careful that the kettle is clean and the water fresh. Before putting the water on the leaf the water should come to a good boil. If put on when the water just commences to bubble the leaves will float on the surface.







Proposed by Mr. Congreve and seconded by Mr. Duncan that in the event of any dispute arising regarding local labour—the Maistry bringing up the coolies has the first claim on their services.

The question of a Liquor Tavern in the District being brought up, it was decided that this subject be left over to a future Meeting for discussion.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) O. A. BANNATINE,  
Chairman.

( „ ) G. A. MARSH,  
Honorary Secretary.

### CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

The following is from the report of the Executive Committee, for the year 1902-1903, to be laid before the fifteenth Annual General Meeting, on Monday, June 15, 1903.

The number of members on the roll is 159 as against 154 last year. The Association celebrated the King's Coronation by a dinner at the Hotel Cecil on June 23, at which the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, Governor of Ceylon and representative, on the occasion, of the Eastern Colonies, presided. A hundred guests attended, and as, on that evening, nothing had yet been made public in regard to the serious nature of His Majesty's illness, the proceedings were in no way marred by the subsequent postponement of the great ceremony. The Committee desires to express its deep sorrow at the sad accident which in January last befell Mr. Henry Bois, whose services to the Association, first as Vice-President, and for the last two years as President, have been so highly appreciated. Since his accident Mr. Bois has been unable to take an active part in the affairs of the Association, and, as it is likely to be many months yet before he can resume his duties, he desires to retire from office. The only death reported during the year amongst the members of the Association was that of Mr. M. P. Evans, a well-known importer of Ceylon tea. The duties of the Executive Committee have been very light. A record of all the more important business of the Association will be found in the report of the tea and produce Committee, which, together with the accounts for the year, are appended in this report.

#### REPORT OF THE TEA AND PRODUCE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1902-1903.

The Committee has held fourteen Meetings during the year. No further steps have been taken towards the formation of a Joint Indian and Ceylon Tea Growers' Association, as recommended last year by the Joint Special Committee of Indian and Ceylon representatives appointed to consider the matter. The question of damage to teas by fruit, etc., shipped by the same vessel, which was pending at the date of the last report, has since been settled by a compromise with the shipowners. In June last a proposal was submitted to the Committee at the instance of an influential Committee of Indian tea growers for the issue of a circular recommending Ceylon tea growers to stop the manufacture of tea from August 1 to 21 inclusive. The Committee agreed to the proposal provided that support to the extent of 75 per cent. of both Indian and Ceylon crops be obtained prior to the adoption of the scheme. But, on inquiry, it was found impossible to satisfy this condition in respect of Ceylon, and the proposal fell to the ground. It was pointed out, however, to the Indian Committee that Ceylon producers are doing everything possible to keep the supply of their tea within reasonable limits by developing new markets and by the manufacture of green teas. In September last attention was called by the Tea Buyers' Association to the action of the Tea Clearing House Committee in enforcing its rules against its subscribers, buyers and brokers, who had dealt with teas warehoused at Gun Wharf, a bonded warehouse outside the Clearing House. The Committee, while declining to interfere in the dispute, confirmed the view previously expressed that reform in the rules and constitution of the Tea Clearing House was urgently needed. The outcome of the Gun Wharf dispute was that on November 6 a Conference was summoned at the Dock House of representatives of all sections of the trade, at which Mr. H. Bois and Mr. R. A. Bosanquet represented Ceylon importers. Some little delay was caused by the absence on that day of representatives of the tea buyers, but at a subsequent Meeting of the Conference it was

announced that the obnoxious Rule 14 had been suspended, the tea buyers undertaking not to foster the opening of new bonded warehouses, and that the Tea Clearing House, as at present constituted, would at Midsummer cease to exist. A sub-Committee of the Conference, consisting of Mr. R. A. Bosanquet, Mr. J. Lecky, and Mr. V. H. Smith, was appointed on January 27 to draw up a scheme for a new Clearing House to come into force at Midsummer. The report of the sub-Committee, together with the proposed memorandum and articles of Association, was submitted to this Committee on April 20 and approved by the members present. In pursuance of a Resolution of the Committee a General Meeting of the Association was called for May 4, at which the proposals were adopted by a majority. The Indian Tea Association, at its Meeting on May 13, passed a Resolution approving of the proposal for the reconstitution of the Tea Clearing House, subject to an instruction that no provision be made for extending the scope of the institution beyond that connected with the handling and delivery of tea. The Committee has a high sense of the value of the services rendered by Mr. Bosanquet in his conduct of this prolonged negotiation. Owing to the sad accident that befell his colleague, Mr. Bois, the whole burden of the work was left upon him alone. In October last a proposal made by the Thirty Committee for the increase of the tea cess in Ceylon from 30 cents to 50 cents per 100 lb. came before the Committee in a letter from Mr. A. C. Kingsford, Chairman of the Planters' Association, the object of the proposal being to increase largely the funds available for the bonus on green teas. The Committee, on the initiative of Mr. H. K. Rutherford, suggested as an alternative that any amount required, in excess of the sum already allotted, for the bonus on green teas should be made a first charge on the cess of the following year. A circular was issued to those interested inviting an expression of opinion on the subject, and of the replies a large majority were found to be in favour of the Committee's suggestion. The Thirty Committee, however, considered the proposal inadvisable. In February a further proposal for the increase of the cess, set forth in a second letter from Mr. A. C. Kingsford, came before the Committee, the increase to be limited to the last eight months of the current year. The Committee, anxious to meet the views of the Thirty Committee, on this occasion reversed the previous decision, and in issuing a second circular recommended the increase of the cess for the eight months. Of the 117 replies received 59 proved to be in favour of the increase, 10 would have preferred that the extra sum required should be made a first charge on the cess of 1904, and the remaining 48 were against the increase. The matter has since been settled by the Ceylon Government agreeing, if necessary, to advance funds, on the security of next year's cess, to the limit of Rs.1,50,000, the bonus on green tea over and above the estimated 7,000,000 lbs. to be at the rate of 3 cents per lb. A memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer praying for the remission of 2d. from the tea duty, in which the Indian Tea Association joined, was presented in January last; and since the Budget was introduced a Resolution has been passed by the Committee in support of Mr. Chaplin's view that where the choice of remission of indirect taxation is confined to two articles, as stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the remission should certainly be upon tea rather than upon corn. Other matters that engaged the attention of the Committee were the French import duty on tea and other colonial produce, the absence of exhibits of tea machinery at South Kensington Museum, the Port of London Bill, the rates of insurance of tea factories using circular saws, and the limits of weight of tea packages as inserted in bills of lading from Colombo to Australia.

#### A TRUE STORY.

England is a long way off and fifty-three years is rather far in the past; still there are a few people among us able to recall what the old country was like in 1850, the year of the incident to be related.

At that time there lived in a detached cottage near an English cathedral city a very eccentric bachelor. He had formerly been wealthy; but having dissipated the greater part of his fortune, he went to the other extreme, and not only became a teetotaller but almost denied himself the necessities of life. For years he kept himself a prisoner in his cottage, his only companions being too ferocious bull dogs named Beer and Whisky.



Two tramps, who chanced to hear that this singular recluse was very well off, and that he was never without beer and whisky, resolved to rob him. Accordingly they one night broke into the lonely man's cottage, and immediately discovered that the Beer and Whisky therein were of quite different brands than they had expected to find. One of the tramps, fleeing in mad terror from the dogs, fell into a mill stream and was drowned. His companion, badly bitten, just managed to climb a tall fence; but fell over it and fractured his skull, so that he died the next day.

The incident caused much excitement at the time, and it had scarcely subsided when the local shopkeeper reported that the only answer he could obtain to his knocking was the growls of Beer and Whisky; whereupon the police broke into the cottage and discovered the old man dead. The inquest was remarkable for a dispute which it occasioned between two doctors. One maintained that death was the result of fright at the recent attempted robbery; the other, that deceased died from chronic indigestion brought about by improper diet and want of exercise, he not having been outside his cottage for eighteen years. The discussion was taken up by the giants of the medical profession, and ably debated, the conclusion reached being that indigestion is a disease arising from infinitely numerous causes, and itself productive of complaints hardly less numerous. But it was not then known (as it has been now for thirty-five years) that indigestion has one sure cure, viz., Seigel's Syrup.

Mr. H. C. Blackie, of Post Office Chambers, Auckland, N.Z., has not kept within his house for eighteen years. On the contrary, he is a traveller and knows the world well. Writing on 16th March, 1903, Mr. Blackie observes: "For years I was a martyr to indigestion and flatulence. Wind used to press on the valve of my heart to such an alarming degree that on two occasions I fainted on the platform when publicly speaking. Dietary and medicinal treatment failed utterly until, on the recommendation of a Professor at the working Men's College, Melbourne, I tried Mother Seigel's Syrup. By taking it regularly after each meal I very soon found relief, and have ever since been able to enjoy all foods without inconvenience. My cure was effected about four years ago, when I had consumed from six to eight bottles; but one bottle was sufficient to afford me relief. I have never ceased to praise the virtues of Seigel's Syrup in the Colonies I visit as commercial traveller, merely in gratitude for the great benefit derived from it—for I have no business connection whatever with its proprietors. What I now say is quite unsolicited. Certainly there is no other such potent and easy remedy for all forms of indigestion." Such is the testimony of an intelligent and experienced man. Of indigestion it may be said, as was said of fame, some inherit it, some achieve it, and some have it thrust upon them (as in the case of persons compelled to lead a sedentary life); but *all* may eradicate it by following the example of Mr. Blackie.

## MARKET REPORT.

### COFFEE.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon state in their Monthly Market Report dated Rotterdam, May 30th, 1903, says:—The month under review is devoid of interest, scarcely any alteration in values, whilst business was restricted within the narrowest limits.

The Trading Company's sale of May 5th only comprised 25,000 bags of which 9,000 bags good ordinary, selling at  $25\frac{1}{4}$  cts., as against  $26\frac{1}{2}$  cts., in the previous month. This new shrinkage caused a fair demand, which enabled holders to raise their limits to 26 cts.

Next Trading Company's sale will be held June 23rd.

First hand sales were quite insignificant and second hand dealings were equally unsatisfactory, chiefly consisting of better grades Santos Coffee at unchanged values.

Arrivals with us were small, both from Java and Santos, the latter amounting to 42,400 bags, against 70,000 bags deliveries. The stock is now 853,000 bags against 880,600 bags last month.

Afloat from Santos to Rotterdam direct:

31,000 bags per ss. <i>Markomania</i>	...	...	sailed May 4th.
20,000 " " " <i>Erlangen</i>	...	...	" " 20th.

51,000 bags,

against 66,500 " in 1902.

" 76,500 " " 1901.

" 13,000 " " 1900.

Loading ss. *Halle*.

Afloat from Java to Holland:

<i>Salak</i>	...	sailed April 22nd.	<i>Koning Willem I.</i>	sailed May 13th.
<i>Java</i>	...	" " 24th.	<i>Ardjoeno</i>	" " 20th.
<i>Kedirie</i>	...	May 6th.	<i>Soerabaya</i>	" " 22nd.
<i>Lawoe</i>	...	" 7th.	<i>Stassfurt</i>	" " 23rd.
<i>Memnon</i>	...	" 10th.	<i>Prinses Sophie</i>	" " 27th.

Loading ss. *Ambon, Soembawa, Rhipesus, Koningin Wilhelmina, Besoeiki and Merapi.*

Terme business was on a very moderate scale, owing to utter want of fluctuations, quotations being  $15\frac{1}{2}$  cts. per September,  $15\frac{7}{8}$  cts. per December,  $16\frac{1}{4}$  cts. per March and  $16\frac{1}{2}$  cts. per May. Dealings amounted to 25,500 bags or 385,000 bags since first January. May dealings 331,500 bags, tenders 78,000 bags.

In the speculative market the deadlock continues and also less avidity was shown by home trade.

We are nearing the close of another crop-year with the Brazils and all interests seems centered upon the coming crop. No fresh sensational news came to hand, although the Rio-zone production is said to be smaller this year as previously anticipated. Estimates for the Santos crop owing to the greatly extended area under cultivation, become more difficult, but taken into consideration

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that the present crop is unmistakably a very early one, receipts are proportionately small. The question, as to how low a price Coffee can be produced, has not resolved itself yet, and as consumption has not kept pace with production, it is only natural that a feeling of caution impresses itself on trade, more so as consuming countries owing to heavy stocks, are practically independent of the Brazils.

European stocks were only 50 tons less at the end of April, whereas the visible supply again decreased 5,220 tons.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated June 12th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	28,222	26,248	2,481
1902-1903 ... ..	44,722	59,940	4,751

28,222 pkgs. INDIAN  
26,248 " CEYLON  
2,481 " JAVA

Total 56,951 packages were offered in public auction this week.

The heavy clearances of last month were sufficient to bring the total deliveries for the season up to within a fraction of a year ago, at which time *duty-paid* stocks were exceedingly heavy, whereas at present there is no doubt they are unusually light.

The total deliveries for the last three years afford no indication of the actual progress of the Trade, owing to the large quantities taken out of bond in anticipation of the Budget in the two earlier years; but if we go back to the time before the commencement of the war, *viz.*, to the season ending May, 1899, we see that the delivery was only 266 million lbs., while figures for the season just closed were doubtless unfavourably affected by the possibility of reduced taxation.

INDIAN.—The market opened with rates about up to those ruling before Whitsuntide with a generally steady demand, especially for medium and better liquoring teas, the only weakness being noticeable in commonest grades. An invoice of 79 packages New Season's Tea from "Chubwa" realised 8½d. per lb. Exports to U. K. second half of May 1,645,000 lbs., against 2,229,000 lbs. From 1st

April 2,452,000 lbs., against 3,390,000 lbs. in 1902. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Beheading," 1/3¼; "Amal. T E Co. Latt.," "Con T & L Powai" & "Digultarung," 11¼d.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Account Season 1902-3, 23,380 pkgs., av. 7-92d 1901-2, 11,690 pkgs., av. 6-85d.

Tea sold on Garden Account 1st June to date 1902-3, 1,231,446 pkgs., av. 7-50d. 1901-2, 1,319,194 pkgs., av. 7-63d.

CEYLON.—With a good general demand rates current before the holidays were well maintained, finer teas showing a tendency towards improved prices. Exports to U. K. May 10,250,000 lbs., against 9,750,000 lbs. From 1st January 41,750,000 lbs., against 44,500,000 lbs. last year. Estimate for June 11 to 11½ million, against 13,000,000 lbs. shipped June, 1902. 35,541 packages are advertised for sale next week. The following averages may be mentioned:—"Portmore T Co.," 1/0¼; "Carolina T Co. Goatfell," 11¼d.; "Talawakelle T Co.," 11¼d.; and "Dimbula V T Co. Tillicoultry," 11d.

Average for week 7-60d, against 6-63d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 429,054 pkgs., av. 7-66d. 1902, 499,874 pkgs., av. 6-94d.

JAVA.—Javas sold with good competition at rates a trifle below those ruling a fortnight ago.

### CINCHONA.

The quantity offered at the monthly auction on Tuesday was exceptionally small, the six catalogues comprising 771 packages only. There was a good demand, and the bulk was disposed of at rather easier rates compared with the previous London auction, the average unit being fully 1½d for the manufacturing-bark against 1½d. Most of the druggists' bark was sold at high prices, being exceedingly rich in cinchonidine.

The following table shows the quantity of bark offered and sold:

	Offered.	Sold.
East Indian cinchona ... ..	211	168
Ceylon cinchona ... ..	169	104
South American cinchona ... ..	391	391
	771	663

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA; GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/11 & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



The following approximate quantities represent the purchases of bark by the principal buyers:—

	Lbs.
Messrs. Howards & Sons	25,300
The Brunswick factory	14,650
The American and Italian factories	10,580
The Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories	5,700
Druggists, Brokers, etc.	19,450
Total quantity sold	75,680
Bought in or withdrawn	20,120
Total quantity offered	95,800

The following prices were paid:

**SOUTH AMERICAN.**—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya,  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d to 8d; and broken,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $5\frac{1}{4}$ d.

**CEYLON.**—Succirubra, renewed bright chips,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d; 26 cases red silvery druggists' quill,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**EAST INDIAN.**—Succirubra, branch,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d; chips,  $1\frac{7}{8}$ d to 2d; root,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d; good,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. Crown, chips,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d; shavings,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d; renewed,  $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. Hybrid and Ledger, siftings, 2d; branch,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d; chips,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $3\frac{5}{8}$ d; root,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to 5d; and renewed,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d to  $4\frac{7}{8}$ d per lb.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on June 18 will constitute a record, the quantity to be offered—viz., 10,890 bales and 556 cases—being the largest ever offered at a single auction. The total weight of the bark is 996,509 kilos, containing 47,403 kilos. sulphate of quinine (1,659,000 oz.). The manufacturing-bark contains an average of 5.20 per cent. quinine sulphate, against 5.42 per cent. for the May auction, and an average of 5.51 per cent. for the ten auctions of 1902. In the London drug-auction 10 cases long thin Calisaya quill were limited at 1s per lb.

## QUININE.

After the close of our last report a steadier feeling prevailed, the week closing with small sales for December at  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d per oz., and sellers for spot at  $10\frac{7}{8}$ d for good German sulphate in bulk. This week the market has been unchanged with a continued quiet tone, and not until after the Amsterdam sale next week (when forty-seven tons of quinine in bark form will be offered) is any development looked for. A small sale of December delivery has been made at 11d.

## CARDAMOMS.

A moderate supply was offered, over two-thirds of which were sold at an irregular decline of about 2d per lb. below valuations on medium and lower grades, while the finer qualities were about steady. The following prices were paid: Ceylon-Mysore, extra bold good pale, 2s 3d to 2s 5d; good medium and bold pale, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; bold medium pale, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; medium yellowish, 11d; small and medium pale, 1s to 1s 2d; small round dull,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ d; peas, 9d to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d; brown and split,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d to 10d, and small splits, 9d. Seed sold at from 1s to 1s 2d per lb.

## VANILLA.

At auction on Friday, June 5, the important supply of 846 tins was offered, and with a slow demand over 600 tins were sold at a decline of 2s per lb. for good long, 1s. for short, and 1s. for Brown and foxy beans. Good to fine chocolate Seychelles and Mauritius,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, sold at from 15s to 23s,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches 7s to 14s,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches 5s 6d to 7s 6d, fair 7 to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches 9s to 16s 6d,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches 8s to 10s. 4 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches 5s. to 8s 6d, ordinary foxy short 4s 9d to 5s 3d, medium 5s to 6s 3d, common and split 3s 9d to 7s, per lb.

MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING MAY FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

		IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	...	1,237,782	974,935	583,805	15,115,449	9,033,499	6,378,080
Ceylon	...	8,556,729	8,074,931	8,475,736	8,898,156	7,023,208	6,494,554
Java	...	1,033,970	565,740	343,210	878,010	431,340	328,510
China, etc.	...	506,298	177,884	115,993	2,704,471	1,679,222	1,369,788
Total lbs.	...	11,334,779	9,793,490	9,518,744	27,596,086	18,167,269	14,570,932

FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF MAY.

		IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.		
		1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	...	146,734,670	155,757,498	161,945,205	149,940,975	150,490,003	150,074,398	40,950,765	44,157,070	38,889,575
Ceylon	...	95,974,024	97,916,545	111,213,383	97,016,395	101,355,798	110,719,670	21,261,933	22,304,304	25,743,557
Java	...	6,343,120	6,158,390	4,978,610	6,322,470	6,059,130	4,763,850	1,341,270	1,320,620	1,221,360
China, etc.	...	22,359,738	24,749,780	22,574,864	25,532,561	21,614,354	23,863,154	11,080,418	14,253,241	11,117,815
Total lbs.	...	271,411,552	284,582,213	300,712,062	278,812,401	279,519,285	289,421,072	74,634,386	82,035,235	76,972,307

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.92d., JUNE 12TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	1376	6.89												
Carady Goody	129 p	6.4	34 p	6.4 + 6.4	26	6.4	31	7.4	20	6.4			18.4 c	5.4 6.4
Fairfield	83 p	6.4	10	7	42	6.4	19	7.4					6.4 c	5.4
Glenmary	119 p	6.4	45	+ 6.4			29	7.4	20	+ 6.4				5.4
Kan. Dev. H C S	510 p	7	171 p	+ 7 8.4	138	+ 6.4	88	7.4	72	6.4			25 p	5.4 6.4
Ladrum	143	6.4	31	6.4	65	6.4	16	7.4	14	6.4			4.4 c	5.4 6.4
Penshurst	44	6.4	11	+ 7	29	6.4	4	7					17	6.4
T T E Co Bon Ami	110	7	45	7 7.4	35	6.4	20	7						
Mount	123 p	6.4	8	7.4	26	6.4	30	7	9	6.4	10	6.4		
Vembenard	115	7	41	7.4	57	6.4					6	6.4	44 p	5.4 6.4
													17	7.4

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. 4c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1903.

[No. 27.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 17th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 8th July—*Weather*

—The monsoon is still continuing extraordinarily light. There was a small increase of rain yesterday. The paddy fields are very dry and the ryots are crying out. Coffee is looking well. Removing and burning borer is still in hand. Most places have been gone over once. *Labour*—Canarese have not been coming in. We are getting along with mostly Coast coolies. *General health*—Good. Every effort is being made to stamp out plague in Veerajapett.

#### Kotagiri.

9th July.—*Weather*—Very showery, with an extraordinary amount of thunder

for a monsoon. Rainfall for past week 2.60 inches, of which nearly 2 inches fell within one hour on the evening of the 7th instant. *Work*—Planting out supplies in full swing and weeding. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Plentiful. There is a far greater influx of natives into Kotagiri than is pleasant, all coming from Ootacamund to escape the plague there which seems to be steadily increasing.

### THE ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION, 1904.

IN previous articles we have given some details of the arrangements proposed in regard to the St. Louis Purchase Exposition of 1904. We have urged the desirability of having Indian Coffee represented thereat. That Indian Tea will be represented, is a foregone conclusion. In respect to Coffee, however, there is a feeling of hesitancy or diffidence manifest in some quarters. The belief is widely prevalent that there are other producing centres of mild coffees that are, geographically and commercially, more conveniently situated than India is with respect to American markets. That this is a fact, there is no gainsaying. When, however, we investigate the position more closely we find that these

favourably situated countries do not in reality dump the bulk of their supplies down on the United States. They ship large quantities to England, thus weakening prices there. On the other hand, Java, which has no advantages that India does not possess, supplies considerable quantities of mild coffees to the States, where they are sold as 'East Indian' and command comparatively good prices. One result of this appears to be that there is a belief among many dealers in America that 'East India' Coffee possesses a very distinctive flavour, and that the taste for it must be acquired. Of British Indian Coffee we know that there is no flavour of such a peculiar kind as to involve the necessity for an acquired taste relative to the infusion "in the cup." We know that it is a very fine Coffee. The best sorts are delicate yet full-flavoured; and the palate accustomed to the roughest of Brazil descriptions would probably turn with relief to the enjoyment of first-class Mysore and Coorg coffees. The question is, whether the producer of genuine East Indian Coffees will take the trouble to bring his coffees under the notice of the Americans, and will then throw out a small sprat or two in the hope of catching, not the mackerel, but the leviathan whole of coffee consumers.

There are many among our readers who cannot fail to remember the time when it was urged that Ceylon and Indian teas could find no market in the States. Why? For identically the same reason: the American palate was not accustomed to the distinctive flavour of these teas. Were they available at lower prices than China or Japan leaf? Certainly not. Yet, on their merits, they have forced a way into the American markets. Perhaps the wedge has not been driven far in up to the present time, but it is being hammered home. What Indian Tea can do, Indian Coffee should have hopes of doing. We do not for a moment suggest that an attempt should be made to compete with Brazil Coffees on level terms. What we do urge is that, with Coffee, as with Tea, planters should try to find room "on top" in the United States, and that by doing this they should strive to reduce the volume of offerings on European markets. For years past we have heard much of the propagation of the gospel of Tea, as opposed to that of Coffee; of the promulgation of a belief in good tea as against an idea that anything that is called "tea" and will give an infusion when left in boiling water for a few minutes. Is it not time that another propaganda should be preached: that of really delicious, refreshing, invigorating



Coffee as against sorts that might almost be guaranteed "to kill at 100 yards?"

Working in with the Indian Tea Association, the coffee industry of Southern India might secure adequate representatives at St. Louis with a minimum of outlay. Properly pushed on an occasion such as this, Indian Coffee ought to be able to establish its superiority over other descriptions, and to place itself in a position to demand and to obtain a fair price. It is well known that in the tea markets of the world there is, the year round, a demand for teas "for price." So it must always be with Coffee also. There is, however, always another demand, that for *quality*; and we are firm believers in the doctrine that, in the long run, quality will pay the best. This it is that we urge upon coffee-planters in Southern India. They should endeavour, by reasonable means and at reasonable cost, to procure for a fair proportion of the pick of their crops a market in the greatest coffee-consuming country in the world. They should not regard this as hopeless, until they have at least made a vigorous and sustained attack upon that country. Tea-men have shown what *can* be done; and though Coffee-men in India are unfortunately not so favourably placed, financially, as tea-planters, they have this knowledge to urge them forward; the knowledge that they must either open up new markets or, as coffee-planters, die. It is, or should be, a great incentive to effort. We do not for a moment believe that coffee-planters in this country are yet prepared to band themselves together and march part, chanting the old, sad exclamation of the gladiators to CÆSAR—"morituri te salutant." In CÆSAR'S days, as now, some were doomed to die but not all, and we would fain picture to ourselves our coffee-planters as among the hopeful, uttering such words, if at all, more as a sort of charm or as a matter of traditional usage than as a belief. This much is certain, however; they must fight to the very best of their ability or be content to die. We urge them to fight, to fight the Americans, and to fight them at St. Louis next year.

### BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

MAY 1903.

**Cocoa (Raw).**—Duty-paid entries in the United Kingdom for the past month were much heavier than in 1902, but those up to date appeared very short, and the stock in bond largely preponderated over that of a twelve month back.

In the first five months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... lbs.	27,769,074	29,403,054	25,605,366
Home consumption .. "	19,591,058	25,874,910	21,613,890
Exports ... "	4,842,920	6,295,296	4,812,091
Stocks in bond ... "	13,792,000	9,433,000	16,103,000
Value of imports ...	£790,492	£868,368	£762,165
Do. exports ...	147,804	175,667	152,467

**Cocoa (prepared).**—Figures for the month were very satisfactory.

In the first five months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... lbs.	4,523,494	3,560,909	3,622,017
Home consumption... "	4,156,901	3,367,814	3,445,945
Exports ... "	178,390	295,083	402,889
Stocks in bond ... "	261,000	105,000	101,000
Value of imports ...	£439,015	£363,398	£366,572
Do. exports ...	20,932	31,361	43,396

**Coffee.**—Landings were lighter than in May, 1902, but, though the shipments from hence were larger, the bonded stock was as cumbersome as ever.

In the first five months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... cwts.	754,808	543,688	658,537
Home consumption. "	119,782	147,364	152,025
Exports ... "	271,650	125,500	272,571
Stocks in bond ... "	885,000	515,000	518,000
Value of imports ...	£2,203,014	£1,637,214	£2,174,593
Do. exports ...	692,450	380,294	819,029

**Chicory.**—The position generally shows some improvement.

In the first five months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ... cwts.	37,759	42,449	48,452
Home consumption. "	33,461	37,987	38,988
Exports ... "	89	194	428
Stocks in bond ... "	8,006	9,000	19,000
Value of imports ...	£17,081	£18,852	£22,419
Do. exports ...	112	185	439

**Tea.**—Arrivals were only of average extent, and, with a sudden and wide expansion in the clearances, the stock in bond went down rapidly by the 31st ultimo.

In the first five months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China ... lbs	3,966,818	4,507,578	3,082,534
Do. British East India .. "	35,383,011	42,421,977	45,567,485
Do. Ceylon ... "	40,206,869	45,970,270	48,137,780
Do. Other countries... "	9,848,126	6,736,302	4,316,485
Total imports ... "	89,404,824	99,636,127	101,104,284
Home consumption—China. lbs.	6,415,450	5,684,650	4,945,983
Do. do. B. E. I. "	62,072,816	68,429,713	76,440,771
Do. do. Ceylon .. "	30,542,319	34,722,375	40,489,480
Do. do. O. C. "	4,261,343	4,019,189	2,507,190
Total ... "	103,291,928	112,855,927	123,933,424
Exports—China ... lbs.	4,476,193	4,368,365	4,897,146
Do. British East India .. "	4,176,279	5,702,878	6,201,212
Do. Ceylon ... "	6,573,028	6,576,374	7,319,398
Do. Other countries ... "	534,572	427,377	647,186
Total ... "	15,760,072	17,074,994	19,064,942
Stocks in bond ... lbs.	77,502,000	83,983,000	78,971,000
Value of imports ...	£2,791,891	£3,157,009	£3,186,467
Of which British Indian ...	1,116,813	1,414,045	1,451,229
Do. Ceylon ...	1,259,016	1,420,241	1,504,146
Value of exports ...	689,490	706,056	735,572

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### The Planters' Labour Bill.

A Madras G. O. dated 26th ultimo says:—"The District Magistrates of Malabar, the Nilgiris, South Canara, Salem, Madura, Coimbatore, Tinnevely and Vizagapatam will be requested to report, after making such enquiries, and consulting such local bodies and persons interested in the matter as they may deem necessary, whether it is desirable that the provisions of the Madras Planters' Labour Act, 1903, should be brought into force in any areas within their respective districts. Should a District Magistrate recommend the extension of the Act to any area in his district, he should state whether he considers that a notification should be issued



under section 3 (1) (b) of the Act specifying any products other than tea, coffee, pepper, cardamom, or cinchona, the production of which on land will constitute it an estate within the meaning of that clause. He should also submit the necessary draft notifications for the extension of the provisions of the Act as well as proposals regarding the forms and rules which may appropriately be framed under section 42 of the Act."

#### A MEMORIAL TO GOVERNMENT.

The following Memorial to the Madras Government is now being signed by planters on the Nilgiris:—

We, the undersigned planters beg to protest against the extension of this new Labour Act at present to the Nilgiri District for the following reasons:—

We do not require it, and will, at present in no way be benefited by it, as we have no difficulty in obtaining labour in this district, or in recovering any advances given to the maistries. Some of us have been planters for 40 years and have never required a Labour Act. Our coolies have been well looked after and when necessary are sent to the local hospital, and the same coolies return year by year to the same estates.

From this it will be seen that we will derive no *quid pro quo* by the extension of the Act to the Nilgiris.

The great drawback to this Act is that of Government interference, and the loss that will have to be sustained by the planters thereby, and it opens the door to constant worry by the Government inspection.

In these hard times the planter has to consider every rupee that is expended, and how then can he afford to build pukka lines hospitals, etc., besides medical attendance and other expenses necessary for the working of the new Labour Act?

Another great drawback is that everything appears to be left in the hands of the Local Native Magistrate, who is ignorant of the working of an estate.

We all know how timid natives are, and to require coolies and maistries to sign all contracts in the presence of a Magistrate will not only interfere with our present labour-supply, but drive many coolies from these Hills.

For these and many other reasons it appears to us that the Nilgiris is the last district to which this Act should be extended. Let the Act be tried elsewhere where it is required, and only extended to these Hills when found to be absolutely necessary.

We most firmly protest against the extension of this Labour Act at present to the Nilgiri District.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in Roumania.**—Mr. Vice-Consul Dundas reports that imports of Coffee into Roumania from the United Kingdom were as follows:—

	£
1897	13,413
1898	8,136
1899	7,840
1900	6,713
1901	4,980

Commenting on trade in 1901 he remarks that imports come mostly from Genoa, Hamburg, and Trieste, *already coloured and polished, etc.* The italics are, of course, ours.

**Quality of New Crop Rio.**—Norton, Megaw & Co., Rio say of the Rio coffee crop: "New crop coffees, both washed and ordinary, have been arriving freely of late, confirming the anticipations of a very early Rio crop. Both kinds show a small bean and the ordinary coffees average of very low grade, the bulk being between Nos. 8 and 9 New York Exchange standards. While we think it is still early to form a definite opinion as to the coming crop, the quality of these entries has led to ideas as to quantity of the 1903-04 crop being reduced, and we think that consuming centres

must take into consideration the possibility that it will be deficient in weight and of low average grade."

Karl Krische & Co., Rio, estimate the receipts of coffee at Rio during June at 200,000 to 250,000 bags and at Santos 400,000 to 450,000 bags, or a total of 600,000 to 700,000 bags.

**Sao Paulo Legislation.**—"Bill will not be enforced," is the cable message received in New York from Naumann, Gepp & Co., Brazil, referring to the recent Sao Paulo legislation restricting the export of Santos coffee.

There is an impression abroad that Lewisohns are trying to get out of coffee, though of course they deny it themselves. I do not think that, with the enormous visible supply and the wholesale and retail trade both fully supplied, and an immense crop looming in the immediate future, there is much room for optimism, or that Lewisohns or anyone else will be inclined to load up any further. The only point in favour of highest prices seems to me to lie in the possibility of labour running short of the plantations, as, at present prices, there can scarcely be enough to pay for picking. Straws show which way the wind blows, and the arrival here of some 170 Italian *Colonos* by the ss. *Byron* seems to indicate that such emigration has already commenced. Indeed, I believe that it would have begun last year but for Lewisohns being in the market and keeping prices up. There are now no "shorts," as the market is too low; and no "bulls," because of the tremendous supply. There is, however, an opinion in some circles that prices will improve in about three or four months, but I don't know on what it may be founded, as at present I can see no reason whatever for a rise.—American Paper.

**Coffee in London.**—Although there has been no pressure to sell from Brazil, and no new feature as regards crops, yet says the *Produce Markets' Review* of June 13, there has been a steady and continuous fall in all the different terminal markets, and business has been done at 9d. under the previous lowest record. Apparently the fall has been brought about by speculators who have held options for a long period and at last have determined to close their accounts. Should this be the case there is every reason to expect a recovery, as the deliveries evidently point to a consumption having been reached of 11 million bags of Brazil in the year, a total only slightly less than this year's production, and rather more than is looked for in the coming one. In the auctions, values of common descriptions have been correspondingly depressed, and lower rates had to be accepted for Colombian, which has been arriving in large quantities of late, while foxy green Nicaragua has been sold at a decline of fully 3s. from a month ago. These coffees have, however, little influence upon home trade descriptions, and values for such have been fully maintained.

**Nicaragua Coffee.**—Consul Chester Donaldson writes from Managua:—"The present crop is very small, and will probably be less than 100,000 centals (10,000,000 pounds)—about half the average yield; and although for several years past coffee planting has not been profitable in this country, and many of the principal planters have been forced into



bankruptcy, there seems to be no decrease in the acreage devoted to this industry and everyone expects better times.

The market value of coffee to-day in this city is from 40 to 60 pesos paper currency, or about \$7 to \$10 gold, per cental 100 pounds). The crop in the Departments of Jinotega and Matagalpa—where the finest grades are produced owing to the salubrious climate and the rich, moist soil—has, for the first time in many years, been a sad disappointment to the energetic planters (mostly Americans) who have settled there.

\* \* \*

The coffee crop of Guatemala is again reported ruined by the volcanic demonstrations in that country, and this time the shortage is reported as 25,000,000 pounds. We are thus reminded of a similar occurrence nearly one year ago with as fearsome reports regarding the extent of the damage to the coffee, all of which turned out to be much exaggerated. Guatemala is a country difficult to judge in the matter of coffee growing. When the disaster reported last year became known, one large San Francisco house sent a special and competent representative down there to report, and such was the character of his advice that the house was warranted in conceiving a great shortage in the coffee, and it proceeded to buy all that was in sight in and out of Guatemala. It seemed a corner was in sight, but lo! presently every nook and crevice in Guatemala yielded up its mite and the whole when gathered in put to flight the visible shortage and there was gnashing of teeth. It thereupon follows that Guatemalan coffee reports are not to be accepted until all the returns are in.

\* \* \*

From Brazil now comes the report that the Sao Paulo law restricting the export of coffee by twenty per cent. will not be enforced. This is to be regretted for the sake of seeing just what would have happened. There were not a few who had faith in the law if conscientiously executed. One of these, basing his remarks on such an assumption, goes on to say the following of interest here:

"The big roasters in the States and Europe who more and more monopolize the market will have to change their method of working. They will be obliged to roast a better quality and sell it at a higher price lowering the price margins between the goods for wholesale consumption, which they alone can produce, and the small roaster who caters for the middle and better classes. As a consequence the grocers will have to bring down their prices, as otherwise the big roasters would with their better goods take their clients too. In a roasting concern where thousands of bags are wasted daily, an admixture and a large one sometimes, as the analyses you published sometime ago of very low grades showed, can be made without materially altering appearance to an unexperienced eye. This will be done away with when the exportation of all low grades is prohibited."

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**Coffee Shrinkage.**—All the coffee prophets were shamed last week, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 9th ultimo, when the complete figures of the world's visible supply of coffee on June 1 were found to be 11,856,843 bags, which was a shrinkage of 391,135 bags since May 1, when the visible supply was 12,248,978 bags. As the deliveries everywhere during May had seemed less than normal, little if any change in the June figures was expected, but the reduction of practically 400,000 bags is substantial, and were not the supply as it is so great, there might have been occasion for felicitations. Still for this *multum in parvo* the trade is duly grateful.

The explanation for the decrease is found in the correction of the count of the stock of coffee at Hamburg, which fell 97,000 bags below expectations, fulsome deliveries and in the small arrivals of mild coffee in Europe of 231,000 bags. Where the coffee in Hamburg has gone to is a question. The surmise is that it has been shipped to France, where rumours are current of an increase in duties on coffee from 136 francs to 156 francs per 100 kilos. Such a duty

would stimulate a demand for spot coffee, providing against the duty, and may be the coffee that has disappeared is serving this end. Havre, too, unexpectedly showed a decrease in stock of 50,000 bags, whereas an increase had been looked for.

#### THINGS A YEAR AGO.

The world's visible supply is now nearly 500,000 bags within the supply noticed one year ago. It would seem probable that there will be a further shrinkage during June, and if so the new coffee year beginning July 1 will start on practically even terms with the year now about to close. This circumstance is not especially a happy one, but at all events the darkness is not much blacker than it was one year ago at this time.

Deliveries or consumption during May were 1,310,000 bags, which again was not looked for so extensively as they prove, and they show that the world will have taken care of all the coffee that was grown in the present coffee year.

The Brazil product during the year will at least reach 12,000,000 bags, as was predicted by trustworthy observers. The movement during May was 614,000 bags, fairly full but according to expectations. The receipts to June 1 were 11,697,000 bags.

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**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The market rules quiet in coffee and at slightly easier values in the lower Brazil grades, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 9th ultimo. As noted elsewhere the shrinkage in the world's visible supply is nearly 400,000 bags which was not looked for, but there has been no improvement in values and tone on that account. The inclination is to see what Brazil will do in marketing the crop now grown.

From Brazil firm offers include Rio No. 7, 4½c., c. and f., shipment by. In the spot market for invoices Rio No. 7 registered a new mark in 5 1/16c. Other quotations are 4 1/16c. for Rio No. 8, 5½ to 5¾c. for Rio No. 4, and 5½ to 6c. for Santos No. 4.

The future market is flat on absence of the speculative interests. Prices tend to sag. June hovers around 3.70 and September 3.90.

In milds arrivals continue heavy, more than immediate requirements, and prices are therefore easier. Good roasting and drinking coffees are scarce, and whether Brazil or otherwise command stiff prices. Good Cuxta is from 8¼ to 8½c. East India growths are weaker.

Total stock in United States June 1, 2,585,938 bags against 2,300,387 bags June 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States June 6, in store and afloat, 2,357,277 bags against 2,491,008 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 370,075 bags, against 331,192 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York June 6, 2,002,000. Stock in New York in other coffees June 1, 269,743, in San Francisco, 93,043 bags, and in New Orleans, 7,289 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, June 1, 11,856,843 bags.

#### TEA NOTES.

**Natal Tea.**—Natal is one of the colonies which, with a little encouragement, might become a useful contributor to the Empire's tea and sugar supplies, just as the Cape might help out our wine and fruit, the Orange Colony our grain, and the Transvaal our tobacco and many other "lines." The annual report of the Durban Chamber of Commerce for 1902 states, with regard to tea cultivation in Natal, that, owing to increased planting on several of the estates, the total acreage of tea plantations reaches now about 4,000 acres, of which about 3,700 acres will have been picked from during the current season, 1902-1903. The manufacture will be about 1,600,000 lbs. weight. The shortage in rainfall will account for reduced output in all districts. The prospective yield for next season should, in consequence of a considerable portion of the acreage of the young tea planted three years ago coming into fuller yield, amount to 2,000,000 lbs. The demand is steadily increasing, and there is room for further development provided the necessary labour is obtainable.

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**Tea in London.**—INDIAN TEA.—The market opened with a distinctly better feeling, the bidding was more animated,



and importers were able to, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 13th ultimo, dispose of a larger proportion of their offerings. The demand was mainly concentrated on the good medium and finer descriptions, and an improving business was transacted. Prices have shown a steady to firmer tendency which is likely to be well maintained, as most of the Assam gardens have disposed of the balance of the past season's crop, and during the next few weeks there is every probability of materially diminished supplies, and a less useful selection. For the common teas the easier rates recently established continue, and a fair quantity is to be obtained from 6d. to 6½d., which shows a decline from the highest point of a ¼d. At the public sales held in Calcutta on the 5th instant 8,000 packages were offered and met with an active demand at prices fully up to those in the preceding sale, the finer qualities fetching very firm rates. Shipments for the United Kingdom for the second half of May were 1,645,000 lbs. against 2,229,000 lbs. in 1902, while those for the past two months were 940,000 lbs. smaller. The reports generally do not speak favourably of the prospects of the coming crop; with the exception of two or three districts, the pluckings fall short of last year. The public sales on this side for next week will comprise about 22,000 packages, or 6,000 smaller than the last.

**CEYLON TEAS.**—This market opened after the Whitsun recess with a good demand, and the auctions on Tuesday passed off at about previous rates. Teas for "price" showed no change, 6½d. still being practically the lowest quotation, although some inferior grades of Colombo-bought Teas caused a few lower quotations. Medium Broken Pekoes continue to show the same good value, but more attention is beginning to be paid to them, as in some instances these kinds, more particularly from 7½d. to 9d., marked a fractional advance. Most of the finer sorts now arriving are of poor appearance, and Teas with a well made tippy leaf are difficult to obtain. At the public sales 26,200 packages were brought forward, of which about 3,500 were withdrawn.

**CONGOU TEA.**—At the public auctions held on Wednesday some 1,189 packages were offered, consisting almost entirely of the lower grades, which sold at steady rates. This class of Tea is now freely used by the blenders for their cheap blends, and consequently a considerable business has been done. Owing to the nearness of the arrival of the new season's crop very little has been done in the finer grades.

**OTHER CHINA TEAS.**—The demand for Green Tea continues quiet, and only a limited business is reported. At Thursday's public auctions Gunpowders showed a slightly easier tendency, but the Teas offered were, in most instances, of poor quality. Scented and Fancy Teas remain unchanged. The following are the figures for the week:—922 packages of Green Tea were brought forward, of which 135 were withdrawn, and about 100 packages of Fancy Tea were offered for public auction.

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**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—The general average of the tea sales on the 26th ultimo was six annas.

For the sale on 3rd instant 15,300 packages were catalogued. Assams and Darjeelings are in poor supply; but are of good quality. Among Dooars there is nothing of quality, it being the usual monsoon tea. Cachars and Sylhets show moderate quality. A few green tea invoices from Kumaun are good;

and the remainder of the green teas are average. There was a slightly stronger feeling amongst buyers at sale on the 3rd instant and previous prices were more than fully maintained. One striking feature of the sale was the manner in which indifferent and "weathery" Dooars kinds were avoided, with a fall in prices as a result. Sellers apparently were not disposed to accept the lower rates, due entirely to the inferior value offered, and many Dooars marks were withdrawn. The soundness of this policy remains to be seen, as the teas are almost certain to be outclassed when they come up for sale again later on. Assam teas were in keen request yesterday, and buyers were paying higher prices to secure their requirements. Darjeeling and Cachar marks also attracted considerable attention, "stand out" invoices commanding prices slightly dearer than those which ruled last week when compared mark for mark. Bombay buyers were very much in evidence, and they secured a fair portion of the sale, the bidding from this quarter was spirited and all suitable Pekoes were readily taken, a slight advance in values being marked. The Colonial and other markets so appeared to be operating freely, while is rumoured that a fair portion of yesterday's sale will be diverted to London.

Green teas were not in very keen demand, but when quality was of the right description some fair prices were paid. The position in London is without change, and the market there continues to rule generally steady. A contemporary yesterday published a special cable from London to the effect that buyers in Mincing Lane were operating with caution, and the report also indicated the market at Home as being slightly easier. This news is not confirmed by private cables, and looking to the fact that out of 16,000 packages offered during the week, 15,000 packages are reported as sold, it is a matter of difficulty to see in what direction Home buyers are acting cautiously. Statistics relating to the movement of Indian tea in London to the end of last month, indicate a position strongly in favour of sellers. During last month the landings totalled one million less than in the corresponding month of last year, while for the same period, deliveries out of Bond into consumption, were two-and-a-half million in excess. Stocks are being rapidly depleted, and on the 30th ultimo they were six-and-three-quarter million pounds less than the 1902 figures to the same date.

\* \* \*

**Tea Statistics.**—A report by Messrs. Lloyd, Matheson and Carritt, contains some interesting statistics with regard to the percentage of consumption of India, Ceylon, and China teas for the past ten seasons. In this period the consumption of India tea has grown from 48 to 54 per cent., and that of Ceylon tea from 30 to 35 per cent., while the figure for China tea has dropped from 21 to 9 per cent. Comparing the two seasons 1902-3 and 1901-2, the percentage of India tea has remained stationary at 54, but that of Ceylon has receded from 36 to 35 per cent., to the advantage of China, which has risen from 8 to 9 per cent. This is the first upward movement shown by the China product in ten years, though in the previous season the decline had been arrested. It is noticeable that imports of India tea record a shrinkage of 9 million pounds for the season ended 31st ultimo, while the previous season itself exhibited a decrease of 15 million pounds. Meantime the deliveries for the three seasons have remained stationary at 150 million pounds. Owing to Budget influences the imports into this



country for 1900-1 were exceptionally heavy, and the two following years suffer by comparison, but the consumption in America and elsewhere, with the exception of Australia, has increased largely in the period.

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One of the largest Sylhet gardens is making two million pounds of tea, and has sold forward privately the remainder of the crop to London buyers.

\* \* \*

Millions of lbs. of Ceylon tea dust, says the *Indian Planters' Gazette*, are already going this year to China to improve the China bricks; and excellent prices are being paid.

\* \* \*

**U. S. Tea Association Constitution.**—The National Tea Association of the United States has now adopted its constitution. Two of the important articles are these:

#### ARTICLE II.

The objects of this Association are:

1. To take concerted measures to establish tea in its natural position as the most popular and desirable of beverages.
2. To promote the consumption of tea by insuring its preservation from adulteration and spurious imitations; especially by upholding the Tea Inspections Law, which guarantees to the American consumer the absolute purity of the tea admitted into the United States.
3. To promote the interests of the members in any way that circumstances may require.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1.—Any shipper of teas into the United States, or importer of or wholesale dealer in tea, shall be eligible to membership in the Association. Corporations and firms are eligible for membership in the same manner as individuals.

\* \* \*

**Advices from Shanghai.**—Wisner & Co., writing from Shanghai, May 15, say:

**BLACK TEAS.**—Our latest written advices from Hankow are dated the 12th instant: The first musters of Keemuns were shewn on the afternoon of the 9th instant, and settlements were reported the following morning. To date 21,000 packages have been offered and the greater part settled. These teas are attractive, the cup being of good strength and distinctly good quality; the infusions are bright and the style is very good. Prices have ranged from 45.00 to 7.00 taels per picul.

Only a few musters of Ningchows have been shewn. No Hankow district teas have yet been offered.

**GREEN TEAS.**—The only news we have of new crop Country Teas is that teamen are paying very high prices for the unfired leaf.

**WENCHOW GREENS.**—Musters of the new teas are expected about the 15th of June. The teas are likely to prove of good quality. Prices paid in the country are considerably over last year's.

**PIGSEYES.**—Musters are expected during the first week of June; it is believed the teas will be of good quality but first cost is, it is said, extreme.

Some quantity of Green Tea is being made in Foochow, but no details of quality or prices are yet available.

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#### Ceylon Tea: Monthly Shipments to United Kingdom and Estimate.

Estimate for	June 1903—11 to 11½ million lbs.
Total Shipments „	1903 11,250,000 lbs.
„ „	1902 12,563,050 lbs.
„ „	1901 11,425,044 lbs.
[Estimate for July 1903—10 to 10½ million lbs.]	

\* \* \*

**Colombo Tea Sale Report.**—At to-day's sale reported Messrs. Somerville & Co., of Colombo, on the 1st instant, there was keen competition for all kinds at decidedly firmer rates, and especially for Broken Pekoes and common sorts. Quality in many instances shewed some improvement. Our

private wire reports:—“The poor quality of the bulk of supplies is having a depressing effect, and though we cannot quote an actual all-round fall in rates, yet things are far from brisk with an occasional easier tendency.” Teas for price declined ¼d. Green Teas were in demand at fully previous rates.

\* \* \*

**The Indian Tea Crop.**—The following telegram with reference to the tea crop in the various districts has been despatched by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association here to the Committee of the Association in London, viz.:—**ASSAM**—Outturn last month about normal, immediate prospects fair; there is too much rain in some portions of Assam. **CACHAR**—Outturn last month about normal, immediate prospects fair; weather generally too cold for the time of the year, and is checking leaf. **SYLHET**—Outturn last month about normal, immediate prospects fair; weather generally too cold for the time of the year, and is checking leaf. **DOOARS AND TERAI**—Outturn last month about normal, immediate prospects fair; there has been unusually heavy rain with floods in some portions of the district. **DARJEELING**—Outturn last month about normal, immediate prospects fair; blight is now not so severe.

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**A Warning.**—The following has been issued by the Indian Tea Association (London) to all importers and members of the Association: “Dear Sirs,—The notice of my Committee having been drawn to the fact that nearly 600 packages of new season's tea are printed for sale next week, I am instructed to send you a copy of a Resolution which was passed at a Meeting of importers held on the 8th instant, as follows—‘That no new season's tea be offered for sale before July 1.’ The Committee earnestly hope that all importers will see their way to act on this Resolution, as unless such an arrangement is carried out the market for the balance of the old crop, which has been kept back from sale in the interests of all producers, will be seriously prejudiced.—I am, yours faithfully, ERNEST TYE, *Secretary*.”

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A newspaper says: “It is the biggest teapot on record. It will hold at least four gallons, and that is more of a teapot than many of the young women who preside at afternoon teas would care to handle. It is a beautiful Japanese affair of Imari ware, with a big reed handle, and it would be worth an admission fee to gaze at it at a charity tea. It is in one of the shops, and the only one of the size they have ever seen. It is worth \$125. The only room that could hold it would be unusually large, and with dark, massive furniture.” What a window attraction that teapot would make! For a tea window it couldn't be improved upon.

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#### Tea in Roumania.—Imports during the last five years:—

	£
1897	10,130
1898	11,859
1899	9,854
1900	8,072
1901	12,940

Mr. Vice-Consul Dundas remarks:—“Strong competition from Hamburg, where original cases are opened, mixed and coloured, etc., and repacked to suit requirements. United Kingdom loses by insisting on sending original cases.” In another part of his report the Vice-Consul refers to “tea coloured and tanned as required.”



**Japanese Surprised and Delighted.**—Writing from Yokohama, May 21, Smith, Baker & Co. say:

"The tea market has been in full operation for three weeks, and prices have ranged from Yen 10.00 to 15.00 above the corresponding period of last season, somewhat to the surprise and much to the delight of the native grower, whose picul of tea is now exchangeable for eight piculs of rice; and every owner of a small tea garden is posing as a capitalist. This condition alone, added to favourable weather, should result in a large increase for export, not only over last season's supply, which was an avowed short crop due to frost, but over previous seasons when prices were Yen 20.00 lower; nevertheless statistics of arrivals do not, as yet, fully confirm such an inference.

"Total arrivals at both ports are 83,985 piculs, against 41,116 piculs same time last year; total settlements at both ports are 73,480 piculs against 33,429 piculs same time last year.

"The final statistics for 1902-03 make the total exports 39,724,032 pounds, of which 4,563,858 pounds went to New York by steamer and rail and 8,827,769 pounds by way of Suez Canal; 3,816,899 pounds to San Francisco, 17,887,828 pounds to Chicago, 4,312,898 pounds to Canada, and 318,780 pounds to Europe.

"From May 1, 1903, to May 18, inclusive, 1,984,283 pounds have been exported on eight steamships, of which 742,295 pounds were sent to New York, 244,550 pounds to San Francisco, 983,973 pounds to Chicago, and 53,465 pounds to Canada.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The market in tea is generally quiet but prices remain steady, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 9th ultimo. The trade generally would wish these easier for the sake of their influence on the bounding character of conditions in the East, but the matter seems beyond control. The latest market to open is the Pingsuey, at an advance of 4 cents over the opening prices one year ago. It is hard to compare this price with those ruling at the present time, for they are practically nominal as none of the tea is in first hands and the market is therefore barren. Little news is heard from Hankow. Foochow is giving some attention to turning blacks to green. It should seem that there would be enough of this tea to go around at even moderate prices. The advances reported are entirely uncalled for. In Japan a fall in prices is hinted but after they have all been sold. It is thought that there will be an increase in the export of this tea from three to four million pounds. Last season's export was close to 40,000,000 pounds. Still the market rules high. The shipments are comparatively heavy and are expected to decline relatively.

Some fine Indias have been sold here recently. This tea and Ceylon, which alone are coming in at present in large quantity, naturally in the matter of testing and transaction have a monopoly. Prices rule firm in response to firm conditions in England. New crop India teas is  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. higher at Calcutta than one year ago. Ceylon greens are being considered with a view to displace the high Japans. In view of the advancing and much higher value of the Ceylon and India black teas it is highly improbable that this can be consummated to any extent, as the inclination will be to prefer the manufacture of black tea as by far more profitable.

Out West the report is that there has been considerable activity during May in the replenishing of stocks. June and July are usually months included in the dull season of tea.

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**Japan Tea Market.**—Writing from Kobe, May 14, the Japan Tea Exporting Co., Ltd., says:

"The peculiar circumstances attending this year's new tea market renders it necessary to preface the report with the word 'Extraordinary.' Serious damage to the tea leaf was experienced last year from frost, and this year the market opens with extraordinarily high prices, all of which are contrary to general expectation. Judging from past experience, it is impossible to tell what further and more surprising feature may still be in store for us. The weather, which continued favourable until the middle of April, suddenly changed and became colder, while there was continual rainfall in advance of the regular rainy season. This proved more or less injurious to the tea plants, yet the budding generally was favourable, and in consequence of the timely attention given by the growers, the plants, it is satisfactory to learn that no serious consequences resulted. In certain districts there has been some slight damage by frost, but to such an insignificant extent that the market will not be affected thereby.

"As usual, the first settlement took place on April 26, 28 piculs of Tosa new leaf changing hands at Y35 per picul, which is 15 per cent. higher as compared with the opening price of the preceding season. Prior to this—on April 20th—a firm in Yokohama having bought a small quantity at fabulous prices, an excited feeling has generally set in there, prices advancing enormously. This state of affairs naturally affected the market here, and prices were steadily maintained without exhibiting any weakness in the interval. At the present moment buyers generally are endeavouring to bring down prices, but so long as the activity in Yokohama continues there is but little prospect of this being accomplished. Moreover, as a little later small leaf will not be procurable, regardless of price unless secured as it arrives on the market, it appears that high prices are now being paid.

"The quality of the new teas is excellent, being much in advance of the quality of recent years, and this will no doubt afford entire satisfaction to consumers. The prices, as compared with the corresponding period last year are about Y12 to Y13 per picul higher, and if comparisons are made with the time of first free arrivals last year, which was later than is the case this season, it is still Y6 to Y7 per picul higher. Owing to the early harvesting, arrivals seem to be larger than last year, and this also applies to the amount of settlements.

"As to the production of first crop teas, estimates vary, but it is probable that the figures will show an increase on last year.

"The market being at present as stated, it is now questionable whether a reaction will not set in, causing prices to collapse. Judging from the high lever of the prices now ruling, it is considered possible a drop may take place. However, even if such a drop takes place, it must be purely nominal, since desirable descriptions, if not secured within the next fortnight, will be impossible to obtain during the remainder of the season.

"Arrivals, settlements and stocks to date as compared with corresponding period last year are: "Arrivals to date, 49,084 piculs; corresponding period 1902, 18,978 piculs; settlements to date, 40,481; corresponding period 1902, 15,110; stocks, 8,603; corresponding period 1902, 3,868.

TEA SHIPMENTS FROM YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

Date.	Vessel.	New York and the East.	Chicago and the West.	Canada.	Pacific Coast.	Total.
1903		Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
April 29	Siberia ..	1,200	..	..	9,310	10,510
April 29	Empress of India ..	1,840	1,840	..	..	3,680
May 1	Empress of India ..	50,770	53,367	800	..	104,937
May 2	Kaga-maru ..	..	24,132	..	..	25,132
May 5	Kaga-maru ..	65,191	100,631	..	174	165,996
May 5	Indravelli ..	..	24,403	..	..	24,403
May 6	Coptic ..	44,419	57,625	..	25,721	127,765
May 8	Indravelli ..	..	..	..	32,365	32,365
May 13	Tartar ..	21,090	46,730	1,600	..	69,420
	Total..	184,510	308,730	2,400	67,570	563,208
Corresponding period 1902 ..		32,810	5,995	22,020	2,760	63,85
Total shipments season 1902.03.		13,391,627	17,887,828	4,300,418	3,825,172	39,405,045

## NOTES.

### Vanilla from Reunion.

In 1902 111 tons of vanilla were exported from the island against 50 tons in 1901 and 95 tons in 1900.

### German Quinine.

During the three months ending March the exports of quinine, quinine preparations, etc., from Germany have been:

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Kilos. ...	41,600	33,800	49,800

### Jamaica Cocoa.

In trade returns for the year ending 31st March last, Jamaica cocoa shows an increase of 1,000 cwt. to all quarters. Exports to Great



Britain and Canada fell off whilst America took about 4,000 cwt. more.

#### Essays on Tea Pruning.

With the extension of time and the offer of three prices of Rs.500, Rs.200, and Rs.100, made some months ago, the widespread interest felt in the Essays on Pruning of Tea in Ceylon has borne fruit in 41 contributions.

#### Java Cinchona.

The exports from Java during the first half of June amounted to 693,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 666,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year, and 500,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901. The exports from British India during the twelve months ending March amounted to :

	1902-03.	1901-02.	1900-01.
Lbs. ...	1,579,498	1,917,259	2,753,858

#### Amsterdam Bark Sales.

At Amsterdam on June 19, 10,890 bales and 556 cases were offered, containing 1,659,000 ozs. of quinine. The *Chemist & Druggist* reports :—"Owing to the large quantity of cinchona to be disposed of at the Amsterdam auctions to-day our usual cablegram had not arrived at the time of closing for Press. We understand the auction opened at 6c., a decline of 20 per cent. on the previous auction."

#### The South African Tariff.

The tariff agreed upon by the representatives of the South African Colonies at the Bloemfontein Conference in March last includes the following items yet to be obtained from the various Legislatures :

	£	s.	d.
Coffee, raw, per lb. ...	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coffee, roasted, ground, or mixed, per lb. ...	0	0	2
Cocoa and chocolate, unsweetened, per lb. ...	0	0	1
Cocoa and milk, chocolate and milk, and coffee and milk, per lb. ...	0	0	1
Tea, per lb. ...	0	0	4
Manures ...			free.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 2nd instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports there is a dull tone generally among buyers and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes is weak, while the market for teas for price is easier. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (same as last week) and the average 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{8}$ d. down). The average for the same period last year was 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea generally steady, Broken Pekoe rather irregular. Pekoe Souchong steady; Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{8}$ d. down). 31,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 29,000 disposed of. Indian tea:—Packages offered and sold not quoted. Average price of Indian tea at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d. down).

#### Old Tea Leaves as Manure.

In the Report of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India for 1902 it is stated :—Two bags of infused tea leaves were presented by Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., Commissioners for the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission, with a view to test the manurial value of the infused leaves. The contents of one bag were immediately used on Cannas, Hibiscus, etc., in the case of the former there was a distinct deepening in the colour of flowers, but where applied to woody stemmed shrubs white ants appeared in abundance.

The contents of the second bag were allowed to dry, the leaves were then pounded and sifted, and used in lieu of leaf-mould in which seeds were sown. The result appeared to be favourable, as seedlings came up stronger when thus treated than where ordinary leaf-mould was used.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Elsewhere we print a circular relative to the new season's tea. Dealers are as anxious as holders of old season's tea not to prejudice the teas they have in hand. It is on all sides, therefore, to be desired that the advice given in the circular referred to will be accepted, and that little dribbles of new season's tea will not continue to be offered, under a mistaken idea that the market is anxious to see these small samples of the new crop. In old days, when the first shipment of new season's tea arrived from China, there used to be some excitement about the matter, as, of course, then it did not arrive in little dribbles, but in a sufficiently large bulk to attract general attention. It is quite another thing in these days. New season's Indian tea is not, as a rule, especially desirable; it is generally the produce either of unpruned plants or the first tipping of pruned plants, which rarely produce a desirable class of tea, as is evident by the prices obtained, while the result of offering "new season's tea" is that the dealers' crop which is not yet disposed of, as well as the crop held by the merchants themselves, becomes "old tea" and is naturally prejudiced thereby. It is a different matter after July 1, for then the remnant of the old season's crop has been sold and the trade is in a position to deal with the new season's tea, especially when some few thousands of packages can be put up for sale at one time. A series of little sales, on the other hand, disturbs the market without doing anybody any good.

A Madras paper recently expressed surprise that the Americans should find Indian coffee peculiar in flavour, and accounted for this suspicion in America on the ground that it is not real Indian coffee that they get to drink, but coffee that comes from the farther East, presumably Java. Which may be very true. Says a New York contemporary: "If Indian coffee of that reputed heavenly variety is not sold here and shall be obtainable for inspection at the St. Louis Exposition, a great service will have been done in educating us to something new and most desirable. Dollars are so plentiful with us now that we can afford the best and want the best; only we want to know where it may be found for good, should it please our palates."

The race of coffee substitute contrivers seem to thrive. We are told by the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, of New York, that a new industry in Meherrin, Va., among the German settlers, is the cultivation of soja beans, to be used in the place of coffee. Up to a few years ago this bean was unknown in that section, and since it has been substituted for coffee its cultivation has largely increased. It is contended by those who have tried raising the beans that they are unsurpassed for feed. The German says he would much rather have them to make his coffee than the Rio grain. A result is that the coffee trade among this class of Germans has somewhat decreased.—*H. & C. Mail*.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Saturday, 23rd May, 1903.—Ninety days' Bank rate opened on Monday 18th instant at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , declined on Tuesday to 12 $\frac{1}{8}$ , and closed on Saturday at 12 $\frac{3}{8}$  to 12 $\frac{7}{16}$ .

The delay at the last moment in bringing out the loan and rumour of difficulties having supervened checked the rise for the moment and rates even declined a bit. The immediate effect of the loan appears, however, to have been largely discounted and as there must be still large amounts to be covered, it does not seem that the Bank will have much difficulty in keeping rates within control, so long as there is a deficiency of produce bills as may be



the case until August. Nor does there seem much danger of a speculative boom of exchange this year, such as often accompanies the opening of a new season, because, as our New York correspondent points out. Coffee is too low for speculative selling, and the visible supply too high for buying. Without sellers here, and buyers abroad, there can be few bills and no speculation, as the Banks are shy of anything except produce paper.

Of course, were the Bank of the Republic obliged to draw heavily against the present loan or some other asset, prejudicial as it would be to planting and other interests, a rise would be inevitable. There are means at the disposal of the Bank, however, by which all necessity of drawing could be avoided for some time to come, and the loan be transferred to this side, without drawing a penny. Government remittances amount to £400,000 a month; these might be made payable in currency instead of gold, and payments in Europe be effected out of the gold in deposit. Of course the market would be relieved to the same extent and there would be so much more offering here, but in small quantities and spread over the whole country day by day it would affect the market almost insensibly, as is actually the case with the taking; the knowledge that there would be no selling on the part of the Bank would effectually check speculation. It is evident, however, that should there be any great influx of capital, it would be very difficult and probably impossible to control rates, unless the Bank could count on very strong reserves which could be utilized for this purpose.

During the week ended May 22nd there was a slight spurt in shipments of Santos, the yield for the two ports being £223,000 against £130,000 the previous week and £355,000 last year; the consequence, probably, of the desire to ship as much as possible before the prohibitory duties on low grades take effect. Declared sales were larger, 140,000 as against 111,000 the previous week and 115,000 last year.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23rd May, 1903.—Joint entries at Rio and Santos for the week ended May 22nd were 4,026 bags less than the preceding week and 70,83 less than the corresponding week's last year, of which they represent 65.1 per cent.

Crop entries on the same date were 3,159,545 bags less than last season's of which they represented 78.4 per cent.

Shipments (*embarkings*), however, were much more animated, being 71,484 bags greater than the previous week's but still 68,626 less than the corresponding week's last year.

Stocks consequently fell away a bit, and on the 22nd showed 29,859 bags less than the previous Friday and 409,452 bags less than on the corresponding date last year.

Sales were also more animated 29,000 more having been declared than for the previous week and 25,000 than last year.

The average New York quotation for No. 7, was the same, 5.12c. as last week, compared with 5.50c. last year, but in spite of a slight fall of exchange currency prices gave way again, the week's average working out at 3.845 as against 3.968 the previous week and 4.334 last year.

Messrs. Prado Chaves write to correct an error in our last number, in which we said that they had estimated the coming crop for Rio, Minas, and Espirito Santo at 3,000,000 bags. This statement was copied from another paper, we think from the *Bulletin de Havre*. We now, however, correct the statement from a copy of the circular issued by the *Société d'Importation* of Havre in which Messrs. Prado Chaves' opinions were originally quoted. As will be seen their estimate of exports of the three states Rio, Minas, and Espirito Santo *via* the port of Rio for the coming crop is 3,500,000 bags and not 3,000,000 as stated.

SANTOS, May 23rd, 1903.—Our market kept quiet, with little or no change in prices, and with nothing else of importance to report. New Coffee was offered more freely but qualities are, as yet, very irregular. Part of the New Washed Coffees that have appeared on the market are in reality good fancy qualities, but some are not very desirable. For nice qualities stiff prices are asked.

Exporters were paying 3\$000 to 4\$000 for *Superiors*, *Primes* being quoted 300 réis higher, and *Goods* 300 réis lower, whilst *Regulars* were taken in running lots at 3\$200 to 3\$400. Lots generally contain a large percentage of low Coffee. Low Coffees are in average demand, prices ranging from 2\$000 to 3\$000 according to quality; *Peaberry* is in demand at unaltered quotations; *Old Yellow* and *Washed* are slack.

Orders from Europe for *Superiors* ruled from 26s. 9d. to 27s. 6d., and for *Good Averages* 25s. 6d. to 26s.; *Primes*, soft, being sold at 29s.

Entries were steady and amounted to 84,000 bags, with *Passagens* the same. It is calculated that about 20 to 25 per cent. of the arrivals consist of new coffees.

Shipments were fair, amounting to 126,000 bags, and our stock decreased to 844,841 bags. Of these about 400,000 can be said to be in second hands, and the rest held by *Commissarios*.

Exchange fell to 12 7-16 yesterday afternoon, Coffee prices as yet showing no corresponding improvement.

The *paula* is unaltered at 380 réis.

A report of Messrs. Prado & Chaves published on the 21st April at Havre states that the plantations in Minas, Rio, and Espirito Santo are very badly cared for, and that *colonos* are leaving in large numbers. They calculate that only 5 per cent. of the plantations have received the regular 4 hoeings (*carpas*) 20 per cent. have had three hoeings, 35 per cent. two hoeings; almost abandoned 30 per cent. and entirely abandoned 20 per cent. The harvest of 1902 and 1903, they say, was really small, a great deal of the Coffee sent to market having been kept over from previous years. The 1903-04 harvest is early and will also help to swell the total of 1902-03. Messrs. Prado & Chaves estimate coffee exports of Minas, Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo at the port of Rio at 3½ millions bags.

At the Agricultural Congress held at Bello Horizonte it was pointed out that 1 kilogramme of No. 9 New York type contains 38.97 per cent. of *escolha* or refuse and 61.03 good coffee, whilst 1 kilogramme of No. 3 type contains 25 per cent. of *escolha* and 75 per cent. good coffee. By using a No. 6 grade would be produced a type yielding 68.01 per cent. good coffee and 34.99 per cent. of *escolha*. It was passed that the Committee recommended that prohibitive duties be put on the lowest grades to exclude *escolha*, commencing with 9 per cent. on No. 7; 12 per cent. on No. 8; 30 per cent. on No. 9; and 50 per cent. on *escolha*. This proposal, however, was rejected by the Congress, and things remain as they were.

At the General Meeting of the Sao Paulo Railway Company the Chairman, Mr. Megaw, stated that the coming S. Paulo crop would probably be about the same as this season some 8,000,000 bags.

Put to the vote, the recommendation of the Coffee Committee was negatived at the Minas Agricultural Congress, who decided against differential taxation of coffee or interference by Government in any way except to lend money to the planters and reduce taxation. The Minas planters seem to have more grit in them, in spite of their much smaller yield, than their S. Paulo brethren. With a production of little over 30 *arrobas* per 1,000 trees, Minas gets along, and has solved its labour problem for itself, whilst in S. Paulo with more than double their yield, they are always on the verge of ruin.

Sao Paulo.—Planters in the *Campo Alegre* district have determined to cut down prices for caring from 90\$000 to 100\$000, the actual price, to 60\$000 per 1,000 trees.

Coffee freight rates in Minas per ton-kilometre work out as follows:—Central Railway 243 réis, Leopoldina 450 réis. Minas and Rio 310 réis, Muzambinho 250 réis, Sapucahy 250 réis.

Planting Conditions in April.—According to the *Boletim da Agricultura*. The weather during the 26th was dry and cold, with frost in several localities on the 22nd and 23rd. Rain fell in very small quantities, the lack of moisture being, however, partly compensated by the abundance of dew.

Latest advices state that in most districts harvesting has already commenced.

Nothing further has transpired as regards the volume of the coming crop.

## CEREAL COFFEE.

Few persons in the United States have a larger daily mail than Mrs. S. T. Rorer, of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, President of the Philadelphia Cooking School. Recently many communications have been received by her regarding cereal coffee, and being curious to know what dietetic value she places on these substitutes, the *American Grocer* drew from her the following opinion:

"The American people are going mad on the subject of nourishment. The fact is we have no business to have our beverages rich in nutrition unless we take them as foods. We eat more in twenty-four hours than we should eat in two or three days; that is, the majority of people. Our beverages should be as free from nourishment as possible. If coffee is made in a percolating pot after the French or Vienna method, it contains a small amount of caffeine, but is free from fixed oil or the heavier part of the coffee bean. It



may be a cardiac stimulant and provoke indigestion when it is boiled and served with sugar and cream, but why should an article that has been tried and used for one generation after another, with perfect success, be condemned, and in such a specious and deceptive manner? I should object to the average coffee substitutes that are rich in nourishment. Water, I believe, is the beverage that should be used extensively by man. Water drinkers, as a rule, are long-lived and quite healthy. Observe children who take with their food chocolate and various sorts of cereal coffee instead of water; they are nervous, anemic, and very liable to take every disease that is floating around. Where people do not eat food for breakfast, that is, solid food, I have no doubt a cup of cereal coffee or chocolate is better than coffee, but where a breakfast is taken, as most American people do, let us, for pity's sake, take a beverage that does not contain nourishment. Weak coffee is abominable, especially if it contains sugar and cream; it is liable to cause fermentation; while coffee of good strength will frequently aid digestion by preventing unnatural fermentations."

While we entertain a high opinion of Mrs. Rorer as teacher of cookery and student of dietetics, we are not prepared to accept all of her conclusions.

As to beverages, every individual is a law unto himself, and therefore we should drink that beverage which best agrees with us, whether it be champagne, cocktails, cider, coffee, tea, milk, grape juice, or coffee substitute.

In "Fothergill's Manual of Dietetics" the statement is made that if the palate—the janitor of the stomach—be offended, the food, no matter what its real value, is useless. The palate must be consulted as well as the stomach. That will apply to beverages. Dietetic disturbance follows the use of any beverage which is displeasing to the palate.

The abuse of any beverage works physical harm, and, as some people abuse tea and coffee, they become tea and coffee drunkards, as others are made by the abuse of alcoholic liquor. And judging from the advertisements written in Battle Creek, Mich., we are liable to have a crop of drunkards addicted to the use of coffee substitutes.

Undoubtedly Mrs. Rorer is right in her statement that we eat too much, but those folk whose sole breakfast is a roll and cup of coffee like to believe that their morning drink is nutritious, as well as palatable, whether it is so or not.

In that admirable work by the late Theodore Child, entitled "Delicate Feasting," he says:

"Tea, coffee, and tobacco come under the heading to which scientific men have given the name of Paratriptics. The demand for them is based upon their power to prevent waste in the body, so that by their help and stimulus men can do more work, and endure more privation, with a smaller amount of actual food. Tea, coffee, and tobacco are not food, although temporarily and continuously they supplement it. The physiologist, Moleschott, calls them the 'savings banks' of the tissues."

Mrs. Rorer is right in preferring coffee to the average coffee substitutes, but we are puzzled to know why she intimates that the average coffee substitutes are rich in nourishment, and therefore objectionable as a beverage.

We were not aware that they were of that nature. As the result of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station investigations, we were told that "the protein of a cup of Postum Cereal is contained in a dessert-spoonful of skimmed milk, and that skimmed milk is generally considered a pretty thin beverage; but it contains from three to twenty times as much solids as these so-called nutritious drinks." If this be true, they do the system less good than tea, coffee, or cold water.

While some physicians condemn coffee, others find it of great value. "Vogel has advocated the use of strong coffee with cream as a tonic and food in the debility which attends upon acute disease in children." Coffee certainly sustains the soldier on his weary marches, and relieves the fatigue incident to battle. It is a stimulant, a pleasing beverage, around which clusters much of sentiment, and that is a wonderful factor in seeking nourishment. We do not wonder that the American people have placed coffee first in the list of beverages consumed, so that nearly a billion pounds are necessary to meet annual requirements. And they are not going to surrender their favourite beverage for substitutes that cost two or three cents per pound, and through specious advertising are foisted on consumers at an enormous cost, as compared with their intrinsic value.

## "SPECKING OF CITRUS FRUIT."

Mr. Albert H. Benson writes in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal*:—Nearly every grower who has shipped fruit to the Southern markets has had the unpleasant experience of noting the following item on his account sales: "... cases lost by specks." Few growers, however knew the cause of specking or its remedy, hence I am writing the present short article in the hope that it may be of some assistance to our growers during the shipping season.

Specking is responsible for a considerable loss of fruit in transit, the loss varying somewhat throughout the shipping season, being usually much larger at the present beginning than at the end of the season.

The loss varies from as low as 1 or 2 per cent., to as high as 50 per cent. in exceptional cases; so that it will be seen that any means that will tend to diminish such loss will be of great assistance to the growers individually, and to the industry as a whole.

Besides the actual loss arising from specking, it is very often a source of friction between the grower and the agent to whom the fruit is consigned; as the grower, knowing that he has shipped what was apparently sound fruit when it left the orchard, is surprised to find that a greater or smaller proportion of the fruit is absolutely worthless on reaching its destination. The grower believing that he has sent nothing but sound fruit is somewhat inclined to distrust the statement of his agent as to the loss that actually occurs, with the result that, as I have already stated, there is a certain amount of friction.

Specking, or as it is known in California, "Orange and lemon rot," is according to Professor C. W. Woodworth, of the University of California, in a bulletin issued by him in 1902, the result of a mould fungus known as *Penicillium digitatum*, which is very superior in appearance to the ordinary bread or blue mould so well known by everyone. It, however, is quite distinct from common blue mould, which attacks many different substances, in that it attacks only citrus fruit.

The first indication of citrus fruits being attacked by this fungus is a softening and rotting of a portion of the skin of the fruit. The rotten spot soon increases in size, and is first covered with a downy white fungus, known commonly as white mould, and this gradually changes to a bluish-green colour, in which condition it is known as blue mould. The blue colour is due to the fruit of the fungus, and this fruit, when ripe, distributes countless minute spores, which are easily carried by the wind or other agencies, and thus spread the disease rapidly. The dust that flies off when a case of specky fruit is opened consists of millions of the spores of this fungus, and each of these spores, given favourable conditions for its development, will produce the disease on other fruit.

The conditions favourable to the germination of the spores are, first, moisture, and, secondly, heat. If the skin of the fruit is perfectly dry, no spores can germinate on it, but if the skin is injured the spores find ready entrance into the tissue of the punctured or bruised portion, where the natural moisture is sufficient to induce the growth of the fungus. Moisture lodging in the eye of the fruit, such as in the navel of a navel orange, forms a good means, of germination, or the skin of the fruit being kept in a moist state, owing to the extreme humidity of the air, is particularly liable to infection.

Knowing as we do that this fungus is confined to citrus fruit, and that once it makes its appearance its spread is very rapid under favourable conditions, gives us the fruit hint as to the means to be adopted in order to keep it in check, and that is, never leave any mouldy fruit on the ground or on the tree, but always gather it and destroy it, if possible, when in the white mould stage, as it has not then reached the reproductive stage. If this is carefully followed up early in the season, the ravages of the mould fungus will be kept much in check.

The second remedy is to see that the skin of the fruit is perfectly dry prior to packing, and in order to secure this I think I cannot do better than repeat the advice I gave when dealing with the question of citrus culture in the July number of the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* for 1900.

### HANDLING THE FRUIT.

Under the above heading, I will deal with the gathering, sweating, packing, and marketing of the fruit. In the first place, I wish



to impress upon every citrus-grower, the extreme importance of careful handling, and none requires greater care in gathering and packing if you wish to obtain satisfactory returns from your orchard. Handle like eggs, and not like road metal—a bruised fruit is a spoilt fruit and not only will it not keep, but it will tend to rot any sound fruit that are packed near it.

No citrus fruit should be pulled from the tree, but should be carefully cut. Pulling injures the fruit, and often prevents its keeping. Several kinds of clippers have been made for cutting the fruit, and one of the best kind is now obtainable in Brisbane at a reasonable price. It cuts close, and there is no chance of injury to the fruit.

When cut, the fruit should be placed in a basket or bag, and when same is full, it should be carefully emptied into a case, taking every possible care not to bruise the fruit while doing so. The case containing the fruit should be carried or carted to an open shed, where they should be stacked and allowed to remain without being touched for from four to six days before it is packed. This detention in the cases prior to packing is to permit the evaporation of the surplus moisture from the skin of the fruit which, instead of being rigid and brittle as it is when gathered, becomes tough and leathery and the fruit can be handled and packed without injury. This evaporation of the surplus moisture from the skin is termed sweating, and it is an essential operation in the case of all thin-skinned fruit that have either to be carted over rough roads, or that have to be exported to any southern or foreign markets. This period of detention between gathering and packing also enables all fly or moth infested, pricked or bruised fruits to be easily culled out when packing, as the injuries are then much more apparent than at the time of gathering.

In very moist and humid weather drying on trays may be necessary, and possibly artificial drying may be found advantageous.

The time occupied in "sweating" the fruit will also give an opportunity for any spores of the mould fungus that may have started growth to develop, and the fruit thus specked can be culled before packing. The stems of the balance of the fruit being dry, there is little chance of the mould fungus getting a hold. When speaking of preventive measures, Professor Woodworth recommends refrigeration, ventilation and wrapping. The first is out of the question here for our southern trade, as the steamers are not equipped with refrigerating chambers, nor would the fruit bear the extra expense entailed by refrigeration. Refrigeration prevents the growth of the fungus, but once the temperature is raised, and moisture is allowed to settle on the skin of the fruit, then the conditions are extremely favourable for the development of the mould fungus. Ventilation, according to the same authority, is chiefly calculated to prevent rot by carrying off the moisture that may accumulate on the fruit in the sweating process, whether in the packing house or the case—in other words, ventilation tends to dry the skin of the fruit. If the moisture is removed promptly so as not to allow time for the germination of the mould fungus, the fruit will not decay, but will remain sound and eventually dry up.

Wrapping in tissue paper is the best means of preventing specking. The paper will absorb any slight moisture that there may be on the skin of the fruit, and, further, should the fruit become one mass of blue mould, it will keep the spores from breaking loose and thus infecting every sound orange in the case that they may come in contact with. I am of opinion that during the months that specking is bad that it will pay to wrap all the fruit that is sent south—wrapping to, of course, follow the proper drying of the skin by sweating. The cost of wrapping is not excessive, and I am certain that the diminution of loss caused thereby will pay handsomely for the extra trouble and expense.

In the earlier part of this paper I recommended the gathering and destruction of all infested fruit in the orchard, and this should also be carried out in the packing-shed or elsewhere, as no spores should be allowed to escape that can be destroyed by the expenditure of a little care and forethought.

During the present season it is the writer's intention to carry out some experiments with a view of determining the possibility or otherwise of so treating the skin of the fruit, without injury to the fruit itself, as to render it impervious to the attack of the mould fungus, and should these experiments prove a success I will at once make them known so that they can be tested on a commercial scale.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### SHEVAROY.

Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, held in the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, at 1 P.M., on Monday, the 6th July, 1903.

PRESENT:—Rev. M. Andersen, Messrs. B. Cayley, C. Dickens, E. Dickens, J. C. Large, C. G. Lechler, W. J. Lechler, S. M. Pritchard, C. Rahm, D. Rahm, Mr. R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. Read and passed accounts shewing a balance in hand, on the 30th ultimo of Rs.437-9-3.

2. Read Circulars Nos. 39 and 40 from the Secretary, forwarding letters from the Chairman and Planting Member, advocating subscriptions to the St. Louis Exhibition.

Resolved, by 9 to 2, that this Association is willing to subscribe towards the expenses of the St. Louis Exhibition.

Also, by 10 to 1, that if at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, the Brazil delegate falls through, and it is resolved to support the St. Louis Exhibition, our delegate be empowered to transfer subscription already received for the Brazil delegate to the St. Louis Exhibition.

3. Read circular from Secretary, No. 45/03 of 28th ultimo.

Resolved, *nem. con.* That (this Association would like) the curing Firms, and all other Firms interested in tea and coffee in Southern India (to) be invited to become members of the U. P. A. S. I., but that there be no individual Membership of Planters.

4. The Draft Agenda paper of the coming Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. was then read, item by item, and certain instructions for the delegate were resolved upon which are separately printed as their publication seems unnecessary.

5. A number of letters were read and recorded and the books and papers received during the month were laid upon the table.

ROBT. GOMPERTZ,  
*Honorary Secretary, S. P. A*

### COORG.

Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association held at the Bamboo Club House, Polli Betta, on Monday, 29th June, 1903. PRESENT:—

Messrs. R. A. Alexander (*Visitor*), W. F. A. Bracken (*Visitor*), A. Boponna, E. Clarke, W. Davies (for Mr. E. Meynell), Geo. Davies, J. W. Finlayson, H. G. Grant, A. H. Graham (for Mr. Sprott), F. W. Gerrard, J. Hume (for Mr. J. Chisholm), A. H. Jackson, R. Kaundiya, A. Lambert, J. Logan, E. L. Mahon, G. K. Martin, G. R. Moore, F. Macrae, H. Marriott, S. Marsland (*Visitor*), G. L. Newberry (*Visitor*), E. Richter, N. M. Scholfield (for Mr. Prater), H. T. Shaw (for Mr. Craig), R. D. Tipping, H. Tippetts (*Visitor*), A. J. Wright. *Proxies*: Messrs. Davy, C. G. Maclean and H. M. Mann.

Mr. Martin was voted to the Chair. Proposed by Mr. Logan, seconded by Mr. A. Lambert.

The notice calling the Meeting and the subject to be laid before the members present having been read out, the Chairman proceeded to read his proposed scheme for the re-construction of the Association. Mr. Logan also read a paper thereon and some further correspondence on the subject was laid before the Meeting. After some discussion it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Logan, seconded by Mr. R. D. Tipping—that Mr. Martin's resolution as to going into voluntary liquidation was unnecessary and that the Association be carried on on the same lines as heretofore.

Resolved, that the Ballotting papers for the election of new Office-bearers for the current season be now opened. The following was the result of the ballot:



Mr. J. Logan, *President*, Mr. A. Lambert, *Honorary Secretary* and the following members on the Committee—

NORTH.	SOUTH.
Messrs. C. E. Murray-Aynsley.	Messrs. A. Boponna.
H. F. Davy.	H. G. Grant.
C. G. Maclean.	A. H. Jackson.
E. Meynell.	A. Lambert.
J. T. Morgan.	F. Macrae.
C. M. Nungappa.	H. G. Parsons.

Mr. Lambert having in a few words thanked the members for the honour conferred on him by his re-election to the post of Honorary Secretary declined to re-accept office, stating that owing to stress of work he had not time to undertake and carry out in as efficient a manner as he could wish, the somewhat onerous and exacting duties in connection with the Honorary Secretaryship of the C. P. A. and therefore he did not feel justified in again accepting office. Moreover he considered it advisable, and altogether in the interests of the Association, to have a new Secretary, and as the office had been in South Coorg hands for several years now, more especially one from the North Coorg members. Such being the case, and if Mr. Martin who stood next in the Ballot list would kindly accept office, the arrangement should prove a satisfactory one to one and all. Mr. Martin, after some consideration, consented to accept office.

Mr. Jackson proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Honorary Secretary for his past services, and thanked Mr. Martin also for accepting office.

After much deliberation and thoroughly going into the subject of ways and means, the following Resolution was unanimously agreed to. Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Grant—that the present liabilities be paid out of the subscriptions now due for the current season, and that a supplementary call of 10/- be made from each member for the same purpose. Members joining the Association on and after July 1st next not to be called upon to pay this extra donation.

Mr. Lambert then said he thought that seeing an erroneous and false impression had been created—perhaps not without just cause, and, apparently, disseminated not only throughout Coorg but elsewhere, owing to the wording of the Resolution proposed by Mr. Martin and seconded by himself, at the late Meeting held in Mercara and especially as to the clause “that the Association go into voluntary liquidation”—a few words of explanation might be judicious. Therefore he might add that in bringing forward this Resolution they did not think for a moment that the want of monetary support given to the Association arose out of any poverty, or inability, or even reluctance, to pay on the part of the members, but merely from lack of interest in the working and general welfare of that Institution, nor, indeed, did they contemplate even the collapse of the Coorg Planters' Association in the near future—though they considered it possible that a reconstruction of the same might have to be undertaken, and therefore in order to emphasise, and bring home clearly to the members this altogether unsatisfactory state of affairs, it seemed to them only right and proper that the actual position of the Association could not be too drastically and emphatically brought to their notice—more especially as this question of finance has been brought to the notice of the members, rather prominently, and from time to time, during the last two years or more—and that this said Resolution has had the desired effect, he thought the presence of so many members at the Meeting to-day, and the result of their deliberations should fully convince anyone who may have had preconceived notions on the subject hitherto.

The proceedings then terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the chair.

POLLI BETTA, {  
July 3rd, 1903. }

(Signed) A. LAMBERT  
for the *Honorary Secretary*, C. P. A.

## CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

MR. H. K. RUTHERFORD ELECTED PRESIDENT.

### THE FUTURE OF THE TEA INDUSTRY.

The fifteenth annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Association in London was held on June 15 at the London Chamber of Commerce, Eastcheap, E.C.

Sir Richard Cayley: It is a matter of great regret to all of us that Mr. Bois, the President, is unable to attend to-day, and in his place I move that Mr. H. K. Rutherford take the Chair.

Mr. R. A. Cameron seconded the proposition, and it was agreed to.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting.

The Chairman (Mr. H. K. Rutherford) said: In rising to propose the adoption of the reports of the Executive Committee and the Tea and Produce Committee and of the accounts, I may say this is not the first time you have asked me to take the Chair in the place of an absent President, but I do not think that on any previous occasion we have had so much reason to regret the circumstances which necessitate any one of us taking the Chair as we have to-day in the absence of our President. (Hear, hear.) I have just been handed a letter from Mr. Bois, which I think I may read to you. It is as follows:

“THE CLIFTONVILLE HOTEL,  
Margate, June 12, 1903.

### TO THE CHAIRMAN.

“DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly express to the members of the Association my very great regret at being unable to preside at the General Meeting. In vacating the office of President I should have wished to thank the members for the compliment they paid me in electing me on two successive occasions to the Presidential chair, and for the support they have afforded to me during my term of office.

“So many members of the Association have expressed a kindly sympathy for me in connection with my accident—a sympathy for which I sincerely thank them—that it may interest them to know that I have so far recovered as to be able to come to the seaside for change of air, and although still somewhat helpless, I am daily gaining strength, and hope in time to be able to again attend the Committee Meetings of the Association.

“With all good wishes for the prosperity of the Association, and congratulations to the new President,—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

“HENRY BOIS.”

(Applause.) You have heard the letter read, gentlemen, and I am sure I only express the feelings of every member of this Association, and of the kindred Associations in Ceylon, with which Mr. Bois had been so long and honourably connected, when I say that we offer him our deepest sympathy in the circumstances, and in the result of the accident which has laid him by for such a long period of time, and which has deprived us of his valuable services. (Hear, hear.) I trust, though Mr. Bois necessarily has had to resign the presidency of the Association, that his absence will only be of a temporary character, and that when he is restored to health he will be able to resume his position at the head of this Association. The reports of the Executive Committee and Tea and Produce Committee, I think, fully explain to you the various subjects with which the Association has had to deal during the past year. It is highly gratifying to see that the numbers of our Association do not diminish. (Hear, hear.) It is a sign that the Association is valued by those who have interests in Ceylon. It is also satisfactory to know that we are financially sound. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the subjects which have been brought up during the year, I think the two most important matters were the proposed Tea Clearing House and the Ceylon Tea Cess Fund. With regard to the former, you held a Meeting some short time ago, when you passed a Resolution approving the proposals for the Tea Clearing House. Since then I do not know that the negotiations have progressed any further, but Mr. Bosanquet is here to-day, and I am sure he will be able to enlighten you as to whether anything fresh has transpired. He so ably laid the matter before you at the last Meeting that it is quite unnecessary for me to say anything further upon the subject. I would only state that since our Meeting the Indian Association has also had the matter under consideration, and has passed a Resolution approving of the formation of such a clearing house—very much in the same terms as ours—but with this most important proviso, namely, that no provision be made for extending the scope of the institution beyond that connected with the handling and delivery of tea. I did not happen to be at our Meeting to discuss the subject, but I am inclined to think, after what I have heard in conversation with members of this Association, that this is about the only form in which this Association could agree to join the proposed Tea Clearing House—that the Tea Clearing House, if formed, shall be purely and simply for the clearance of tea, and nothing else, and that it shall be out of the power of the Tea Clearing House to be used as an engine of combination between either of the parties to the detriment of any other. If we can form a Tea Clearing House protected in such a way as that, I, for one, do



not see why it should not be formed. In connection more or less with that subject, you remember that the two Associations agreed that it would be advisable to form a joint Association of tea producers, and I believe that was very nearly being carried out; but the Indian Association put the principles of co-operation to a practical test by asking us, when tea was being very largely over-produced, if we would join with them in closing our factories for a certain period of time during the year. To this we could not agree, and the Indian Association therefore came to the conclusion that the time was not ripe for forming a joint Association of the two bodies. Perhaps we are better as we are. Each Association in its own particular way can do a vast amount of good in the interests each represents, and when any very important subject comes before the two Associations in which they are jointly interested, I think it is a very simple matter for them to act in concert and give effect jointly to their wishes, as powerfully as if they had been working it as one joint Association. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the tea duty, I do not think there is much to be said. You know that the Government turned a deaf ear to the petition of the Indian and Ceylon Associations praying for a reduction of the duty on tea, and that Mr. Chaplin's appeal to the Government to retain the corn tax and lessen the import duty on tea has also failed. But as we know by this time, the Government are not very much influenced by petitions from their colonial possessions, and till the voice of the public is heard on this matter of the reduction of the duty on tea I do not think we are likely to have any reduction. But the time is undoubtedly approaching when the rise in the price of tea will be felt by the consumer—for the consumer will have to pay the increased price—and he will make his voice heard, and next year you will very probably have a reduction in the duty. Now as to the Ceylon tea cess. This is a subject which has always been fruitful in discussion, and upon which there have been varying opinions. I do not intend to review or revive the contentions of the parties with regard to the discussion, as the matter is now practically settled. I think it was a somewhat delicate and difficult problem to bring the up-country growers and the low-country growers and the Government into line on this important question. It cannot, I think, be seriously contended that the interests of all growers are identical. As long as we have proprietary interests solely connected with the growing of the finer teas up-country, with other interests in the production of common teas, it is inevitable that differences of opinion will exist as to the distribution and allocation of the tea cess. But I think the low-country planters have reason to be grateful to their fellow-planters in the up-country, as I believe not a few of them sacrificed a good deal for the common good of the whole industry. (Hear, hear.) I think I am right in saying that this Association has never tendered advice to the Thirty Committee in Ceylon unless that advice was asked for, and I believe the Thirty Committee are of opinion that as long as we do not interfere with them we are entitled to have a voice in their deliberations when any large or important question with regard to the tea cess fund is being brought up. (Applause.) I yield to no one in my appreciation of the good, hard and unselfish work of the Thirty Committee in Ceylon, but if we and they refuse to regard otherwise than with suspicion the influences that sometimes are set to work to bring the two Associations into a state of variance with one another, then I think we can work, as we ought to work, for the mutual support of the interests we represent. As I was in some degree personally responsible for the proposition that was sanctioned by the Government of Ceylon and endorsed by the Planters' Association in regard to the tea cess fund, I trust the settlement which has been arrived at, although there are differences of opinion regarding it, will meet with your approval, and that it will be found to be the best under the peculiar circumstances of the case. Now, I think these are practically all the subjects dealt with in this report, and as it is usual on this occasion for the Chairman to review the position of the tea industry, with your permission I will make a few remarks on that subject. For the last few years, I think, we have always talked in "mournful numbers" of the tea industry, but to-day we can speak in a happier tone. Happily we have been spared a prolonged continuance of the severe stress of the last three years, which, if it had prevailed much longer, would have undoubtedly brought about widespread misfortune. As it is, I am afraid a good number of tea proprietors and investors have suffered not a little during that

period, but it is now some consolation to them that there is some hope that their investments will, at any rate, return a fair interest on their money in the future. (Hear, hear.) The position since last we met in this room has materially altered, and the price of tea to-day represents, if carried on till the end of the year, an increased income to the Ceylon planters of £500,000 sterling. That has been achieved with a moderate rise in the price of tea, and if the price again goes up to what it was three or four years ago, the industry will benefit proportionately to a great extent. I think it is now fairly well established that India and Ceylon cannot hope to very much increase the output of tea unless under more favourable climatic conditions than they have had during the past few years. As practically all the tea lands which were planted some few years ago are now in bearing and considerable portions of land are going back in cultivation, and tea markets are extending in every direction, I think it is reasonable to come to the conclusion that the dark days of 1901, 1902, and 1903 have passed away, and that we are entering into an era of prosperity. I believe, however, we are on the brink of very important changes in the tea industry, and I think it is the duty of this Association and the Indian Association to most carefully study the tide of affairs and the altering conditions of the industry. Efforts are undoubtedly being made by an important section of the tea trade to frustrate any rise in the price of tea, and this section has gone so far recently as to import into this country the lower grades of China tea, brought from America and from the Continent of Europe, in order to lower the standard of tea in this country, so that the consumer may have it at the price he had it previously. There is also another section of the trade, however, acting in opposition to this policy, and whose endeavour it is to keep up the quality and the price of tea. That is the section which I trust this Association will lend their support to. (Hear, hear.) But if there is to be a determined effort on the part of the former section to introduce China tea to this country, then I think this Association will have to most carefully watch their efforts in this direction; and I throw out the suggestion for what it may be worth, that, if such efforts appear to be at all successful, it might be worth consideration whether the sums which we spend on the Continent of Europe in the propaganda of Ceylon tea with so little effect could not be brought here to fight this attempt to introduce China tea into the country. (Hear, hear.) Cheapness, apart from quality, appeals to the millions, and it would be rash for anyone here to say that the British public will never revert to China tea. When cheapness is the only consideration I think the masses would drink almost anything. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) Now, while I am on the subject of supply and demand, I would like to bring to your notice another factor, a factor which I do not think has been taken into account, but which I believe will be a most important factor in the near future in the Ceylon tea enterprise. As you are aware, during the last three years the tea proprietors of the low-country have been certainly making no profit, if they have not been working at a loss. On that account, as you will remember in the days of coffee, when they turned their attention to cinchona, they are now turning their attention to planting these tea estates with rubber. I was astonished to find it stated in the administrative report of the Kegalla district that no less than 4,000 acres of rubber had been interplanted among the tea in that district. That is only one district, and if we consider what is being done in other districts I would not like to say how much rubber has been planted, but I would not be at all astonished to learn that from ten to fifteen thousand acres of low-country estates have been interplanted with rubber. In the Kelani Valley, Kalutara, and minor low-country districts there are 60,000 acres of tea, planted in land all more or less suitable for the cultivation of Pará rubber, and producing about 25,000,000 lbs. of tea. It becomes a question that is worthy of consideration. What is going to happen? and if we take also into consideration the possibility of green tea being a permanent production, even if it does not increase beyond the 12,000,000 lbs. now produced, we are face to face with the fact that if this rubber succeeds better than tea the whole of that 25,000,000 lbs. may in time vanish altogether from the black tea output. Apart from the possibility of this state of affairs coming into existence or not, we are face to face now with the fact that the British-grown tea available for this country at the present time, after allowing for the demands of other countries, is falling below the ever-increasing consumption of the people of this country. As a corroboration of this statement, I



would refer you to that most excellent report of Messrs. W. and H. Thompson published last week—a review of the tea trade in which they deal with this question. Now, what would be the inevitable result of this? If there is a shortage of tea it must be found by some other country. Java is steadily increasing its output, but China alone can easily fill up this shortage, and whatever may be said to the contrary I think there is a risk of the consumer being forced to buy China tea if cheapness is his only consideration. Now, what is our position? There are remedies, though I almost dread to mention them. There are three remedies, and two of them could be put into immediate operation, the remedy of coarse plucking, which we must continue to avoid; the remedy of heavy manuring, and the third remedy, which would take some considerable time—I mean the opening up of fresh lands. No Association has power to prevent any of these alternatives being resorted to. But these considerations open up a very great field of thought which I am not prepared to enter into to-day, although I think they are very well worthy of consideration. The view I have presented to you may be a startling one, seeing only a year ago we were bemoaning over-production, and it may be thought that I am looking too far ahead, but you will agree with me that seeing we do not look upon this tea industry as being of an ephemeral character, but as one which we hope has a permanent existence before it; it is therefore the duty of this Association to study the signs of the times, and to watch everything connected with the industry, and sometimes, at any rate, take our eyes off the small details of the day-to-day work of our business, and take a wider view. I believe the time is approaching, if it has not absolutely arrived, when it is not so much the exploitation and expansion of new markets that we have to look to, but to hold the markets we have already, at so much trouble and expense, been able to secure; and I believe this can only be done by producing a quality of tea which consumers all the world over cannot do without. (Applause.) I move the adoption of the reports and accounts.

Mr. R. A. Bosanquet seconded the motion. He said he had listened with very much interest to the words which had fallen from Mr. Rutherford, and he wished to endorse everything he had said with regard to the absence of Mr. Bois. Having worked with Mr. Bois on many occasions in Ceylon it had given him even greater pleasure to have an old friend to work with again at this end, and he hoped the day might come when, if not in the Presidential chair, yet still holding office in the Association, he might be well to the fore, and again taking an active part in its work. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bois carried with him the confidence of men both at home and in Ceylon, and it was a great thing, when work had to be done, that people should be working together in harmony, so that when they took a pull it might be a long pull and a pull altogether. With regard to the work done during the past year, a certain portion of it, as they knew, had fallen on his (the speaker's) shoulders solely because of the absence of Mr. Bois. Naturally it would have fallen to Mr. Bois as the senior member of the Tea Clearing House sub-Committee, and it was with great reluctance that he had taken upon himself, of necessity, the work which had devolved upon him. The result of it the members had laid before them at their last Meeting in that room, and he could only regret that on that occasion their Chairman, Mr. Rutherford, was not present to occupy the Chair. It would have been better for them and better for the Association, because what he had said that afternoon came a little late, and he (Mr. Bosanquet) had listened to him with a certain feeling of disappointment. He had thought as he went on his way in that work, laying as much as possible of what passed before Mr. Rutherford by correspondence, owing partly to that gentleman's absence from London, that Mr. Rutherford was very much of the same mind as he was himself. But he gathered to-day that Mr. Rutherford did not agree with the steps that had been taken, and thought that the work of the Executive Council of the Tea Clearing House should be limited to the old routine of clearing tea and documents. He must say that at the General Meeting, at which they passed the Resolution in favour of the new scheme as it had been drawn up, there was a lack of enthusiasm in that room in passing the Resolution which was most marked. He had realised it, and his feeling when the Meeting was over was that they had not taken a step in advance. He could not take the view of Mr. Rutherford with regard to the Executive Council of the Tea Clearing House and its work—not the work that it was immediately formed to do, but the

work that, if necessity arose, it might do. Every safeguard was prepared in the scheme to prevent any combination such as Mr. Rutherford suggested from taking place between any two factors, buyers, wharfingers or importers. It was clear that in the working of the Tea Clearing House the people who received the main benefit were the buyers. (Hear, hear.) The only wish that was expressed by the importers was that they should take a hand in the management of the Tea Clearing House to prevent a combination of the wharfingers and buyers such as had been prevalent for some years, and it was therefore thought advisable that the Executive Council of the Clearing House should have conferred upon it greater powers. He threw out the suggestion at the Association's meeting on this question that what they required was an Association of Indian and Ceylon importers, and he was glad that that suggestion seemed to meet with acceptance from a good number of those present. Well, he thought that might go forward in time. It was one of those things in regard to which one had to wait to see how the wind blew. Perhaps the time had not yet come, but that it would come he felt confident. They saw the need for it more every day. There were some points that arose on which they wanted to show a bold and united front; as business men they wanted to be able to tackle each question that came up affecting their pockets. There was one question which he did not touch upon at the recent Meeting, but it was almost like throwing down the battle gage in that room; he meant the question of freights. (Hear, hear.) There was a combination to raise freights. It began with a very soft-gloved hand, and those who owned the hand had put one thumb down. Rates had risen to 27s. 6d., and would probably go to 30s. before very long. But at present those who stood to lose by this were disunited; they presented no common front, and no body of business men in the trade were prepared to meet together for the purpose of opposing the combination. (Hear, hear.) He would like to see an Association of importers in which the principal importers could come together and say what they would do and what they would not do. If they were not ready to meet such a state of things, if they were content to sit still and say, "The prices of tea have gone up"—well, he was not content; he was a malcontent. (Hear, hear.) He considered that upon the statistical position the price of tea ought to be better than it is, and it was because of the lack of combination and union among them that they did not see the price of tea to-day at least one penny per lb. higher. (Hear, hear.) The Indian Tea Association had found themselves incapable of effective combination. But some of its members had formed a small Association of about ten or twelve importers—he could not give the exact number; but fortunately for him he had been able to get a little bit behind the scenes and had got to learn what they had been doing and how they had done it, and he wanted to say that they of the Ceylon Association owed to the Indians and their combination and firm front the present rise in tea. They did not owe it to themselves or to the statistical position, but to the firm front the Indians showed. And they had found that it paid them. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the Indian Association would do the same next year, and that the Ceylon importers would follow their example. The two trades of Ceylon and India were diverse in some respects, but they had one thing in common, and that was their pockets. He asked that the Ceylon Association should draw closer to the Indians. (Hear, hear.) He would lay great stress upon that. One of his Ceylon friends in England dropped a remark the other day which he meditated upon—as he would meditate upon the remarks which had fallen from Mr. Rutherford. This friend said, "India doesn't want Ceylon tied to its tail." But that was not a correct description of the position. They met on common ground for the common interest, and no one had suggested that Ceylon should be tied at the tail of India—(hear, hear)—and to say such a thing was like trying to draw a red herring across the track. They had a red herring last year, at a sub-Committee which met and did much work—and arrived at no result. The Indians drew the herring across the track by asking Ceylon importers to close their factories for three weeks. It was an absurd proposal, but the Indians were on the horns of a dilemma; they thought they would have an enormously big crop; they honestly believed it, but it did not come off. It was no good one party bringing forward an absolutely definite proposal and saying, "If you don't accept it we won't go with you." Let proposals be brought forward with a view of seeing if they were feasible. He would have liked to have



met the Indians half-way, and so, if it had been possible, have done something to meet the question, and, so to speak, scratch their backs and keep them in a good humour; but they had stuck to their guns with a proposal which, to lay before Ceylon men, was absolutely absurd. They knew the danger of coarse plucking. In one of his letters to Ceylon he had suggested that every day in the daily papers there should be the words, in black-leaded type, "Lest we forget." (Laughter.) He did not quite agree that the day was passed when they might see over-production. At any rate, they must realise that the trade had learned to live on much smaller stocks than in the old days. They lived much more from hand to mouth, both the planters and the trade in this country, and it was said that the trade were fifteen millions short of supplies. If they were, he must say they seemed exceedingly comfortable under it, and did not excite themselves at all; if they did the importers might see their prices rise 1d. in the lb. Let this be as it might, they must march with the times. They must not sit still and let things drift. That was what they had been inclined to do in the past, and he hoped that during the coming year they might be able by good management to draw nearer to India and its Association, and feel that they were working hand in hand with one common object—they were both importers, and as importers they could have the position in their own hands provided they showed a common front. (Applause.)

Mr. Sholto G. D. Skrine: I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the report, and, in doing so, first let me congratulate the Association upon what I consider to be the very sensible way in which it approached the difficult and contentious question of the raising of the tea cess. Feeling undoubtedly ran high in Ceylon, and this Association, which in my opinion represents the payers of the tea cess very much more completely than does the Planters' Association in Ceylon as at present constituted, was apparently looked upon out there as simply a sort of registration society of that Association's decisions, and when we ventured to differ ever so slightly the sign of independence was considered contumacious, and denounced accordingly. We may, however, let that pass, knowing as we all do that an Eastern climate is conducive to nervous irritation, and now that they have so wisely adopted our well-meant suggestions, we may draw a veil over the past and hope for calmer and wiser views in the future. I cannot resume my seat without expressing my extreme surprise, and, I might almost say, disappointment, at the trend of public opinion in Ceylon, where the leading men in our industry appear to me to be suffering from a very severe attack of what I can only term "cess fever," and to look upon the cess as being the one and only panacea for every ill that our industry may suffer from. (Laughter.) Far be it from me to run down the cess, though I am inclined to think its day of usefulness is almost over; but I should like to see a little more open-mindedness, and would gently remind my brother-planters that other means do exist for helping our industry, which is even now going through a crisis, and still requires fostering if it is ever really to weather the storm and again become prosperous. On all sides we hear of labour difficulties and excessive advances, and unquestionably this is one of the evils confronting us. Then why not do something before the evil becomes acute, as it promises to do before long? Surely some panacea other than the very extraordinary one of adding to the taxation of the industry you depend on might be thought of! But I fear other considerations come in, and I admit I almost tremble at my own temerity when I suggest to our leaders in Ceylon a line of action which will not be so agreeable to our rulers as the asking for increased taxation, while I myself am at a safe distance, and am in no way affected by the frown of the Governor or the absence from a seat at his hospitable table. Still, it does seem to me that now is the time, when our industry is struggling and the Island's revenues are redundant, to press for some alleviation in the taxation on the food of the coolie, and to call for the abolition of the unjust import duty on rice, and a reduction in the excessive rate of transport on the Government railway on the coolies' staple food. Mr. Balfour's argument against a tax on the food of the poor man in England surely holds good for the poorer man in Ceylon, and the fact that country-grown rice goes free of duty is even a stronger and more convincing argument. On the other point the Indian Government's action is an object-lesson to Ceylon, for the food of the poor is carried at specially low rates on the Government railways. Reduction on these two points would at

once cheapen our labour, and go a long way towards lightening the labour difficulties. No doubt it is easy for me to take this line in London, but it will require more courage for a man in Ceylon, and will probably mean for a public man the giving up of all hope of obtaining an honourable prefix to a commonplace name to be worn while resident in the Island to distinguish him from the common herd. (Laughter.) Still, strong men do exist, and plain Mr. Pitt, to say nothing of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Chamberlain, are proofs that plain ministers are not to be despised; and do not we all remember that Brutus was an honorable man? (Laughter.) No, gentlemen, it is time the cess fever abated, and our leaders looked to other means to help us, and a strong and determined agitation on the lines suggested might do great things if only we could find the individual to set the ball a-rolling. The present is a unique opportunity for pressing these questions forward, but I fail to see signs of any action being taken. Our leaders appear to be more desirous of adding to our burdens rather than lightening them. We in London can do but little, but I am quite convinced that an agitation started in Ceylon to achieve the objects I have indicated would command the strongest support from this Association in London, and might easily mean the renewal of that brotherly love between us, the loss of which we have all of late so deeply deplored. (Laughter, and applause.)

Mr. J. M. Maitland Kirwan: I see it is stated here that the Committee have had under consideration the French import duty on tea. Has anything been done? It is an important question.

Mr. W. Martin Leake: I do not think any conclusion is come to yet. The proposal for increasing the duty has been postponed again and again, and for six months at a time.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I rise to propose that this Association accords Mr. Henry Bois a cordial vote of thanks for his work as President for the last two years. I have already made some remarks in reference to Mr. Bois, and these have been accentuated by Mr. Bosanquet. You all know how hard-working our retiring President has been, and how deep an interest he has taken in this Association, and I am sure we shall miss his able and ripe judgment from our councils here. (Hear, hear.) But I trust that when he returns he will be in perfect health, and thus enable him to fulfil his duties in the same able way as previously. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. Martin Leake (the Secretary): I am the person who has been brought more closely than anybody in connection with the retiring President, Mr. Bois. He is a very old friend of mine; I have known him forty years, and more, and I should like to say that nothing could have been more agreeable and pleasant than our working together these two years. (Hear, hear.) The quantity of work he has had to do I do not think anyone here can have any conception of, except, perhaps, Mr. Bosanquet. And not only in this matter of the Tea Clearing House has he given his time to the Association, but again and again he has had three or four Meetings a week with our Indian friends. I have the greatest pleasure in seconding this vote of thanks. (Hear, hear.)

The proposition was carried.

Mr. J. L. Shand: I cannot but express regret for the Resolution which has been entrusted to me, but the regret has been already so well spoken to by Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Bosanquet, and Mr. Leake, that I will only touch upon it. A sad necessity compels us this year to elect a new President. We had hoped we should have had the benefit of Mr. Bois's ripe experience for some years, but, unfortunately, owing to his very serious accident, we have lost his services, and I am sure the regret we all feel becomes real sorrow when we think of the time of trouble and trial he has had. I probably have the latest news of him—later than was given in the letter read by the Chairman—for I was with him yesterday, and am glad to say he was very cheerful and was bearing up as well as possible. (Hear, hear.) This is only the fifteenth year of this Association, but it is rather a strange thing that already the inception of the Association is veiled in mist. (Laughter.) In fact, so mythical has it become that the birthplace of Homer, the nationality of Gladstone, and the identity of the first tea-planter in Ceylon are very much on a par with it. (Laughter.) Mr. Rutherford claims to have an inspiration as to when it was founded; so has Mr. James Sinclair, so have I, and so, too, have other gentlemen in this room. However, it is respectable to have a mystery of this sort about our origin. (Laughter.) We will come now to the records of this Association, which our worthy



Secretary takes good care are correct, and which he is always able to put before us in proper form. There is one who stands out prominent in these records, and that is Mr. Rutherford. (Hear, hear.) He has been our Vice-Chairman, and he has worked hard with us on Committee for many years, and I am going to ask you to-day to show confidence in him by asking him to fill the position that Mr. Bois has vacated. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Rutherford, as you all know, has the interests of Ceylon thoroughly at heart, he works with zeal at anything he takes up, and I am perfectly certain the interests of the Ceylon tea industry could not be entrusted to better hands than his. (Applause.) We have had the cess and one or two other important matters before us, but there was one subject before us four years ago over which Mr. Rutherford and some others of us here incurred a certain amount of odium. I refer to the 1-lb. draft question. We were told we must not interfere in these things. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Well, we had an anxious time, but if any gentleman will only compare the account sales he received four years ago before it was settled to weigh to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. he will find how immensely he has benefited by that struggle in which we were engaged. I have just been able to prove to a gentleman in my office that in the course of these four years he has put into his pocket 500 chests of tea more than he would have had if it had not been agreed to weigh to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. This is one result of what Mr. Rutherford did, one of the things he brought to a successful issue. (Hear, hear.) I want to refer to another point. This idea that seems to exist in some quarters in Ceylon that there is anything antagonistic between us and the Planters' Association is absolutely ridiculous. (Applause.) Our wishes are absolutely identical. I myself was cradled in the Planters' Association in Ceylon, and if any dynastic question should arise as to which Chairman should have to go, the Chairman of the Ceylon Association in London or the Chairman of the Planters' Association, I would do my best to get rid of the Chairman of this Association. (Laughter.) The idea that there is anything antagonistic between the two bodies is absolutely ridiculous—(applause)—and it is only, I believe, the irresponsible utterances of penny-a-line scribblers that fan this sort of thing. (Laughter.) Members of the Planters' Association do not all think alike, we here do not always think alike; but it does not follow that there is anything antagonistic between us, and it is entirely absurd to think anything of the kind exists. (Hear, hear.) I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Rutherford as our President for the ensuing year. (Applause.)

Mr. Alex. Brooke: I second that proposition. Mr. Shand has put it so well that I need say very little—though I would not go with Mr. Shand in his remarks about the 1-lb. draft. (Laughter.) But I can say this: I do hope, and, indeed, I am quite sure, that under Mr. Rutherford's rule we shall have peace. (Hear, hear.) If a country is happy without a history, I am quite sure a trade is—(laughter)—and I do hope we shall have no cess fights; that our exertions will be directed towards reducing the burdens upon tea (as Mr. Skrine has pointed out, there is plenty of room there), and that we may see prosperity. I am sure we have got the best Chairman we could have in Mr. Rutherford. (Hear, hear.)

The proposition was unanimously carried.

The Chairman: I have to thank you very much indeed for the great honour you have done me in electing me President of this Association for the coming year. I know there are many men of ability in this Association, men who are zealous in its good work, who would be better fitted for the Chairman than I am—(oh, no)—and I trust that after this year you will be able to elect some other gentleman of your number should Mr. Bois not be able to resume his duties. I quite agree with what Mr. Brooke has said; the more peace we have in this Association the better. (Hear, hear.) It is not the duty of the Association to be ever agitating, but it is its duty to be always watchful; and as long as we are watchful over the interests of the colony and its industry, we shall be pursuing the best course. (Hear, hear.) As to the draft dispute, I can bear out what Mr. Shand says as to the result of the present system of weighing in comparison with the system in use before the dispute arose. I find my Company has saved very considerably indeed since the reform was effected. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Richard Cayley: We all agree that the real mainspring of the Association is the Secretary—(applause)—and it is the greatest pleasure to me to move the re-election of Mr. Wm. Martin Leake. He has been an old friend of mine for the last fifty years from the time of our college days, and although I had nothing to do with the

formation of this Association, I think I am one of the original members. It has always been my greatest pleasure to meet Mr. Leake here, and to see the very able and successful manner in which he performs all his duties. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. F. H. M. Corbet: I have great pleasure in seconding the Resolution. I cannot add anything to the extremely accurate way in which Sir Richard Cayley has described Mr. Leake's discharge of the duties, and upon my mind the same impression has been made.

The Chairman: You can very well do without a President, but you could never do without Mr. Leake, who has all along been the mainspring of this Association. (Hear, hear.) He has the whole of the affairs of the Association and everything that has happened, and that is likely to happen, well within his view. You could not get anyone to supply his place and do anything like the amount of work he does; and certainly no one in the Association would desire that anyone should supply his place. (Applause.)

The proposition was agreed to.

Mr. W. Martin Leake: I am very much obliged to you, gentlemen, for electing me once more. It comes to me with added pleasure this year in being proposed by my very old friend, Sir Richard Cayley. We rowed together—I rowed and he steered—in our college boat over fifty years ago. One interesting point raised by Mr. Shand was the origin of this Association. He says Mr. Rutherford started it, and that Mr. J. Sinclair also started it. Where do I come in? (Laughter; and Mr. Shand: "I started it too.") The fact of the matter is that over twenty years before this Association was started I was trying to start an Association of this kind. I wrote home to Mr. Rawdon Power, once Government agent in Kandy, and said we would make him agent in London for the Planters' Association, and he was to get up a Committee; he replied that he would do it if we would pay his cab fares. (Laughter.) We could not manage to do that, so it fell through. (Laughter.)

The Chairman proposed the re-election of the Executive Committee. This was agreed to, and on the proposition of Mr. J. Hamilton, Mr. R. A. Bosanquet was added to the committee. Excepting Mr. W. H. Anderson, Mr. J. Hamilton, Mr. W. Rollo, and Mr. P. G. Spence, who are no longer able to attend the Meetings, the Tea and Produce Committee was also elected.

On the proposition of Mr. R. A. Cameron, the Chairman was thanked for presiding and the Meeting then closed.

## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 23rd June. There were present: Messrs. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), A. C. Lawrie, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

The Chairman, Mr. H. C. Begg, wrote regretting his inability to attend.

Mr. H. S. Ashton and Mr. Lockhart Smith were absent from Calcutta.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, LONDON.

Letters dated 29th May and 5th June from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, having been circulated, were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subject dealt with in the letters was—

*The American and Foreign Market Fund.*—In connection with a suggestion which had been put forward by the General Committee to allot a portion of the amount standing at credit of the above Fund, towards the cost of an exhibit of Indian Teas at the forthcoming Exposition at St. Louis, it was stated in the letter of 5th June that the liabilities entered into by the London Committee for advertising in America and in connection with work in Russia, Paris, and Rome, amounted to about £2,000, in addition to which there were other claims to be met which would absorb the greater part of the balance at credit of the London account.

Mr. Tye mentioned that several gentlemen connected with the sale of Indian Tea in the United States were expected in London at an early date, and that the Committee would discuss with them the question of the representation of Indian tea at the St. Louis



Exposition. The result of the discussion would be communicated in due course.

After discussion, the question of a recommendation to the London Committee, regarding the disposal of the balance at credit of the Calcutta account, approximately Rs.20,000, was held over pending the receipt of a communication which, it was understood, was being sent in by the Indian Tea Cess Committee, on the subject of the proposed exhibit at St. Louis.

#### SCIENTIFIC OFFICER'S FUND.

Read letter No. 952-26-2, dated 12th June, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, stating that the Government of India were prepared to contribute Rs.5,000 annually for three years on condition that the results of the enquiry were published or printed and made available to Government and to all tea-planters in India.

The Secretary was instructed, in acknowledging receipt of the letter, to convey to Government the thanks of the Committee for the valuable assistance rendered. With regard to the publication of the results of the Scientific Officer's investigations, Government were to be informed that this course had been regularly pursued from the commencement, and that copies of the various reports would, as heretofore, be made available to Government and to tea-planters in India.

The total amount promised by the Government of India, the Government of Bengal, the Assam Administration, and the various Associations contributing to the fund fell short by Rs.5,700 of the amount required annually to carry out, in its entirety, the scheme propounded by Mr. Mann in 1902. It was thought, however, that by economising wherever possible, the balance could be made up from the General Fund of the Association. It was decided, therefore, to inform Mr. Mann that the Committee were prepared to give effect to his proposals.

#### PROPOSED PLANTERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

Read letter dated 13th June from the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, forwarding a report of the proceedings of a Meeting of

planters recently held in Cachar to consider the advisability of forming, in connection with the Branch, a Planters' Defence Association.

The proceedings were ordered to be recorded pending the receipt of full details of the scheme. It was noted that the Resolution in favour of the establishment of the proposed Association had been carried by 29 votes to 13.

#### PREVENTION OF MALARIAL FEVER.

Read letter dated 9th June from the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, forwarding copies of "Sanitary Instructions" issued by the Committee of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, for observance in malarial places.

The letter was ordered to be acknowledged with thanks, and recorded. Many of the suggestions contained in the paper accompanying the letter were, the Committee considered, extremely useful and eminently worthy of adoption.

#### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated June 19th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

		Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904	...	50,930	61,789	5,948
1902-1903	...	64,860	86,758	6,138
22,708 pkgs. INDIAN	} Total 61,716 packages were offered in public auction this week.			
35,541 " CEYLON				
3,467 " JAVA				

Taking into consideration the very light stock of duty-paid tea held in the country, the figures below illustrate the strength of the statistical position.

**"All Sorts and Conditions of Men"**

USE

**ST. JACOBS OIL**

**FOR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,**

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

**CONQUERS PAIN**





Duty payments for the season just closed doubtless represent actual consumption, while in the two previous seasons they were probably fictitious owing to clearances in anticipation of the Budget, while the lighter bonded stock of all tea held in the country is significant. It is also clear from the small quantities exported from India and Ceylon during the last few weeks that arrivals in the immediate future will be less than they were a year ago.

INDIAN.—The sale passed at about previous rates for medium and good teas, but some slight irregularity was noticeable in common descriptions. About 600 packages new season's teas were brought forward and sold at the following averages, viz:—"Balijan T Co.," 105 packages, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d; "Itakhoolie," 62 c., 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d; "Suddia Rd. T Co.," 40 packages, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; "Sealkotee," 115 packages, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d; "Budla Beta," 100 c., 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d; "Mokalbari," 49 c., 8d; "Rhoni," 116 packages, 7d.

Exports to U. K. first half of June 2,600,000 lbs. against 3,150,000 lbs.; from 1st April 5,052,000 lbs., against 6,540,000 lbs. in 1902.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Account Season 1903-4, 588 pkgs., av. 8 $\cdot$ 56d. 1902-3, 393 pkgs., av. 6 $\cdot$ 30d.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Account Season 1902-3, 18,447 pkgs., av. 7 $\cdot$ 71d. 1901-2, 6 $\cdot$ 850 pkgs., av. 6 $\cdot$ 61d.

Garden Account 1st June, 1902, to date season 1902-3, 1,249,893 pkgs., av. 7 $\cdot$ 52d., season 1901-2, 1,329,070 pkgs., av. 7 $\cdot$ 62d.

CEYLON.—The heavy auction was mainly caused by accumulations during the holidays. The sale passed with fair spirit, although slightly easier rates were occasionally noticeable, especially for common and medium teas, fine descriptions ruling very firm. Private advice gives exports to U. K. first half of May 4,500,000 lbs., against 7,800,000 lbs. last year. Estimate for June 10,750,000 lbs.

Average for week 7 $\cdot$ 45d, against 6 $\cdot$ 54d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 459,526 pkgs., av. 7 $\cdot$ 66d. 1902, 525,617 pkgs., av. 6 $\cdot$ 92d.

JAVA.—Javas sold with fair spirit, but in sympathy with other kinds the tendency here and there was towards slightly easier rates.

### QUININE.

There has been little disposition to do business this week in view of the Amsterdam sale of bark to-day. Sales representing altogether about 30,000 oz. have, however, been made at from 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per oz. for good German sulphate in bulk, being lower. December delivery has also been sold at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF MAY, AS SHOWN BY CUSTOM HOUSE RETURNS.

	IMPORTS.			DUTY PAYMENTS.			* EXPORTS.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
British East Indies ...	150,230,367	156,704,981	162,775,111	142,370,940	139,948,656	141,298,589	12,395,018	12,728,033	12,792,113
Ceylon ...	100,749,718	102,463,982	112,065,484	81,360,822	85,058,414	93,923,337	17,348,999	17,329,682	15,846,355
China ...	16,906,516	21,775,347	19,975,579	12,262,634	11,013,969	10,460,708	13,050,192	10,376,405	13,256,394
Other Countries ...	15,440,713	12,632,969	9,613,991	8,881,797	8,774,531	6,134,659	1,380,457	964,777	1,201,500
Total lbs. ...	283,327,314	293,577,279	304,430,165	244,876,193	244,795,570	251,817,293	44,174,666	41,398,897	43,096,362

\*Analysis of above export of tea from U. K. during the last three years (not including transshipments).

	INDIAN.			CEYLON.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Countries in Europe ...	6,267,920	6,494,424	7,210,572	8,379,330	8,830,311	9,331,743
United States ...	1,442,013	1,375,704	1,163,958	2,568,440	2,653,532	1,541,772
British North America ...	1,374,146	1,263,818	1,663,862	2,636,923	2,194,346	1,930,886
Newfoundland ...	120,887	130,742	121,366	297,293	387,678	361,953
Other Countries ...	3,190,052	3,463,345	2,632,355	3,467,013	3,263,815	2,680,001
Total lbs. ...	12,395,018	12,728,033	12,792,113	17,348,999	17,329,682	15,846,355

	CHINA.			OTHER COUNTRIES.		
	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1900-1901.
Countries in Europe ...	6,425,445	5,045,648	7,581,106	1,130,872	826,063	1,017,281
United States ...	949,185	396,474	356,232	57,503	28,142	18,538
British North America ...	412,757	213,804	330,745	65,763	19,276	28,360
Newfoundland ...	81,062	79,832	208,770	12,546	9,602	2,101
Other Countries ...	5,181,743	4,640,649	4,779,539	113,773	83,694	135,220
Total lbs. ...	13,050,192	10,376,405	13,256,394	1,380,457	964,777	1,201,500

Stock of all Tea in bond in the U. K. on the last day of May, 1903, 77,502,000 lbs.; 1902, 83,983,000 lbs.; 1901, 78,971,000 lbs.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7 $\cdot$ 74d., JUNE 19TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry Glenfruin ...	28 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1903.

[No. 28.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 24th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*July 7th.—Weather—*Rain very light. *Temperature high.* *Works—*Pitting and weeding. *Coffee—*doing well in the dry weather. *Health—*Very poor. *Labour—*Sufficient.

#### Munzerabad.

*July 14th.—Weather—*Monsoon starting again with increased violence, this burst began on the 8th. *Temperature—*Cool. *Works—*Supplying, weeding. *Health—*Better. *Labour—*Sufficient.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 15th July.—Weather—*The monsoon has gained greatly in strength since the 30th ultimo. During the past 24 hours the rainfall has been nearly 3 inches and the previous 24 hours it was 50 cents better. Good thing for the paddy fields, and not at all bad for the coffee as the ground will get thoroughly saturated. Coffee is looking very fine all over now the borer is out. Crop is nearly all full size. All are hard at work weeding. It is too wet to plant. *General health—*Good. No news of plague from Veerajapett.

### TEA PROSPECTS.

It is gratifying to be able to write more hopefully about Tea Prospects than concerning the probable future of Coffee. There does not seem to be room for doubt that the tactics adopted by planters in Ceylon and India have succeeded in respect to the curtailment of production and the consequent strengthening of values. Side by side with this reduction in supplies has come an increase in demand. To what extent this has resulted from more strenuous efforts to push sales in various markets, cannot be accurately determined. Opinions vary greatly with reference to this. One thing at least, is certain; viz. that larger sums have been spent in

the effort to stimulate consumption. Whether because of this outlay or not, consumption has increased; and reasonable men will be ready to assume that the outlay has not been made without return. Whether the return has been commensurate with the expenditure, is another matter. On this point we scarcely think that anything can be said with certainty until the new Cess has been experimented with for a few years. If, after that, further development of demand, proportionate to the additional outlay, is noted, there will be no necessity for hesitation in accepting the view that planters act wisely in spending liberally on measures that are best described as advertising and canvassing in a special manner for a very definite purpose. There will be unbelievers always, but we shall look forward with interest to annual statements of amounts expended and annual estimates of the good achieved by means of this outlay.

The Chairman of the British India Tea Company, Limited, spoke to the point at the recent annual general meeting of that Company. He remarked that there are many things now to show that prospects for the future are of an encouraging nature. "It is now admitted by all interested in tea-growing that the root of all our troubles of late was over-production of tea, brought about by undue extensions, resulting in supply exceeding demand—a condition of things which could only end in what has happened. For the first time, after several years, the total supply of last season's crop turned out to be  $12\frac{1}{2}$  millions less than the consumption in that year; but what is more important, during the last three to four years, practically no new extensions were put out. Besides this, the low prices . . . have been mainly the means of causing fresh markets to be opened out, and so increasing consumption, and great efforts are being made to still further develop new outlets for our produce. These are advantages which, perhaps, nothing but adversity would have led us to secure." In these last words there is a world of meaning. The converse of the statement holds as good as the statement itself. If low prices tend to the opening out of new markets, high prices must have just the opposite tendency. Therefore, the restriction of output in order to raise prices, must be regarded as adverse to the opening out of new markets and the expansion of trade in existing markets. That this effect is not yet apparent in statistics, is mainly due to the fact that the results of restriction of output have only lately begun to cause prices to rise. In



the face of depressed trade and poor quality of crops, these efforts availed for some time, only, to check a fall, or to prevent a more serious fall in rates than has actually occurred. For many years past there has been a more or less steady fall, which at last assumed a very serious aspect. This was the direct result of over-production, and it continued, in spite of restriction of production, until last season, when the lowest prices ever recorded for tea were quoted. In the chief producing districts in India there was unfavourable weather; and only when the influence that this must exercise on output was realised in Mincing Lane, did prices take a turn for the better.

For many years the tea industry has not entered upon any season under such favourable auspices as are visible now. America and Canada are taking increasing quantities of Indian tea; there is ground for the hope that Australasian demand is once more on the up-grade. Russia, Afghanistan, and Persia are good customers. Indian demand is being fostered and may yet become a very important factor. Everywhere, Indian tea is being more talked about, more written about, more advertised, and more appreciated. Many buyers who formerly bought 'Tea' now want a particular description of tea, and their taste leans more and more in the direction of Indian tea or of some blend in which Indian leaf occupies an important place. Quite recently the *Financial News*, "while fully allowing for the corrective effect of putting the brake on production," expressed itself as leaning to the opinion that "the most encouraging factor in the present situation is the noteworthy expansion which is taking place in consumption." Of the two influences, the latter is unquestionably to be preferred. It is the one most likely to benefit the tea-planter; it is the one best calculated to be *permanent*; and even if in some directions it tends to stimulate production, there will be no reason for complaint, no cause for anxiety, if planters proceed with caution. What they have to aim at is to stimulate the demand for tea to the very uttermost, and to gradually increase production so that it may be about level with demand. To fall short with production would be to bolster prices up to a level that might bring about a reaction in consumption. To increase production too rapidly could but have the effect of causing a reaction in prices. Cheapness is a great auxiliary to all efforts towards increased demand; and tea-planters have always to bear in mind, not only that they have rivals in China, Japan, and Java, but also that their product is not without strong competitors. Prospects are more favourable than they have been for years past, but the need for caution in the matter of production is still apparent, and is not likely to cease during the next few years.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee Duty in France.**—Finance Minister Rouvier has informed a deputation representing the coffee interests that budget considerations compelled an increase in the duty on coffee by \$4. He added that the Franco-Brazilian treaty will not be denounced before June 30, in order that a new tariff may be put in force before the end of the year.

F. Metz & Co., Havre, say: "Let us presume that the duty would be increased 20 francs, then in the first place all kinds of mild coffee, which are relatively cheap, would pay duty. But people would hardly make up their minds to pay

duty in large blocks of Santos coffee, as it requires 80,000 francs to pay the duty on 1,000 bags coffee, and at present people do not know whether the bank would make advances on duty-paid coffee; then all sorts of difficulties would arise with the insurance companies. Besides, the duty-paid coffee will not be allowed to remain on the docks; it must be brought into another warehouse, and if the coffee is not sold quickly then there are at unchanged prices 6 to 7 francs additional expenses at the end of the year."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—A new record figure in the coffee market for futures was made Monday, June 15, by the bidding of 3.60 for June and July, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 12th ultimo. Spot months have been 3.65.

The coffee market is quiet and, as a rule, at easier prices. The tendencies continue bearish. The fullness of the Brazil receipts indicate that the new crop has begun moving, and the interest hereafter will be to watch the degree of this fullness so as to obtain a line on the size of the 1903-04 crop. The market in Brazil is reported easier with no particular transaction following except such as may be based, as rumoured, on speculative selling as a hedge against purchases made on a lower basis. In spot invoices there has been an absence of orders and the market has ruled quiet. Closing quotations are 4½c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5¾c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. for Santos No. 4. The jobbing demand is only moderate.

The market for futures is listless. The transactions are limited in volume. In Europe there is no more doing. July option is now down to 3.65 and December is 4.25. The distant months are selling at a premium of 25 points. All this is on the expectation that there will be a change of grade on the Exchange next November. To not a few this expectation is inexplicable.

Mild coffees are easy too. Arrivals continue large in volume. Still coffees of good roasting quality are much sought and not easily obtainable; when they are found stiff rates are asked for them. Good Cucuta is quoted 8 to 8½c. East Indias are dull.

\* \* \*

The coffee market is still crouching under a load that would have crushed it a few years ago, says the *Merchants' Review* of 12th ultimo. But so rapid has been the growth of consumption, owing to the low price produced by the glut, that the visible supply, although equal to much more than the consumptive supply necessary for a twelvemonth a few years ago, is now carried with a fair degree of steadiness. Fifteen years ago the world's requirements were only about two-thirds the total visible supply to-day, and yet the opening of the new crop year is only three weeks away. As the growing crop in Brazil is said to be enormous, it is easy to understand how hopeless it is to expect prices to materially advance, notwithstanding the remarkably low level of all coffee values. But grocers are used to big crops. Sugar growers for fifteen or twenty years have been dinning their complaints into the ears of whosoever would listen, the tea-men have been shouting ruin and the swarthy coffee-planters of Brazil have been swearing by all their little tin gods and saints that they could no longer live on the absurd returns from their plantations, and yet all hands have scratched through. Sugar has managed to resume its equilibrium, tea consumption has caught up to the increased rate of produc-



tion set by the Indian and Cinghalese planters, and now the coffee-men seem to be near the point where the low price will effectually chill the enthusiasm of the planter and cause a reduction of the production. It is worthy of note, however, that although sugar has increased in popularity by leaps and bounds, in Great Britain and Ireland as well as this country, and although coffee has gone from 5 or 6 lbs. to 12 or 13 lbs. *per capita* in the United States, tea has been stationary here and perhaps in several other countries, but there is no doubt as to its failure to gain new friends here. It has had the same obstacles as coffee to contend with. Indeed it is not possible that tea could have been manipulated as coffee has been by cheapeners of food supplies, and even the lowest grades of tea could not have tasted worse than that genuine berry, the "triale" of Brazil. What, then, has been the cause of the failure of tea? To return to the subject of the visible supply of coffee, on June 1st it amounted to 11,856,843 bags, compared with 12,248,278 bags on May 1st and 11,324,563 bags on June 1st, 1902. There is but cold comfort in those figures for the bull speculator. In Europe the supply (visible) aggregates 7,163,000 bags, which is equal to a full Brazilian crop in the early nineties. The invisible supply in Europe as well as America is probably very much larger than in the brave days of old when 6,000,000 bags were counted a generous Rio and Santos crop. If one only knew the extent of that invisible supply one might publish the figures and scare the bulls out of a year's growth.

Market slow and melting, says the *American Grocer* of June 13, except for high-grade and fancy mild coffee, which commands a premium above the Exchange basis. More attention is being paid to making fine blends than ever before, and this creates a demand for full-bodied, rich-flavoured coffee.

Brazil sorts dull and favour the buyer on grades above No. 7; steady for No. 7 and below on the basis of 5½c. Rio No. 3, 6½c; Santos No. 4, 5½c.

The sales of mild coffee, May 15 to 28, include: 17,685 bags Maracaibo; 4,418 bags Laguayra; 8,149 bags Savanilla; 5,346 bags Mexican; 2,084 bags Central American; 192 bags Jamaica; 185 bags Coro. The tendency is to lower prices on the general offering, simply because supply is excessive and far beyond legal requirements.

Total stock in United States June 1, 2,585,938 bags against 2,300,387 bags June 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States June 13, in store and afloat, 2,367,504 bags against 2,513,901 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 394,950 bags, against 370,075 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York June 13, 1,924,041. Stock in New York in other coffees June 8, 289,955, in San Francisco, 96,396 bags and in New Orleans, 8,597 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, June 1, 11,856,843 bags.

As the crop year draws to a close it is seen, says the *Merchants' Review* of 5th ultimo, that the supply of coffee shows no signs of shrinking to old-time proportions. The year opened with a world's visible supply of 11,261,331 bags, and yet the receipts at Brazil ports for the first eleven months have been equal to a year's consumption. On the first of

next July the "visible" promises to exceed the "visible" of a year previous by fully a million bags. The invisible stocks should be even larger than those of a year ago, and under these circumstances no one can wonder that prices are very low and still shrinking.

Now that the 1902-03 Brazil coffee crop is pretty sure to be not less than 12,250,000 bags, and so the quantity produced is a definite fact, it is, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 12th ultimo, interesting to review the prophecies of the coffee sages one year ago. Then, as now, there was guessing as to the crop, and if the next crop shall behave as impolitely in its extravagance, their will be a bumper crop and no help for it. The crop just now all in is one that created so much excitement because of a drouth, which all along was held to have done so much damage that even in July last it was thought to be preposterous to think that during 1902-03 there could be gathered in 9,000,000 bags. Indeed, the "Brazilian Review," claiming the best information, ventured at the utmost a guess of 9,250,000 bags, 6,250,000 bags Santos and 3,000,000 bags Rio. The general bear guess was a crop of 10,000,000 bags, and the most drastic, just to be sensational, dared the fling of 12,000,000 bags. As it has happened Herod is out-Heroded, and we get a crop of a quarter million bags in excess of the wildest guess. It is assumed that the crops of non-Brazilian coffees will figure up 4,250 000 bags, and so we will have a world's coffee crop of 16,500,000 bags for the year. It is probable that the increase of coffee consumption of the world will be the usual 500,000 bags, and this will bring the total consumption up to 16,000,000 bags, leaving a surplus of 500,000 bags to be added to the surplus of 4,000,000 bags accumulated one year ago. Now as to the next crop. Made conservative by the previous wrong guesses of nearly everybody, the outlook is for a 13,000,000 bag out-turn. It should seem that there has been no further extension of the Brazil crops; the coffee has paid so poorly, and there must have been some decrease in trees that have become superannuated, so to speak, or been destroyed. Besides there must have been a considerable diminution in the fructifying power of the trees due to the inferior care and fertilization that the loss of financial means must have thrust upon the planters. Then there too was the frost of last August which should have affected twenty per cent. of the trees. So giving guessing the widest latitude within conservatism the next Brazil crop should be around thirteen million bags, which again is too much for the world to handle unless a sweeping calamity shall strike the crop which will presently start growing.

Cuba has increased the duty on coffee from \$12 to \$18 per hundred kilos., purely as a protection measure.

**A Machine that Roasts Coffee by Electricity.**—A new coffee roasting machine, invented by Geo. C. Lester, of New York city, and operated by electricity for both power and heat, has aroused considerable interest among those who have seen it in operation, and who know and appreciate what such a machine may mean to the coffee roasting industry. Mr. Lester has taken out patents covering it in the United States and all Europe. Three machines have been built, the smallest of which is now in Germany on Exhibition. It roasts two pounds. One of the others is a fifty-pound



machine; the other roasts four hundred pounds and is therefore a two-bag roaster. The machine can be built to roast any quantity of coffee from one pound to ten bags and even more.

Many claims of superiority are asserted for this coffee-roasting device over others. Among them are that the shrinkage in roasting is only from 3 to 5 per cent. less and that the drink of the coffee is made far superior to that roasted on the old style machine using combustible fuel.

The machine is constructed so that the coffee is placed in a receptacle, or rotary drum, covered with perforated metal and surrounded with electric heaters so that contact between the coffee and the heaters is avoided. Moreover, as the electric heat is pure and unlike combustible fuel, the coffee does not come in contact with nor pass through any obnoxious fumes.

The heaters are connected up in the electric circuit from the generator, whereby one or more may be cut in or out of the circuit, thereby regulating the intensity of the heat; or, in other words, the heat may be increased or decreased instantly when necessary by the switchboard controlling the heaters.

The machine is compact and slightly in appearance, and takes up less room than the old style machine. It does not require any shafting, pulleys or belting, as the cooling or suction pipe tank for receiving the coffee after it is cooled, the fan for cooling and elevating, and the motor furnishing the power, are all compact and complete. The outside of the machine is covered with asbestos and canvas. The drum being air-tight, there is no chance for the aromas or flavours of the coffee beans to escape, and hence the beans retain all the original and essential qualities. A portion of the moisture that the bean contains in its green state is also retained, and this explains the saving of shrinkage.

It is understood that a company will be formed shortly to manufacture and place the machine on the market.—*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*.

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Coffee when used to excess hampers the work of the digestive organs and causes congestion of the liver and obstinate constipation.

\* \* \*

Coffee-roasting is a process in which minutes, nay, seconds, are everything. An extra half minute of exposure to the heat has often ruined a roast. The man in charge must act quickly when the coffee is ready for turning out of the cylinder, otherwise his employer will be out of pocket. The matter of roasting has much to do with the flavor of coffee on the consumer's table.

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**Mat Coffee in New York.**—The stock of mat coffee in warehouse at New York is reported to be as follows:—

		June 1	
		1903	1902
		Mats.	Mats.
Padang ... ..	...	57,684	38,585
Praeger ... ..	...	300	300
Malang and Buitenzorg ...	...	2,000	2,000
Palembag and private growth ...	...	46,000	53,000
Macassar and Bonthyne ...	...	18,794	5,134
Total ...	...	124,778	99,019

Deliveries during May, 1903, were 5,660 mats, of which 1,213 mats were Padang. Deliveries during May, 1902, were 8,842 mats, of which 1,067 mats were Padang.

**Coffee in New York.**—A slow market, unchanged in its features from last week, says the *American Grocer* of 10th also. Fine roasting grades command a premium over the basis of Exchange quotations. Mild coffee in buyer's favour except on specially desirable roasting grades, some of which are scarce.

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The whole trend of sentiment in the coffee trade is bearish, says the *American Grocer* of June 3.

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Walter Ashlin, one of the greatest American coffee specialists, says: "There is a real scarcity of high-grade and fancy roasting Central American and other mild coffee. A very fancy Bogota would bring 16c; a fancy Maracaibo 12c. The range on very desirable roasting sorts for blends is from 10c. for a golden Santos up to 16c." A good deal of coffee designated Santos is really Rio, being grown in districts close to the old Rio plantations. High grade Rios are relatively the cheaper, because of the peculiar Rio flavour. Arnold Schramm, in speaking about mild coffee, says: "Tendency downward owing to larger supplies. Only the better grades of all kinds and very low grade coffee were in demand, buyers fearing to increase stocks owing to the general lack of trade."

#### TEA NOTES.

The recent shipment to London of 2,976 packages more of tea makes the total shipments for the year 58,416 packages, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 12th ultimo. This means that the total imports of the year to the United States have been reduced more than 3,400,000 lbs. Fortunately for the American market the tea exported was Congou, of which there has been such a plethora here, and while the large withdrawal has not altered the prices of the teas remaining, it has served to put the market in a healthier state. London, however, is not so satisfied. The increase in the price of Indias and Ceylons created a demand for cheap China teas that might be used in mixtures, but the blessing seems to have had other than best effects. It is reported that the New York supplies to England have materially interfered with the steady advance looked for in such teas as Chinas had sent direct and were available for the lower blends. And it is further said that the transaction has not been a profitable one. All this will be very interesting to the American market, which has been quite willing to part with the tea so little in request. Unless there is a decided further leap into higher prices, it is safe to conclude that the export of Congous from this side will not be for the present time continued.

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**More Tea for Porto Rico.**—Porto Rico does not drink much tea if any at all. However a beginning for larger things has been made and more and better tea is being sent to the island. Strange to say the tea is being sent from Pawtucket, R. I. from the warehouse of the Lyons Delany Company. Roman Catholic institutions managed by Americans seem to be blazing the way for tea.

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**American Tea.**—Tea picking at Pinehurst, South Carolina, has been progressing for some time. The tea plants are presenting a most healthy appearance so far this season and the flushes have been of luxuriant growth. Judging from the



gathering so far the output will be far in excess of the season of 1902 and the quality in a measure superior.

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**Tea in the U. S.**—Samples of the new first crop Formosas have arrived and gave satisfaction, says the *Merchants' Review* of 12th ultimo. Second crop Japans are said to be coming into market, and advices coming thence are firm in tone. The cables also say that fair settlements are makings of Pingsueys at firm prices, which show a 20 per cent. advance compared with last year. India and Ceylon advices are firm with prices in India much above last year's range. The local market is quiet and featureless. The new crop Formosas mentioned above are not the best of the season's output, the third picking being the best, the second the next best, and the first the poorest of all.

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Mandarin tea sells in China for \$10 to \$15 a pound, and is rarely exported from China.

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Tea leaves three inches long, tied with ribbon in small bunches, have been seen once or twice in grocery windows in the United States. As a rarity they would probably sell well, at least for a while.

\* \* \*

Japan teas always deceive the consumer who is not familiar with them. He thinks because they are so delicate in flavour they must be deficient in strength, whereas they really possess a greater strength than most of the teas grown in China, and have a correspondingly greater effect upon the nervous system.

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If there are any persons who doubt the superiority of the finest Formosa Oolong tea, let them, says the *Merchants' Review*, make a drawing of a really fine sample and notice how the aroma delights the nostrils, filling the apartment with a fragrance that resembles the perfume of the jessamine or, as some think, the primrose. This is an aroma peculiar to this kind of tea, and it is said that Formosa tea must be continually cultivated in new soil in order to retain this aroma.

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Pingsuey teas are called "bastard" teas in China, because their origin is open to suspicion, some authorities contending that they are derived from another plant than the tea plant.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market is slow, especially in spot lines, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 12th ultimo, but prices hold steady though lower than those ruling in the opening markets. This is, however, a comparison between old and new teas. For the teas in demand and on the spot prices are very firm. This is especially true of Country Greens and Pingsueys. Some of the new Formosas have arrived but reports vary as to the quality of them. More of the tea will have to be seen before a trustworthy general opinion can be entertained. The prices rule firm at the advanced rate. New Japans are coming in larger volume but the sales are few. The high prices for the tea seem prohibitive to buyers. While the incoming supplies are only fair at New York, they are very much larger at Chicago, which has become the distributing point of the country for the tea. The tea that has arrived is of the better grade, and all of it seems to be taken at the advanced prices. As there is no more of it to be had a decline in price need not be looked for. It is under-

stood that the market which has been so barren of the better grades is readily absorbing such stocks as arrive. Those who are well informed say that there will be no difficulty in getting Japan teas of the lower grades at lower prices. Other primal markets are reported strong, despite that agents are doing their best to bring offers to a lower basis.

Congous are very slow on this market but abroad are selling at good advances over last season's opening, more especially on medium and choicest grades.

Foochows are also quiet and spot prices easier.

Indias and Ceylons are arriving in greater numbers and steadily going into consumption; prices are unchanged although the foreign markets offer very inviting values in better grades. Greens from these countries are a little lower in price, probably from larger quantities to offer from.

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Japan teas are about 7 cents per pound higher than last season. Basket-fired are relatively higher than pan-fired, says the *American Grocer* of 10th ultimo.

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**China's 1902 Tea Season.**—The annual report of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China includes particulars of the exportations of tea from China direct to foreign countries for the year 1902. The grand total of the exports is 1,519,211 piculs or 202,455,881 pounds, against 1,157,211 piculs or 154,256,226 pounds in 1901, a substantial increase which is likewise exceptional, for the importations from China excluding the year 1898, when 1,930,795 piculs were exported, have been continually decreasing since the year 1895. In the last ten years the highest figures reached were 1,865,680 piculs (1895). Exports were lowest in 1901.

Of Congous, 506,885 piculs were exported in 1902, of which 114,364 piculs went to the United States direct, 77,065 to Great Britain and nearly all of the remainder to Russia. Hong Kong is represented with 42,078 piculs. Of Oolongs, 77,906 piculs were exported, of which the United States got direct 52,751 piculs. Souchongs were sent direct to the United States to the extent of only 8 piculs. They went in the main to the continent of Europe, Russia excepted, the total being represented by 18,867 piculs. The grand total was 26,072 piculs. The exports of scented capers were 10,055 piculs, almost entirely distributed from Hong Kong. The entire export of black tea amounted to 687,228 piculs or 101,615,490 pounds of which 168,501 piculs or 22,461,183 pounds were sent direct to the United States.

Of green tea the total export was 253,757 piculs or 33,936,808 pounds of which 126,196 piculs or 15,821,927 pounds were sent to the United States direct and 64,377 piculs to Russia. To the United States were sent 23,052 piculs of Young Hyson, 13,142 piculs of Hyson, 951 of Imperial, and 89,088 piculs of gunpowder. Russia took large quantities of the better grades, excelling the United States. The figures were 16,536 piculs young Hyson, and 41,677 piculs of Hyson.

Russia received almost the entire output of brick tea, being sent 477,597 piculs of black and 86,932 piculs of green. Russia also practically got the entire production of tablets—7,156 piculs.

Japan by direct export received only 1 picul of green tea, but was allowed to have 7,061 piculs of black tea. On the other hand India took only 877 piculs of black tea direct, but ordered 10,984 piculs of green tea, which, on the whole, is no



small bit of heresy for that country to perpetrate. Our Phillipine Islands figure in the list with only 177 piculs.

Russia leads all other countries as China's best tea customer. The grand total sent direct to that country was 882,893 piculs or 117,689,636 pounds, but second is the United States, with, however, only 294,697 piculs or 39,283,110 lbs., and third is Great Britain, with 116,317 piculs, and next Hong Kong, with 77,425 piculs.

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**Russian Tea Trade.**—A Consular report from Batoum says:—The Customs regulations for the importation of teas in transit through the Caucasus for the Trans-Caspian and Central Asian markets have now been extended to teas for the Persian markets, and the Russo-Chinese Bank has received permission from the Russian Government to import, through the port of Batoum, teas in transit for Persia, provided the bank deposits a guarantee at the Batoum Custom-house equivalent to the duty which is due on each parcel so proceeding in transit until the tea is exported into Persia through either the Julfa, Baku, Krasnovodsk, Askabad, or Dushak Custom-houses. When the Batoum Custom-house receives intimation that a consignment of tea has left the country, the deposit on such consignment is returned to the bank. This measure will doubtless, to a considerable extent, affect the Indo-Persian tea trade through the southern ports of Persia, seeing that tea destined for the northern Persian markets will have to travel a shorter distance overland and thus avoid the excessive charges of caravan transport.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Mr. A. R. Robertson writes in the *Spice Mill*:—The tea market has to be reported in better condition than last month. Buying has been more active, although quantities are not large.

It would appear as if stocks were light, and while prices of Formosa tea are quoted a cent to two cents lower than a month ago, it is worthy of remembrance that no great selling is taking place; in fact, in comparison with eastern markets spot teas are "a good buy."

Formosa quotations from foreign markets give 18½ cents for cargo grades, and buying steady.

During next month, a better view will be had for the future, as Summer teas will again begin to make appearance.

Congou teas are offering 9½ cents to 10 cents c. i. f. New York for new season Government standards, while medium and finer grades show a heavy advance on opening prices of last year, estimated about 20 per cent.

This class of tea is one which does not respond to the firmer prices of last season, but is more than likely to interest buyers this year, as probably owing to higher prices for China greens, more of the leaf will be used for that purpose.

Japans keep firm at advance of opening market. Quality is reported very fine, and supply will not be more than can easily be taken care of.

Greens very strong, in price with small stock, and only hand to mouth buying.

India and Ceylon have had more attention the past month, and prices are very low for choice teas, while medium and lower grades are firm at advanced figures.

Calcutta market opened with prices corresponding to advance on London market.

India and Ceylon greens are quietly forging ahead and some fine teas are offered cheap.

Last season 39,418,628 pounds of tea were exported into the United States from Japan, of which 4,563,858 pounds went to New York by steamer or sail and railroad and 8,827,769 pounds *via* Suez Canal; 3,868,612 pounds were shipped to San Francisco; 17,544,930 pounds to Chicago (against 12,830,270 pounds during the preceding year); 4,363,884 pounds to Canada (against 6,480,964 pounds in preceding year), and 248,575 pounds to Europe, etc. The total exportations during the preceding year were 35,726,102 pounds. Countries outside of the United Kingdom took during the first three months of 1903 a larger quantity of both Indian and Ceylon tea than for the same time in 1902, but not much more than in 1901, but about 9,000,000 pounds more than in 1899. That is encouraging for British-grown tea.

During May only three packages of tea were rejected; there were passed 12,010 packages weighing 760,267 pounds. The tea supply of the United States averages higher grade than ever. With tea duty free, the consumption ought to get beyond 100,000,000 pounds annually.

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**Tea in Natal.**—To show what dimensions the tea industry has attained in Natal the *Grocers' Journal* states that the Hulett tea plantation in Natal is the largest of its kind in South Africa, in fact, in all Africa, for tea is not grown in any other part of the Continent. "I believe," says a writer in the *Magazine of Commerce*, "its greatest output for one day is 10,370 lbs. of tea, and the estimate for a recent season is 1,000,000 lbs. Its acreage is extensive, and, beside a large factory and quite a village of huts for the Indian employes, it also has a railway of its own—a 2-ft. gauge line—being the first light railway laid in Natal, and costing £20,000 to lay. The native labour mainly consists of coolies, of whom there are about 1,000."

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**Ceylon Green Tea.**—Yesterday's Green tea statement shows, says the *Ceylon Observer* of 7th instant, that during the second half of June a larger quantity of green tea earned the bonus than in any previous half month since the commencement of the bonus system. The figures were 881,959 lbs. and with 710,790 lbs. for the first half of the month this brings the June total of Green tea manufactured upon which bonus has been paid up to the record figures of 1,592,749 lbs. This is remarkably good and if July shows a similar result the 4 cents bonus will be exhausted at the end of the present month and the 3 cents era inaugurated. It looks as if after all the 12 million aimed at will be attained this year. It is not expected that the claims in July will be quite so heavy as in June. In the course of a comment on the exports from Calcutta for the month of May we see in the *Englishman* to hand to-day that only 102 lbs. of Green tea were exported for the month of May!

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**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the sales on 10th instant 17,000 packages were offered and 16,500 sold. There were strong and active demand and prices were steady except for common kinds, which were about a farthing lower. The feature of the sale was the strong demand from Bombay for suitable Pekoes at about two annas over London rates and from China for dust at four annas-and-a-half per pound.

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**U. S. Imports of Tea.**—April imports of tea for the entire United States were light, being 1,389,513 pounds, against 2,358,134



pounds in April, 1902, says the *American Grocer*. For the ten months ending April 30, they were, however, larger than for any entire year in the history of the tea trade, except 1897, reaching 102,332,678 pounds, against 71,727,431 pounds for same time in 1902; 84,532,132 pounds in 1901. The largest annual import on record is 112,907,548 pounds in 1897. The average annual net import for the five years, 1898-1902, was 77,322,599 pounds; for ten years, 1893-1902, it was 86,923,049. From 1893-98, it averaged 96,523,498 pounds, a period of duty-free tea.

A decline to an average yearly import for the five years of greatest prosperity this country ever experienced, of 77,322,599 pounds, subject to a duty of 10 cents per pound, is very significant of the effect of a tariff on consumption, especially when such rival articles as cocoa and coffee were admitted free of duty. The record shows an average annual decrease in imports during the five years, 1898-1902, of over 19,000,000 pounds, as compared with the previous five years of free tea.

It would be unfair to attribute this notable decrease in consumption altogether to a 10-cent duty, although the marked rise in imports during ten months following its removal so indicates. Tea has had to contend with very cheap coffee and with cocoa, the sales of which have been tremendously increased by advertising.

Publicity which results from extensive but judicious advertising must be regarded as a great commercial factor—an indispensable part of business economy. Aside from the advertising of those interested in British-grown tea, nothing has been done to stimulate the demand for tea. The time seems opportune for beginning a great campaign to draw public attention to the merit of the world's most fragrant leaf. It augurs well for the future that imports in 1903 have been so large.

### NOTES.

#### Colombo Tea Sales.

At the Colombo tea sales on the 8th instant a firm tone again prevailed for all kinds, particularly "leaf" teas, which showed a further advance in price.

#### Dutch Quinine.

The Amsterdam quinine-works have reduced their prices for Ed. II. by 1fl. per kilo., and Ed. III. by 1½fl. per kilo., their quotations now being, Ed. II. 2¼fl., and III. 25½fl., per kilo.

#### Java Quinine.

The result of the tender held on June 24 at Batavia is as follows:—Of 9,902 kilos. (Ed. II.) offered, 2,412 kilos. were sold, at an average of 15f. per kilo. (about equal 5¼ cents Amsterdam unit), against 17f. per kilo. paid at the previous tender. The next tender to be held at Batavia will take place on July 29.

#### Assam and Chittagong.

The first consignment of tea from Upper Assam for export from Chittagong arrived at that port on the 8th instant—only four days transit from Amgoorie over the North Cachar hills to Chittagong. The consignment has been despatched by the steamer *Buckingham*.

#### The St. Louis Exhibition.

Mr. R. Huyshe Eliot has been nominated by the "Thirty Committee" of Ceylon for the appointment of Assistant Commissioner for Ceylon at the World's Fair to be held at St. Louis in 1904; and that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. Paul E. Pieris, C.C.S., to be the other Assistant Commissioner.

#### The Tea Corporation, Ltd.

A special cablegram, dated 9th instant, to the *Times of Ceylon* says:—The meeting of debenture-holders of the Tea Corporation,

Limited, adopted the Receiver's reconstruction scheme; and the Chairman stated that if the shareholders did not adopt the scheme, the Receiver would apply to the Court for leave to sell the estates. However, at the shareholders' meeting to-day (Thursday) the scheme was rejected.

#### Otto of Rose.

This year's crop will be very early, and one of the largest on record as regards distillation, which is almost complete. The weather has been exceptionally fine for gathering the rose-leaves, the crop of which is exceedingly good in quality and quantity. Until the whole crop is collected and distilled it is impossible to name a price for the new oil, but it is almost certain the price will be very low.

#### Dandelion Coffee.

The official analyst of one of the grocers' associations in England recommends a greater use of dandelion coffee. He said that from personal use he could say that dandelion brought out the flavour of coffee much better than chicory. Again, many people found that they could not take cocoa because it was indigestible. He, himself, had found it so; but by using it with dandelion he had overcome the trouble, and so could recommend the dandelion for use in that direction. What was needed was careful cleansing and preparation of the roots; and, properly manufactured, he was persuaded that the dandelion would find its way into public favour.

#### Coffee v. Alcoholism.

A Western paper recently published the following: "A London doctor has come to the conclusion that coffee is the best cure for alcoholism. He says that a man who takes to drinking coffee and takes enough of it loses all appetite for liquors. The doctor cites those countries in which coffee is the most general beverage as being free from alcoholism. In late years some doctors have advised the discontinuance of coffee drinking, and there are now hundreds of poor mortals who drink nothing stronger than hot water or hot water with a few burnt cereals mixed in it; but if coffee can really cure alcoholism, let all the toppers take to coffee." But be sure and give them the very best coffee. Most of such folk drink their coffee without cream or sugar, and therefore flavour is more of a factor than with consumers who use both articles with their coffee.

#### London Tea Market.

Weekly special telegram dated 9th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is weak and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 7½d. (¾d. down). The average for the same period last year was 6d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea generally irregular little enquiry for common qualities, Broken Pekoe steady. Pekoe Souchong quiet, Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 5½d (¾d. below last week) and the average for the week is 7½d. (¾d. down). 21,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 19,000 disposed of. Indian tea:—Packages offered 14,000 and sold 13,000. Average price of Indian tea nominal. It is quite expected that as the better teas now going forward come into auction, London prices will rise.



**Journal d'Agriculture  
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en vente à Paris le 30 juin 1903):*  
17 contributions inédites de MM.

Main, Neuville, Hilgard, Cibot, Yersin, Daireaux, R. Guérin, Pedroso, Le Testu, Couturier, Hecht frères & Cie.—Une défibreuse sans chaînes (avec fig.).—La gratte de Maurice.—Les dessoucheuses à attelages (avec 2 fig.).—L'égrenage du coton.—Huilerie de coton.—L'irrigation des rizières.—Alcool de bananes.—Le jute et l'abaca au Tonkin.—Chanvre contre henequen.—Articles et notes sur l'Hevea, la ramie, la mate, l'huile de corozo, l'Elæis, le cacao, le dattier, l'oranger, le cocotier, la canne, les fourrages, etc.—Etudes et informations commerciales sur le caoutchouc, le sucre, l'huile de palme.—15 analyses bibliographiques (Afrique en général, Afrique du Nord, Egypte, Afrique Occidentale Française, Djibouti, Abyssinie, la Réunion Bornéo, Jamaïque, Etats-Unis.—Dattier, papayer, chayotte, patate douce, caoutchouc, gutta, tabac, manioc.—Apiculture.—Irrigation.—Ferments).

**Rubber and Ramie in the  
Malay States.**

M. Donald Mackay informs the *Times of Ceylon* that much more has been done in rubber planting in

Selangor than in Perak. In fact, in the former State a great deal has been done; but the growth is not far enough advanced for much tapping, which has been confined to the few older trees there, the same as here. We have in our garden here two Pará trees, about 20 years old. They were tapped last year and yielded 27 lbs. clean rubber, which sold at something over 3s. per lb. in Liverpool, and 3½ lbs. scrap at 2s. 2d. The tapping of another estate in Perak realised over 4s. per lb. for best. I don't think there is any fear of disease in any of the rubber species. Gutta rambong (*Ficus elastica*) is very promising in this country—so far as growth is concerned. I have not got the figures and yield from it. I am not aware of any of the *Castilloa elastica* variety being in the Straits. There is only one estate in the Malay States where Ramie has had anything like a fair trial on a favourable situation. They got a Faurse machine at work, and sent home a lot of 'ribbons,' but the freight charged left no profit. With a sufficient rainfall, well distributed, and machinery to finish the ramie into 'filasse' on the estate, it will pay; but not otherwise.

**Cardamoms in Auction.**

The unprecedentedly large offerings of cardamoms which were brought

forward at the auctions to-day, says the *Chemist & Druggist* writing on the 25th ultimo, afforded a suitable opportunity for considering whether the existing arrangements, whereby they are sold together with the drugs, should be altered. Mr. Charles Umney, in bringing forward the question on behalf of the wholesale druggists, said there were no less than 770 packages, in 442 lots, offered that day, and although such large quantities might be advantageous to the brokers, still it was a waste of time to many of the wholesalers to sit there for, say, two hours and see them sold. Cardamoms were uninteresting to many of them, and he suggested that they should precede the drug-sale, more especially as they had a precedent in vanilla-auctions, which formerly went with drugs. He hoped the brokers would consider the matter in September or October when arranging the sales for the ensuing year, so that the present drug-sales might be modified in some way, and cardamoms form a distinct auction. Mr. R. N. Dalton (Messrs. Dalton &

Young), who occupied the rostrum at the time Mr. Umney rose, said his (Mr. Umney's) suggestion was a good one, and thought that some satisfactory arrangement could be carried out, which would be submitted to buyers later. A desultory discussion followed, during which various suggestions were made, but it is understood the brokers will talk the matter over, and submit a proposal.

**Amsterdam Cinchona-  
auctions.**

A meeting of Amsterdam cinchona-importers, convened by Messrs. D. M. & C. Watering, was held on June 12,

when some fifteen firms were represented. The object of the meeting was to come to an understanding between the various importers as to the quantity of bark to be offered from time to time at various auctions. The Chairman was Mr. J. Vorstelman, who stated that during a recent visit to Java he had conferred with some of the largest exporters of cinchona, and promised them he would endeavour to influence the importers to come to a working-arrangement. He also referred to the unfavourable condition of the auctions, by which it was possible at one time to offer, say, four thousand packages, and at another, ten or eleven thousand packages, regardless of the condition of the market. This was the chief point of discussion, and the Chairman expressed the opinion that an improvement would only be possible if, at each of the ten auctions held during the year, only one-tenth of the estimated harvest would be placed on the market. He, therefore, proposed that a circular be issued to the proprietors of the various plantations, asking each individual to fill up the estimate of his crop. These returns would be sent into a Committee at Amsterdam. It would then be possible to obtain an estimate of the whole harvest and allot one-tenth of it for each auction. The quantities that are first warehoused would be first offered for auction. Parcels left unsold would be offered at the next auction, in addition to the quantity to be sold under this arrangement. All parties to the scheme would agree not to sell either new or unsold parcels otherwise than by public auction. After a long discussion, a Committee was appointed, consisting of the firms of Messrs. D. M. & C. Watering, Tiedeman en van Kerchem, and A. Hendrichs & Co., who will draw up a circular-letter to be sent to the various Java planters, asking them for exact figures as to their individual production, with the object of regulating the auctions.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****PRODUCE AND PLANTING.**

Although nothing practical in the interest of tea came of the debate in the House of Commons, it showed that the feeling in favour of a reduction of the duty is stronger than the division list indicates. If there is one article of universal consumption second in importance to bread alone to the working classes of England, it is tea, which has long ceased to be an article of luxury in the homes of the poor. Tea, and bread, and butter form the staple diet of the millions who can least afford to pay an unnecessary penny of taxation, and the mischievous effects of the 6d. duty have been proved to demonstration. Inconsistency in policy is found in the fact that the extra duty presses heavily upon India, and our great Asiatic dependency is surely entitled to be taken into consideration by a Government which professes ardent Imperialism and propounds preferential treatment to the Colonies as the highest form of political wisdom.



Official figures in America state that the amount of tea imported into the United States during the ten months ending April 30, 1903, is 102,332,678 lbs., against 71,727,431 lbs. during the same period one year ago. The imports during April were 1,389,513 lbs. The exports were 3,066,951 lbs. for the ten months ending April 30, inclusive of 1,731,340 lbs. exported during April.

Writing from Yokohama, May 21, with reference to Japan tea, Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co. say: "The tea market has been in full operation for three weeks, and prices have ranged from Yen 10.00 to 15.00 above the corresponding period of last season, somewhat to the surprise and much to the delight of the native grower, whose picul of tea is now exchangeable for eight piculs of rice; and every owner of a small tea garden is posing as a capitalist. This condition alone, added to favourable weather; should result in a large increase for export, not only over last season's supply, which was an avowed short crop due to frost, but over previous seasons when prices were Yen 20.00 lower; nevertheless statistics of arrivals do not, as yet, fully confirm such an inference."

Tobacco-growing in the Transvaal is a profitable industry. One man grew less than an acre and realised £270 for the crop. The Transvaal is a tobacco-growing country second to none in the world at this rate. Another grower cleared in six months a net profit of £150 per acre.—*H. & C. Mail.*

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

The shortness of supplies coming forward is beginning to be felt in a very marked manner, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 20th ultimo, and the auctions have been exceptionally small for the time of year. The month of June is, however, always a period when the demand is slack, so that the small offerings have not as much effect as they would at other times. The absence of Cost Rica is particularly being felt, and holders are not at all anxious to sell except at prices above those recently ruling. Colombian has alone shown any increase, but the quality still continues too common for the general home trade, and has consisted solely of old Coffee that has been kept in the country for a long period owing to the revolution. Of other sorts, East India has shown a marked falling-off in quality, and it is evident that the end of the crop has been nearly reached.

LONDON COFFEE RETURNS.

—	HOME CONSUMPTION.		EXPORT.		STOCK.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
For the week ended June 13 ...	Tons. 273	Tons. 384	Tons. 490	Tons. 456	Tons. 38,487	Tons. 23,352
For 24 weeks ended June 13 ...	8,109	9,299	13,517	6,615	...	...

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—There is little change in this market, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 20th ultimo, and prices remain about on a par with those in the preceding week, with a steady demand. The duty payments up to the 51th instant were 1,800,000 lbs. heavier than for the same time last year, and as the imports for this month are not likely to exceed those of June 1902, a further shrinkage in the stock will probably be shown in the figures at the end of the month. The supply now coming forward at the public auctions shows a material diminution. The catalogues issued for Monday, comprising about 21,000 packages, contain the closing invoices from most of the gardens, and for the next few weeks the offerings will probably be on a comparatively small scale. This points to a

steady to firm market, and, although the buying continues of a hand-to-mouth character, the smaller supply will, no doubt, be readily absorbed. At the public sales 22,708 packages were submitted, including a few small invoices of new season's tea, which were of average quality for early arrivals and brought fairly satisfactory rates. For the past season's tea, the demand for the useful medium and fine grades predominates at quite last week's rates, but for the common grades the bidding was less active. Prices were irregular, and in some cases easier rates were accepted.

CEYLON TEAS.—The quantity advertised for public sale this week was on a considerably larger scale, and, in consequence, the auctions were divided into two days, namely, Tuesday and Wednesday. Notwithstanding the increased amount on offer, the demand was fully equal to the supply, and previous values were well sustained for nearly all descriptions. The lower grades of Whole Leaf showed no change, while the medium kinds were well supported at about former rates. In Broken Pekoes, the medium sorts were a little irregular, but the finest descriptions, owing to their scarcity, realised extreme prices. At the public sales 35,540 packages were brought forward, of which about 3,500 were withdrawn. The quantity advertised for next week shows a considerable falling-off.

CONGOU TEA.—Last Saturday the ss. *Himalaya* arrived with a small consignment of 1,000 boxes new season's Paklings; the quality is moderately good, and fair prices have been realised. The *Glenishiel* left Foochow on the 9th instant bound for London with the first of the new season's Moning and Kaisow. It is reported by cable that the quantity available for this market is about 15 per cent. less than last year, and that considerably higher rates have been paid in China. At the public auctions held in London last Wednesday 1,233 packages were offered.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—A slightly easier tone was noticeable for all descriptions at the public sale of Green tea held on Thursday, but good medium Gunpowders are getting very scarce. Capers remain unchanged, but a fair business has been reported in Common Oolongs; the demand for the finer grades, however, continues dull.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

Exchange.—Saturday, 30th May, 1903.—Ninety days' Bank rate on London opened on Monday 25th at  $12\frac{7}{16}$ , rose to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  on Thursday, and closed this afternoon at  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

The weakness following directly on the loan is attributed generally to liquidations, but is more probably the effect of a shortage of produce bills natural to this time of the year, added by prudent action on the part of the Bank of the Republic.

During the week just ended coffee exports amounted to only £208,000 as against £223,000 the previous week, and £433,000 last year. It is fortunate, we repeat, that the loan came when it did, otherwise, even with its vast resources, the Bank might have found some difficulty in supplying the market with bills. If declared sales are any indication, the position during the coming week ought to be more active, and bills more plentiful, sales having amounted to 154,000 bags as against 140,000 the previous week and 108,000 last year.

Besides coffee, the only active export is cotton, which is giving a good price and being shipped in increasing quantities.

The speculative market is quiet and being taken up for the present with liquidations, but may be expected to show signs of life as soon as it is over.

Coffee.—RIO DE JANEIRO, 30th May, 1903.—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended May 29th, were 17,000 bags more than the previous week's, but 7,712 less than the corresponding week's last year of which they represent 95.1 per cent.

The crop entries up to the 20th May were 3,197,177 bags less than last season's of which they represent 78.5 per cent.

Shipments (*embarques*) were smaller both at Rio and Santos, being 9,824 bags under the previous week's and 120,095 less than last year's. Stocks, consequently, fell off again, being 3,034 bags less than on the previous Friday and 300,107 less than on the corresponding Friday last year.

Declared sales were brisk, 14,000 bags more than the previous week's and 46,000 bags more than the corresponding week's last year.



So far nothing more is known of the regulations under which coffee is to be shipped from the 1st July next, but exporters are not likely to be caught napping, and arrangements are, we hear, already afoot to provide a considerable amount of extra tonnage, should it prove requisite. The failure to let the market know precisely what is going to be done is already prejudicing business and will be still more injurious should the large amount of low-grade coffee believed to lie at Santos be shipped hurriedly, just to avoid the tax. In the depressed state of the foreign markets, so large and violent an addition to existing stocks would probably be fatal to prices, which are already far below parity with ours.

It must be confessed that never have we entered on a new crop under more depressing circumstances. With the visible supply over 12,000,000 bags, wholesale and retail dealers all over supplied, and a fair if not large crop already in sight, it seems impossible for local prices to rise unless exchange were to fall, and of that there seems no prospect whatever at present.

Last year there were still a few sanguine speculators who, between them, managed to keep prices up above their natural level, but now they are full up and can carry no more. How, under such circumstances, the coming crop is to be marketed at all seems a conundrum, but in any case currency prices seem bound to give way. When they fall low enough to stop entries, prices will go up but not until then, as the firmness of exchange would counteract any small improvement that might occur in consuming markets.

As to the coming crop, no one seems inclined to venture an opinion. Whether it be ten, eleven or more millions really matters little so long as there be an immense surplus over from previous seasons and the possibility of immense crops always looming in the future. Even if prices were to rise to-morrow in consequence of some disaster to the growing crop, the advantage would be purely temporary and last only until another good crop came round again. *To cure by selection, absolutely ruinous prices must rule for five or six years, until in fact 25 or 30 per cent. of existing plantations have been abandoned and are lost beyond recovery!*

There is only one certain way to limit production and bring it to a permanent level with consumption, that is to cut down the trees, and thus ensure a certain decrease for three or four years at least.

Whatever plans and projects may be inculcated, there is no other system but will aggravate the disease while seeming to cure. Besides, exchange is inclined to rise and prices of coffee to fall. Unless, therefore, something is done to check production, not for a year or two, but definitely and until consumption increase, either planters must submit to ruinous prices for, perhaps, years, or the general interests must be sacrificed to keep exchange down and thus prevent prices from falling lower still. So long as planters have it in their own hands to extricate themselves from a position they are never tired of lamenting but refuse to do so, they cannot look for assistance or sympathy from the rest of the community, or expect that their interests shall take precedence of everything else.

A sharp frost has been experienced all over the interior, the thermometer, even at Petropolis, having fallen to 4 deg. C. and at Tijuca to 10 degs.

SANTOS, 30th May, 1903. - With record quotations in Europe (Havre, June 30 1/2, Hamburg 25 1/4) we have had a weaker market with a tendency to dulness. Foreign markets in expectation of larger receipts of new coffee, do not care to buy on a large scale at present prices, and it looks as if we should see lower prices yet. *Superiors* were sold at from 3\$000 to 3\$900; *Primes* 300 réis above, *Goods* 200 to 300 réis below, *Regulars* from 3\$000 to 3\$200, *Bourbons* are slack, so are *Old Yellows* and *Washed*. *Peabodys* show a slightly better demand and *Superior Peabody* were sold at from 4\$000 to 4\$200. Orders for *Superiors* ruled between 26s. 3d. and 27s. 3d., *Good Average* 1-3 to 1-6 lower. *Passagens* (90,000) Receipts (100,000\$) maintain their old level and shipments were fair 112,000\$. Our stock is practically unchanged 832,775 Receipts for next week are estimated at 500,000\$ to 600,000\$ but it is very difficult to get near the real figure to 12 9/16 without influency on coffee.

Exchange showed only small fluctuations (12 1/2 to 12 9/16).

Pauta remained 380 réis.

In the course of an interesting article on the coffee industry *Bradstreet's* in the issue of 18th April says:—

"Coffee is, now consumed by the people of the United States to the amount of 1,000,000,000 pounds annually. Since 1894 the

imports have more than doubled, and within the same period the *per capita* consumption has increased four pounds, the gain being greater than that made by any article used as a beverage. A division of this 1,000,000,000 pounds among the inhabitants of the country gives to each man, woman, and child about fourteen and one-half pounds," remarks the *Chicago Tribune*.

"For a family of five persons this would mean one pound each five days, or seventy-three pounds a year. A fair average price for coffee of good grade retail is 20 cents per pound, involving an annual expenditure for this bean, which delights the palate, aids digestion, and makes the user thankful for the pleasures of the table, to the amount of \$ 4.60. This would make the annual expenditure of the people of the United States for coffee alone exceed \$200,000,000.

"Imports for 1901 reached the grand total of 1,072,009,182 pounds. In 1902 there was a slight decrease, the amount being 955,283,919 pounds, making the annual average for the two years 1,013,646,550 pounds. The source of this supply, together with the percentage of the total import contributed by each country, is shown in the following table. The figures are official and were compiled from the Government records:

	Pounds.	Per cent.
Brazil .. .. .	764,658,963	80.1
Other countries, South America ..	63,824,056	6.7
Central America .. .. .	45,512,114	4.8
Mexico .. .. .	30,719,800	3.2
East Indies .. .. .	20,814,403	2.2
West Indies .. .. .	20,429,314	2.1
Other Asia and Oceanica .. .. .	5,003,563	...
United Kingdom .. .. .	1,778,461	...
Netherlands .. .. .	1,828,935	...
All other countries .. .. .	714,310	...
Total .. .. .	955,283,919	99.1

With regard to the new crop nothing definite has transpired, and none venture an opinion but are waiting to see how it is going to pan out. About 2,000 to 3,000 bags of new coffee may be expected daily, if the weather keeps fine.

It is wonderful what a lot of coffee two or three years old was kept up-country. There seems to be little, if any, left now, so that there will be no confusing past and current crops next year.

Planters complain of coffee being forwarded by the Central and Leopoldina railways in dirty coal-trucks, with the result that the coffee arrives in a damaged condition.

The daily papers state that Conde Figueredo has submitted a scheme for a new bank to advance money to planters on coffee, and undertake sale of same on commission. There seems no objection, though it is not quite clear how the State is to come into such an arrangement. Is the State to provide the capital and become, consequently, a responsible partner in the business?

Sao Paulo.—(*O Correio Paulistano*) states that the British Bank of South America has acquired three plantations in the Araraquara and Jaboicabal districts for 1,300,000\$. Can the Bank be going in for coffee planting, or is it for "Lord" Lipton?

## CACAO-GROWING IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The "Philippine Bureau of Agriculture" has published a bulletin on cacao culture in the Philippine Islands, a copy of which has been received at the War Department of the United States (Bureau of Insular Affairs). The following data covering the culture of this article of commerce in the Philippines is published as of interest to the cacao-growing countries of Latin-America.

The cacao grown in the Philippines is of such excellent quality that there is keen rivalry among buyers to procure it at an advance of quite 50 per cent. over the common export grades of the Java bean, notwithstanding the failure on the part of the local grower to "process" or cure the product in any way. In parts of Mindanao and Negros, despite ill treatment or no treatment, the plant exhibits a luxuriance of growth and wealth of productiveness that demonstrates its entire fitness to be considered a valuable crop in those regions.

The importance of cacao-growing in the Philippines can hardly be over-estimated, as recent statistics place the world's demand for



cacao (exclusive of local consumption) at 200,000,000 pounds, valued at more than \$30,000,000 gold. There is little danger of over-production and consequent low prices for many years to come. So far as known, the areas where cacao prospers in the great equatorial zone are small, and the opening and development of suitable regions has altogether failed to keep pace with the demand.

Cacao is cultivated nearly everywhere in the Archipelago. It is grown in several provinces in Luzon, in Mindanao, Jolo, Basilan, Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol, and Masbate, and its presence can be reasonably predicted upon all the larger islands anywhere under an elevation of 1,000 or possibly 1,200 meters. In most cacao-producing countries its cultivation has long since passed the experimental stage, and the practices that govern the management of a well-ordered cacao plantation are as clearly defined as are those of an orange grove in Florida or a vineyard in California.

### CACAO IN SAMOA.

Under date Samoa, June 22, Mr. Hugo Schmidt wrote to Mr. Joseph Holloway, of Wattegama, Ceylon:—My cacao from your place is bearing now abundantly, and most of the pods are sold for planting at the rate of 3 pods for 1 dollar. The other cacao trees raised from seed grown in Samoa are not giving so much satisfaction, and I take the liberty of asking you, with your more than forty years of experience, for advice as to what may be the reason that so many trees of three and four years old are getting black, dry branches, beginning to dry from their own tops. I have found muddy patches on the bark, these patches I have cut out, burned them and covered the cut surface with beeswax, but it does not show good result, I can't get rid of the fungus.

Some of these 'sick' trees are in rather sunny positions, others in shady. I must mention that in Samoa we cannot keep the grass out of the spaces between the cacao lines. Much shade is, in my opinion, doing them good, but the pods are scarce. My Liberian coffee is also starting to yield crops. My first prepared cocoa, of 3½ years old trees, has been valued in Hamburg over 80 marks f. o. b. Cacao planting is going on very rapidly here at present; a new German Company is soon starting 2,000 acres in cacao, and an English Company sanctioned by last mail is going to put 1,500 acres in cacao; both estates not far from me. Many Queensland men are settling here; only the labour question is still on the end point.

### THE LABOUR BILL.

The Madras Planters' Labour Bill was introduced in great hurry, says the *Hindu*. A standing rule of the Council was suspended for its introduction. While it was usual not to introduce a Bill until fifteen clear days from the date of its publication, an extraordinary exception was made in the case of this Bill. The departure in this case was resented at the time by all the elected non-official members. But they in turn were seriously accused of want of candour. "I am unable to regard the action taken by the Hon'ble Members opposite," said His Excellency, "as quite considerate or consonant with their position as the Counsellors, not the political opponents of Government." What was their action? They only insisted that instead of 10 days there should be, as the rules required, 15 days' interval between the date of publication and the date of introduction of the Bill. The Government's urgency was so great that they could not possibly wait for 5 days. There was no time to be lost. The Bill was introduced on the 15th December last, the Report of the Select Committee was submitted on the 30th January following and at the next meeting of the Council the Bill was passed into law. The assent of His Excellency the Governor and Governor-General followed in due course, and in a period of four months the Act was promulgated for general information. Now comes the Order of Government calling upon the District Magistrates of Malabar, the Nilgiris, South Canara, Salem, Madura, and some others districts to report after making such enquiries and consulting such local bodies and persons interested in the matter, whether it is desirable that the provisions of the Act should be brought into force in any areas within their respective districts. The enquiry may take considerable time before the real opinion of those interested could be ascertained in the localities concerned. The Government which grudged 5 days' time, even when the standing rules

required it, now take their own time. When the Government were hastening the introduction of the Bill by even going out of the way of their standing rules, influential Planters' Associations were petitioning by telegraph protesting against the Bill. To let alone the protests of the general public, the planters have since the passing of the Act protested more than ever. In course of time, the Government will realise the volume of the opposition to the Act from the standpoint of the planters. The Nilgiri planters have now joined the opposition. The Wynaad planters were the first to make their attitude clear; and we are sure to hear in course of time the views of the planters of the districts whose Magistrates are now consulted by Government. The Government passed a law in haste for a community. That community is now reluctant to avail itself of it. In some places, they do not want it at all. Consultation and reference proceed now very leisurely, unmindful of the initial haste and urgency.

### THE SUPPOSED NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR RUBBER.

On the head of the excitement that the allegations anent the *Landolphia Thalloni* must have caused, says the *Straits Times*, June 27th, the following notes anent the *Landolphias*, which have been kindly furnished to us by Mr. H. N. Ridley—the Director of the Botanic Gardens and the highest authority upon such matters in this part of the world—will prove of the greatest interest to all engaged in the cultivation of rubber. Mr. Ridley writes:—

As in the *Straits Times* of Thursday you ask for information on *Landolphias*, perhaps it may interest your readers if I give some account of these plants. The *Landolphias* are large woody climbers occurring in the forests of Africa and Madagascar, and are really hardly distinct from our *Willugbieas*, or Getah Grip, so abundant in the forests of the Malay peninsula. There are about thirty kinds of *Landolphias* known, of which we have plants of seven kinds in the Botanic Gardens, where they have been cultivated for many years.

Many grow well and flower constantly, producing small white sweet-scented flowers like those of our Getah Grips, and one kind has this year for the first time produced large pulpy orange-coloured sausage-shaped fruits.

As jungle rubbers supplying a source of revenue in heavily forested country, these rubber-vines are not to be despised, and the greater part of the Congo rubber, of which we have heard so much in connection with the Belgian Congo state, is derived from the *Landolphia*. But as cultivated plants these rubber-vines are very unsatisfactory. As your Hollander correspondent states, they only produce when cultivated in the open slender stems and branches, forming often quite a large sized bush but not much thicker than a pencil. The bark contains plenty of rubber it is true, but to get it out is too expensive to pay unless rubber attained a value which it is never likely to. I attempted once to extract it by cutting the branches into lengths, putting one end in the fire so that the heat forced out the latex at the other end, and catching it in a pan, but it was such a slow and unsatisfactory business that it was clear that it could never be of any practical value. The French in Cochin-China have manufactured some rubber from the *Willugbieas* there, by treating the bark of the vines collected in the woods by natives, with acid and extracting the rubber in that way, but with the slender twigs and stems of *Landolphias* and *Willugbieas* cultivated in the open, this would be costly, and could hardly be recommended. The only likely way to deal with this class of rubber plants is to grow them in partly cleared forests, leaving enough big trees to act as supports to the climbers, and this has been done, but the plants are not of very rapid growth, and the area of land required in proportion to the return which could be reasonably expected is too large to tempt planters. To these difficulties one must add the fact that these rubber-vines produce a quite inferior class of rubber, but it is only fair to say that the low price obtained by these rubbers is doubtless due to a large extent to careless collection, and adulteration with lower grade rubbers practised by the native rubber gatherers. I do not know of any *Landolphia* of Africa which produces a better rubber than the *Willugbeia firma*, of our forests. This is still plentiful all over the peninsula, and the rubber is collected by Sakais, and Malays but by no means to any large extent, as the profits on it are not large.



The discovery of a new kind of *Landolphia* therefore is not at all likely to materially effect the para-rubber planter, still less to revolutionize the rubber world unless it possesses much higher qualities than those of the other kinds. With a very large area of Tropical Africa unexplored botanically, one may very reasonably expect the discovery of half-a-dozen new kinds within the next few years.

In justice to the *Landolphias* one must admit that they certainly saved the situation for the past 20 or 30 years. Rubber which could hardly have been said to have been cultivated at all then, began to get very scarce, owing to the destruction of so many of the more accessible of the South American trees. When *Landolphias* were discovered to be very abundant over large areas in Africa, the forests containing them were exploited and the rubber brought into the markets in large quantities, to such an extent that the market got over-stocked, and at the same time the more accessible forests were depleted. Indeed already some large areas formerly producing rubber in considerable quantity are now worked out.

From the planter's point of view it is distinctly to his interest that these jungle rubbers should be discovered and worked out as quickly as possible, in order that he may get an open field for his product. *Landolphia Thalloni*, the root rubber to which you refer, is a little shrub about six inches tall. As a curiosity it is well worth introducing here, and I have no doubt that we shall soon have it. As a plant of practical utility it is hardly up to our requirements, as the rubber is difficult to extract clean, and fetches a very low price. It was discovered in 1899.

## INDIAN TEA.

After three years of continuous depression, says the *Financial News*, the Indian tea trade is showing welcome signs of returning activity, and both planters and merchants speak hopefully of the future. Everyone conversant with the records of tea-growing in India will remember that the very prosperous seasons of 1896 and 1897 led to a large extension in the area under cultivation, with the result that three years afterwards, when the shrubs planted in 1897 were in a condition to be plucked, the return from them, together with the crop from the old areas, was so large as to practically swamp the markets. The excessive outturn of 1900 was the proximate cause of all the troubles which have affected the trade since then, and until the glut was removed it is clear that little or no amelioration could be expected. Fortunately, a smaller crop in 1901 afforded some relief; while the succeeding short crop of 1902, due principally to unfavourable weather and want of labour, has so far checked production as to bring it again into normal relation with consumption. During the season just closed tea prices touched the lowest point yet recorded, and until symptoms of amelioration began to appear, a couple of months ago, a feeling of settled gloom pervaded the industry. The smallness of last year's crop came as a surprise to the trade in general, and the prospect of restricted production in future appears to be one of the most promising indications of that approaching period of steady prosperity which is confidently anticipated.

For our part, however, while fully allowing for the corrective effect of putting the brake on production, we lean to the opinion that the most encouraging factor in the present situation is the noteworthy expansion which is taking place in consumption. The increase in the demand for British-grown tea has of late been especially marked in the case of the United States and Canada; while the introduction of Russian demand is referred to locally as the feature of the past year. Altogether, it appears that the amount exported to the three countries mentioned during 1902 exceeded the figures of the previous year by 14,000,000 lbs. It is stated, with some satisfaction, that several shipments were made to Odessa, and as the quality of the Autumn crop was to the liking of the Russian consumers, some remarkably good averages were recorded for Doars tea in particular. The demand from Persia appears to have been well sustained, and, notwithstanding the import duty imposed by the Persian Government, an increasing quantity of Indian tea is passing into consumption. With regard to the market in the United Kingdom, it is held that, for the present, at any rate, but slow expansion can be expected. The non-

withdrawal of the additional tax of 2d. per pound which was imposed in 1900 by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer has naturally caused a good deal of resentment, and the tea merchants contend that the unreasonable action of the present Chancellor, in preferring corn to tea, will injuriously affect their interests. In this connection the recent remarks of the Chairman of one of the leading companies are worth noting. After pointing out that the extra 2d. on tea, which was imposed in 1900, was stated by the then Chancellor to be a special war tax, required to meet a temporary emergency, he went on to say: "The tea industry, therefore, has to face another year unrelieved from the burden of a 6d. duty; and an article which is practically a necessity in every household, and which is, to the extent of 92 per cent. of our imports, British-grown, remains subject to this excessive impost—an impost which is equal to nearly 100 per cent. *ad valorem* on the commoner qualities of tea. So far, the additional 2d. has been borne almost entirely by the producers; but, owing to the improved statistical position in tea, growers are now becoming able to obtain better prices for their produce, and the burden will, from now onwards, be transferred to the shoulders of the consumer." In regard to the broadening of consumption, it should be noted that a Bill was passed by the Legislative Council of India last session to provide for the levying of an export duty, at a rate not exceeding one-quarter of a pie per pound, for a period of five years, on all tea exported from India; and it is further provided that the proceeds of this duty—estimated at about £16,000 for the current year—will be handed over to a Committee, who will apply the money towards pushing the sale of Indian tea within the greater Dependency itself, as well as in foreign countries.

The healthy change which is taking place in the trade is reflected in the yearly reports of the various companies, now being issued, and the beneficial effects of the altered conditions have led to freer dealings in the shares of the Indian concerns, accompanied by rising prices. The return, at present quotations, is somewhat higher than is usual in this class of securities, and, in view of the brightening prospects of the industry generally, the shares of the leading companies would appear to offer reasonable attractions to people inclined to put their money into this class of investments. The following table gives the dividends for the last three years, the present price, and the approximate yield on the shares of six representative concerns:

Shares.	Dividends.			Present price.	Yield p.c.
	1900.	1901.	1902.		
£10 Alliance (Ceylon) ...	7	6	7	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
20 Assam ...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	32 - 35	4
5 Brahmapootra ...	5	8	8	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 Doom Dooma ...	13	12	9	16 - 17	5
10 Indian of Cnchar ...	1	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 - 4	5
10 Sephinjuri Bheel ...	15	15	15	20 - 22	7 $\frac{1}{4}$

It has been estimated by competent authorities that the aggregate total of the share and debenture capital of the 170 tea companies registered in the United Kingdom amounts to about £19,000,000, and, as illustrating the fluctuation which has occurred from time to time in the market value of this large volume of capital, the following statement possesses more than ordinary interest:—

Face value of 170 companies	...	£19,000,000
Highest market value (July 1, 1897)	...	24,000,000
Market value twelve months ago	...	12,850,000
Lowest market value (September 1, 1902)	...	12,100,000
Present market value	...	14,950,000

In considering the future of the companies it is well to remember that of late years the practice of using suitable portions of the estates for cultivating other profitable products has been steadily increasing. One of the most successful of the Ceylon tea companies has invested a portion of its capital in cocoanut plantations, and some of the Indian Companies are inclined to take up on a fairly large scale the culture of sisal, which apparently is well suited to India. The cultivation of Pará rubber at present is very profitable, and it is worth noting that the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company contemplates further extensions in this direction. On the whole, then, it will be readily admitted that the position of the Indian tea companies is at present stronger and better than for some years past, and, with demand well ahead of supply and improving economic conditions at the source of production, it is reasonable to believe that the corner has been turned, and the long-wished-for period of prosperity is at length in sight.



## BIRD LIFE ON TEA ESTATES.

Writing to the Planters' Association of Ceylon, Messrs. Geo. Steuart & Co., of Colombo, say:—

We enclose copy of a memorandum which we are forwarding to managers and owners of estates with which we are connected on the subject of the comparative absence of bird life in tea districts in Ceylon, and the probable connection between that circumstance and the present prevalence of caterpillar and other pests on the bushes.

We trust your Association may approve the object in view, namely, to restore in some measure the balance of nature, and that your members will give their support to these and other recommendations that may be considered likely to bring about in time the desired end. We need hardly say that the more the remedies are made general the more they are likely to prove successful

(Suggestions for the Preservation of Bird Life on Tea Estates.)

1. The varying conditions of altitude, etc., of estates must be taken into consideration in carrying out any of these recommendations.

2. The object should be to encourage small-insectivorous birds as much as possible with a view to keeping down caterpillar and other pests on tea bushes.

3. All coolies on the estates should be given to understand what the object is, and that they or their children should not wantonly destroy nests of birds.

4. The following recommendations are made under the advice of Mr. Green, the Government Entomologist, and of Mr. Lewis, Conservator of Forests:—

5. That some ravines be allowed to grow up in lantana (according to elevation) and the so-called raspberry, to encourage the nesting of both insectivorous and frugivorous birds.

6. That the burning off of patna and grass land adjoining tea estates be absolutely put a stop to.

7. That where there are masses of rock, the growing of thunbergia and cissus be encouraged for the protection and nesting of shy birds.

8. That fields be divided into blocks by growing fruit-bearing shrubs such as the mulberry, duranta, and wild rhea in hedges, these blocks being also useful as landmarks for manuring operations and other field works.

9. That there should be several small breeding sanctuaries, for which ravines away from coolie lines appear to be suitable.

May 1st, 1903.

(Signed) GEORGE STEUART & Co.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

## WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, Wednesday, July 8th, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. Armstrong, Behr, Mackinlay, Nicolls, Powell, Jr., Taylor, Trollope and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*.

Mr. W. Mackinlay in the Chair.

1. **Proceedings of last Meeting**—Taken as read.

2. **Roads.**—(a) Read letter to President, District Board, drawing his attention to the continued backward state of the work being done on the Chundale-Choladi section of the Calicut-Nilgiri road: also of the poor quality of the metal collected. Read President's, District Board, reply to the previous letter on the same subject.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to point out that the District Board Engineer appears to have been misinformed—as from personal observation of members of this Association the quantity of metal collected is nothing like in proportion to what it should be. That the work of cleaning out the drains in the way done is a waste of money, there being no connection between the "wheel rut" drains and those at the sides of the road.

(b) It was decided to again address the Chief Engineer, Government of Madras, asking that this section of the road be taken over by the D. P. W.

3. **Postal and Money Orders.**—Read letter from the Postmaster-General, in reply to this Association's letter of June 4th, stating that he was unable to meet the wishes of the Association, that the Post Offices in S. Wynaad should continue to pay a percentage of the value of Money Orders in small silver coin.—Recorded.

Read Postmaster-General's continuation to his reply of 31st March, 1903, with reference to the late payment of Money Orders

at Meppadi, stating that the defaulting official had been suitably punished.

4. **Currency Notes.**—Read correspondence with the Collector of Malabar on the matter of cashing Currency Notes at the Local sub-Treasury.—The correspondence is being continued.

Read U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 38/03, of June 10th, referring to a letter of Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, No. 2686-A, of May 14th, 1903, re a proposal to withdraw in the case of Currency Notes for amounts exceeding Rs.5, issued from sub-circles, the existing privilege attached to them, under which they are payable not only at the office of issue, but also at the Presidency town of the Presidency in which the office of issue is situate. *Resolved*, that in the opinion of this Association, so far as in the interests of this district are concerned, it is desirable that all "Madras Presidency" Currency Notes (including sub-circle Notes) should be cashable at all Treasuries or sub-Treasuries in the Presidency.

5. **Pepper Vine Disease.**—Read Mr. Barber's report on the Pepper Vine disease. *Resolved*, that this be printed and circulated to members. Also that this Association does pass a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Barber for his interesting and instructive report.

Read letter from Mr. Winterbotham.—Recorded.

6. **U. P. A. S. I.—Delegate to Bangalore.**—Proposed by Mr. B. Malcolm and seconded by Mr. Trollope, that Mr. G. Romilly be elected to represent this district at the next General Meeting.—Carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

Papers on the table—

Indian Gardening & Planting.

Planting Opinion.

Proceedings, Coorg Planters' Association.

Do. Nilgiri Planters' Association, June 8th, 1903.

Supplement to Detailed Report, I. T. A. Committee.

Commercial Circular No. 2 of 1902-03.

I. T. A. Circulars.

(Signed) W. MACKINLAY,

*Chairman.*

( „ ) BERNARD MALCOLM,

*Honorary Secretary.*

## ANAMALLAI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of a General Meeting held at Paralai on Saturday, July 11th, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. G. L. Duncan, C. R. T. Congreve, P. W. E. Watts, G. A. Marsh, E. G. Windle, I. E. Scott, and R. Pincent.

It was proposed by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Watts that Mr. Windle take the Chair.—Carried.

The proceedings of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Honorary Secretary notified, that from all with whom he had communicated regarding membership, he had received a favourable reply.

Rules and bye-laws were then discussed in Committee. Mr. Windle proposed that the rules as drafted in Committee be adopted and circulated.

The Honorary Secretary notified that he had written to Mr. Hodgson on the subject of representation of this Association in the U. P. A. S. I. and read a letter from Mr. Hodgson kindly agreeing to act as delegate.

Proposed by Mr. Watts and seconded by Mr. Duncan, that this Association join the U. P. A. S. I. and that Mr. Hodgson's offer be accepted with thanks.

Instructions to delegate to U. P. A. S. I.

**Labour Act.**—Proposed by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Marsh, that the Act is unsuitable to the labour conditions obtaining on the Anamallais.—Carried unanimously.

**Permission of Assessments.**—*Resolved*, that the Association strongly support the Nilgiri P. A. resolution.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—*Resolved*, that the Association does not see its way to support the proposal of a delegate to Brazil.

**Compulsory Coffee Cess.**—As the opinion of several proprietors was not known it was resolved, that instructions on this point should be forwarded as soon as possible.

**Agenda.**—It was resolved, that further points be discussed at a Committee Meeting.



**The Ghaut road.**—Correspondence read. The Association is glad to note that repairs are sufficiently advanced to allow carts to get through and trust that the work may speedily be completed.

**Address to H. E. The Governor.**—It was resolved, that an address be prepared for presentation to H. E. The Governor in view of his contemplated visit in October.

**Election of Secretary and Committee.**—Mr. Marsh was elected Honorary Secretary and Messrs. Watts, Duncan, Congreve, and Windle as a Committee.

Copies of the following were laid on the table—

Proceedings of last Meeting.

Copies of letters to Collector and Chief Engineer.

The rules of the various Planters' Associations in Southern India.

The Madras Labour Act.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Kanan Devan Planters' Association.

General correspondence.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman.

(Signed) E. G. WINDLE,

Chairman.

( " ) G. A. MARSH,

Honorary Secretary.

## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

### COMMITTEE MEETING.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 7th July :—

There were present: Messrs. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), A. C. Lawrie, Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill and W. Warrington.

**Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association, London.**—Letters dated 12th and 19th June from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal matters dealt with were:—

(a) **The market position.**—At a Meeting of importers held on the 8th June to consider the market position, the following Resolutions were passed:—

(1) That the balance of crop unsold be offered in three equal quantities so as to dispose of the balance remaining in Importers and Producers hands by the end of June.

(2) That no new season's tea be offered for sale before 1st July.

A copy of a circular issued by the London Committee regarding the latter was forwarded for information.

It was hoped that the efforts which had been made by the London Committee to induce Importers out to offer new season's teas for sale before the 1st July had met with the success which they deserved.

(b) **Manufacture of "Oolong" Teas.**—In continuation of their former remarks under this head, noted in the proceedings of the Meeting held on 9th June, the London Committee suggested, for the consideration of the Tea Cess Committee, that it might be advisable to take steps to get over from Formosa, two Chinamen, experts in the manufacture of these teas, with a view to instruct the Managers of any gardens in Assam and Darjeeling which might be prepared to undertake the manufacture of teas of this class.

The suggestion had been passed on to the Teas Cess Committee, as desired.

**Statistics relating to Tea Cultivation.**—In the proceedings of the Meeting held on 5th May reference was made to a letter dated 2nd May from the Director-General of Statistics, in which the hope was expressed that statistics showing the new additions to the tea area and abandonments of old tea lands might be introduced into the report on the Production of Tea in India for 1903.

The General Committee had now before them a further letter from the Director-General of Statistics, dated 22nd May, forwarding copy of the form prescribed for the collection and tabulation of statistics of the production of tea, with additions designed to show the new additions to the tea area and abandonments of old tea lands. The Committee were asked whether they considered the proposed changes suitable, or would wish to suggest any improvement.

The revised form had been carefully considered in circulation and two or three slight alterations were suggested. The Secretary was instructed to advise the Director-General accordingly.

**Scientific Officer's Fund.—Surma Valley Subscriptions.**—At a Meeting of the Surma Valley Branch held on the 8th December, 1902, the following Resolution had been adopted, viz.:—

That this Meeting is unanimously of the opinion that the Surma Valley should contribute towards the support of the Association's Scientific Officer, and his proposed increase in establishment to the extent of Rs.150 per month to be raised by a cess of 4 pies per acre under cultivation. The Committee resolved that the Calcutta Surma Valley sub-Committee should approach the several Agents and Proprietors, with regard to the matter, and on the receipt of an acknowledgment of their willingness to contribute the amount that the local Secretary be authorized to collect and pay the same.

In connection therewith, the Directors of the Longai Valley and Derby Tea Companies represented through their Agents, Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., that in their opinion a fairer method of proportioning the cess would be to base it on an average between outturn and area. An expression of opinion was asked for in regard to the suggestion.

It was decided to forward a copy of Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co.'s communication to the Surma Valley Branch for consideration. It was thought that the original proposal could not be altered during the current year, as most of the gardens which had agreed to subscribe on the acreage basis had already paid the amount of the cess.

## THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (LONDON).

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is from the annual report :—

#### THE INDIAN TEA CROP OF 1902.

In accordance with the Resolution passed in February, 1902, no estimate of last year's crop was published. The total quantity of tea exported from Northern India was 173,988,444 lbs. besides about 1,000,000 lbs. sent to Bombay by rail (probably for the Persian Gulf), against 173,736,083 lbs. in 1901 and 186,064,269 lbs., in 1900. The exports from Southern India were 6,664,275 lbs., against 5,254,199 lbs. and 4,895,216 lbs. in the two previous seasons. A continuance of the system of more careful plucking generally adopted in the previous year, and to a greater extent unfavourable weather experienced in most of the tea districts towards the close of the plucking season, led to a smaller crop than was generally expected. In the appendix a statement will be found showing the distribution of the entire Indian crop during the last five years (furnished by Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton).

#### LEVY.

No voluntary levy was made last year, and the balance of funds collected during the previous year was utilised for the following purposes:—1. The bounty on green tea. 2. Advertisement of Indian tea in the United States and Canada. 3. To promote and increase the consumption of Indian tea in India. 4. For financial assistance towards tea rooms and depôts on the Continent.

#### GREEN TEA.

As stated in the last report, it was decided to offer a bounty of 1½ annas per lb. on 400,000 lbs. of green tea to be manufactured in 1902. The Baraora (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited, undertook to manufacture one-half of this quantity, the other half being taken up in Calcutta. It was afterwards decided by the Calcutta Committee to offer a bounty of 9 pies (three farthings) on a further quantity of 320,000 lbs., making 720,000 lbs. in all. This was all taken up and the bounty on it paid. With a view to encourage the manufacture of a much larger quantity of green tea in the current season, it was decided in September last to offer a bonus of one halfpenny per lb. on a minimum quantity of 3,000,000 lbs. in season 1903, conditional on the necessary funds being available from the cess, and subject to the confirmation of the Cess Committee. At the same time an offer made by the Baraora (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited, to manufacture 1,500,000 lbs. of green tea for two successive years was accepted on these terms, and on October 2, 1902, a circular was issued inviting offers to manufacture green tea, a copy of which will be found in the appendix. The Committee are pleased to say that in response to this circular a maximum quantity of 3,790,000 lbs. (including the Baraora contribution) was offered on the terms proposed, but owing to the delay in the appointment



of the Cess Committee, and consequently in the confirmation of the arrangements, 900,000 lbs. of this tea has since been withdrawn. The Committee have pleasure in reporting the receipt of a telegram from Calcutta, stating that the Cess Committee had decided to offer a bonus of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. on 4 million lbs., to be made in the current season. It may be mentioned that the quantity of green tea made by Ceylon in 1902 was 3,987,939 lbs., and it is estimated that from 10 to 12 million lbs. will be manufactured in that island in 1903.

## AMERICA.

The joint advertising of Indian and Ceylon teas through the public Press in the United States and Canada has been continued, and the Committee have reason to be pleased, on the whole, with the results that have been obtained. The total quantity of British-grown tea imported by North America and Canada last year amounted to 26 million lbs., of which 14 million lbs. were the production of Ceylon and 12 million lbs. of India. The removal by the American Government on January 1 last of the war tax of 10 cents (equivalent to 5d.) per lb. on tea, which was imposed in 1898 towards meeting the cost of the war with Spain, has naturally led to a considerable increase in the demand for tea, and deliveries have been on a much larger scale than usual. There is now some ground for hoping that the consumption of tea as a beverage in competition with coffee in the United States will show more elasticity than has been the case during the last few years. The low price of coffee, of course, induces a large consumption of that article by Americans. The *American Grocer* of May 20 quotes the following statement as to the quantity of Indian and Ceylon tea taken by countries outside the United Kingdom during the last five years:—"North America is credited with having taken 14,223,619 lbs. of Ceylon and 12,136,587 lbs. of Indian tea in 1902, against 7,636,995 lbs. of Ceylon and 5,971,701 lbs. of Indian in 1898. The total was 26,360,206 lbs. in 1902, against 13,608,696 lbs. in 1898—a gain of 12,751,510 lbs., or

nearly 100 per cent. This is a very encouraging growth, more manifest in the Dominion of Canada than in the United States."

## THE CONTINENT.

As announced in last year's report, the Committee continued to give financial assistance during the year to the Indian Tea Rooms in Paris at 48, Faubourg St. Honoré. As the attendance and sale of tea remained disappointing, and did not appear to offer much prospect of improvement, the Committee decided to discontinue their support, and Mr. Skerrett Rogers has since transferred the business to a M. Moullet, who will continue the sale of tea on his own account. Mr. Rogers will continue to carry on his business in dry tea at his dépôt in the Rue D'Alger. India tea in cup is being sold at new premises called the Empire Tea Rooms in the Rue des Mathurins, Paris, which have been opened by Mlle. Jeanne Delphy, formerly an employé of Mr. Rogers. Some assistance has been given towards making the new tea rooms known by way of advertising. In view of the satisfactory report received on the work done by Miss Babington in the English tea rooms in Rome, the Committee (one of whose number recently visited Rome and reported favourably on Miss Babington's work) agree to continue to give her financial aid for a further period.

## ST. LOUIS PURCHASE EXPOSITION, 1904.

The question of making a contribution to this exhibition is now under consideration, in communication with the General Committee in Calcutta. The committee are not in favour of spending money on a large scale at St. Louis, believing from experience that their funds can be more usefully applied in other directions. At the same time the exhibition will afford an excellent opportunity for the display of Indian tea, both black and green, and it is felt that at this juncture the opportunity might well be taken advantage of to endeavour to stimulate what promises to be one of our best markets for green tea. One or two large firms who are interested

## Dyspeptics,

Nervous, debilitated, weak, languid, half-dead people will find fresh life, energy and strength in Mother Seigel's Syrup, because it does the only thing which can give permanent relief—helps you to digest your food. Food is a strength-maker and health-maker, but it must be digested. Discomfort after meals, pains in the chest and shoulders, headaches, palpitation, flatulence, loss of appetite, these are sure signs of indigestion and are cured by

# SEIGEL'S SYRUP

"For many years I suffered greatly from obstinate indigestion and constipation, accompanied with giddiness and pains in the head. A friend strongly advised me to try Seigel's Syrup, and perseverance in its use restored me to health and strength." So says Mr. T. J. Hastings, of Bombowlie, Tumut, N.S.W., in a solemn Declaration recently made before a Justice of Peace. Such testimony leaves no room for doubt.

**will cure you.**



in pushing the sale of Indian tea in America will be represented at the exhibition, and much might be done to excite popular interest on the subject by means of samples of the different classes of tea, maps of the various localities, photographs of tea gardens illustrative of the methods of cultivation and manufacture, statistics showing the growth of consumption of British-grown tea in England and elsewhere, accompanied by the distribution of samples and pamphlets explaining how to infuse the tea. The Committee are informed that all the arrangements for the Ceylon exhibit will be made by, and at the cost of, the Ceylon Government, which is expected to spend from £15,000 to £20,000. It is a matter of some regret that the Government of India do not see their way to render assistance to the Indian industry on a similar scale.

#### SALE OF TEA IN INDIA.

From the latest report of the commissioners of the Indian Tea Expansion Commission, embracing eighteen months' operations to January 31, 1903, it is noted that the work of the commission is leading to an increased consumption of Indian teas in India. The number of pice packets sold in the first six months amounted to 390,977, in the second six months to 907,089, and in the third to 1,239,807, making a total of 2,537,873 packets. The number of cups of tea sold in the first six months was 85,535, in the second six months 217,375, and in the third 305,715—a total of 608,625. Brewed tea in cups is offered in the streets, at depôts, stalls, and railway platforms, demonstrations are made at fairs and melas, while the method of brewing tea is explained, travelling agents are employed, and newspaper advertisements and pamphlets are availed of. Tea is thus being brought within the reach of over 2,000 towns and villages, and in course of time a more rapidly-increasing demand for Indian tea may be established.

#### TEA CESS.

The Committee are pleased to record that the substantial measure of support obtained both in this country and in India to the memorial presented to His Excellency the Viceroy, in the absence of any serious opposition to the proposal, induced Lord Curzon to sanction legislation providing for the collection of a small cess, amounting to one-fourth of a pie per lb., equal to about 2d. per chest of 96 lbs.

An Act has accordingly been passed entitled "The Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903." A Committee has been formed in Calcutta to manage the fund.

#### BRITISH IMPORT DUTY.

In conjunction with the Ceylon Association, the Buyers' Association, and the Brokers' Association, your Committee drew up and forwarded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in January last a memorial praying for a reduction in the duty of 2d. per lb., being the extra duty imposed in 1900 towards the expenses of the war. The statements made by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in his reply to the deputation which waited on him last year with reference to the increased duty on tea, and elsewhere, led your Committee to hope that on the termination of the war in South Africa some relief would be given in the Budget lately introduced, especially as the 2d. extra tax had been in existence for three years, and one year had elapsed since the termination of the war. Unfortunately, Mr. Ritchie, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, decided to remit the shilling registration duty on corn in preference to reducing the tea duty, and on the night of the introduction of the Budget a Resolution was passed renewing the tea duty of 6d. a lb.

Opposition has been raised to Mr. Ritchie's proposals by a large section of the Unionist party, led by Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P. A Resolution in support of Mr. Chaplin's action was passed at a meeting of the General Committee held on May 5 in the following terms:—"That this Committee unanimously approves of Mr. Chaplin's action in condemning the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to abolish the registration duty on corn, and heartily approves of his proposal to substitute in lieu thereof the remission of the war tax of 2d. per lb. imposed on tea in 1900." A copy of this was sent to Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., and to Sir H. S. King, M.P., with a request that he would give the same his support. A similar Resolution was adopted by the Ceylon Association in London. Subsequently an important deputation waited upon the Prime Minister and Mr. Ritchie at Westminster on May 15, supported by representatives of both Houses of Parliament, the principal Chambers of Agriculture throughout the country, this Association, and the Ceylon Association in London, with the object of urging the withdrawal of the proposed remission of the corn duty

and the reduction in its place of the duty on tea by 2d. a lb. Mr. Balfour, your Committee regret to say, showed himself unsympathetic in the matter.

#### TEA CLEARING HOUSE AND GUN WHARF.

In consequence of the agitation which arose last Autumn owing to the dispute which followed the opening of Gun Wharf as a tea warehouse, action was taken, in conjunction with the Ceylon Committee, to bring about the separation of the Tea Clearing House proper from the control of warehouse-keepers. A scheme has been drawn up by a sub-Committee appointed for the purpose for establishing a new Tea Clearing House under the joint control of the three sections of the trade, viz., importers, wharfingers, and buyers. A meeting of members of the Association was held on May 13 at the London Chamber of Commerce, when the question was discussed at some length, and the following Resolution was carried:—

"That this meeting approves of the proposal that the Tea Clearing House should be reconstituted under the joint control of importers, wharfingers, and buyers, and authorises the General Committee to draw up a scheme to carry this into effect, and that it be an instruction to the General Committee that no provision be made for extending the scope of the Tea Clearing House beyond that connected with the handling and delivering of tea."

#### REGULATION OF SALES.

In October last, in consequence of the collapse in prices, caused by the abstention of a large section of the buyers, it became necessary for the Committee to take action, and arrangements were made to restrict offerings at public sales to such quantities as the buying trade could conveniently cope with, so as to ensure a more healthy condition of the market. The arrangements for the regulation of sales thus begun were continued to the close of the season, and frequent meetings of importers have been held, sometimes every week and sometimes once a fortnight, in order to regulate the quantity to be offered in the intervals. These meetings have been well attended, and their effect upon the market has been on the whole beneficial. Supplies have not been unduly pressed forward, and there has been, in consequence, a steadier tone and a gradual though slow improvement in prices. Copies of the circulars issued on this subject will be found in the appendix.

#### COARSE TEA.

The following Resolution was passed unanimously at a large meeting of importers held on February 23 last:—"This meeting of importers views with serious concern the disastrous results that would follow a large crop in 1903, and strongly urges on all producers to impress on their managers the necessity of continuing the finer system of plucking generally followed in the past season, so as to avoid the production of a large quantity of coarse tea." The Resolution was subsequently unanimously adopted by the Committee, and a circular, dated March 10, 1903, was issued to all importers and growers of Indian tea in this country. Copies were also forwarded to Calcutta for distribution on that side.

### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated June 26th, 1903, says:—*

#### QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	71,854	84,142	7,488
1902-1903 ... ..	75,723	113,984	8,357
20,924 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 44,817 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
22,353 " CEYLON			
1,540 " JAVA			

During the first quarter of 1903, the quantity of Indian and Ceylon tea sent to America showed a satisfactory increase over the corresponding quarter of 1902. This was mainly owing to the export of Ceylon Green tea.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Lbs. ... ..	5,910,700	4,711,907	4,812,773	3,894,707
		1899.	1898.	1897.
Lbs. ... ..		2,904,937	3,155,099	4,460,943

A considerable quantity of tea was re-exported from America to the United Kingdom during the early part of this year, but as far



as can be ascertained not much of it was Indian or Ceylon, the greater part being China tea of very inferior quality.

#### INDIAN TEA EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	525,118	975,854	1,045,803	480,872
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	606,827	604,891	329,957	408,974
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	205,189	108,706	167,202	122,905
Direct exports from Calcutta	164,915	393,353	749,875	334,800
Total lbs. ...	1,502,049	2,082,804	2,292,837	1,347,551

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	908,093	605,950	851,746
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	180,096	615,265	1,779,809
Direct exports <i>via</i> China...	64,942	50,601	71,023
Direct exports from Calcutta	298,807	74,000	<i>nil.</i>
Total lbs. ...	1,451,938	1,345,816	2,702,578

#### CEYLON TEA EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Re-exports from U. K....	1,361,545	1,235,592	1,040,813
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	373,182	782,510	695,097
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	68,795	<i>abt.</i> 100,000	145,000
Direct exports from Colombo	2,605,129	511,001	639,026
Total lbs. ...	4,408,651	2,629,103	2,519,936

	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	604,810	798,247	840,790	975,081
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	343,193	104,033	432,360	682,515
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	1,500	200,000	241,495	100,769
Direct exports from Colombo	1,597,653	353,719	294,638	<i>nil.</i>
Total lbs. ...	2,547,156	1,455,999	1,809,283	1,758,365

The Exports from Colombo include 1,173,573 lbs. of Green Tea for 1903, and 40,814 lbs. for 1902.

INDIAN.—Auctions have recently slackened off considerably, only 20,924 packages being brought forward this week, while for next week the quantity is still smaller, amounting to only 16,492 packages. This makes the number of closing invoices printed to the end of June 395, against 383 to corresponding date last season. No material change took place in the market, but buying appeared more general with strong bidding for all grades. The following New Seasons invoices were brought forward this week:—Assam Frontier Coy.'s gardens "Hapjan," 44 c, 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d; "Khobong," 57 c, 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d; and "Talup," 37 c, 8d; "Castleton," 49 c, 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d; "Rungmook," 74 pkgs., 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d; "Singtom T Co.," 100 packages, 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Acct. Season 1903-4, 361 pkgs., av. 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. 1902-3, 1,181 pkgs., av. 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Acct. Season 1902-3, 16,714 pkgs., av. 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. 1901-2, 2,201 pkgs., av. 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d.

Garden Account 1st June, 1902, to date season 1902-3, 1,266,607 pkgs., av. 7<sup>5</sup>/<sub>3</sub>d, season 1901-2, 1,328,271 pkgs., av. 7<sup>6</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d

CEYLON.—The small auction naturally brought in better competition than the heavy supplies of last week. This resulted in generally steady rates. For next week 31,128 packages are advertised. The quality, as frequently happens about this time, is not equal to what it was some little while back.

Average for week 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d, against 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>1</sub>d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date, 479,164 pkgs., av. 7<sup>6</sup>/<sub>5</sub>d. 1902, 552,511 pkgs., av. 6<sup>8</sup>/<sub>9</sub>d.

JAVA.—Javas, in sympathy with other grades, sold steadily at late quotations.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. Colombo 1/4<sup>7</sup>/<sub>32</sub>.

#### QUININE.

As a result of the 15 per cent. decline in bark at Amsterdam last week, makers have reduced prices by 1d per oz., and now quote 1s for German sulphate in 1,000-oz. lots. Howard's price has also been reduced 1d to 1s 1d, and for 1,000-oz. lots in vials to 1s 3d. Whiffens have also lowered their price to 1s; and P. and G. (French)

# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



make is quoted 11½d. American makers follow the reduction) quoting 23c. Prices of quinine salts have also been revised, and the following are the values for some of the more important in 100-oz. tins: Hydrochloride, Hydrobromide, and salicylate, all 1s 5d; citrate, 1s 5½d; phosphate, 1s 7; bisulphate, 1s 0½d; tannate, 5¼d to 9½d; and valerianate, 1s 8d. In second hands the market for sulphate has ruled quiet, with small spot sales at 10½d; but for good brands of recent make 10½d is wanted.

CARDAMOMS.

Under the influence of the unprecedentedly large offerings (770 packages) the market was demoralised and with a slow demand, about one-third were sold at irregular, but about 1d to 2d lower prices on fine qualities, and 2d to 3d on the medium grades. The following prices were paid: Ceylon-Mysore, bold pale picked, 1s 11d to 2s; medium and bold pale, 1s 8d to 1s 11d; bold medium pale, 1s 1d to 1s 6d; small and medium pale, 9d to 10d; bold dull, 1s 1d; small pale, 8½d; peas, 7½d to 9d; brown split and pickings, 7½d to 8½d; bold splits, 9d to 9½d; medium splits, 8d to 8½d per lb. Seed sold at from 1s to 1s 2d per lb. Ceylon-Malabar, fair small to

medium brown, without reserve, 8d, to 8½d, and leaner ditto, 7d. Good medium round yellowish Mangalores were held at 2s 3d to 2s 4d per lb. The exports from Ceylon from January 1 to June 1 amounted to—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Lbs. ...	366,769	266,208	210,791	282,014

CINCHONA.

AMSTERDAM, June 18th.—At the auctions of Java cinchona held here to-day 10,890 bales and 556 cases were offered (containing 47,403 kilos. quinine sulphate), of which 9,365 packages sold at an average unit of 6·20c. per ½ kilo., against 7·25c. per ½ kilo. paid at the auctions on May 7. The approximate quantities of quinine purchased by the principal buyers were as follows: English and American factories, 9,818 kilos.; the Brunswick factories, 8,581 kilos.; the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories, 8,017 kilos.; the Frankfort and Stuttgart factories, 6·591 kilos.; and various buyers, 6,782 kilos. The prices paid for the manufacturing-bark ranged from 3c. to 68½c. per ½ kilo., and druggists' bark from 9½c. to 52½c. per ½ kilo.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·33d., JUNE 26TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry Prospect ...	59½c	9	47½c	†9¼	...	...	12½c	8¼	..	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore ...	926	6·56	...	...	8	6½	19	6¾	2	6¼	2	6	6½c	5½ 6½
Atchencoil ...	37 p	6½	...	...	25	6¼	30	7	...	6¼	...	...	...	...
Carady Goody ...	84	6½	29	†6½	...	...	...	...	9	6¼	...	...	...	...
Isfield T Co I ...	9	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6¼	...	...	...	...
Kan. Dev. H C P ...	260	6½	113	†6½ 6¾	47	6½	30	7¼	50	6¼	...	...	20	·5¼
Lockhart ...	84½c	7¼	44½c	7¼ 8½	35½c	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	5½c	5¼
MD ...	60½c	6	26¼c	6	29½c	6	...	...	5½c	5¾	...	...	...	...
Penshurst ...	72	6¾	15	7	47	6¾	10	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
S T T Co Venture... 109 p	6¾	...	...	...	46	6¾	32	†7	21	6¼	...	...	10½c	6
Surianalle ...	26½c	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	13½c	6¼ 6½	...	...	13½c	5½ 6¼
T T E Co Bon Ami... 80	6½	...	20	7	45	†6¼	...	...	...	...	15	6¼	...	...
„ Mount ...	105	6½	...	...	30	6½	30	†6¼	6	6¼	5	6¼	34	†6¼
Wynaad ...	153	6·75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walkers Achoor ...	74 p	6¾	...	...	25	6½ 6¾	39½c	6½ 7¼	...	...	10	6½	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per... 79 p	6¼	...	...	...	44	†6¼ †6¾	35½c	†7½	...	...	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to



His Majesty  
The King.

LTD.

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1903.

[No. 29.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 31st instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*July 20th.—Weather*—Last week was a continuous downpour, nothing but rain. *Works*—The continuous rain interferes with the work, but pitting and weeding goes on. *Coffee*—in good heart. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Short.

### SPIKE DISEASE IN SANDAL TREE.

RAI BAHADUR M. MUTHANNAH, Offg. Conservator of Forests, Mysore, has offered some sensible remarks on the "spike" disease that has affected many Sandal trees in Mysore and Coorg. Dr. BUTLER, Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India, and Mr. BARBER, Government Botanist, Madras, have both made a brief investigation of this disease. To some extent their reports agree, but they are most in accord in this, that both are inconclusive. Mr. MUTHANNAH's is the same; yet he arrives at certain opinions which he summarises under the head of "conclusions." These will interest many of our readers, but before stating them we propose to touch upon one or two points in the more detailed portion of Mr. MUTHANNAH's remarks. The most notable is the statement that no cure for the disease has yet been discovered. Again, Mr. MUTHANNAH states that his first impression was that the prevalence of the disease was associated with lantana, and that the latter, far from being injurious when young, was really beneficial, its injurious influences being only felt at a later stage. Further investigations in the Mysore Province show that lantana has no effect on the healthy growth of sandal. Some of the healthiest trees have been found in heavy lantana jungles. But, it has not been shown that the disease is markedly prevalent in any tract at a distance from lantana. Then,

again, in some diseased saplings the larvæ of the moth *Zenzera Coffea*—"The Red Borer"—have been found; so that a question is raised whether the disease is, or is not, the result of the ravages of an insect pest? Mr. MUTHANNAH does not think that it is, but the Agricultural Chemist, Mysore, has been instructed to investigate this point.

After a careful study, extending over fifteen days, of the diverse conditions under which sandal is found to grow in the tracts inspected, Mr. MUTHANNAH has arrived at conclusions which are deserving of consideration. In effect, what he states is that "spike" is not a specific or definite disease. The narrow, diminutive, and bristle-like leaves formed in the so-called spike trees are, he says, not peculiar to any specific form of disease, but are commonly found in all trees dying from old age; or injury to the roots, by fires or hurt; or suppression or strangulation by climbers; or fungoid, parasitic or epiphytic growth. It is also remarked that spiked trees are always met with only in heavy lantana thickets, which are liable to be annually or periodically burnt. Poor or shallow soil containing a great admixture of "Kankur" or resting upon a substratum of "Kankur" is said to induce permanent decay of the root system and consequently of the tree. Areas liable to be submerged and water-logged soils are inimical to the growth of sandal. It is observed that sandal would sooner or later be exterminated in tracts containing dense growth of lantana, owing to the liability of the latter to be burnt down by fire. It is thus suggested that the lantana *per se* is not inimical, but that the danger lies in the fires that are utilised for the purpose of destroying lantana. The sandal, it is remarked, is a sensitive plant and a surface feeder, so that it is very susceptible to the effects of fire. Mr. MUTHANNAH adds that "spike" is neither a contagious nor an infectious disease, otherwise it would be difficult to explain why it is confined to particular localities or occurs only in scattered patches and amongst scattered trees in the midst of healthy ones. We cannot quite follow this line of reasoning; yet we hesitate to dismiss the remark as a *non sequitur*. It is further stated that trees standing in the midst of thick scrubby growth or under the shelter of light crowned trees and in the rich soils of gardens enjoy a total immunity from the disease, and that "sandal has always an unhealthy look where the vegetation associated with is unhealthy; and where the latter is healthy and vigorous, diseased trees are never met with."



These last remarks are perhaps the most important of all. As regards remedial measures, Mr. MUTHANNAH asserts that it is beyond doubt that when once a tree shows signs of spiked leaves in an advanced stage, it never recovers. It has, therefore, been considered advisable to uproot such trees. For this purpose, the following operations are to be carried out by forest rangers and others: careful exploration of the sandal tracts in the Mysore and Hunsur taluks, their exact position to be shown in the Taluk maps, with symbols to indicate healthy and diseased trees as well as density. The preparation of a descriptive account of each tract, stating the conditions of soil and vegetation in which healthy and diseased trees are met with. The uprooting of all dead and diseased trees in the two taluks, and of any that may be noticed in the adjoining taluks within 5 or 6 miles in the borders. The burning of all *débris* and unmarketable portions of the trees is the site. This last is an operation that should obviously be carried out with extreme caution, lest healthy trees should be adversely affected. On the whole, however, it will be recognised that Mr. MUTHANNAH's suggestions are practical and sound. They would probably be rendered more efficacious if planters upon whose estates sandal grows were invited by Government to report upon the condition of the trees, and even to co-operate in the good work of exterminating those that are diseased.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Possible Increase in French Tariff on Coffee.**—The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 23rd ultimo remarks:—Advices from Havre, more in detail, report that the French government proposes to increase the duty on coffee probably to the old rate of 156 francs per 100 kilos. and possibly more. Deputations have been sent to protest, but owing to the arrangement with Brazil any increase must be subject to preliminary negotiations, which will necessarily take time. These negotiations are said to be in progress, and the general opinion is that the duty will undoubtedly be raised, but will not be applied without giving time to dealers to pay the present tariff rate of 136 francs per 100 kilos. on as much of their stock as they can afford. In any event, the effect can only be local and temporary. The object of the Government is, of course, to obtain money. A six months' notice of modification of treaty is required. Havre may witness the following results as effects of the possible increase: The near months may advance a little owing to covering against spots, but there is no reason for an advance of distant months. And if the differences should grow smaller the "reporteurs" would immediately sell near months against purchases of distant and deliver their coffee, which in turn would immediately cause a decline of the near months.

The Ponce branch of the Porto Rico Chamber of Commerce has sent a memorial to every member of Congress, the general character of which can be determined from this extract:

"We sincerely think, gentlemen, that such protection, be it in one way or another, must come as an act of justice. If, under the Stars and Stripes, as we firmly believe, there is no room for discriminating preferences, we are of opinion that the Porto Rico coffee-grower has the same right as the California wine-grower, the Alabama rice-planter and the Louisiana and Porto Rico sugar planters, to a seat at that

banquet which the protective tariff offers, at the present time, to all producers and manufacturers of the country."

The shipments of coffee from Porto Rico to the United States in the ten months ending April last, footed up 6,175,726 pounds, valued at \$704,378. There has been a remarkable increase over the same period concluded in 1901, when only 184,053 pounds were shipped. Two years ago the entire importations into the United States were only 30,000 pounds. It is understood that the coffee has found its way chiefly into the Middle West and the South and that a grade averaging 11 cents, invoice, is used.

**Boston's Coffee Distinction.**—Boston has created more innovations in the purchase of coffees than any other city in the United States, or in the world, says the *Boston Herald*, and it stands to-day accredited with the reputation of being the best market for fine coffee in the United States. This has been brought about by the usual Yankee propensity for delving into the bottom of facts, and to-day more true experts are found in Boston than the rest of the country produces, and it is no exaggeration to say that they secure the cream of all the fine goods that come into the country.

**Bear View on Current Coffee Conditions.**—The interior continues to draw from the large invisible supplies and there is little or no disposition on the part of dealers to enter the market until some better idea can be formed of the prices which will be established when receipts become large. It has been said that values having reached such a low level could not be further compressed, but with overwhelming stocks everywhere at the commencement of another big crop in Brazil, it is quite evident that prices will go lower on merit, and then not be necessarily cheap. It may be regarded as a most favourable and healthy feature when prices decline in a natural way, because only by such means will the fact of over-production be corrected. Planters have not yet been reduced to such an extremity as to abandon the industry, and we are assured by reliable authorities that it is remunerative to the farmers to gather the product at ruling values, and furthermore that whatever is grown will be marketed.

**Coffee Trees 100 years Old still Bearing.**—Coffee shrubs planted in the Campinas district, Sao Paulo, Brazil, one hundred years ago are still bearing. The type of coffee produced is "Bourbon." Coffee trees usually become commercially worthless after living twenty years, but the Campinas district is very fertile and the coffee plantations in it are magnificent. The better position and superior care given the trees account for their longevity and extra fine crops.

The Minas, Brazil, Agricultural Congress has recommended differential duties for coffee exported from that state in addition to the current 9 per cent. on the following scale: 50 per cent. on unclassified (escolba); 30 per cent. on No. 9 New York type and 12 per cent. on No. 8; all above that to pay the current 9 per cent.

The President of the Republic of Brazil is a coffee-planter.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Except in the option market, prices in the main are unchanged in coffee, which is quiet,



says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 23rd ultimo. In options, there is considerable liquidation on July account, and this fact, with swelling fullness of the Santos receipts, has operated to weaken still further the quotations in futures, especially in the nearly months, June and July, which were quoted last week at 3.50 bid, a new record. There were no sales at these figures, however, but some July sold at 3.55. It would seem that the option market could sink no lower than three and one-half cents. At all events the worst predictions are being fulfilled.

In actual coffee no such prices can be had. Rio No. 7, the Exchange basis, is at 5½c. This is because Nos. 2 and 3 grades are so plentiful and the lower grades relatively scarce. There is some prospect that the lower ones will be presently much assisted with shipments. The premium is worth the while, and besides they are said to be being rushed in Brazil to anticipate the exactions of the new law restricting the export of the lower grades of coffee. Firm offers from Brazil continue above the parity of prices ruling locally. The spot market for invoices is very quiet at quotations for Rio No. 8 at 4½c., Rio No. 7 at 5½c., Rio No. 4 at 5½c., and Santos No. 4 at 5¼ to 6c. Jobbing is limited.

In mild coffees the tendency is a sagging one owing to the large supplies at hand and the moderate demand in the market. Some importers are forcing sales. Good Cucuta is 8 to 8½c. East India growths are unchanged and quiet.

\* \* \*

### Visible Supply of Coffee

on July 1st		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets	afloat — Brazil	433,250	380,800	243,550	239,450	228,000
	to loading — do.	26,340	22,200	20,310	11,650	12,460
	Europe	3,060	3,940	880	...	...
	afloat — the East	1,650	3,280	1,070	2,670	4,640
	do. — U. S. A.	710	820	1,290	830	410
		465,010	411,040	267,100	254,600	245,510
Stocks U. S. of North-America	afloat — Brazil	144,820	143,410	70,350	54,350	77,410
	to loading — do.	22,700	25,350	24,410	9,000	15,530
	U. S. A. afloat — the East	1,470	1,180	710	...	...
	do — Europe	1,290	1,410	1,120	...	1,470
		...	...	...	830	...
		635,290	582,390	363,690	318,780	339,920
Stocks in Rio	Do. Santos	29,290	36,880	15,530	6,120	11,060
	Do. Bahia	39,470	51,060	25,530	18,060	17,180
	Do. Bahia	3,650	2,820	2,120	590	710
Total		707,700	673,150	406,870	343,550	368,870
On June 1st		709,700	675,620	422,700	358,930	374,010
		*	*	*		

**The May Coffee Movement in the U. S.**—Last month's coffee movement is notable, says the *American Grocer* of 17th ultimo, for bringing about a reduction in the world's visible supply of 391,435 bags; deliveries were up to the monthly average for the year; increased receipts at Rio and Santos; slight increase in stocks in the United States and a reduction in Europe.

The total visible supply of the world on June 1 was 11,856,843 bags, against 12,248,278 bags May 1, 1903, and 11,324,563 bags June 1, 1902. Highest visible, 13,233,284 bags, November 1, 1902. On June 1, 1901, it was 7,192,321 bags, showing an increase in three years of 4,664,522 bags.

The receipts at Rio for the first eleven months of the trade year 1902-03 were 3,762,000 bags; at Santos, 7,920,000 bags; at both ports, 11,682,000 bags, against 14,771,000 bags in 1901-02; 10,361,000 bags in 1900-01. During three previous semi-annual crop years the receipts for this period

averaged 95.7 per cent. of the total crop. On this basis the total receipts for the year should be about 12,200,000 bags.

The following statement shows the May movement in detail :

Stocks, May 1, 1903—		Bags.	Bags.
United States	...	2,531,917	
Europe	...	7,369,861—	9,901,778
Receipts during May—		Bags.	Bags.
United States	...	595,683	
Europe	...	672,629—	1,268,312
Total supply, June 1, 1903		...	2,170,090
Less stocks, June 1, 1903—		Bags.	Bags.
United States	...	2,585,938	
Europe	...	7,163,405—	9,749,343
Deliveries, May, 1903—		Bags.	Bags.
United States	...	541,842	
Europe	...	879,085—	1,420,927
Deliveries, May, 1902	...	...	1,335,228
Increase as compared with May, 1902		...	85,699
Deliveries, July, 1902	...	...	1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902	...	...	1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902	...	...	1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902	...	...	1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902	...	...	1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902	...	...	1,183,298
Deliveries, January, 1903	...	...	1,407,123
Deliveries, February, 1903	...	...	1,320,514
Deliveries, March, 1903	...	...	1,474,143
Deliveries, April, 1903	...	...	1,330,723
Deliveries, May, 1903	...	...	1,420,927

Total deliveries, eleven months, 1902-03	...	14,833,564
Total deliveries, eleven months, 1902	...	14,198,146
Total deliveries, eleven months, 1901	...	13,077,069
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1902	...	15,516,663
Total deliveries, year ending June 30, 1901	...	14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly, year 1901-02	...	1,293,055
Average deliveries, eleven months, 1902-03	...	1,348,506

The May sales of options were 372,500 bags. The lowest price for No. 7 Rio was 3.70 cents for May and June, the highest, 4.95 cents for March.

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 420,339 bags were Brazil and 121,503 bags of all other sorts. About 77½ per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 22½ per cent. of all other kinds. This shows a loss of 7½ per cent. in the proportion sustained by Brazil to all other coffee sold as compared with April. The receipts of mild coffee were 160,386 bags out of total receipts of 595,863, or 26¾ per cent. The receipts at New York of all sorts of coffee are behind last year's record by 962,449 bags.

The prospects are that the total crops for the next trade year beginning July 1 will be larger than for the year soon to close, thus assuring a continuance of low prices.

We should take into consideration, however, that the deliveries this year are likely to exceed 16,000,000 bags, being the greatest movement on record and showing an increase in consumption since June 30, 1896, of 5,000,000 bags. If a like gain is made during the next five years the world's crops must reach a yearly average of over 21,000,000 bags to have supply and demand about balance. Will they do that?

The Brazil crop of 1901-02 exceeded 15,000,000 bags; the world's crops, 18,750,000 bags. If there is a check placed upon the starting of new plantations it will require the product of the area now planted in Brazil and other countries, but not in bearing to keep the supply for the next five years so well adjusted to requirements that prices will rule low. On the other hand, a general shrinkage in the crops for one season would send coffee becoming with over 16,000,000 bags



needed to meet a year's consumption. A stop to planting would bring about a steady reduction in the huge visible supply, now a menace to the market, and start coffee upward, and in two or three years bring about such a condition as would make coffee-growing a profitable industry without the aid of such questionable schemes as have been advocated by Brazil.

Coffee is not in such a terrible plight as some bears pretend to believe. Consumption counts as almost as great a factor as production, which shows a gain in seven years of about 58 per cent., while the former shows an increase for the same time of 45½ per cent., with the prospects of the gain continuing. Here is a difference of 12½ per cent. between supply and demand to overcome, so that the coffeepplanters have only to exercise patience for two or three years to again be on the money-making side, if they are not already there, provided no new plantations are started. If this should be the rule in coffee-growing countries, there would in two or three years be a rise in coffee quite as pronounced as that which occurred from 1886 to 1888.

\* \* \*

According to the *American Grocer*, the Government of Brazil will not enforce the new tax law designed to improve the position of coffee.

\* \* \*

**Coffee in New York.**—Deliveries are running ahead of last year at this time, says the *American Grocer* of 17th ultimo. A review of last month's movement will be found in this issue. The consumption for the year ending June 30 will be the heaviest on record. On the Exchange the market for options is weak and lower. June, 3·60@3·65c. On the street, spot steady on the basis of 5½c. for No. 7 Rio; 6½c. for No. 3; Santos No. 4, 6c.

P. C. Meehan & Co. report—

Market weak; sales made are at reduced prices. Trade demand very light. Buyers anticipating further decline in prices, owing to increasing stocks and receipts. Transactions May 28 to June 12, in mild sorts, include 13,662 bags Maracaibo, 10,123 bags Savanilla, 6,036 bags La Guayra, 4,219 bags Mexican, 2,564 bags Central American, 93 bags Jamaica.

\* \* \*

**Java and Java Coffees.**—Mr. Alfred Adelsdorfer writes in the *Spice Mill*:—To compare good Java coffees with coffees grown in any other country is like comparing fine old French wine with ordinary table claret. Java coffees stand by themselves and there is no other coffee that can imitate their delicate old musty flavour; this is what Java coffee has peculiar to itself.

The Dutch, who at one time compelled all the planters to market their entire products through their Government, paying them a specified price per picule, now receive only a small proportion of the Java and Sumatra crops, the bulk of the plantations being owned or leased by private individuals who sell their crops in the open market.

The blight which reached Ceylon about the year 1876 attacked the Java plantations in 1879 and ruined, one by one, most of the large plantations. Some of them were replanted with Liberian or African coffee trees, which plant thrives equally well in damp and dry climates and even in poor soil. This plant seems to be proof against the blight which abolished the Ceylon and Java coffees plantations at about

the same time. The Premier regencies as well as the Pasourouan tract in Java still produce coffees but they run blightly and are not very desirable. The really fine Java coffees are grown on the Island of Sumatra and the centre of the coffee production there is Padang on the west coast. The Government auctions are held at Padang four times a year; in 1903 the dates set being as follows: March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st.

The fine virgin soil and climate just suited to produce fine flavoured coffee, combine to make the coffees from these districts by far the finest.

Mandheling coffee is the finest grown and has a flavour peculiar to itself which cannot be duplicated in any other coffee. Ankola coffee is the next finest, then come the Ayer Bangis, then the interior coffees, etc. The last named, while they have been somewhat affected by blight are still very fine in the cup. Besides these Government coffees there are private estates all over Java and Sumatra producing fine coffees. Quite a few of the estates wash their coffees by modern methods.

In the south of Sumatra there is a large territory which grows some very good Java coffees and they are produced there in a large way, the crops being quite extensive. These coffees are known as Corintiie, Bankolen, Kroe, Lahat, and Palembang. They grade in quality in the order named. The first named is an especially good blender. Kroe is also largely used, as it has a taste like a Mandheling, but is not nearly so delicate.

South-west of the Island of Java are a great many small islands. There are all near the equator, and, having a good soil, are adapted to the production of coffees. These are all sold as Java coffees.

In the southern part of the Celebes, shipped from Makasser, are some very fair coffees, including Patjoh, Bonjie, etc. From the Island of Timor, the most westerly island from Java, comes the Timor coffee which is sold as a cheap grade of Java. From the Island of Bali a very low grade is shipped to Singapore. Singapore also receives large quantities of so-called Palembang coffees many of which are grown on some of the small islands in the Banda and Celebes seas.

In the extreme north-western portion of the Celebes very fine coffees are grown and shipped from the port of Menado; these are called Menado Javas by the trade and are, for the most part, shipped to Europe.

The business of selecting Java coffees and grading them is complicated and very difficult, and, as many merchants and roasters buy by appearance only, there has been more deception in this item than in any other branch of the coffee trade. However, some of the largest firms in the United States, who aim to give their customers the best, use in their best blends, good grades of Java and Mocha coffees exclusively. Many make a mistake by trying to substitute for these goods in their fine blends.

The purchasing of Java coffee is a matter of confidence, but fortunately there are still some reliable merchants who import and job Java coffees and give customers the kind of coffees as sold.

\* \* \*

Coffee usually loses about one-half per cent. in an ocean voyage, but gains in quality if the ventilation is satisfactory. When the ventilation is bad the coffee gains about one-half per cent. in weight and loses in quality.



**Coffee.**—Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon report:—The Trading Company in its sale of June 23rd, containing 24,000 bags Java and 2,939 bags Santos, realized full values, quite up to those paid in the May sale, home trade being the principal buyer. Good ordinary Java sold at an average of 26cts. The prices realized for Santos (very old Coffee) did not give equal satisfaction.

Next Trading Company's sale to be held September 8th and only one more this year.

First hand business was quite insignificant, not calling for any special remark. The crop in Java seems to be late and in many districts smaller than last year's.

Second hand dealings were slow, being interfered with by the fall in terminal markets, which the trade tried to use as a basis for purchases, but to no avail, as actual coffee is held for more money, especially the better grades; besides it is to be noticed, that the range of values between lower and better descriptions tends to get wider; Brazilian holders refused to follow terminal markets in their downward tendency and have been successful in carrying through previous values not only for the full volume of receipts, but even for more (the United States being the principal buyers). Stocks in Rio and Santos exhibit a further reduction of 243,000 bags. Quotations for spot are only  $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. lower for the month.

Arrivals were moderate, only 19,400 bags from Java and 58,800 bags from Santos. Deliveries of the latter amount to 77,800 bags, reducing our stock by another 19,000 bags.

In the speculative market a dull tone has pervaded, several bulls, disappointed by the rejection of the bill, proposing to eliminate twenty per cent. of the coming crop, preferred to realize losses, instead of continuing to carry over previous engagements. Sellers predominated and values gave way 1-cts. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts. but subsequently recovered  $\frac{3}{4}$ cts. Present quotations  $14\frac{7}{8}$ cts. per September,  $15\frac{1}{4}$ cts. per December,  $15\frac{5}{8}$ cts. per March, and  $15\frac{3}{4}$ cts. per May. Dealings amounted to 72,500 bags or 457,500 bags since 1st January. June contracts 7,000 bags, tenders 5,500 bags.

The present crop in Rio and Santos has amounted to about 3,966,000 bags and 8,313,000 bags, being, not only in excess of original estimates, but also slightly in excess of requirements, production and consumption not quite holding the balance. Advices concerning the prospects of the 1903-04 Brazil crops are not quite in accord. We should feel inclined to calculate with 5 million bags Rio and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million bags Santos, until more reliable informations are coming to hand. This does not indicate decreasing stocks for next crop year. Estimates of the 1904-05 crop, is a new feature in sight, which may tell on values later on. Anyhow it is of paramount importance to curtail production in Brazil, to which fazendeiros are not likely to submit, unless compelled by values at which it does not any more pay to grow Coffee. For the time being, any improvement in values means encouraging production.

The bill eliminating 20 per cent. of next crop has been rejected. Whether started unintentionally or with the purpose of stimulating buyers to more action, the projected bill did not succeed to incite the trade to emerge from the policy of caution adopted hitherto. It is now proposed to tax ordinary grades in Santos 300 réis per 100 Kg. more than the higher descriptions, but this neither can be taken in full earnest, as it would simply encourage shippers to mix different qualities, in order to ship Coffee at the lower export duty. The higher descriptions being most in request and the lower being neglected, Brazilian holders would incur the full loss, by getting less money for their Coffee.

The *Haiti* crop is reported to be an early and a promising one, whilst the outlook in *Venezuela* is gloomy, judging by exports which have been in the first three months 38,500 bags, against 55,700 bags, 72,800 bags and 127,800 bags.

The commercial treaty between *France* and *Venezuela* being voted, Coffee from the latter country is now again to be entered into *France* at the minimum tariff. The French Government projects to raise the minimum duty on Coffee from fr.136, to fr.156 per 100 Kg.

Stocks were again smaller in May, showing a reduction of 12,650 tons in Europe, chiefly owing to the full volume of deliveries, whilst visible supply was 16,370 tons less. A further decrease is expected this month.

A Sioux City shoe dealer, to attract customers to his particular corner, advertised coffee at 5 cents per pound. This enraged the regular wholesale dealers to the extent of cutting off his supply of coffee, and he then resorted to the retailer for the needful. The

result of this move was an injunction, and the shoe man had to fall back on the imitation article, hot on draught.

Total stock in United States June 1, 2,585,938 bags against 2,300,387 bags June 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States June 20, in store and afloat, 2,362,344 bags against 2,541,481 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 389,557 bags, against 318,405 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York June 20, 1,898,089. Stock in New York in other coffees June 15, 290,474, in San Francisco, 91,844 bags, and in New Orleans, 7,239 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, June 1, 11,856,843 bags.

## TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market is a waiting one, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 23rd ultimo. What trading is noticed is hand to mouth in character. Nor is there any special features in the market to report for new teas. The sales so far as New York is concerned are few and far between. The high prices tend to discourage buyers and they are delaying purchasing until their present stocks press for replenishing. As these throughout the country are rather heavy, buyers, so far as stock sentiment is concerned, can afford to wait a long time.

There is a division of opinion as to what will occur. Some hold that when the trade sees no decline in the price of teas it will want to buy, and when once this begins, there will be a rush to effect purchases, and the market will go booming. This is where the importers will want it, and to effect which all they will have to do is to play a waiting game of their own. On the other hand, it is held that while active trading may be expected to begin at the end of next month, it will not rise to inordinate proportions. The stocks in the country are too large. It will be recalled that early in the year this journal said that the prospects were that the country would start July 1 with 80,000,000 pounds of tea within its borders and nothing has since happened to cause us to alter these figures. This is the stock on hand the new crop teas will come in to supplement.

News from Hankow says that the Russians have taken the second crop of Congou teas on the basis of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to 10c. for United States government standards. This means that none of this tea will come to the United States, and it would seem that comparatively little of this year's crop will reach America. Of course desired grades will always be imported. Prices for such Congous as are here remain unchanged and are lower than the quotations ruling in the East. It is becoming apparent that the old crop teas will have to do the United States. This should help to reduce the great surplus of the tea here. The Russian buying should effect in no small way the demand which assumed such large proportions last year, for India and Ceylon teas. These were bought because they were very cheap. Now ruling higher than the Congous it would seem that a considerable part of the Russian trade would be lost to the British teas whose market is thus somewhat restricted. In this manner does one tea react on another. The prices everywhere tend upward and too far. Some quarters express fear that they will cause over-production that presently the tea world will be in the same fix that the coffee world is in.

Japans remain high and at the prices now ruling are unsaleable so far as New York is concerned. Canada reports however considerable trading in this tea.



Formosas are also too high to attract orders. The reports current that some of the new crop has been sold a fraction above fourteen cents are incorrect. Mixed teas have been sold at that figure.

Indias and Ceylons are firm and under notice with some buying. The Shanghai markets are firmer. One-half of the Foochow recently rejected here have been shipped to England.

**Colombo Tea Sales.**—On the 15th instant a steady tone prevailed for common to medium teas and prices were firm all round. Good and flavory sorts were well competed for, and any improvement in quality brought with it a corresponding advance in price. Good medium kinds were somewhat irregular. The green tea market remains very firm.—We received this morning a sample of tea with which one of the brokers' catalogue opened, with the comment that it would give us "some idea of the absolute 'muck' sometimes placed on the market and which should be condemned by the Chamber of Commerce." The stuff might have come out of a quarry and a coir mill.

**Indian Tea Exports.**—The following figures of tea exports, taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association :—The quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the first half of July, 1903, was : Calcutta, 7,388,105 lbs. ; Chittagong, 2,139,287 lbs. The quantity entered during the corresponding period of last year was : Calcutta, 6,966,781 lbs. ; Chittagong, 1,058,900 lbs. The total amount from the 1st April, 1903, to date was : Calcutta 16,745,491 lbs. ; Chittagong, 2,763,103 lbs. The total amount exported from the 1st April to the 15th July last year was 20,598,533 lbs.

**London Tea Market.**—Weekly special telegram dated 16th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 6¾d. (¼d. down). The average for the same period last year was 6d. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea common qualities easier, others firm. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 5½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7d. (½d. down). 23,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 21,000 disposed of. **INDIAN TEA** :—Packages offered 8,000 and sold 7,000. Average price of Indian tea nominal.

**Formosa Oolongs.**—The *Times of Ceylon's* London correspondent cables :—Mr. Larkin, of Toronto, but who is now in London, urges Ceylon to manufacture Formosa Oolongs. If Ceylon planters will not undertake this new departure soon, Mr. Larkin states that he will be compelled to start a Formosa Oolong packet trade to supplement his existing business.

**The Calcutta Tea Market.**—At the tea sale on 17th instant 29,550 packages were sold. The market was somewhat irregular for common and medium kinds, which were one to three pies lower. There was keen competition for fine

teas, and the prices realised were higher than any this season, several Darjeeling invoices fetching from Re.1 to Re.1 9 annas per lb. A large quantity was taken for outside markets, the Russian, Bombay, and Persian Gulf buyers operating freely.

486 packages of greens were offered, and prices were unchanged.

**Ceylon Green Tea Grant, 1903.**—Comparative statement showing number of lbs. as under noted monthly during 1902 and 1903, respectively, up to June 30th of each year :—

	1902.	1903.
	No. of lbs. on which payment was made monthly as under.	Brokers' Certificates issued as under. (lbs.)
	lbs.	lbs.
January	152,873	730,051
February	139,124	755,932
March	170,050	862,220
April	284,137	912,405
May	299,671	985,155
June	368,536	1,426,163
	1,414,391	5,671,926
Increase ...		4,257,535 lbs.

Tea in bonded warehouse in New York on May 31 last was 1,706,684 pounds against 27,079,558 pounds one year ago, when the tea duty was still in force. Tea in bonded warehouse in New York May 31, amounted to 1,706,684 pounds. One year ago, under stress of the duty tax, the quantity was 27,079,558 pounds.

## NOTES.

### Florida Oranges.

It is said that this year's crop of Florida oranges will be worth about \$2,700,000, and will exceed the crop of last year by about 1,000,000 boxes.

### Coffee Substitutes.

The nutritive value of coffee substitutes, like coffee itself, depend more for their food value upon the cream and sugar used than upon their own soluble constituents. So says the Maine Agricultural Station.

### Java Cinchona.

The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe as follows :

June.			
Year.	Amst lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	1,219,000	1897 ...	824,000
1902 ...	1,200,000	1896 ...	716,000
1901 ...	1,048,000	1895 ...	889,000
1900 ...	866,000	1894 ...	455,000
1899 ...	1,126,000	1893 ...	816,000
1898 ...	1,033,000		
January—June.			
Year.	Amst lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	5,785,000	1897 ...	3,334,000
1902 ...	5,399,000	1896 ...	3,976,000
1901 ...	5,217,000	1895 ...	3,768,700
1900 ...	4,118,000	1894 ...	3,743,000
1899 ...	5,090,800	1893 ...	4,060,000
1898 ...	4,917,000		

### Crop Prospects in Mexico.

The crops in Mexico promise exceedingly well this year. With the exception of a few portions of Tlaxcala, Queretaro, Guanajuato, Durango, and Sonora, the corn, wheat, beans, rice, and coffee are in unusually fine condition. The vanilla



product in the Pantala district, State of Vera Cruz, was so abundant this year that the farmers have had to employ women and children in harvest time, as there were not enough peons, and the crop was too precious to allow it to go to waste. In the Laguna cotton belt, where the great irrigations works were established some years ago, and which lies in the States of Durango, Chihuahua, and Coahuila, the planters expect the biggest crop ever raised, and they are opening up large tracts of new lands. In view of the success attained in cotton growing in that northern portion of the republic, that product is now being planted out in the Yaqui country. Heniquen and coffee are being sent out from Mexico as never before and bringing the best prices ever commanded.

#### Pepper.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon's report for June says:—Fluctuations were manifold during the month under review. Absence of spot demand and the selling of a few bull contracts coincided to depress values to the extent of 1ct. These selling orders being executed, a reaction was not long in setting in and a few shipping orders sufficed to raise values to their previous basis, sellers scarce and buying difficult. Present quotations are closing almost unaltered for the month; 32½cts. per July, 32¾cts. per August, 32½cts. per September, 32½cts. October, 32¾cts. per November, 32½cts. per December-January and 33cts. per February-March. Terme market active, dealings 13,000 bags or 145,000 bags since 1st January. June contracts and tenders 3,000 bags. Shipments from the Straits and all other producing countries have been very moderate indeed and are fully confirming the shortage of present crops. Stocks in Europe meanwhile are reduced beyond precedent and demand can not be met, without affecting values.

Stocks of all kinds on the principal markets of Europe:

	June 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.
		Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Netherlands	...	40,200	65,400	66,900
London	...	41,200	79,600	94,000
Hamburg	...	3,200	15,700	11,000
Håvre	...	17,800	58,800	66,500
Bordeaux	...	100	3,400	1,500
Marseilles	...	1,900	5,700	3,600
Trieste	...	10,000	11,000	18,400
	Total	114,400	239,600	261,900
On May 1st	...	116,200	239,000	262,000

#### Tea v. Coffee.

Bulk tea may, says the *Merchants' Review*, be responsible for the defeat of tea in the race for supremacy with coffee. Coffee does not suffer from handling in bulk as tea does, the latter being far more delicate than coffee and its flavour and fragrance much more evanescent. One shudders to think of what tea may have to bear in stores where it is bought in bulk. We have seen clerks in grocery stores go from the mackerel kett to a case of oranges, then to the cheese counter, handling the article in each department, and then with the mackerel orange-cheese odour upon his hands weigh a pound of "mixed" tea and do the mixing with his paws. Even in stores where the proprietor is careful never to touch the leaf with the naked hand, one or more of the clerks may neglect the precaution, when the boss is absent. There is no tea grown which would not be irretrievably injured by coming in contact with a warm and moist human hand, even though the hand be clean. Think, then, of the consequences when the hand

is the hand of a careless clerk and is redolent of a score of things that would destroy tea fragrance and flavour in a jiffy. We believe that the wholesale grocers would help their own sales if they sent out no tea without printed words of warning as to the handling and general treatment of tea in distributive channels.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

There is no break in the flow of speeches and letters on the proposed fiscal changes. A correspondent, writing to the *Westminster Gazette* in defence of Free Trade, says:—"We never taxed China tea to promote Indian, yet Indian tea culture has grown quite naturally to huge proportions and ousts China from many a market." It may be flattering to the energy and enterprise of Indian and Ceylon tea-growers to be reminded that they have ousted China tea from "many a market," notwithstanding the fact that China tea comes to this country on equal terms with Indian and Ceylon, but planters would no doubt have smothered their feelings of pride had it been otherwise in the early days of the struggle. Even now, were they given a preference over China, it would not cool their ardour, nor cause them to abate their energy.

A "Puzzled Colonist" writes to the *Financial Times* as follows:—"Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of the debate on Preferential Tariffs, is reported to have said: 'The United States is not likely to give something for nothing, and it would be something if they gave advantages to colonies without receiving in return preference over their greatest competitor.' It would be interesting to learn what the United States receive from India and Ceylon in return for the preference shown to those great tea-producing countries by admitting their produce absolutely free of any customs duty, while in this country a tax of 6d. a lb. is placed on an industry which is fairly staggering under it. I am a shareholder in the British Indian Tea Company, Limited, and from the report for 1902, which has lately been issued, it appears that last season's crop was 968,000 lbs., which produced £22,206 16s. 6d., or a fraction over 5½d. per lb. The outlay on the crop was £22,178 17s. 4d. leaving as profit on a whole year's work £28. The Government, however, levies a tax on this crop of £24,200 before it reaches the consumer—that is to say, more than 100 per cent. on the sale value of the produce, and yet we are told that the Government is anxious to strengthen the link which binds the colonies and dependencies to the Mother-Country. Mr. Ritchie is lauded for preferring to remit the ls. registration duty on corn, which no one felt, rather than to take the war tax of 2d. off tea, which is recognised to be one of the absolute necessities of life to the working classes. Our American cousins, in fact, gave us fairer treatment than our own country."

According to the annual report of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China, the grand total of the exports of tea for the year 1902 was 1,519,211 piculs or 202,455,881 lbs., against 1,157,211 piculs or 154,256,226 lbs. in 1901, a substantial increase which is likewise exceptional, for the importations from China, excluding the year 1898, when 1,930,795 piculs were exported, have been continually decreasing since the year 1895. In the last ten years the highest figures reached were 1,865,680 piculs (1895). Exports were lowest in 1901. The following are the details of distribution:—Of Congous, 506,885 piculs were exported in 1902, of which 114,364 piculs went to the United States direct, 77,065 to Great Britain, and nearly all of the remainder to Russia. Hong Kong is represented with 42,078 piculs. Of Oolongs, 77,906 piculs were exported, of which the United States got direct 52,751 piculs. Souchongs were sent direct to the United States to the extent of only 8 piculs. They went in the main to the continent of Europe, Russia excepted, the total being represented by 18,867 piculs. The grand total was 26,072 piculs. The exports of Scented Capers were 10,055 piculs, almost entirely distributed from Hong Kong. The entire export of black tea amounted to 687,228 piculs or 101,615,490 lbs., of which 168,501 piculs or 22,461,183 lbs. were sent direct to the United States.



Of green tea the total export was 253,757 piculs, or 33,936,808 lbs., of which 126,196 piculs, or 15,821,927 lbs. were sent to the United States direct, and 64,377 piculs to Russia. To the United States were sent 23,052 piculs of Young Hyson, 13,142 piculs of Hyson, 951 of Imperial, and 89,088 piculs of Gunpowder. Russia took large quantities of the better grades, excelling the United States. The figures were 16,536 piculs Young Hyson, and 41,677 piculs of Hyson. Russia received almost the entire output of brick tea, being sent 477,597 piculs of black and 86,932 piculs of green. Russia also practically got the entire production of tablets—7,156 piculs. Japan by direct export received only 1 picul of green tea, but was allowed to have 7,061 piculs of black tea. On the other hand, India took only 877 piculs of black tea direct, but ordered 10,984 piculs of green tea, which, on the whole, is no small bit of heresy for that country to perpetrate. The Philippine Islands figure in the list with only 177 piculs. Russia leads all other countries as China's best tea customer. The grand total sent direct to that country was 882,893 piculs or 117,689,636 lbs., but second is the United States, with, however, only 294,697 piculs or 39,283,110 lbs., and third is Great Britain, with 116,317 piculs, and next Hong Kong with 77,425 piculs.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce, Lord Brassey presiding, it was reported that Mr. Robert Wales, who had held office as Chairman of the Coffee and Cocoa Trade Section for thirteen years, had retired from that post in July last, and a very cordial vote of thanks was accorded him for his services. Mr. F. G. Ivey and Mr. H. Epps had been elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. In regard to coffee production in India, it was agreed to communicate with the United Planters' Association of Southern India, with a view to obtaining from that body periodical reports as to the production and export from that country. It was also decided to endeavour to obtain consular and other reports, statistics of production and export, in the chief markets, for circulation to members of the section, especially in reference to Ceylon, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico, and Salvador. Further representations were also made to the Foreign Office with regard to the French duty on colonial produce.

### BRAZILIAN NOTES.

(From the *Brazilian Review*.)

**Exchange.**—Ninety days' Bank rate opened on Monday 1st at  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and closed this evening, weak, at  $12\frac{1}{4}$  to  $12\frac{3}{8}$ .

That the Bank of the Republic has the rate, at present, entirely under control is shown by the fact, that directly the Bank stops selling and seems inclined to cover, the rate gives way and *vice versa*. Indeed, the precautions Government is taking precludes any hope of a boom, whilst the resources at its disposal in London prevent any chance of a slump. The issue of internal bonds for payment of expropriation connected with the Port and the Avenue, will make it unnecessary to draw except sparingly, and very properly leave the bulk of the loan for payment of the Port-Works proper. The rise from  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  at a time when bills were certainly not more than sufficient to meet current expenditure, discounted the effects of the little immediate drawing likely to take place, if as, we believe, the Government intends to let the rate drop to its natural level, and hold it there.

Exports it is true, are at present, very low; coffee shipments during the week just ended being only £203,000 as against £208,000 the previous week, and £260,000 last year; but the season is an early one, and by July entries will probably be considerable. There will, no doubt, be little eagerness to sell at present quotations, and, therefore, little or no speculation, but as soon as coffee begins to arrive in large quantities it will have to be sold, whatever prices may be ruling, and thus raise the supply of bills. Without the loan or some similar operation, a slump at this season would, as we have pointed out for months, have been certain. Fortunately the Bank has now ample resources to tide over until the new crop, and after that, will have no difficulty in holding the rate steady.

A speculation for the rise on either coffee or exchange stimulated by a loan or sale of the Sorocabana might, it is true, upset the most careful preparations; but of the first there seems not the faintest chance at present, whilst the tightness of money on the London market, which seems only more accentuated since the

Transvaal Loan, forbids any very sanguine anticipations in the latter respect. As soon as the rate has been allowed to find its natural level, we look, for steady rates throughout the year, as in 1902. In point of fact, the present rate is far higher than is justified by the economic situation, and if it were to fall to  $11\frac{1}{2}$  and or even under, it would only be a return to the more normal conditions previous to the speculation for a rise that has been, on one pretext and another, incubating since the beginning of the year.

**Coffee.**—RIO DE JANEIRO, *Saturday, 6th June, 1903.*—Joint entries at Rio and Santos during the week ended 5th June, were 11,103 bags less than the previous week's and 49,669 under the corresponding week's last year, of which they represent 74.8 per cent.

For the crop, entries to 5th June were 3,213,846 bags less than on the corresponding date last year, of which they represent 78.6 per cent.

Shipments during the week ended 6th June were 84 bags more than the previous week's, but 25,076 less than last year.

Stocks, consequently, fell off and on the 6th instant, were 14,221 bags less than on the preceding Friday, and 288,221 less than on the corresponding day, Friday, of last year.

Declared sales were 15,000 bags less than the previous week's, and 21,000 more than last year. The visible supply of the world has fallen off from 726,100 tons on the 1st April, to 709,700 tons on May 1st, as against 676,000 tons on the corresponding date of last year, deliveries in Europe and the United States being 84,300 tons as against 84,000 tons in April.

New York prices for No. 7 spot were unaltered all the week at 5.12c. against 5.40c. last year. Local prices were somewhat weaker, the average for the week being 2\$881 for 10 kilos., as against 3\$845 for the previous week and 4\$198 last year.

SANTOS, *6th June, 1903.*—Owing to the very appreciable decrease in the world's visible supply, (New York Exchange 391,000 bags, and Duuring & Zoon 16,400 tons decrease) our market was steadier and occasionally even firm, but opens, to-day, weaker again.

For soft coffees we have a very fair demand; *Soft Superiors* were fetching over 4\$000 to 4\$100. Orders from Europe within reasonable limits are practically executed, and there are a fair number of sailing vessels loading or expecting to load shortly.

*Primes* are sold at from 4\$200 to 4\$300, *Superiors* 300 réis and *Goods* at from 500 to 600 réis below *Regulars* fetched from 3\$100 to 3\$300. *Low Coffees* are somewhat slacker, since Government announced that the law fixing the export-duty of 300 réis per kilo. on low coffees will not come into force in July, owing to the refusal of Minas and Rio to come into line with S. Paulo in the matter. *Washed Coffees* only in very desirable selections are in demand, best qualities fetching about 6\$000; *Old Yellows* are slack; *Peaberrys* and *Primes* scarcely up to 4\$700; *Superior Peabodys* were sold up to 4\$200, lower qualities being abundant, and, therefore, slow.

Orders from Europe ruled between 26s. 6d. and 27s. 6d. for *Superiors* and 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. lower for *Good Average*.

*Entries* (92,500) and *passagens* (89,500\$) are smaller for the time being, in spite of the early crop. Shipments are also small and our stock did not change much, being 831,743 bags.

Exchange declined and business was done at  $12\frac{3}{4}$ , which, however, assisted coffee prices only to a small degree. *Pauta* went down to 370 réis.

In consequence of the refusal of the Governments of Minas and Rio to put differential duties on lower grades of coffee, the Government of the State of S. Paulo has determined not to put the Coffee Law into execution. Better to recognize and withdraw from a false position, even at the last moment. But with a little provision, the Government of S. Paulo might have been spared this humiliation, and have saved the market from the disturbance to which such legislation was bound to give rise. It was confidently predicted from the first that the measure would never be put into execution, being only intended as a manoeuvre to keep planters quiet during elections. If so, no doubt, it succeeded for the time being, but when called to account, we doubt, the last state of that Government will be a good deal worse than the first. Meanwhile, the price of coffee has already declined, and very lively times may be expected when the S. Paulo Legislature meets in July.

The determination of the planters of São Carlos de Pinhal to reduce the wages and other rates of *Colonos* is already giving rise to discontent, to which the *Fanfulla*, the organ of the Italian colony at S. Paulo has given expression in an article in which the measure is criticised from the *colono's* point of view. The *Fanfulla*



admits that the reduction of wages is the easiest way for planters out of their difficulties, but seems to doubt whether *colonos* will consent to labour in season and out-of-season, in the rain and sun and cold for so miserable a pittance.

Writing to *O Correio*, Dr. Candido Lacerda replies that planters have only taken this step when there was no alternative, and have borne all the burden of falling prices without *colonos* suffering. So far, *colonos* have, no doubt, done well and made money, whilst their employers have been impoverished day by day. If, however, wages have not been reduced, it is not because the planters refrained from doing so from any sentimental motive; as, if they have not risen it is not because the *colonos* have failed to impose the best conditions obtainable. The rate of wages is entirely a matter of supply and demand. If labour is abundant, planters can reduce wages, if not, they will have to pay as usual or lose their crops. It is possible that, for a season, wages might be successfully cut down, if the measure were general. But if wages were to fall low enough to make other employment here or elsewhere attractive, labour would leave the plantations. The whole subject is one for sensible treatment, in which there is no room for sentiment. If, as Sr. Lacerda says, *colonos* are making such a good thing out of it, though they may grumble, they will suffer some reduction of wages without abandoning the plantations. If, however, they can get better pay elsewhere, they will not stop. As a rule, the demand for labour here is always in excess of the supply, and planters have had to give way. Now, however, it is possible that this may alter, and that the impossibility of paying high wages with current prices of coffee will so reduce the demand that *colonos* will be glad to accept any terms for the time being.

But if the measure is not general there will be a mere local dislocation, which may leave planters who try the experiment without any labour at all.

### COFFEE IN LONDON.

\* The improvement in the terminal market noticed at the close of last week has not only continued, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 27th ultimo, but prices have further advanced 6d., making the quotations 1s. above the lowest point. Even now, rates here are fully 1s. below the prices in Santos, so that in the absence of speculative selling there is every reason to expect a further improvement, and at the present low level of prices there are very few who care to take the "Bear" side. The better tone in the terminal market has also been felt with actual coffee, and at the auctions, which have again been small for the time of year, the demand has been good, and prices are mostly dearer. Export descriptions, of which the greater part consisted, have been of very low quality, and, though generally difficult of sale, were nearly all disposed of at rates that would have been impossible a month ago. The absence of fine Costa Rica is being felt, and there is some enquiry privately; the bold sizes, which have been relatively low all through the season, are most enquired for and should be dearer during the next month or two.

### TEA IN LONDON.

INDIAN TEA.—Although there has been an improvement in the demand, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 27th ultimo, values show no change of importance, notwithstanding the smaller quantity brought forward at auction. At the Calcutta sales prices were about 1½d. higher than in the early public sales last year, and there does not appear to be any probability of easier rates at present, as the supplies are not coming forward very freely. From the later reports of the crop the prospects are improving owing to more favourable weather, and plucking, therefore, is likely to be more liberally resorted to, which will lead to an increased supply for this market. The reports of the quality are, on the whole, favourable, the teas from the Dooar gardens being described as "good, useful" and superior to the early arrivals of last season, while Darjeelings and Assams are well up to those of last year, and Sylhet and Cachars are about an average. At the public sales 20,924 packages were offered, the bulk of which passed the hammer. For the finer grades the bidding was active, and the reduced quantities brought forward sold at firm rates; other kinds met with but a moderate demand, and an easier tendency prevailed.

CEYLON TEAS.—The offerings this week have been on a considerably reduced scale, and the auctions on Tuesday passed off with a good demand for most descriptions. Common Leaf showed no change, very little being obtainable under 6½d., while the medium grades sold at the slightly lower level recently established. Broken Pekoes over 9d. were in more request, and in many cases brought firm to dearer rates, but the lower grades continued to sell cheaply, and were occasionally a fraction lower. Choicest kinds, of which the supply has been very limited, are much wanted, and the few parcels offered realised high prices. At the public sales 22,350 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,800 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—At the public auctions held on Wednesday some 571 packages were offered. Business in all descriptions has been quiet, and only a few transactions have been reported in the lower kinds.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—Business continues quiet for all descriptions. Capers are now in very small compass, and, consequently, prices for this grade show a firm tendency. It is not likely that an easier tone will prevail this season, and until the new season's crop is offered, a steady market is anticipated. Good Medium Gunpowders are getting very scarce, but no quotable change can be reported.

### RHEA.

#### INDIAN-GROWN RHEA FIBRE.

In the March number of the *Anglo-Indian Review* we mentioned that a parcel of rhea fibre which had been grown in India and decorticated on the field by the Bengal Rhea Syndicate with a Faure machine was being sent to England, and that it would be unbaled, ungummed, softened, and spun in the presence of our representative. This, to all practical purposes, has been done, and we have pleasure in giving our report:—

1. The grass was in four bales of varying qualities. The bales were excellently packed and pressed, but owing to the great length of the fibrous strips there was a certain amount of doubling back, which should, if possible, be avoided. The grass had been carefully dried, and there were no signs of fermentation.

2. In appearance the Indian Faure-treated fibre is unlike China grass, being harder and rougher, and it has none of that scent of fresh hay which is one of the characteristics of the grass from China. On the other hand, the grass was quite clean.

3. In the ungumming, China grass of fair average quality loses 25 per cent. of its weight; the loss in the case of the Indian grass was 30 per cent.

4. In a comb which extracted 33 per cent. of noils from China grass, 45 per cent. were taken out in the case of the Indian grass.

5. In spinning it was found that the faults which had been made apparent in the comb were telling their own tale, for the fibre being rather brittle and stubborn it was impossible to spin it into fine counts though for the coarser counts it did fairly well.

Generally, the sample of Indian fibre above reported upon is not equal to good China grass. It is coarse in filament and somewhat rough to the touch, and until it is shown that the fibre contained in it is adapted to textile purposes, manufacturers will possibly be chary of purchasing in the open market. It seems almost certain that the faults referred to are due to mistakes in cultivation and to the fact that the stems were cut too late. We understand also that the scraping was not so good as some previous work done by the Faure machine. On the other hand, in spite of its brittleness, the fibre is strong and lustrous, and should command a ready sale as soon as the lack of knowledge on the part of the planter has been corrected.

Further samples should at once be sent over to be reported upon, for we are informed by the manufacturers, whose works we visited, that not only would they be purchasers of Indian-grown fibre in preference to the Chinese if the right grass can be produced and exported at a fair price, but that in the meantime they will be very pleased to give planters every information in their power to enable them to turn out a marketable commodity.

#### RHEA—THE NEW FABRIC.

The Bengal Rhea Syndicate some time ago sent a small quantity of the fibre to Europe and have received back a shipment of goods made from it. A Calcutta contemporary writes enthusiastically of the articles ranging from fine white rhea cord up to a suit of clothes made out of rhea cloth. We are told that it is undeniably a mar-



vellous selection; the most delicately coloured and finely worked ladies' shawls, gentlemen's guernseys and other underclothing, cellular shirts, velvets of different kinds and colours, tray cloths, ladies' trimmings, finely worked laces, incandescent gas mantles, and even fancy imitation straw, the latter commodity being extremely pretty and cleverly manufactured.

The texture of the articles is fine, and closely resembling in many cases silk, somewhat heavier, perhaps, but delightfully cool.

At present only the manufacture of fine kinds of clothing has been attempted, the Syndicate not being able to send large quantities of rhea to Europe, but they have 5,000 acres under rhea cultivation, and in about two years, the manager, Mr. Ballarin, said they hoped to bring the goods into the market in large quantities.

The present price of rhea is about the same as American cotton. It is stated that it never rots, the natives using it for nets, and it is supposed to be the strongest fibre in existence.—*Sell's C. I.*

## HISTORY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF PARÁ RUBBER INTO THE MALAY PENINSULA.

(*Agricultural Bulletin.*)

As there has been a good deal of confusion as to the history of the introduction of this plant into the East, the following history may be of some interest. In a letter dated April 17th, 1878, from Sir William Thiselton Dyer, the Secretary to Sir Joseph Hooker at Kew Gardens, he writes "On 4th June, 1863, we received from Mr. Markham some hundreds of seeds obtained from Mr. Jas. Collins. Of these seeds less than a dozen germinated, and six of the plants so obtained were taken by Dr. King, Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, in the same year to India. The climate of Calcutta did not prove very favourable to the Heveas which required the conditions of growth met with in hot and moist tropical forests. It was therefore decided on consultation with Mr. Markham that, in the event of more Heveas being raised and sent out from Kew, they should be received at the Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, which should then be regarded as the depôt for supplying young plants to such parts of India as were suited for its growth. On June 14th, 1876, we received from Mr. Wickham about 70,000 seeds of which about 4 per cent. germinated. On August 9th we despatched 1,919 plants raised from these seeds in Wardian cases in charge of a gardener. Of the whole consignment 90 per cent. reached Dr. Thwaites in excellent condition. On August 11th, 50 plants were sent to the Botanic Gardens, Singapore. Owing to that delay in payment of freight these plants all perished. On June 11th, 1877, 22 plants were sent to the Botanic Gardens, Singapore. In October of this year Mr. Murton, Superintendent of the Gardens, Singapore, planted himself 9 Heveas and 1 Castilloa at the back of the residency in Kwala Kangsar. Mr. Low reports, "They were brought here in October last by Mr. Murton and planted at the back of the residency and are growing very well. They were quite small when they arrived here, but the Castilloa is now (July 26th, 1878) 5 feet high with branches of equal length and the Heveas vary from 4 to 8 feet and are growing vigorously." In a subsequent report dated February 3rd, 1879, Mr. Low writes "the Heveas are now 12 to 14 feet high. They take to the country immensely. The Castilloa is a large tree 10 feet high with branches 5 feet long."

At the same time that these were planted some Pará Castilloa, and Ceará rubbers were also planted at Durian Sabatang, (Teluk Anson), but it appears they were washed away by a flood shortly after.

In a later letter from Sir Hugh Low to the Royal Gardens, Kew, dated December 11th, 1879, he writes. "As I am writing I should like to mention that the Hevea Braziliensis, which, having, received from Kew through Singapore, I planted at Kwala Kangsar in Perak, grew magnificently and fruited, I believe, two or three years before those of Ceylon. I distributed the seeds to various places in the neighbourhood, and they are now to be found in Mr. Hills' Coffee Gardens in various parts of the Peninsula and in several places in Perak. When Mr. Swettenham was at Home in the Summer I enquired of him as to their condition, and found they were not thought to be of any value as some Dyaks had tapped some of the largest trees and found that scarcely any juice exuded from them." This unfortunate statement seems to have deterred Perak planters from paying any attention to Pará rubber for some time. Sir Hugh Low obtained some seed from somewhere in 1882, and gave it to Mr. Wray

who planted it at Kwala Kangsar. This may have come from the old trees there, for Sir Hugh Low sent seed (50) from Perak to the Singapore Gardens. The same year seeds were distributed from the Singapore Gardens, the first recorded being sent to the Bishop of Sarawak. This entirely disposes of the statements by Mr. Wray and others that the first seeds or plants introduced into Perak were introduced by Sir Hugh Low in 1882. In fact almost every plant of Pará rubber in the Malay Peninsula was derived from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, and these directly or indirectly through Ceylon from the Royal Gardens, Kew. In 1877, Mr. Murton had planted the young trees received from Kew as above mentioned in the upper Garden to a more suitable locality in the new Economic Gardens. In his report for 1881 Mr. Cantley writes "the tallest Hevea (in the gardens) is now 25 feet tall and 14 inches round the base." These trees commenced to fruit in 1882. Seed were later received in large quantities from Ceylon, and when the Kwala Kangsa trees began to fruit Sir Hugh Low sent seeds from them back to the Singapore Gardens for distribution. Although the plant grew so well, planters could not be induced to take it up, and, owing apparently to a report that it produced no rubber, the few people interested in rubber turned their attention to Castilloa and Ceará rubber. But practically, with the exception of Mr. T. H. Hill's estate, there were no plantations of Pará rubber till Tan Chay Guan commenced to plant in Malacca. In 1897, however, the high price of rubber and the low price of coffee stimulated the interest of planters, and a rush was made for the seeds. At the same time planters in all parts of the tropics sent for seeds and plants, and attempted to grow the plant everywhere with varying success. In many countries it seems to have proved a failure, the climate being unsuitable. In the Malay Peninsula it appears to have been more successful than in almost any other country both in rapidity of growth and production of rubber, and the only thing to be regretted is that planters did not take up the cultivation ten years ago.—*Straits Times*, July 1.

## SOUTHERN INDIAN TEA ESTATES COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighth Annual General Meeting of the Southern India Tea Estates, Limited, was held on Monday, June 29th, at the offices of the Company, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, Fenchurch Street.

The Secretary (Mr. A. J. Rouse) having read the notice convening the Meeting and the auditor's certificate, and the report and accounts being taken as read, the Chairman (Mr. W. Forbes Laurie) addressed the Meeting as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—I suppose we may in the usual manner consider the report as read. When we last met together I told you that we would consider later in the year, and if the market allowed, a dividend should be paid to ordinary shareholders. Unfortunately there was not such an improvement as we hoped for, but there was sufficient to pay  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on ordinary share capital. This, although actually paid out of this year's accounts, I consider as belonging to last year's engagements. It was not a large dividend I admit, but I would remind you that it was quite up to the average paid for the season on the total ordinary share capital of the British tea industry. During the last six months there has been a decided improvement in tea prices, which I trust may continue. At the same time you were informed that I saw every reason to expect a higher yield for the season under review, which, as the report shows, has been realised. Tea prices have averaged a little less than the previous year owing to a serious fall in the middle of the season. Since then prices have, as I have before said, improved considerably. The cost of production shows, what seems to me, the satisfactory figure of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound, f.o.b., against nearly 4d. last year. Our capital value is by no means exorbitant, being about £31 the acre with efficient factories and ample labour. With anything like reasonable prices we should do well. We can produce cheaply and all we ask is a reasonable market. I have said that the dividends we are now paying on ordinary shares are quite up to the average paid on the whole of the British tea industry, and in that way only do I consider it to be satisfactory. Fifty years ago the simple process of supply and demand would promptly have regulated the price, and would do so still if markets were to the old conception natural, but everyone connected now with trade and commerce know that unity of action can defeat natural process.



and no doubt we have in the year under review benefited by the Indian producers regulating market supplies, but not yet to the degree that we have suffered, and the large buyers have benefited by their more united action, so systematically carried out in their wise discretion. Roughly speaking, the last season's result shows a shorter production in the aggregate of British-grown teas by 10,000,000 lbs., and an increased consumption outside Great Britain of another 10,000,000 lbs. That is, I may say, a falling-off of 20,000,000 lbs. sold to consumers at home. The rise of our prices was, however, only contemporary with the period when teas were being judiciously withheld from the market, and since then, if anything, a slight reactionary movement has set in. Doubtless other causes may have influenced, yet I would draw this coincidence to the attention of producers generally. This improvement of itself, although not early enough to benefit this season fully, is a satisfactory condition as far as it has gone, and as extensions are not being largely carried out, it is of great encouragement for the future. Indeed, prospects have undoubtedly improved, and practically over-production appears to be gradually becoming an evil of the past.

After a brief discussion the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Laurie then proposed the payment of 3 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, which was seconded by Mr. T. C. Owen, and carried.

Mr. T. C. Owen proposed the re-election of Mr. W. Forbes Laurie as director, seconded by Mr. A. Valentine Holland and carried unanimously.

The re-election of Mr. J. D. Stewart Bogle as auditor to the Company for the ensuing year was proposed by Mr. Bertram F. White and seconded by Mr. A. J. Rouse.

Mr. T. C. Owen proposed that an expression of the Meeting's satisfaction be conveyed to the manager and his staff in India, at the efficient working of the estates and the resultant cheap production of the tea, which reflected great credit on those concerned. This was seconded by Mr. A. Valentine Holland and carried.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Bertram F. White, terminated the Meeting.

## BLACK AND WHITE PEPPER.

The statistical position of the article pepper in its widest sense is undoubtedly strong, says the *Grocer*, but is seriously deficient in detail, and we notice that the official accounts still adhere to their old (and it is quite time it was worn out) methods of embodying all the importations of pepper under a single heading. Thus, in the last issue of the Board of Trade printed documents, the receipts of pepper of all kinds into the United Kingdom during the first five months of the year are given in one total, which, however, comprises only 6,876,268 lbs., against 10,072,640 lbs. in the same period of 1902, and 5,422,739 lbs. in 1901. The diminution in the supply here shown appears very striking, even after allowing for the exceptionally heavy quantity imported last year, which was nearly 4,650,000 lbs. above that in the year before. What proportion of the supplies of pepper consists of one sort of pepper and what of another is a question which, in the interests of the spice trade, might well be answered, for as an item of information the bare amount (officially stated as if it related simply to one particular description of pepper and no other) is next to useless as a guide to future operations, and requires amplifying to render its meaning fully intelligible to either speculators or dealers.

In the private returns furnished by the docks and wharves at this port there is, it is satisfactory to say, some attempt at separating the different growths of pepper from each other, and the landings of black are clearly distinguished from those of white. In both cases the quantities warehoused this year have been a great deal lighter than in the previous one, the total arrivals of black during the past twenty-three weeks having been restricted to 1,010 tons, against 1,340 tons; while those of white have fallen off to 785 tons, or little more than half the amount received in 1902. Stocks have in consequence been pulled down rapidly and extensively, that of black pepper having sunk to 1,180 tons by the 6th instant, as contrasted with 2,365 tons; and the stock of white pepper dwindling to 970 tons, as compared with 1,650 tons in the preceding year. Through this severe abridgment of the general

available supply, the deliveries of peppercorns have been much curtailed, being represented by only 1,170 tons black, against 1,485 tons, and 825 tons white, as opposed to 1,310 tons in the first twenty-three weeks of last year. The marked decrease in the year's aggregate imports of pepper, as officially given, is also partly accounted for by the paltry consignments of chillies, or, as termed by some persons, "pod pepper," which in London have been confined to 510 packages, in comparison with 4,170 packages in 1902, and naturally only a small quantity is now left on hand.

The comparative scarcity of black as well as white pepper being thus proved beyond a doubt, it is not surprising that the value has been gradually hardening for months past, and that not only in the "terminal" markets here and abroad, where the speculative element mostly predominates, but in landed parcels ready for immediate use by the home trade, business has been done with greater facility than heretofore. Advances in the prices established in the London market have been extremely slow, and it is only on comparing them with those ruling at this time last June that the full extent of the rise is seen. Quotations then were—for Singapore black pepper on the spot 5½d. to 5¾d., and for white of common and fair quality 9¼d. to 9½d. per lb. Last week the current and respective rates for Singapore pepper were 6¼d. to 6½d., and 10d. to 10½d., showing a rally of 1d. per lb. from what may be regarded as the lowest point, and though some weakness has recently shown itself, opinions continue rather in favour of a further improvement.

## A VISIT TO A TEA GARDEN.

BY AN EXPERT.

As we have so many advertisements in our columns with reference to tea, it may be of interest to many of our readers to hear a little about the manufacture of tea in general and Lipton's tea in particular.

The writer had the pleasure of visiting during his travels the little island of Ceylon, upon which, for 50 weeks out of the 52, the hot tropical sun shines almost incessantly and where, in the low country, the tropical foliage, consisting of palm trees and tree ferns, is most beautiful, but the climate is most trying to the American traveller. Leaving, however, Colombo, which is the capital of Ceylon, we travel by railroad about 80 miles right into the heart of the mountain region, and there we alight at a railroad station 16 miles from Sir Thomas Lipton's delightful tea gardens, upon which are employed no less than 15,000 coolies. The name of this estate is called the Dambatenne Tea Gardens, which consist of a great number of tea estates, each under the supervision of a British tea-planter.

Arriving on the tea gardens for the first time, one is struck very forcibly by the inquisitiveness of the natives, especially the little children, who, clothed in the "latest Spring fashions adopted by nature," wonder what peculiar individual the "big white master" is that is visiting their gardens. These coolies are very docile and hardworking. Their skins are very shiny and black in appearance, and the men, though very strong and wiry, are excessively thin. The tea-pluckers consist of men, women and children, children as young as 8 years of age earning their daily bread, or, I should say, their daily curry and rice.

We watch the leaf being carefully picked by these expert tea-pluckers and follow it to the factory, where the tea is brought to be cured for shipment all over the world. We stood at the factory and saw some hundreds of men, women and children with baskets on their backs bringing in the leaf they had plucked during the afternoon, each basket of leaf weighing from 6 to 8 lbs. The tea is received by the European superintendent, who has it weighed and sent up to the second floor, where the tea withers and becomes pliable prior to being put into the machine rollers to be bruised and rolled into the shape that we see it in when it arrives in this country.

It is a most interesting sight, and, through the courtesy of Sir Thomas Lipton, we were shown the tea being rolled and then sorted, and afterwards put on to "fermenting tables" and finally put into the sirocco and dried. The tea was then sifted into the different grades, suitable to the different countries, and put into tea boxes.

Throughout the entire manufacture Lipton's teas are untouched by hand, and even in the packing we saw boxes standing on plat-



forms which were quivering and shaking so that the tea as it was thrown into these boxes settled down and was tightly packed without any unnatural pressure and risk of breaking the leaf. The boxes containing the tea were then put into bullock wagons, and three days afterwards, when we reached the railroad station, we saw these bullocks being unwillingly driven up the hill to the railroad goods receiving depôt.

Amongst the many things that were seen and learned on the estate there was one I promised. Sir Thomas Lipton's superintendent I would not forget, and that was the four following simple rules for making good tea:

- I. Buy Lipton's tea.
- II. Put one teaspoonful for each person into a dry, warm earthenware teapot.
- III. Put cold water into a dry, empty kettle.
- IV. Pour the water on the tea immediately the water boils (do not let it overboil), and allow the tea to brew for five minutes, and you will have the perfection of tea.

Should the tea not be required to be consumed at the end of the five minutes, pour off into an empty teapot and fresh-boiled water can be added to the original teapot, when more tea can be brewed.

Lipton's teas have been proved to be economical, pure and popular. Over one million packages are consumed weekly. It is claimed that every minute of the day someone in different parts of the world is drinking Lipton's tea.

H. H. D., New York.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF NICARAGUA.

### (1902) CACAO IN NICARAGUA.

Consul Chester Donaldson writes from Managua: The crop was about an average one (which is less than is used for home consumption), but as usual was of excellent quality, bringing a higher price in the markets here than any of the imported chocolates. Although the farfamed plantation of Menier—situated near Granada, Nicaragua—is supposed to furnish that well-known chocolate manufacturer with his superior quality of raw materials, it is understood that all his crop is sold right here in the country for at least 20 centavos (about 4 cents gold) per pound more than he has to pay for the same article imported from South America. The price of Nicaraguan cacao (raw in the bean) in the markets of this country to-day is 1.60 pesos (about 25 cents gold) per pound.

It would be impossible to make an accurate estimate of the quantity of chocolate used every year in this country, as none is exported, a small quantity is imported, and there are no statistics of the amount grown here; but it is an article used in every well-to-do household in the country at least twice a day, in hot chocolate drinks and cold "frescos" (chocolate ground with parched corn and shaken up with cold water and sugar), so that one might make a rough estimate that about 500,000 pounds are consumed.

Cacao planting is one of the most attractive and lucrative industries in the Tropics, but, owing to the delicate nature of the tree and the great care necessary to preserve it, few of the natives wish to trouble themselves with it, but prefer corn and plantains, which are much easier to cultivate. Nearly all the cacao plantations are owned by foreigners, and although the tree grows more luxuriantly on the Atlantic coast and along the river valleys on that side, it also grows in all altitudes from the sea-level to 2,000 feet. One cacao tree, not over six years old, on top of Catarina Hill (1,700 feet above sea-level), to my personal knowledge has already produced three crops of over four pounds each; thus it is easy to calculate what an acre of such trees would produce annually. According to custom, these trees are planted four yards apart, in rows three yards apart, or about 400 trees to the acre. Calculating an output of four pounds each, or 1,600 pounds of fruit, this at 25 cents per pound would give an annual return of \$400 per acre, which nets the planter at least \$350. The trees thrive best in a moist soil, and, like coffee, must be shaded. Thus, when clearing land for cacao, all the largest trees of the forest are left for shade, while only the underbush is cut and burned. The clearing costs about \$6 gold per manzana (1.72 acres) and has to be repeated at least twice every year. The picking and preparing for market is much more easily performed than with coffee, as it grows in large pods containing from 15 to 25 beans each, on trees from ten to twelve feet high.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### NELLIAMPATHY.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Nelliampathy Planters Association, held at the Public Room, on Monday, 13th July, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. H. M. Hall, A. Barnes, A. Jones, G. Murray, Wm. Hendry, and C. Hall (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. Hendry was voted to the Chair.

Proceedings of last Meeting were taken as read.

**Hospital.**—Read Diwan's letter of the 3rd instant *re* Hospital and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write accepting the Diwan's offer of a Dispensary with an Apothecary and Compounder; the Planters guaranteeing to pay their proportion towards upkeep.

**U. P. A. S. I.**—*Resolved*, that owing to bad times the Association cannot see its way to send a delegate this year to Bangalore.

Read Draft Agenda paper of the coming Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., also Circulars Nos. 35, 39 and 40 *re* St. Louis Exhibition and other correspondence.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) WM. HENDRY,  
*Chairman.*

( „ ) C. HALL,  
*Hony. Secretary.*

## THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-third Annual Meeting of the members of this Association was held at the London Chamber of Commerce, 10, Eastcheap, London, E.C., on Monday, June 29th. Mr. G. Henderson, the retiring Vice-Chairman, presiding.

Mr. Ernest Tye (the Secretary) read the notice convening the Meeting.

The Chairman said: It is customary for the retiring Vice-President, in presenting the annual report of the General Committee to make a few remarks on the most important questions that have come before us during the year. In the first place, I think we may congratulate ourselves on the improved position in which we now stand as compared with this time last year. It is true that we have not yet seen that general rise in average prices to which the more sanguine of us looked forward about Christmas, but it is recognised by all who have studied the question that the industry has at last emerged from the difficulties under which it has been labouring in the past three years, and that we have now before us a fair prospect of success and prosperity for some years to come. In the first place, the surplus production of past years has been worked off, and we start the current season with a clean sheet as regards stock. Then, secondly, the shipments to America, Russia, and other outside markets have shown a most satisfactory increase. Including re-exports from London, and taking India and Ceylon together, because by doing so we get the truest idea of progress made in these outside markets, they have risen from 70 millions in 1899, 89 millions in 1900, 90½ millions in 1901, to 105½ millions in 1902. This increase we are not likely to lose, though the rise in prices may prevent further immediate expansion on the same scale. Then, thirdly, we may look for a considerable relief from the manufacture of green tea taking the place of black, both in India and Ceylon, though I regret to say that, as regards India, the delays and uncertainty—unavoidable, no doubt—connected with the payment of the bounty have rather tended to discourage some who were willing to make greens. Lastly, we have the decision of the large blenders to discontinue selling the cheap ls. canister. That I look on as one of the most satisfactory features in the past season, because not only will it help to raise the standard of taste among tea-drinkers, and accustom them to higher prices, but it will do



more than anything else to check coarse plucking and the production of the commonest class of tea. Against these favourable factors the only dark spot in our future is the shortness of labour, and that is undoubtedly a most serious difficulty, but I am, on the whole, inclined to think that it has perhaps been exaggerated, and that it will in time right itself.

I will now refer briefly to one or two of the principal questions dealt with in the report. The most important of these is the cess, and I would like to say, in passing, that it is due mainly to the personal exertions and influence of my predecessor that this has been carried through. Had it not been for Mr. Bryans's indomitable perseverance and energy, we should never have had the cess at all. The Bill passed the Legislative Council in Calcutta in March last, and a very representative Committee of Management has been appointed, and is now at work. As you are aware, there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction on this side with the composition of the Committee which is to manage the fund, and with the share, or, rather, the absence of any share, in the control which has been allowed to companies and producers in this country. While we in London were mainly instrumental in obtaining the cess, and include practically three-quarters of the production, all the representation we have on the managing body of twenty members is the privilege of nominating (which apparently does not mean electing) two out of seven members to be elected by the Tea Association in Calcutta—a concession which, of course, amounts to practically nothing at all. It is true that some firms and companies here have representatives in Calcutta and in the tea districts who may be, and some of whom have been, elected to serve on the Cess Committee, and we have in this way means of making our views heard; but such indirect representation is not subject to instruction or control either by this Committee or by producers generally here, and as representing London it has no real force at the back of it. On the other hand, it is liable to be influenced by local views and feelings, and as we have found, on several occasions in the past year, Calcutta views and ours are not always identical. No doubt the Indian Government had good reasons for holding that the management of the Cess fund should be in India, where it would be under their own supervision and control; but some means might have been devised for having London views properly represented on the management without in any way lessening the powers of control, which we quite admit should remain in the hands of the Government. In making these remarks I am speaking of course only of the principle on which the Committee is chosen. Probably had we had the selection of the Committee in our own hands we should have chosen the present members, and I have no fear that we shall in practice have any reason to complain of want of consideration of our views.

We received by last mail the proceedings of the first Meeting of the Committee and from these we learn that it has been decided to grant a bonus of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. on 4,000,000 lbs. of green tea, and to allot Rs.50,000 to the St. Louis Exhibition. Both of these decisions are in full accord with the views of the General Committee here, and will go far to allay the feeling of apprehension that the opinions held on this side as to the working of the fund would not meet with proper recognition in Calcutta. My own view is that at the present moment there is no object to which the Cess funds could be devoted with more benefit than to green tea. I think the bonus should be given freely and liberally to all who make green tea of the requisite standard of quality, and if it is found that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a lb. bonus does not offer sufficient inducement, as is quite likely may happen, I would be prepared, if necessary, to double it. The next question I will refer to is the regulation of London sales, which has been carried on from November last with more or less success. No doubt the system of regulation is imperfect, and it is not very creditable to our power of co-operation that from 25 to 30 per cent. of the producers remained outside it. There are two great difficulties in the way of regulating: (1) There are those producers who will not agree to any arrangement at all, and (2) there are the Calcutta buyers. These two classes get the benefit of our action without any of the risk or expense, and every effort should be made to get a larger proportion of both, but especially of garden proprietors, inside the fold. While I am not in favour of any attempt at regulating sales in the early part of the season, I am of opinion that the system of Meetings of importers inaugurated last year should be maintained, because even if no action is taken it is highly desirable that the sellers should continue to present a united front to the market.

Some importers seem to think that regulation is a mistake. To these I would like to quote from the remarks made by one of the leading Ceylon planters at their Annual Meeting a short time ago. He said: "They of the Ceylon Association owed to the Indians and their combination and firm front the present rise in tea. They did not owe it to themselves or to the statistical position, but to the firm front the Indians showed. And they had found that it had paid them. He hoped the Indian Association would do the same next year, and that the Ceylon importers would follow their example." In which hope, I, for one, fervently join. Then I would like to mention the Warehouse and Clearing House dispute, which, last Autumn, gave rise to so much heart-burning both here and in Calcutta. The question was discussed before the Association so fully at a recent Meeting that I do not propose to go into it again further than to refer to the question of warehouse rates. These form a permanent source of dissatisfaction and trouble, and if they could be definitely settled on a fair and amicable basis it would conduce to pleasanter working all round. We do not wish to have a war of rates, and it is still less our wish that the warehouses should work at rates which do not allow them an adequate return on their capital. That only means in the end bad and unsatisfactory work. One of the principal wharfingers has not once, but several times, offered to submit his books to any unbiased authority to prove that the present rates are not excessive. I think, now that the Clearing House question has been settled, advantage might be taken of this offer, and my opinion is that if the question were thoroughly gone into it would be found that, under the present rules and system of working, the warehouse contention as to rates is probably right. But I am very hopeful that an examination of the system of handling the teas in warehouses would show us means of so reducing the expenses and improving the methods of working that a considerable saving might be possible both to ourselves and warehouses. I commend this matter to the new Committee. There are a number of other questions of great importance and interest touched on in the report to which I would like to refer, but I have already taken up too much of your time. I cannot, however, close this part of my remarks without referring to the loss which the Association has sustained in the death of Mr. W. H. Verner, who was at the time of his death a member of the General Committee. Mr. Verner was a man of wide experience and ripe knowledge, and the broad general view he was always able to take on all matters which came before us was of the utmost value in our deliberations. Since the report was printed we have further to deplore the loss of a former member of the Committee, Mr. James Riddell. Mr. Riddell was one of the pioneers of Assam, and his selection to preside at the recent dinner to Mr. Buckingham showed the esteem in which he was held by his fellow-planters.

In concluding, I would like to say a few words on matters outside the printed report. It seems to me that the future is practically in our own hands. We have, for the present, got rid of what, after all, has been at the bottom of all our troubles, *viz.*: excess of supply over demand. But we cannot flatter ourselves that we are entirely out of the wood, or that we can afford to run any risks, and it will be necessary for us, on the one hand, to be on our guard against the temptation to resort to coarse plucking, and on the other, to continue unremitting in our efforts to improve the present demand from outside markets and to find new ones. Then I would urge on all the necessity for closer working together. We have lately, I think, seen a more general and successful attempt to pull together, but the spirit of union and the willingness to give and take in the general interest need careful fostering to enable us to hold our own against the buyers and to maintain our hold on the market. I think also that more might be done in the way of co-operation and consultation with the Ceylon Committee than we now do. It is surprising, seeing the rivalry between us, how little our interests clash with theirs, and at how many points these interests are identical. I would go further—though in this I am afraid few of you agree with me—and I would say that, in my opinion, it would be to our great advantage if there were more interchange of views with the buyers. I am not now advocating an Exchange, but I cannot see why we should be afraid of them, and there are many questions of common interest where a free expression of opinion on both sides could only lead to our common benefit. I now beg to move: "That the proceedings of the General and Special Committees during the year be confirmed, that the



report be adopted, and that the accounts, as audited, be passed as correct."

Mr. C. C. McLeod (Vice-President) said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts now before you, and in supporting the remarks you have just listened to from the Chair, I would like to add a few words on one or two points that have not been specially mentioned. I fully endorse all that has been said by our Chairman, and share with him the view that we are on the eve of more prosperous times in tea. You are all familiar with the circumstances that have brought this desirable change about, but it behoves us to be careful that we do not miss any reasonable opportunity of strengthening our position as importers and producers. There is no doubt that the firm attitude adopted by Indian producers has been instrumental in a marked degree in attaining the position they now hold, and, as our Chairman has shown you, the strong front they showed at a critical period has brought them out victorious. This feature has been recognised by our Ceylon friends, and I think it is desirable that we should endeavour to come into closer touch with them, for, while it is admitted that in some minor ways our interests are not always identical, the fact remains that we are both, on broad grounds, vendors of an article that, at the present moment, is competing, and successfully competing, with a similar product which has held the sway of the world's markets for generations. That we have been able not only to hold our own, but to successfully oust our rivals, placed at a considerable advantage, is a matter of congratulation. I would suggest to this most representative body of Indian tea producers that it is a matter of common interest with Ceylon that we should join hands in some practical form and thereby be the more able to meet our adversaries in whatever shape or form they may appear against us. Adversity in our industry has taught us many valuable lessons, but none more clearly than that "unity is strength." We have many difficulties to face yet, but if we hold together there can be but one end to it, and that is success. We have all the elements in our favour, and if we look to our general interests, and forget what I might call our imaginary personal interests, we must win in the end. With Lord Curzon's valuable and timely aid, the cess is now an accomplished fact. If it does nothing else, it carries a policy of equity in its tail and distributes the burden of exploiting markets and pushing the interests of the industry on all Indian tea growers instead of the burden falling only on the more enterprising section as of yore. The initial outlay of giving a bonus on green tea is by far the most practicable solution of the curtailment of excess supplies of black that could be made, and we all trust the Cess Committee will not only continue it, but increase it, if necessary, so as to induce the pioneers of what may become an important factor to continue to make green even if the price of black should advance to what will show a greater margin of profit, which is by no means improbable. The regulating of our sales has proved itself so advantageous that, so far as London is concerned, I need not dwell upon it, but I would like to urge my views, expressed on this subject a short time ago at a Meeting of importers, on the advantages that would undoubtedly accrue to us by not rushing large quantities on the Calcutta markets in September and October to compete with the large supplies that must necessarily fall to be sold here in November and December. If we sell largely in Calcutta in September and October we cannot expect strong markets here in November and December, when dealers and blenders are receiving large consignments of Calcutta-bought teas. Calcutta can find buyers for her offerings as easily in later months as in the earlier ones, and I would ask producers who sell there to provide against excessive offerings, especially during the months named. They may rest assured that buyers who go out for the season will remain while there is any volume of tea to sell, and I am of opinion that if sales in Calcutta were regulated so as to finish selling in April instead of January, the benefit to growers would be substantial. In this connection it may be important to observe that river and rail transit, have been so materially accelerated that the crop is pushed forward earlier every year, and that the full benefit of smaller supplies is consequently not realised by consumers in the sense that it ought to be, until our crop is nearly all sold, to the great disadvantage of the producer. This question of ocean freights has not been touched upon by our Chairman, and I would venture to remark that our arrangement for the carriage of tea from Calcutta to London is, from a business point of view, the most unbusiness-like arrangement that exists in the trade of the universe. I do not deny that

our product is not expeditiously carried or well handled, but I do assert that we are knowingly subjected to an arrangement whereby our rate of freight is calculated upon an utterly wrong, and to us an unjust, basis, and that we are fettered by an unheard-of stipulation of "two years' notice," which we do not appear to have the pluck or even common prudence to put an end to. We have heard a great deal lately about "Fiscal Policy," and I saw in a daily paper a few days ago that our Prime Minister, in reply to a question on the subject, answered that: "India has never been excluded from any consideration of the fiscal policy of this country and its effects, and that the general policy is not likely to be departed from by this Government." This, gentlemen, is somewhat reassuring, but to put the products of India generally and tea in particular, on anything like an equal footing with our competitors in China and Japan, a radical reform would be necessary. Mr. Rutherford, of Ceylon, sounded a warning note on the subject of a higher range of prices endangering our holding of markets in the United Kingdom and elsewhere against China and Japan, and if our Government are incapable of focussing the disadvantage we are placed in at the present time the note of warning may not be a day too soon. Any fiscal system that would benefit India and Ceylon tea would require to start by putting us back to the same platform of competition. At present, in virtue of legislation that had the protest of sound business men in close touch with the industries of the country, they have placed Indian products generally at a serious disadvantage against silver-using countries, and tea in particular, at a discount of 33 per cent. to China and Japan. A reduction of the duty by at least 2d. per pound on Indian and Ceylon only, leaving the duty as it is on foreign-grown tea, would merely put us on an equal footing with the countries mentioned, and would appear the most obvious measure of fairness and equity conceivable. If British-grown sugar has received relief in the West Indies, why should not British-grown tea be similarly protected in the East Indies? Our thanks are due to those who championed our just cause in the House of Commons, and it is a matter of sincere regret that the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not see that instead of the corn tax being paid by the consumer, and the extra tax on tea by the producer, the very opposite must be the practical outcome of it under the altered circumstances. The consumer will now have to pay at least 1½d. more for his tea, in proof of which blenders have been forced to raise the price of the shilling canister to 1s. 2d. On the other hand, the repeal of the corn tax will only benefit the foreigner. We have also a mighty grievance in the matter of labour, where red tape has bound us hand and foot at the most critical period in the history of the industry, while the matter of water-borne traffic from the tea districts is evidently beneath the notice of the Government altogether, and is left entirely to private enterprise. India, however, is a great country, and our only hope remains that the tide of prosperity attendant on a disappearance of famine and favourable climatic influence will burst the flood gates of what seems to be uncalled-for legislation, and carry that legislation back to the place from whence it came, there to be hanged by the neck until it dies.

Mr. A. Bryans said everybody did not profess to be pleased with the regulation, but he agreed with the Chairman that regulation had saved the situation last year. He could name several people who had not regulated, but what had been their results. It would be seen by their reports that they had not got the best of it. It was unity that paid. During the past year the Association had combined in a way they had never done before, and, on the whole, it had paid them. They must not forget that next year's crop might be a big one, and, if so, they must arrange accordingly so as not to knock down the price. Mr. McLeod had raised the interesting point of the Calcutta sale, and if he might say so, without being insulting, the figures in the Calcutta brokers' circulars were very misleading. He did not know whether those present read a letter which appeared in the *Home and Colonial Mail* last Friday week. It was a very interesting letter. He did not know who wrote it, but it brought out the point he wanted to bring out. People must not be led away by the Calcutta circulars, which tried to lead them to believe that larger quantities of tea were being sold to foreign markets than was actually the case. It was said that 63 per cent. of the tea sold in Calcutta went to foreign markets, but that was absolutely incorrect. They sold about 48 million pounds of tea in Calcutta last year, and nothing like 63 per cent. of that went to



foreign markets; it would be more correct to say about 20 millions did. He said it was very necessary that this foreign demand should be supplied, but argued that it would be foolish to supply the London dealers' requirements in Calcutta, and that they should supply their wants on this side. That was the best policy. With regard to the 1s. canister, thank goodness that was gone. He wished the 1s. 2d. canister had gone with it. If the new Committee would join with Ceylon and take some steps to encourage the taste for better tea, he believed it would be for the benefit for everyone. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Robert Hart drew attention to some very interesting remarks recently made by Mr. Rutherford regarding rubber planting. Even if this was going to be a great success it would not have any effect upon the quantity of tea produced, for, say, three, four, or five years. The Chairman had referred to the possibility of a large crop this year, and he should not be surprised if this should turn out to be correct. He hoped they would not forget the lesson they had had during the last few years, and that they would not fall into the mistake of plucking coarse tea.

Mr. R. B. Magor thought he might say a word for the absent dealer, who was really entitled to their thanks. He contended that they ought to be brought into closer communication with the dealers. There was no reason why they should look upon them as absolute enemies. The dealer sold common tea because it commanded the largest trade. If it could be proved to him that he could make a better price out of finer tea he would certainly do so.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed that Sir Henry Seymour King, M.P., be re-elected Chairman of the Association, and that Mr. C. C. McLeod and Mr. F. A. Roberts be the Vice-Chairmen. He said Sir Henry King had again consented to act, and he was of the greatest possible assistance to them in all matters coming before Parliament.

Mr. J. N. Stuart seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. F. A. Roberts suitably replied.

It was agreed that the following gentlemen should form the General Committee for the coming year, viz.: Messrs. John Alston, A. Bryans, G. W. Christison, Jas. S. Fraser, J. S. Hulbert, Robt. Hart, J. A. H. Jackson, Robt. Lyell, Sinclair Macleay, G. F. Moore, A. J. MacLaughlin, J. N. Stuart, and A. G. Stanton.

Messrs. McAuliffe, Davis, and Hope were re-elected auditors, and thanks accorded for their services.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. G. Henderson, the retiring Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Henderson, in reply, said he had done his best, and he thought Mr. McLeod's name ought to be included in the vote, because he had done his full share of work not only at home but also in Calcutta, where he was able to remove some misconceptions that had arisen with respect to the work here. (Hear, hear.)

The Meeting then terminated.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated July 3rd, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	88,346	115,470	9,300
1902-1903 ... ..	84,019	123,690	8,357
16,492 pkgs. INDIAN			
31,328 " CEYLON			
1,812 " JAVA			
Total 49,632 packages were offered in public auction this week.			

Now that practically the whole of last season's Indian crop has been sold, and that the quantity of new tea shipped from Calcutta is much less than at this time last year, while Ceylon exports are also short, it is evident that supplies in the immediate future will be more moderate.

# "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

USE

# ST. JACOBS OIL

FOR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

# CONQUERS PAIN





The heavy deliveries of last month have caused a considerable reduction in stocks, which in the not improbable event of clearances continuing upon a similar scale must be still further reduced. Hence the position is gradually becoming more healthy, while the over-supply of the last few years appears now to be pretty well worked off.

INDIAN.—The auction was much smaller, only 16,492 packages being brought forward against 20,924 last week, the whole being old season's tea except about 700 packages. Next week the sale again shows considerable diminution, comprising only 14,112 packages, of which over 6,000 are new teas.

The market showed little change except for commonest descriptions which were again slightly easier. Some low quotations have recently been made owing to the number of red and stalky teas coming on the market. The following New Season's invoices were brought forward this week:—"Mim T Co.," 90 c, 10d; "Rungmook," 142 pkgs., 8½d; "Selimbong," 110½ c, 8½d; "Chubwa T Co. C.," 189 pkgs, 7½d.; "Chubwa T Co. Nonoi," 110 pkgs.; 7d; "East. Ass. Co. Balijan," 48 c, 7½; "Behubor T Co.," 42 c, 7d.

The official telegram gives exports to U. K. for the second half of June as 4,890,000 lbs., against 6,030,000 lbs. same period last year, making the total from 1st April to 30th June 9,942,000 lbs., against 12,570,000 lbs. in 1902.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Acct. Season 1903-4, 642 pkgs., av. 8·60d. 1902-3, 1,430 pkgs., av. 6·92d.

Week's av. of tea on Garden Acct. Season 1902-3, 14,924 pkgs., av. 7·10d. 1901-2, 2,342 pkgs., av. 5·84d.

Garden Account 1st June, 1902, to date season 1902-3, 1,281,531 pkgs., av. 7·52d, season 1901-2, 1,330,613 pkgs., av. 7·62d

CEYLON.—With a comparatively heavy auction competition was less general, and prices must be quoted somewhat lower, except for

fine and finest descriptions; the lower quotations are partly accounted for by a slight falling off in the quality, but in addition to this the tendency was to easier rates for inferior grades. The official wire gives exports to U. K. during June as 11,250,000 lbs. against 13,000,000 lbs. last year, making the total from 1st January 53,000,000 lbs., against 57,500,000 lbs. in 1902. The estimate for July is given as 10 to 10½ millions, against 10¾ millions shipped in that month last year.

Average for week 7·25d, against 6·00d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Account 1st January to date 508,383 pkgs., av. 7·63d. 1902, 561,921 pkgs., av. 6·87d.

JAVAS passed with fair spirit, except for the poorer teas which showed a fall of about a ¼d.

### QUININE.

QUININE is a very dull market, a few small sales being reported during the week at 10½d per oz. for spot, but at the close there are sellers at 10d.

### VANILLA.

There was a small sale of vanilla on Wednesday, when out of 45 odd tins offered about 260 tins sold. Medium and long lengths were mostly withdrawn and bought in, while ordinary foxy and picking sold at full prices to 6d dearer.

The following prices were paid: *Seychelles*, 7 to 8 inches, 11s 6d to 8 inches, 9s 6d; 5½ to 7 inches, 7s 9d to 8s 3d; 3 to 6½ inches, 7s 6d to 8s 6d; good split, 4 to 7½ inches, 5s to 7s 6d; common and foxy, 4s 6d to 5s 3d. *Mauritius*, fair to good, 9 to 9½ inches, 24s; 7 to 8 inches, 14s to 16s 6d; 7 to 7½ inches, 13s; 6 to 6½ inches, 8s 6d to 11s; 4 to 6 inches, 7s 9d to 8s 3d; 3 to 6½ inches, 7s 6d to 8s 6d good split, 7 to 8½ inches, 9s to 11s 6d; 6 to 7 inches, 7s 6d to 8s 3d; 4 to 6 inches, 6s 6d to 7s. *Ceylon*, 5½ to 7 inches, 4s 6d to 5s 3d; to 6 inches, 3s to 4s 6d per lb.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING JUNE.

	IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	1,728,432	1,724,849	1,165,759	11,769,446	9,271,805	7,494,691	31,784,795	36,610,114	32,560,642
Ceylon	9,441,188	9,349,164	8,798,496	6,821,172	7,656,198	7,275,784	23,418,384	23,997,270	27,266,200
Java	472,430	399,140	322,210	684,150	562,240	350,000	1,128,750	1,157,520	1,193,570
China, etc.	517,023	386,455	114,154	2,045,772	1,891,605	1,283,603	9,551,176	12,748,091	9,948,360
Total lbs.	12,159,073	11,859,608	10,400,619	21,320,540	19,318,848	16,404,078	65,883,105	74,512,995	70,968,802

Note.—The average nett weights of Indian Black Tea are now taken at Boxes 21 lbs., Half-Chests 57 lbs., Chests 101 lbs.

" " " Ceylon " " " 20 lbs., " 60 lbs., " 96 lbs.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·16d., JULY 3RD.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	929	6·74												
Arnakal	153 p	6½	38	7½	72	6½	27	6½					16½c	5½
Kan. Dev. H C P	305 p	6½	118	6½	74	6½			52	6½			61 p	5½ + 5
Lockhart	78½c	7½	43½c	6½ 9½	35½c	6½								
Stagbrook	137 p	6½	88 p	6½ 8	39	6½			10	6½				
S T T Co Venture	70	6½			47	6½	23	6½						
Surianalle	111½c	7½	54½c	7½ 8½	57½c	6½								
T T E Co Pamb	75 p	6½	42	6½ 7	26	6½								
Wallardi	84	6½	84	+6½									7½c	5½
Wynaad	300	6·72												
Chulika	69 p	6½	21½c	7½	27	6½	13½c	6½	8	7				
Erramacullah	79 p	6½	16½c	7	17	6½	29½c	7	5	6½			12½c	6½
Mootoomulla	43 p	6½	16 p	6½ 7	10	6½			8	6½			4½c	6
Pootoomulla	93 p	6½	21½c	8½	21	6½	30	+6½ +6½			5 p	6 6½		
Richmond	16 p	6½	5½c	8½	5	6½			6	6	21	6½ 6½		

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1903.

[No. 30.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 7th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

### THE COMING PLANTERS' CONFERENCE.

ONCE a year delegates from the various District Planters' Associations in Southern India assemble together in Bangalore at the annual general meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. The meeting this year opens on Monday next, and may be referred to for convenience as the Planters' Conference. The business before the meeting will be to the full as important as that which has had to be transacted in recent years. Among the subjects to be discussed are some old friends and a few new; and it is expected that one or two more of the latter will be added to the draft Agenda Paper recently circulated by the Secretary. Besides this, fresh interest attaches to at least two of the subjects that have come up for consideration for some years past. In regard to the Labour Law, for instance, the position has changed greatly. Former years witnessed the steady putting forward of representations in favour of the introduction of a law governing certain of the relations between Employer and Labourer on planters' estates in the Madras Presidency; the expectation being that when once such a law had been passed, similar enactments would be promptly introduced in the Native States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. This year planters have to face the fact that the Madras Government have passed a Planters' Labour Law, though effect has not yet been given to this in any of the planting districts. Conditions have, in fact, changed so greatly that in several districts a strong objection to the application of the new law has been manifested; and it is just possible that in regard to

some of these districts the Act will remain a dead letter. That is one of the subjects to be discussed at the Conference this year. The Act is the most favourable that the Madras Government were free to pass; yet there are in it points that make its application to some districts a very doubtful boon. Then, again, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's recent remarks have given quite new force to the representations made by the U. P. A. S. I. some few years ago with reference to the subject of Differential (or Preferential) Duties. When the planters first moved in this matter, they were unquestionably ahead of the times; and even now Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is by many thought to be so. What he has lately said, however, is likely to cause planters to take up the question of British Fiscal Policy with renewed interest.

Some of the new questions raised may be regarded as of importance only in certain districts, but among other matters the Association is called upon to express an opinion in regard to the proposed change of policy respecting the liability of the Government of India to provide for the encashment of currency notes (of value exceeding Rs.5) at more than one centre. To planters this is a matter of special interest, and we have no doubt that it will be fully discussed before a decision is arrived at. Then, too, the question of sending a delegate to Brazil to investigate Coffee cultivation there will come up (again) as well as the important question of exhibiting South Indian Teas and Coffee at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition next year. Our views in regard to both these matters are well known. We do not propose to restate our arguments, for it seems only fair to allow the delegates who will assemble at Bangalore to think things out for themselves, and to hold the balance, to the best of their judgment, fairly as between what it is desirable to do and what the financial position of the Association and the planting communities will permit. That there is no want of "go" among planters, is certain; but in the coffee industry more particularly "hard times" have been experienced for a long time past, and we



cannot be surprised if planters generally are more keen than they were formerly upon cutting their coat according to the quantity of material available.

The chief interest of the meeting will, in fact, centre in the subject of finances. There have been some alarming symptoms during the last few months. For a time, dissolution seemed to be imminent in the case of two of the leading District Associations. There is no longer cause for fear on this account, we believe; but there is some reason to dread a reduction of the subscriptions upon which the efficiency of the U. P. A. S. I. largely depends. The accounts for last year will probably be scrutinized with exceptional interest; but still more important will be the consideration of Ways and Means for the future. The U. P. A. S. I. has never laid itself open to charges of extravagance, yet it is possible that economy will have to be practised more strictly than ever. If this be so, a point will soon be reached at which efficiency will be jeopardised. At the present juncture there is special need for a strong, an efficient, and a pushing Association. It is to be hoped, therefore, that financial limitations will not have to be made so narrow as to cripple the energy of the U. P. A. S. I. or to prevent it from carrying on duties that appear to increase in scope and in importance every year. We are well aware that there are planters who raise the question: "What good has the U. P. A. S. I. done?" but we believe that these are, without exception, men who have not attended its meetings, who have not followed its proceedings closely, and who are not therefore in a position to arrive at a fair judgment. The more the U. P. A. S. I. is supported, the greater will its influence become, the more effective its work. We shall watch, therefore, with special interest the course of proceedings during the coming Conference, and we shall do so in the hope and belief that the Association will once again emerge strong and vigorous from one of those crises that have been all too frequent in its career of a decade or so.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### TEA AND COFFEE IN INDIA.

The following paper showing the production of Tea and Coffee in India has been issued by the Director-General of Statistics:—

##### TEA.

*Area.*—The area under tea at the end of 1902 extended over 525,252 acres, nearly two-thirds (64·6 per cent.) being in the valleys of the Brahmaputra and Surma, which contain as much as 339,640 acres, namely, 207,358 in Assam (the Brahmaputra valley) and 132,282 in Cachar and Sylhet (the Surma valley). In Bengal the area under tea is 135,158 acres, 25·7 per cent. of the whole. The cultivation of tea is, therefore, to the extent of nine-tenths, limited to the two

provinces of Assam and Bengal. Under the discouragement of the low prices obtained for tea placed on the markets in excess of consuming capacity, endeavours have been made to restrict cultivation and production, and to supply the consumer with tea of better quality in smaller quantity. The statistics collected do not show separately the areas under tea which have been abandoned as unprofitable and the lands newly planted with tea. But the net addition to the tea area, which has been diminishing rapidly in the last three years, was reduced in 1902 to the nominal figure of 485 acres. The addition to the area under mature plants was, however, 16,273 acres owing to recent extensions coming into full bearing, and with this transfer the newly-planted areas were reduced to 34,779, or less than 7 per cent. of the total planted area.

In Assam reports were received from 782 estates, with an area under tea of 339,640 acres, the average area of an estate being about 434 acres. In Bengal 309 acres was the average for 438 estates, and in Travancore the average for 80 estates was 311 acres. In other localities the average area of an estate is much smaller; 122 acres in Madras, 116 acres in the United Provinces, and only about three acres in the Punjab, where natives grow tea in a very small way. These figures refer only to tea-bearing areas.

*Production.*—The quantity of tea produced has increased in nearly double the ratio of increase in the area under cultivation; for, while the area has increased since 1885 by 85 per cent., the increase in production has been 163 per cent. The diminished production of the last two years is due less to the voluntary limitation of plucking than to unfavourable climatic influences and shortness of labour, and perhaps, also to deterioration of the plants through imperfect cultivation.

The actual production in 1902 is reported to have been about 188½ million pounds, which is about 43 per cent. larger than the reported production of 132 million pounds ten years previously, in 1893.

*Capital employed.*—According to the returns of the registrars of Indian joint-stock companies and the published accounts of the companies registered in London, the capital engaged in the production of tea amounts to over seventeen crores (Rs.17,39,25,097), namely—Companies registered in India, Rs.3,51,02,662, Companies registered in London, £9,254,829 = 13,88,22,435. Thus between 79 and 80 per cent. of the capital belongs to shareholders in companies whose head offices are in London. Divided by the area actually under tea this capital stands at about Rs.330 (£22 per acre). There is, however, a further unknown sum engaged in the industry representing the capital of individual owners, while the acreage by which the known capital is divided includes areas worked by such private owners. The capital value per acre is therefore somewhat, but probably only slightly, understated.

*Persons employed.*—The number of persons employed in the industry in 1902 is returned at 497,484 (permanently) and 86,998 (temporarily), or altogether a little more than half a million (584,482 persons), which would work out to about 1·11 persons to the acre. The figures are unreliable, but they are less inaccurate than in previous years.

*Exports and Consumption.*—The tea produced in India is exported, mainly to the United Kingdom, to the extent of nearly 97½ per cent. of the average production. Very nearly eight million pounds were left in India on the average, about



4½ millions Indian and 3½ millions foreign, the bulk of the foreign tea being Chinese, though a substantial quantity consists of Ceylon tea.

*Prices.*—The production of tea in India and Ceylon has increased so much more rapidly than the consumption in the United Kingdom, which is the principal market for these teas, that there has been a heavy fall in price, and in 1902 prices at the London sales were unduly depressed by the anticipations of a large output being thrown on an over-weighted market until at the close of the season, with the assurance of only a moderate crop, prices revived. The prospects for the future are much brighter owing to the limitation of output to which reference has been made, and the development of new markets which should be greatly assisted by the judicious application of the funds obtained from the cess of a quarter-of-a-pie per pound charged from the 1st April, 1903, on all tea exported from India.

#### COFFEE.

*Area.*—At the end of 1902 there were 219,293 acres of land under coffee, all, with the exception of 373 acres, in Southern India. The production of coffee is restricted for the most part to a limited area in the elevated region above the south-western coast, the coffee lands of Mysore, Coorg, and the Madras districts of Malabar, and the Nilgiris, comprising 87 per cent. of the whole area under the plant in India. More than half of the whole coffee-producing area is in Mysore, where there were 114,660 acres in 1902, while in Coorg there were 62,381, and in the Nilgiris and Malabar 12,408 acres. Some coffee is grown in other districts in Madras, principally in Madura, Salem, and Coimbatore, and in Travancore and Cochin. It is grown also, but on a very restricted scale, in Burma, Assam, and Bombay.

*Production, Exports, and Consumption.*—The fall in prices in recent years, caused by the competition of Brazilian coffee, now the dominating factor in the markets of the world, has been a great discouragement to coffee growing in Southern India. Adverse climatic conditions also, from time to time, have combined with disease to restrict the output.

The average production in the last five years was slightly over 21½ million pounds, contrasted with an average of about 32½ million pounds in the preceding five years. These figures are, however, based on very unreliable information, and the indications given by the trade accounts of the quantities exported from India (and practically the whole production is exported) suggest that they are incomplete. Thus during the last five years the average yearly excess of the exports over the recorded production is nearly 8 million lbs.; while in the preceding five years the average yearly excess of the reported production over the exports was 11·4 million lbs. During these ten years the exports have ranged from 32·58 million lbs. to 23·61 million lbs., a difference of 8·97 million lbs.; but in the same period the reported production has varied from 40·14 million lbs. to 15·58 million lbs., a difference of 24·56 million lbs. It seems not unlikely, arguing from the analogy of recent years, that the production for 1902 approached in all 40,000,000 lbs. It certainly considerably exceeded the production of any year since 1895.

*Persons employed.*—There were 28,148 persons permanently, and 62,515 temporarily employed on the coffee estates in 1902, altogether 90,663 persons, which is equal to very nearly one person to about two-and-a-half acres.

*Prices.*—There is no local market for coffee, and therefore no Indian quotation of price. The over-supply of the cheap Brazilian coffee in the consuming markets continue to affect the prices of Indian as of all other coffee, but owing to anticipations of a smaller supply there was an improvement in the price of Indian coffee during 1902.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

Tabasco coffee, unlike the sauce of the same name, is one of the mildest kinds. Tabasco is a State in Mexico.

Caffeine, which exists in the coffee bean in the shape of caffeic acid, has an astringent tendency, but this is modified in the roasting and also by the aperient properties of the caffeine or essential oil.

Cucuta coffee, a grade of Maracaibo, is often sold as Java; but, on the other hand, a great deal of coffee not grown in the district is sold as Cucuta. The name has long been popular in this market. Bogota coffee seems to be succeeding to some of the former popularity of the Cucuta kind.

*The U. S. Coffee Market.*—The coffee market is more active, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 30th June, and also firmer in both actual and speculative lines. In the former quotations are a shade higher, while in options prices have reacted upward some 30 points. Outside buying for investment and the belief that the Brazil crops will not turn out so large as expected are the causes for the turn for higher values in options. It is now entertained that such coffee as is being shipped is new crop entirely, whereas one year ago an immense quantity of old crop went over into the next season's shipments. So then the drouth of 1901 had a material effect, it is argued, and why not also similar damage by the August frosts of 1902 on the 1902-03 crops? But be that as it may the present Brazil crop will go on record as a 12,300,000-bag crop at the least, and this is more than the most visionary bear dared predict. It will leave the July 1 visible supply the largest on record. Prices in futures have been very low, and the reaction is as natural as expected and occurred at the earliest favouring breeze from investment interests.

In actual coffee, low grades are scarce and therefore there is good excuse for firmer conditions to last until the grades are in larger supply, which is expected. It remains to be seen how far trade up-country will forbear buying because of the advance. This so far is too fine a shade to bring about any marked effect. Good roasting coffees are always in demand and the supply is not any too large. Considerable business has been transacted with Brazil whose prices were reached by the upward advance. Soon after they too advanced stopping further extensive ordering. The confidence of Brazil with the consequent parity in its favour is one of the sustaining forces of the market. In spot invoices the market has been quiet. Closing quotations are 5c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5¾c. to 5¾c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. to 6½c. for Santos No. 4. Jobbing has been moderate.

Mild grades are easy for most kinds. Full stocks incite pressure to sell but demand is light. Good Cucuta closed at 8c. East Indias are quiet.



Sales during the last week were 149,000 bags.

The Dutch sale on June 23, 1903, went off at about brokers' valuation. Market steady. Good Ordinary Java 26c.

The clearances of Java coffee by the Dutch Trading Company in Holland during June embraced 10,640 bags, against only 7,550 bags last year, and 6,810 bags in 1901; thus giving a total of 76,300 bags delivered for the past six months, as contrasted with 56,250 bags and 65,580 bags Coffee in the two preceding years.

**Coffee.**—Messrs. Leonard Jacobson & Zonen, Rotterdam, give the following comparative prices of Java coffee in Dutch cents (2.5 Dutch cents are equal to one United States cent or  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.):

1810	105—115c.
1815	45—50—40c.
1820	70—78.5c.
1825	38.5—50—35—37.5c.
1830	23—21—23.5c.
1835	30—39—36.5c.
1840	32—25.5—29.5c.
1845	21.5—27.5—21.5c.
1850	34—37.5—24.5—30.5c.
1855	29—32.5—32—34c.
1860	38.5—40—39c.
1865	45.5—43.5—46—44.5—45.75—45c.
1870	32.5—35.5—31.5—33.5—32—35c.
1875	55.5—53—64—58c.
1880	48—39.25—41—38.5—40—37—38.5c.
1885	28—24—26.5—24.5—26.75—25.5c.
1890	54.5—58—52.75—59.5—58—58.75—58c.
1895	51—54.5—52.25—55.75—53c.
1896	53—50.5—52—50—52—50c.
1897	50.5—51—35.5—38c.
1898	38—35—33—38.25—32.5—33c.
1899	33—26.5—27.75—25.75—34.5.
1900	34.5—39—34.25—36—34.5—37—31c.
1901	31—31.5—30.5—32—31—38c.
1902	38—32—37.5—34.5—35—34c.

**Guesses on 1902-03 Coffee Crop and Realizations.**—Now that the 1902-03 coffee crop, Brazil, is found in round figures to be 12,250,000 bags, estimates made last year at this time on the probable outturn make interesting reviewing. The most bearish venture predicted an ultimate maximum of only \$12,000,000 bags, and the bulls were of course for, very far off in their arithmetic. Henry Nordlinger & Co., July 16, said:

"It is conceded that the Brazilian bumper crop of 1901-02 has done considerable damage to the trees, we cannot very well have such big crops again for years to come. It is our firm belief that the present Rio and Santos crop will turn out to be a small one, not exceeding 8 million bags, and inasmuch as the receipts of all other kinds (exclusive of Rio and Santos) in Europe and the United States, which were about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million bags per annum a few years ago, have fallen off to about  $4\frac{1}{4}$  million bags, and are estimated for 1902-03 at less than 4 million bags, we have a total world's production for 1902-03 of 12 million bags maximum."

On August 13, they said further:

"The latest reports to hand still speak of the Santos crop as being about 50 per cent. of last year's, which would mean about 5 million bags, and estimates given by conservative firms of the Rio crop vary from  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 million bags. Against this we hear repeatedly of estimates given out by bears that the crop will turn out fully 11 million bags, some speak even of 12 millions; but we cannot understand their reasoning, which seems to be based on the single hypothesis, that last year's crop was millions of bags larger than the highest estimates received from usually reliable people, there-

fore they take it for granted that these conservative firms are err again in like manner this year. This is all there is to the argument. We ignore their prognostications with regard to 1903-04 crop, which has not begun flowering yet."

**Porto Rico Coffee Used at the White House.**—Our Porto Rican coffee is used by the White House family, witness the following to the Governor of Porto Rico:

WHITE HOUSE, June 22

MY DEAR GOV. HUNT,—I write to tell you how much I have enjoyed the Porto Rican coffee. Our whole family has taken to it and we use no other. Your interest in all pertaining to Porto Rico and its products is so great that I thought you might like to be informed of this fact.

Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

**Porto Rico and Coffee Protection.**—With irrefragable logic protection is demanded for coffee. It is stated that under protection the Porto Rican coffee crop would bear the same ratio to National consumption of that article as Louisiana sugar does to the entire number of tons used "by our continental" consumers. The breakfast table is endangered, but if coffee from other lands than Porto Rico is to be dutiable no barriers should be longer interposed to giving every man 40 acres and a mule.—*Pittsburg Post*.

This island Porto Rico was some time since admitted within the tariff laws of the United States, and under these laws, enacted before the annexation, coffee is free of duty. Coffee-growing is a considerable industry there, and it wants protection; and how can we deny protection, holding such views as we do regarding beneficence, without forfeiting the claim of governing our dependencies benevolently? The Ponce branch of the Porto Rico chamber of commerce has prepared a memorial to the United States Congress asking special tariff protection for the coffee-grower and we do not see how the request can be denied. But to make protection effective coffee must be taxed all along our protective line, in which case the people of the United States would be forced to pay more for coffee.—*Springfield, Mass., Republican*.

## TEA NOTES.

**The Position of Tea.**—The London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon* writes:—

Other things being equal, one would naturally expect that the season of the year, when there was so little Indian tea, and when Ceylon had the market for British-grown teas practically to herself, would be the time when the best prices were obtained. As a matter of fact, of course, the exact opposite is the case. It may be that, in the days before Ceylon tea came on the scene, buyers of British-grown tea got out of the way of laying in stocks at this season, and the Summer time is not the season when most tea is drunk. But, undoubtedly, the chief reason for the usual Summer drop in prices is the poor quality of Ceylon shipments at that time combined with large sales. I am well aware that this is due to climatic reasons, and is unavoidable; but it is a fact that has to be reckoned with for all that. There is no us crying "peace" when there is no peace, and we cannot get away from the fact that recent shipments from Ceylon have been of very poor quality—thin, washy teas with nothing to recommend them. I do not know that they have been worse than usual, but they have certainly, with few exceptions, been very poor. That being so, it is not to be expected that buyers will do more than purchase from hand to mouth. That they have gone on buying as steadily as they have done is a token of the inherent strength of the market, and all really good teas have been eagerly competed for. A buyer is not keen to give, say,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. for a tea if he has reason to believe that the



quotation next week will be 7½d., and, perhaps, the week after 7d., thus making his stock appear dear.

I am led to make these remarks because I notice in my Ceylon correspondence a note of disappointment as to the course of prices—disappointment which, in my opinion, there is no justification for. The position is absolutely sound, and there is nothing keeping prices except the poor quality of the tea. It is generally thought in Mincing Lane that when the June teas, usually of greatly-improved quality, arrive, there will be a smart upward movement. I would go further than this and say that a rise of three farthings a pound in the teas sold from January to June is quite as much as is desirable in the permanent interests of the enterprise. What we want is a steady rise—not a big one followed by a slump. There is another point which may be touched on here. So far the rise has chiefly benefited the owners of common and medium teas, but the best opinion points to the prospect of all teas sharing eventually in a better market. We are all apt to view things through spectacles tinted by our own interests, and I think most of the complaints and the fears expressed as to diminished consumption, the re-shipments from America, etc., have come from those chiefly interested in high-grown teas. Fortunately, perhaps, for the readers of this column, my modest interests in tea are so widely spread that it is a matter of indifference to me what particular class of tea goes up. I only look at the good of the enterprise as a whole, and claim to view things with impartiality. No doubt, if Ceylon and India were ill-advised enough to start coarse-plucking now, it would be to the benefit—temporarily at any rate—of owners of high-grown tea. But this would be the worst possible thing that could happen for the island as a whole, and for that reason I look upon suggestions coming from these quarters with a certain amount of suspicion. In connection with recent re-shipments from America, a communication has been sent by the Ceylon Association to the Customs, calling attention to two facts. First, that 13,000 packages of Oolong tea have been recently condemned at New York under the Pure Tea Act; and, secondly, that 6,000 packages of this tea are believed to be now on their way to this country. The Customs have acknowledged receipt of the letter and will no doubt be on their guard. The name of the shippers is known; but it is not considered advisable to publish it in the meantime.

**Root Disease in Tea.**—The latest Peradeniya circular by Mr. J. B. Carruthers, the Government Mycologist, is on the *Rosellinia radiciperda*. He first dealt with the subject in his annual report of 1901. The subject is a difficult one, as the disease does not extend above ground—not higher than the “collar” at any rate; yet planters might help Mr. Carruthers much by carefully noting the effects of the inexpensive measures which he recommends. The low-country planter has our congratulations over the fact that there is a pest from which the low country is at present free!

**Colombo Tea Sale.**—A good tone prevailed throughout the sale on 22nd ultimo and prices were firm, but with some irregularity, particularly in Pekoe. Dust continues to rise in price and showed a considerable advance again to-day. Green teas were in demand at previous rates.

**China Tea.**—Some interesting information as to the present condition of the China tea trade is given in a report just issued by the Foreign Office. Although last year, as compared with

the previous one, the quality of Chinese tea showed some improvement, there seems a consensus of opinion amongst experts that the teas from all districts, except Ichang, have fallen off deplorably in quality and style during the last twenty years. The Chinese will take no advice, and refuse to listen to any suggestions regarding change in cultivation and manufacture. Strong representations made in the Spring of last year induced the Chinese Government to reduce the export duty to one-half, but it still remains too high, being at least 12½ per cent. on common teas; and as likin and other internal taxes were not interfered with, although in some districts they almost equalled the export duty, this half-hearted step towards putting China teas on a level with untaxed competitors will not be of much benefit to the trade. The transport of some 3,000,000 lbs. by the Siberian Railway was a new departure, which might lead to important developments if the Chinese could be induced to pay more attention to quality. The total export of all kinds of tea from China last year was about 31 per cent. higher than in 1901, but the shipments to Great Britain showed no improvement. The United States took 168,501 piculs of black tea, as against 96,820 piculs in the previous year, and 126,196 piculs of green tea, as against 86,747 piculs. This is explained by the fact that the war tax of 10 gold cents per pound was to be removed on January 1, 1903, and stocks had been reduced to a minimum to escape the expense of bonding. Moreover, it is anticipated that lower prices in consequence of the removal of the duty will increase the demand. Black tea *via* Kiakhta rose from 17,705 to 66,464 piculs, presumably because the route was safe again after the late disturbances. The export of brick tea showed a considerable advance, black brick having improved from 244,565 to 483,105 piculs, and green brick from 48,957 to 86,932 piculs. Congou tea consumed east of Irkutsk was formerly free from duty, which has now been imposed; the consequence has been that its place is being taken by brick tea, of which a finer quality is now demanded. Ceylon dust, which is blacker in colour than China dust, is imported to improve the quality and appearance of the bricks.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Tea is in its midsummer dulness, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 30th June, so far as local conditions are concerned, and therefore a flat and uninteresting market is reported. More inquiry, however, than is the rule at this season of the year is heard, which would seem to indicate that the consuming trade has pretty well exhausted direct supplies, and is about to replenish.

In a good many respects, especially in the essentials, the present tea season is like to that of last year. Then there was a high market in the East, but buyers were disposed to hold off in the hope of a retreat on the part of Orientals. But the Orientals prevailed, and there was what might be called a stampede on the part of buyers to effect purchases. The question now is, will the market have in this respect also a repetition of last year's events. Some are positive that this will occur, while others are just as assertive in the negative. It is hard to say which way the cat will jump.

Meantime while prices locally are unchanged, though a trifle easier for Formosas, in the East they remain strong. There seems to be not a little buying at the full market values, especially in Japans, and it should stand to reason that buyers who wish to sell again will hold off very long before parting with teas so dearly bought. Canada so far has taken astonishingly little of this tea, and the United



States more than usual, so there ought to be no famine in it—not by a good deal. It is to be noticed too, that China black teas are showing a decided falling off in their importations to the United States, many probably being made into greens. This should improve conditions of such blacks as are here, and notably for Congous, the first and second crops of which the Russians have taken. The less will come to America. From Formosa comes reports of firmer figures for low grades.

Cable advices from Colombo report an advance of one farthing to half-penny for Ceylon greens. Thus is confirmed the opinion that Ceylon greens would not be made so extensively as predicted. The rise in Ceylon blacks has made their manufacture more desirable from the point of view of profit, and this at the expense of the greens. It has been determined also not to extend the bounty beyond 7,000,000 pounds as proposed. The manufacture thus arrested, the price of the greens has hardened. Indian blacks are expected to firm up as the season advances.

**Japan Tea Exports.**—According to a circular from Japan the exports of Japan tea to Canada to June 1 fall short of those for 1902 to an enormous extent and still more so compared with those for 1901. Exports from Yokohama and Kobe up to June 1 to Canada were only 28,825 pounds against 130,618 for the same period in 1902, and 413,716 for the same period in 1901. On the other hand, the total shipments to North America exceed those of 1902, being 3,628,167 pounds against 1,841,773 but are less than those of 1901, which were 4,653,592 pounds.

**New Tea Company.**—BORHAT TEA COMPANY LIMITED (77,827). Registered June 25. Capital, £15,000 in £1 shares. Object, to acquire, on the terms of an agreement between A. G. Adams, H. S. Cholmeley, E. Todd-Naylor, and R. Shields (vendors), and H. Munday, the lands and tea gardens thereon known as Jamguri and Borhât, in Mouzahs Abhaipur and Ghilladhary, district of Sibsagar, Assam, and any other lands or tea estates in British India or elsewhere, and to carry on the business of cultivators of and dealers in tea, coffee, and other produce, etc. No initial public issue. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than five) are to be appointed by the signatories. Qualification, one share. Remuneration as fixed by the Company.

June deliveries in England amounted to 11,769,450 lbs., against 9,271,800 lbs. in 1902; the landings 1,728,450 lbs., against 1,724,850 lbs.; and the stock now stands at 31,784,800 lbs., as compared with 36,610,100 lbs. a year ago. Shipments from Calcutta to the United Kingdom from April 1 to June 30 total 9,942,000 lbs., against 12,570,000 lbs. in the same period of the preceding year.

A feature of the London monthly returns is that the figures of Indian and Ceylon Black and Green Tea are now both given separately, instead of being lumped together as formerly. Indian imports of Green amounted during June to 18,216 lbs., while there were no deliveries, but the stock comprises 28,379 lbs. Ceylon imports reached 91,296 lbs., deliveries 23,796 lbs., and the stock is returned as 292,124 lbs.

The average net weights of Indian Black Tea are now taken at boxes 21 lbs., half-chests 57 lbs., chests 101 lbs.; and of Ceylon, boxes 20 lbs., half-chests 60 lbs., and chests 96 lbs.

The past month's landings of Tea in London do not differ much from those in June, 1902, the total having been 12,159,100 lbs., against 11,859,600 lbs.; but the deliveries generally were of an enlarged amount, comprising 21,320,550 lbs., in opposition to 19,381,850 lbs. last year; and the aggregate stock on the 30th ultimo was worked down to 65,883,100 lbs., or 8,629,800 lbs. below that of a twelvemonth ago.

The tea crop of Java for the year 1901-02 was 17,370,000 pounds, against 16,731,000 pounds in 1900-01; 14,625,000 pounds 1899-1900.

**London Tea Market.**—Weekly special telegram dated 23rd ultimo from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton & Co. Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (¼d. down) and the average 7d. (¼d. up). The average for the same period last year was 6½. Reuters reports that the tone of Ceylon tea generally is steady. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 5½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7d. (same as last week). 23,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 21,000 disposed of. Indian tea:—Packages offered 12,000 and sold 10,000. Average price of Indian tea 7½d.

**Calcutta Tea Sale.**—At the tea auction on 24th ultimo 1,814 packages were sold. There was an exceptionally strong market for all grades. Common kinds were firmer, stand-out teas realizing high prices. The invoice from Rungtee Rungliot, Darjeeling, averaged one rupee six annas three pies. This is a record for a full and representative invoice. Several other gardens realized from one rupee to one rupee nine annas six pies, the highest being realized by Rungtee Rungliot for Broken Pekoe, viz., one rupee twelve annas six pies. Buyers for outside markets were very active. There were several good invoices of green teas, a break of Manna-barrie greens averaging seven annas one pie.

**Japan Tea.**—Writing from Yokohama, June 11, Messrs. Smith Baker & Co. say:

"First crop teas have come and gone so far as choicest grades are concerned and we are on the eve of arrivals from second crop. Considering the early reports of 'favourable weather,' 'increased cultivation,' 'superior quality' and twenty to twenty-five per cent advance in price, the crop did not come forward in such overwhelming quantities as might have been expected, nor has the quality caused any general or wide-spread rejoicing among buyers."

"Compared with last season total receipts seem very large, but looking back to year before last (1901) the increase over that year is only about a million pounds, and 1901 was not conspicuous as an over-producer of any grade, and the "out of bond" cost in America that year was as much as it is now. It begins to look as though jobbers and distributors would have to buy as sparingly as they did in 1901 not to overdraw the supply of choice first crop teas."

"Reports concerning second crop are conflicting. Some of the gardens have been picked so close for the first crop they will not produce again until the usual time of third crop in August. This argues for a moderate second crop. It is the second and third crops that the native dealers are looking to for their supplies for home consumption, as up to the present time they could not afford to buy first crop teas at the prices current for export and they have seen every source of supply swept clean of all good teas."



"Total Arrivals: At both ports, 165,895 pcls. against 112,823 pcls. same time last year, and 154,023 pcls. in 1901.

"Total Settlements: At both ports, 153,658 pcls. against 103,145 pcls. same time last year, and 140,610 pcls. in 1901."

Exports to June 11:

From Yokohama and Hiogo.	Current Season.	1902-03.
To New York, Eastern Middle, & Southern Cities and Canada ...	6,725,012	3,349,268
To San Francisco ...	1,334,593	336,599
To Europe, etc ...	24,902	14,666
Total ...	8,084,507	3,700,533

\* \* \*

**China Tea.**—Messrs. Wisner & Co.'s circular from Shanghai, June 5, says:

"*Black Teas.*—Latest written advices from Hankow report a good business as passing at steady rates. Arrivals to date are 60,000 half-chests short compared with the same number of days last season.

"*Green Teas.*—Pingsueys: First musters of the new crop were shown on the 3rd instant; to date 6,700 boxes have been offered and all have found ready buyers at prices showing an advance of about 25 per cent. over last season's opening rates. We do not consider the quality of the teas so far offered as equal to last season's; the dry leaf and infusions are both inferior, while the cup quality is decidedly poor.

"*Country Teas.*—A few lines of Soeyoan have been offered; they are of fine quality.

"Exports to June 1 to Great Britain; black, 2,433,429 lbs.; against 2,898,999 lbs. one year ago; to U. S., black, 50,378 lbs. against 634,752 lbs. last year; to Canada, black, 108,132 lbs., none last year. Exports to Continent of Europe have been 169,612 lbs. against 390,804 lbs. one year ago."

\* \* \*

**Tea Conditions at New York.**—Speaking on general tea conditions locally, A. R. Robertson said recently:—

"The general position in the tea market shows more encouragement for holders than might generally be supposed. Some endeavours have been made here to cut quotations for Formosas and black teas, yet in the East advices are that teas are much higher than they can be obtained for on the spot. Why there should be any cutting remains to be seen. But if demand is any factor spot teas are again firmer, as the inquiry from out-of-town jobbers has not only showed a very marked increase during the past week, but is also far reaching; i.e., buyers for odd lots are coming forward from many sections, and this will undoubtedly continue to be so with the result that Summer business ought to be larger than usual. I do not look forward for any break in prices for months to come.

"Green teas are especially strong and old Japans may be quoted a trifle easier. Ceylon greens are attracting attention and prices of young Hysons are low for quality, making them especially worthy of attention. Congous are still quiet, although advices from Hankow intimate a somewhat considerable shortage this year in the exports for the United States. We look to see these advance. India and Ceylon blacks have had more inquiry recently at better prices."

\* \* \*

The view held by Mr. Otani, a well-known tea merchant at Yokohama, as to what course our tea manufacturers ought to take in view of the overwhelming competition of the cheap Ceylon green tea in the United States and Canada, may be worthy of reproduction here. Mr. Otani says, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, that even those of our people who are interested in the tea trade are constrained to admit the fact that our tea can by no means withstand the competition of the Ceylon tea in point of price, and wishes to suggest a plan which may relieve the situation. Let our manufacturers, he suggests, make use only of the tea leaves of the first-period picking in the manufacture of green tea, and use the leaves of the later picking for the production of black tea. Mr. Otani thinks that the future before the latter kind of tea is great and expects that England and other countries in Europe may in time become our customers.—*Japan Times*, June 27th.

## NOTES.

### Food Supply in time of War.

At the invitation of the Royal Commission sitting to inquire into this question, Mr. Alderman A. Hinton, J.P., Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the Federation, gave evidence at the Foreign Office. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who was in the Chair, conducted the Examination. Mr. Hinton stated in reference to Tea and Coffee:—The average stocks of these articles in the hands of retailers was about one month's consumption, and in bond and the hands of wholesalers about five months' consumption, but would, he estimated, last much longer than six months in the event of enhanced prices of food generally and consequent reduced purchasing power of the people.

### Indian Labour in Mauritius.

At the last ordinary General Meeting of the Crédit Foncier of Mauritius, Limited, Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G. (Chairman of the Company), remarked:—Mauritius had last year the misfortune of passing through the very worst crisis ever remembered there. The cattle plague, of whose terrible ravages you have already heard, finally deprived most estates of the bulk, if not of the whole, of their draught animals, and that at the time when these were most wanted, for the crop which was then being gathered in. This catastrophe strikingly showed how admirable a labour force Mauritius possesses in its Indian coolies. They cheerfully and readily undertook work ordinarily done only by oxen and mules, and without stipulating for advantages

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which, had they demanded them, it would have been impossible to refuse. Notwithstanding their efficient help, however, it was found impossible to finish the crop in proper time.

#### London Clearing House.

The Conference held a Meeting recently, and there was a full attendance; but, as was anticipated, little came of it. There is indeed very little common ground on which the various representatives can meet. The Indians are willing to join in a C.H., but it must strictly confine itself to clearing tea. The buyers, as voiced by Mr. Lecky, consider that the least important part of the matter. Ceylon producers do not quite know what they want, but they have passed a Resolution in favour of a larger scheme than the Indians will commit themselves to. The wharfingers are anxious to get something settled, for the date for collecting subscriptions has come round, and they cannot well ask people to subscribe to an institution which is nominally dead. Matters being in this state, it is not surprising that on Wednesday the deliberations did not lead to much. After a good deal of talk the Meeting separated, and will meet again next week. By that time it is possible the Indian Association may have held another Meeting and further considered the subject.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

#### ALOE CULTIVATION.

PUNDALUR, 27th July, 1903.

To

THE EDITOR,  
*Planting Opinion*,  
Madras.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose a cutting *re* aloe-fibre cultivation in Yucatan, as fibre cultivation has again come to the front the enclosed is again an actuality and will doubtless greatly interest your readers.

Yours faithfully,  
H. ATZENWILER.

(INCLOSURE.)

#### THE CULTIVATION OF ALOE-FIBRE.

The hemp farmers in Yucatan seem to be making such rapid fortunes, according to the report of the Special Commissioner from the Government of New Providence, that it will not be surprising if capitalists in India turn their attention at last to a long neglected industry, and utilise some of the large tracts of waste land which exist all over the country, and are practically at anybody's disposal at merely nominal rents, for the cultivation of the *Americana Mexicana* or *Agave sisilana*, a plant in respect to its fibrous properties identical with the common Indian hedge aloe.

With regard to the commercial aspect of the industry in Yucatan, the Special Commissioner says that the farmers no longer live on their hemp plantations, but in the city of Merida, driving their carriage and pair, their incomes generally the past year or so having gone up 200 per cent., and house property, especially, to a fabulous extent for investments; and that the hemp brings them a return of 11½ cents per pound at a cost of 2½ cents. Before the industry fairly started, Yucatan grew cotton and raised cattle, supplying Cuba with considerable quantities of dried or jerked meat. Three years ago locusts destroyed all vegetation, with the exception of the aloe, and cattle died off or had to be killed, and now they import cattle into the State for food. The first shipment of hemp was 900 bales, and in 1889 it had risen to 213,882 bales, valued at \$6,641,257.69. There are in Yucatan about 200 hemp farms of all sizes, the largest running thirty machines and employing 500 hands, and several others of twenty wheels or more,

and Mr. George Preston, the Special Commissioner, says that "many farmers' daily incomes are 500 to 2,000 dollars clear profit."

As the plant flourishes in most parts of this country, it seems strange that hitherto no thoroughly earnest attempt has been made to cultivate it as a commercial undertaking, anything in this direction having been merely of an experimental nature and confined to very small areas under probably unsuitable conditions. These experiments seem to have been abandoned for the most part before the plant had had a fair trial, one reason being, perhaps, the want of suitable machinery for the economic extraction of the fibre, the simple methods of steeping, scraping, or macerating by hand, proving tedious and commercially unprofitable. But now that the scraping wheels have proved so successful in Yucatan, most probably the only serious obstacle in the way of aloe plantations in India being remunerative ceases to exist. Mr. Preston describes the class of soil required in very few words:—"There is no necessity for hunting about the bush. Any land that is shallow, impoverished, and will grow nothing else, suits it. It is an air plant, requiring the ground only to hold it up. None but an insane person would dream of planting the agave in pineapple or any other useful land, with so much idle or waste land everywhere." Since the Yucatan hemp has increased in value some of the farmers have been overcutting, and much of the hemp has been in consequence despatched to the market with an extra green cast in it. But no grower who wants to make the most of his property, whether he extracted the fibre himself or sold the leaves by weight to the mill, would be so blind to his own interests as to cut leaves, unless matured, two feet long: that at four feet long would yield double. The average length of the leaves is four feet, the weight being 1½ lbs., of which 5 per cent. is fibre, and the cutter removes the prickles from the sides as well as the one on the tip; others conveying them to the mill in carts for sale. The machines used are Death and Ellwood's scraping wheels, worked by Marshall's portable engines, and each wheel cleans the leaves at the rate of 20 per minute. Two men feed the wheel as fast as their hands can move, standing between it and a rack containing the leaves, and one boy supplies the rack, while others carry away the fibre to the drying ground. No skilled labour is required, and there is no water used either for steeping the leaves or for washing the fibre, which after exposure to the sun for two hours is fit for baling. The working hours at the Yucatan farms are from 6 A.M. to 2 P.M., or earlier if the 8,000 leaves per wheel piece-work are cleaned, the fibre being baled at once, the wheel men lending a hand in gathering it from the drying ground and baling it. It is sent to Merida, and sold the same day. The yield per acre, Mr. Preston says, is 19 tons of leaves per annum, and 100 acres are required per wheel to keep a mill constantly at work. A moderate mill being of about six wheels, 600 acres would be the extent of the farm, and the produce from this, 570 tons of fibre per annum, represents a clear profit to the owner, of \$114,912.00. One can quite understand his being able to drive his carriage and pair, and also to invest to any extent in house or any other property.—*Englishman*.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

The prospect of tea cultivation in Jamaica, to which we have already referred in these columns, is causing eager expectancy in that island. Mr. Dawson, the planter with Indian experience, who has visited the island on behalf of Sir Alfred Jones, has, we understand, reported favourably on the outlook for tea, and the Jamaica papers regard his favourable report as a "message of hope for the island." Tea was cultivated experimentally in the Blue Mountain district more than twenty years since, but recently Mr. H. E. Cox Custos, of St. Ann's, has grown tea on a more extended scale, and fuller possibilities are looked for if Sir Alfred Jones and other capitalists interest themselves in tea growing.

The authorities in New York are more particular than those in London about the standard of the tea entering the port, but possibly the members of the tea trade in New York would prefer a less exacting tea examiner. The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* has the following:—"A shipment on Saturday by steamship to London



was 6,000 packages of Foochow tea, part of 13,000 packages rejected some time ago by the tea examiner in New York and approved by the Board of Appraisers. It is presumed that the remainder of the rejected teas will follow. There is no standard law in England except the restrictions that all teas asking entry shall be fit for consumption. It is believed that the rejected teas will pass this scrutiny. Another shipment of tea to London not heretofore recorded was one of 1,185 packages. Exclusive of the shipment of last Saturday, the quantity of tea exported from New York since January 1 last is 55,636 packages, and since October 1, 1902, 58,836 packages. It is believed that the incident of the rejection of the Foochow teas is now closed."

According to the *Herald* of that city, Boston has created more innovations in the purchase of coffees than any other city in the United States, or in the world, and it stands to-day accredited with the reputation of being the best market for fine coffee in the United States. This has been brought about by the usual Yankee propensity for delving into the bottom of facts, and to-day more true experts are found in Boston than the rest of the country produces, and it is no exaggeration to say that they secure the cream of all the fine goods that come into the country.

At the invitation of the Royal Commission sitting to inquire into this question, Mr. Alderman A. Hinton, J.P., Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the Grocers' Federation, gave evidence last week at the Foreign Office. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who was in the Chair, conducted the Examination. Mr. Hinton stated in reference to tea and coffee that the average stocks of these articles in the hands of retailers was about one month's consumption, and in bond and the hands of wholesalers about five months' consumption, but would, he estimated, last much longer than six months in the event of enhanced prices of food generally and consequent reduced purchasing power of the people.

The Brazilian coffee crop of the year ended the 30th ultimo is in excess of the expectations entertained in regard to it twelve months ago, and the quantity compares favourably with the crop of former years, excepting, of course, that of 1901-2, when production was on an enormous scale, and passed all previous totals. In the season just ended the Rio and Santos receipts amounted to 12,325,000 bags, or more than five million bags above the original estimate. This, however, is less by nearly 3,172,000 bags than the production of the previous season, when the total reached 15,500,000 bags, but as compared with 1901-2 it is an increase of 1,425,000 bags. The result of last season's yield is to add 34,550 tons to the world's visible supply. What the present season will yield it is, of course, difficult to forecast. Last August frost was reported to have seriously damaged the coming crop; nevertheless, in March this year the State Congress of Sao Paulo passed a law authorising the destruction of 20 per cent. of the crop (low grades) in order to improve the position of the planters who had got into difficulties owing to over-production. But even with this reduction the Santos yield on this season's basis is in excess of requirements.

## CHOCOLATE AND COCOA IN TURKEY.

The French Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople recently published a report on the chocolate and cocoa trade in the Ottoman Empire. The report states that although 50 years ago chocolate was practically unknown in Turkey, there now exists a very fair demand for the article, which is not only brought in from abroad, but is likewise manufactured at some works which have been erected at Constantinople. It is estimated that in ten years' time the sale of this article will become double what it is now. The gross weight of the cocoa and chocolate which entered the port of Constantinople during 1901 was 110,556 kilos., and in 1902 the entries had risen to 125,012 kilos.

Formerly, the entire chocolate trade was in French hands, and France still has the largest share of the business in this article. About 60,000 kilos. of French chocolate were sold at Constantinople during 1902. This was the highest total ever reached, and consisted chiefly of the best qualities. There is, no doubt, plenty of room for expansion in this branch. The French brands which have the largest sale are:—Firstly, Menier, probably the first to come to this market. In addition to the limited and somewhat decreasing

trade in the best qualities, this firm sells its chocolate tablets of 125 to 250 grammes packed in yellow paper. The grocers retail this chocolate at from 17 to 18 piastres the kilo. It costs them 2.75 frs. the kilo., less 10 per cent. discount, delivered free to Marseilles, and they have to pay when ordering. These severe cash terms have done much to give Menier's rivals an advantage, as they offer a credit of 30 days, which, after all, is not excessive. Menier's ought to appoint a good local agent, if possible, a Frenchman, and if they advertised more largely and catered for the cheaper class of custom, their business here would undoubtedly increase. The chocolate of the Compagnie Coloniale is excellent, but works out too dear, from 3½ to 4½ frs. the kilo. This restricts sales, although it is to be seen at four or five of the best shops. The Compagnie Coloniale are making also a cheaper quality which they call "Planteur," very much liked, and which has a ready sale owing to its moderate price. This particular chocolate is the one which sells most of any other, it is packed in blue paper, each tablet, which weighs 125 grammes, being divided into six, eight or ten bars. It also sells in packets of 3 and 5 kilos. Every packet contains one of the firm's picture cards, a practice which helps to popularize the article. The Compagnie Coloniale is well represented locally. It has lately reduced its price for "Planteur" from 2.40 to 2.20 frs. per kilo., free on railway in Paris. The Company allows a credit of 30 days, which, although not much, as far as the firm itself is concerned, means a great deal to its clients. To stimulate sales, certain allowances are made at the end of each year on the total purchases made during the twelve-month, viz.: 1 per cent. for 1,000 kilos.; 2 per cent. for 2,000 to 3,000; and 3 per cent. for anything over 5,000 kilos. This is a system which works excellently for this class of goods. "Planteur" chocolate is retailed by the grocers at 14 to 16 piastres the kilo. The small eating chocolates of this company have a very poor sale, as they work out rather dearer than the other brands.

The firm of Felix Potin & Co. has rapidly gained a good position in this market with its chocolate. The article is invoiced at 2 frs. the kilo., and is sold in 3 to 5 kilo. packets of tablets weighing 125 to 250 grammes. The labels are white, and goods are delivered c.i.f. Constantinople. Every tablet of this brand has one of the firm's cards, on which are three or four used foreign postage stamps. This ingenious form of advertising has created a big demand for the chocolate among the school children, who are the chief consumers. As retailers sell this quality at 14 piastres the kilo., they make a good profit on it and push the brand. Messrs. Potin import also small bars of 20 to 30 grammes, packed in cardboard boxes for children, and bars of 40, 50, and 60 grammes, sold in packets of 40, 50, and 60 bars at 1½ to 2 frs. a packet.

There has been a new brand on the market during the last few years, that of Guerin-Boutron of Paris, which has met with a good sale owing to its superior quality, its low price, and the fact that it is represented by Mr. E. Lannessans. Smaller quantities are also sold of the chocolat Lombard, the chocolat Louit freres, and the "Docks Parisiens" brands.

After the French, Italian chocolates have the largest sale, and the annual total is estimated at 25,000 kilos. Italy owes her trade in this market to low prices, viz., 1½ frs. per kilo. c.i.f. Constantinople, and to the fact that the Turkish population is not yet educated to distinguish good from inferior chocolate, and consequently purchase the kind which the dealers push most owing to the larger profit derived from its sale. The Italian manufacturers supply chocolate in a profusion of shapes and fanciful designs representing watches, coins, animals, etc., but they are inferior in every respect to similar goods of Swiss origin. There are two Italian marks sold here, viz., Moriondo and Gariglio, and M. Talmone.

Dutch makers have succeeded in imitating the French in all but the quality, the appearance of the packing, wrappers, etc., being similar, and the result has been a very fair trade for Holland. Imports of the article from that country during 1902 are roughly estimated at about 15,000 kilos. Bendsorp's chocolate in tablets or bars sells at 1.45 to 1.85 frs. the kilo. c.i.f. Constantinople, 5 per cent. discount being allowed for cash payment. This firm's round sticks in decorated tins are also selling well, as are their chocolate creams, which are invoiced at 2.70 frs. the kilo., less 5 per cent. Messrs. Van Houten sell a little chocolate also here, although their speciality is cocoa. English chocolate is represented by Lipton and Cadbury. The latter firm owes its footing to its numerous specialities, which can be retailed at a penny and a halfpenny each.



The total annual importation of British chocolate is about 12,000 kilos.

The Swiss do a small fancy trade in better-class goods. In all about 5,000 kilos. per annum. The brand most sold is that of Suchard, and then come those of Maestranzi and J. J. Favarger.

A few years ago Mr. F. Mullatier, a Frenchman and member of this Chamber of Commerce, commenced to manufacture chocolate at Constantinople, and his chocolate creams, almonds, etc., have met with a good sale.

As regards the cocoa trade, the total importation does not exceed 3,000 to 4,000 kilos. a year, and the article not having been long on the market, the trade is in its infancy. Mr. Mullatier purchases a certain quantity abroad, and the Dutch makers, Van Houten, Bendsorp & Co., and Driessen, all do a small trade. Suchard's Swiss cocoas are also represented. The British, as usual, sell their cocoas by their complicated weights, and have an exceedingly limited sale. The sale of German and French cocoas is also practically nil.—*British Trade Journal*.

## RUBBER PLANTING ON THE ISTHMUS OF TEHUANTEPEC.

(As seen by the Editor of the *India Rubber World*.)

The site of the plantation 'La Ventura' five years ago was virgin forest. At that time Mr. James C. Harvey and his son Clarence purchased for themselves and their associates (a private corporation) 1,000 acres of land and prepared to develop it along the most practical lines. When the senior of the two first came to Mexico it was with the idea of planting coffee, but after months of study and a personal inspection of most of the Isthmus country he decided that India-rubber offered the best opportunity for profit, and therefore has turned the larger part of his land into a plantation of *Castilloa elastica*. I am enlarging upon this a trifle because, to my certain knowledge, the gentleman under consideration is not only an expert horticulturist and botanist, but has studied tropical agriculture in Central and South America, and in the East Indies and West Indies, and beyond this he and his associates offered no stock for sale, but went into the business to make money out of their own investment of capital, energy, and knowledge. Such a plantation must, without fail, give the visitor the best possible view of the practical end of the business. There are, of course, many such private estates in the tropics, but it happened that this was the one that I knew most of and to visit which I had a most cordial invitation.

Here I was, therefore, installed in the palm-thatched house, with its earthen floor and bamboo walls, that for five years had been the home of these hardy pioneers. The domicile was situated at one end of a long ridge, on each side of which, with a rare eye to effect, were planted gorgeous flowering and foliage plants, and trees valuable for fruit and for ornament. Very modestly the presiding genius showed me sixty-five different species of palms, probably the largest collection in the Americas. Not only were there palms native to the tropical parts of America but there were specimens from Java, Ceylon, New Guinea, Queensland, the Fiji Islands, New South Wales, and a score of other remote places. These were gathered, not as part of the planting proposition, but from a plant lover's interest alone, which they seemed to appreciate by growing luxuriantly.

Then too, I must not forget the collection of orchids that hung from the bamboo lattice outside of the house, and clung to the trees on all sides; nor the orange, lemon, lime, grape-fruit, banana, and plantain trees, a notable part of the garden equipment. I looked with the interest also on the vanilla vines, the cacao plantation, and the twenty-five varieties of pineapples, but my chief thought was rubber and so, I soon found, was his. I do not wish to make my planter friend blush but when I found the work he was doing, how widely he was consulted by planters both in Mexico and in distant tropical lands, I was more than ever impressed with my wonderful luck in thus 'striking oil' when first I began to bore. So I asked questions and questions, and questions, and took notes most copiously all the time.

### YIELD OF LATEX.

One of the first points that I wanted settled was whether here or elsewhere, there were *Castilloa* trees either wild or cultivated that did not yield latex. So we both started out to find one such tree

by cutting the outer bark—indeed during all of the trip I cut trees by the hundred just to prove this point—but found none except in one instance, which will be related later. I was much interested also to note the differences in the latex as it issued forth. In some instances the tree would send forth a perfect shower of milk-white drops, which coagulated rather slowly, while another near by would exude a thicker fluid that began to coagulate almost immediately. The natives claim that this latter tree is simply so rich in rubber that it retards the flow and that after a little tapping it corrects itself and the latex becomes more fluid.

The younger trees all gave out abundant latex, but those that were less than four years old gave a milk that seemed immature; that is, it did not coagulate into dry hard rubber but remained quite sticky. I noted also a curious thing in connection with this, which was that in the younger trees the latex began to mature first near the base of the tree, while up toward the branches it still remained of the sticky sort. But we found no trees in this district that did not yield latex abundantly.

### GROWTH OF CASTILLOA.

At "La Ventura" I was able to institute some exceedingly interesting comparisons between the growth of the rubber tree under favourable and unfavourable conditions. In both cases the trees were *Castilloas* planted from selected seed. In the first instance they were planted in the open, about 9 feet apart, on rolling land which had good grainage. Measuring the circumference of the trunks a foot above the ground, I got a fair average of 23.3 inches, and an estimated average height of 22 feet. The banner *Castilloa* was a seedling planted in the open that measured 32 inches in circumference and 25 feet high. All of these trees had every appearance of health and vigor and gave forth milk abundantly. From the records shown me, they were a trifle over four years old. In the second instance, grown in partial shade, such as produced fine cacao, with the land more level and not well drained, the trees being planted at exactly the same time, and from the same lot of seed, I got an average of 4.6 inches for circumference a foot above the ground, and an average height of 6 feet. Anyone would not seem to need a more graphic illustration than this of the necessity for observing proper conditions in planting and further, as a warning against planting in badly-drained land or in the shade.

The *Castilloa* orchard, through which I tramped many times, had in it about 240,000 trees from one to four years of age. All of them were planted from the seed, except a small percentage taken from nursery stock to make up for the occasional failure of a seedling.

One result of my early observation, and one that grew with each day's experience, was the conviction that a knowledge of climate, rainfall, soils, drainage, etc., is an absolute necessity from the beginning in the selection of suitable sites for rubber plantations. In other words, the expert tropical agriculturist, well equipped with common sense, is most likely to be the one who starts right. For example, one plans to plant the *Castilloa*. It is a soft wood tree, a tree that from its physical formation is not built to stand high winds, that with its long taproot must have a deep, rich soil and well drained withal. It is a deciduous tree, which means that at a certain time each year it encourages the presence of the sun's rays on its trunk and limbs. The prospective planter should, therefore, pick out land that is covered with a growth of soft rather than hard wood trees, as the latter points to gravelly soil instead of clayey loam. It should be rolling land, or at least land that is naturally well drained. It should be soil that will give the tree plenty of moisture during the dry season and yet that will not be soggy during the wet. For a running rule there should be at least four feet or drainage soil. In the clearing of the land, if there are not natural wind breaks, a certain amount of forest should be left standing to act as such. Referring again to the long taproot of the *Castilloa*, it is said that as the tree grows older it often disappears, its place being taken by large laterals.

### VISITS TO ESTATES.

Our first visit was to 'Ixtal.' By that time I was getting to be somewhat of a connoisseur in rubber trees, and so, after the noon breakfast, was glad to accompany Mr. Adams on a tour of inspection. Here were some 250 acres planted to rubber, the oldest being four years, the total number of trees being about 150,000. The land was very similar to that at 'La Ventura' and the growth about the same, although in a part of the plantation the trees seemed to be a little taller. Latex flowed from them all abundantly and my guide said that he had never found one that did not show plenty of milk.



In discussing this question Mr. Adams told of an Austrian scientist who had been in that region and who claimed that there were three native *Castilloa* species, only one of which was a rubber producer. They all looked alike, so he said, and the difference in them could only be detected by a careful examination of the cellular structure of the leaf. He said further that he uprooted 80 per cent. of his own first year's planting because he did not know this. When he finally did get the right tree big enough to tap it bled so freely that he was obliged to stop the cuts with clay else it would have bled to death. We were able to assure Mr. Adams that this was not credible, to which he agreed.

Our next journey was to 'La Junta,' the largest plantation in that district. The estate contains some 5,000 acres, of which one half is already cleared, most of it planted to rubber. The trees are from 7 to 9 feet apart, and looked as if they were in prime condition. The orchard numbers about 750,000 rubber trees. The oldest of these will be two years old next July, and average 2.5 inches in diameter, a foot from the ground, and about 7 feet in height. For help there are from 200 to 400 men, one half of whom are natives. Perhaps here more than anywhere else has been tried the experiment of importing labour, and not depending entirely upon the native, who is not at all times entirely reliable.

I looked and inquired particularly for any enemy of the *Castilloa*, but found trace of none, and heard only of an ant that attacks the tree where it has been wounded at times, but that only rarely. Of the few trees thus attacked, nearly all had thrown out woody excrescences that were not only protecting the inner tissues, but seemed actually to be crowding the devourers out. So rare is it that a tree is thus attacked that the planters take no precaution against it.

### THE TEA CORPORATION.

Shareholders in the Tea Corporation are asking themselves, in view of the various reconstruction schemes placed before them, what next? The latest idea is to make an issue of Second Debentures, amounting to £15,000, and the accrued dividends on the Preference shares are to be satisfied by an allotment of Ordinary shares. Commenting on this latest proposal, the *Financial Times* says:—

"The new scheme differs from that of the Directors 'in that no bonus or fully-paid shares are now distributable.' From the shareholders' point of view, therefore, there is still less inducement than before to assent to reconstruction on the lines suggested. The liquidator adds that the plan is the best he can arrange in the altered circumstances, and that it appears to be the only alternative to a sale of the property, 'the result of which, in my opinion, would leave nothing whatever for the shareholders.' Whether the Committee appointed in March to co-operate with and assist the liquidator in the reconstruction concurs with these remarks does not transpire, and, as the body to which we refer represented not only the shareholders' Committee and the general body of proprietors, but also the Board, it would have been of interest to see a supplementary report commenting on the statements we have quoted.

"But we would draw our readers' attention to the remarkable difference of opinion between the liquidator and the Committee, as disclosed by the retort of the latter to the proposals of the former. The Committee does not hint at any scaling down of capital, nor at anything in the nature of a call. On the contrary, it suggests: (1) The discharge of the indebtedness of the Company by means of an issue of second debentures to an amount not exceeding £15,000; (2) the gradual reduction of the debentures, both first and second; (3) the division of the Ordinary shares of £5 into five shares of £1; and (4) the payment of eighteen months' dividend on the Preference by the allotment of Ordinary shares, all further claim in respect of arrears being waived. The fixed charges, it estimates, would come to about £7,450 per annum—an amount less than has been mentioned by the liquidator as the present earning power. But it goes farther, and contends that the advance in the price of tea and the satisfactory output of plumbago, etc., warrant hopes of a dividend even on the Ordinary shares if the business in London and in Ceylon be carefully and economically managed. This scheme, which stands out in such striking contrast

to the other, will, it is announced, be underwritten, and the proprietors must make up their minds for themselves which of the two courses they regard as the more attractive. One consideration, however, we may commend to their attention. They are asked by the scheme formulated by the Directors and modified by the liquidator to sanction a heavy reduction in the face value of their holdings, and at the same time to put their hands in their pockets for a large amount of money. Neither operation is a pleasant one, and so divergent are the views as to the profit-earning capacity of the properties that there is at least a chance that neither is necessary, though this may sound too good to be true. But it may be recalled that the report for the period to the end of 1901 was dated July 8, 1902. Why should not the full details of the working for 1902 be laid before the shareholders before they are asked to commit themselves to so drastic a line of action? The creditors would surely stay their hands, even if a few weeks' delay were caused thereby, though we do not see why there should be any delay at all. As it is, the proprietors are asked to take a leap in the dark, and they would, we think, be well advised if they firmly declined the invitation."

### THE TEA PEST QUESTION.

A Gampola planter sends a Ceylon paper a copy of the circular issued by the Pests sub-Committee of the Pussellawa P. A., together with his replies to the questions asked; and suggests that its publication may aid in the awaking of interest in a subject the profound importance of which he feels many planters have not yet sufficiently realised; and to encourage them to supply similarly full information. He is convinced that the mild legislation proposed by Mr. Green is absolutely necessary, not only on account of the numerous native holdings to be found in Gampola, but because even some European planters do not look beyond the boundaries of their own estates. The shot-hole borer is the most serious pest in the Pussellawa district, which seems to be its "home." The circular—with its questions and answers—is as follows:—

#### TEA PESTS AND BLIGHTS.

The Superintendent, ——— Estate.

DEAR SIR,—With a view to assisting Mr. E. E. Green in his efforts to aid planters in combating the spread of above, we, the undersigned, having been appointed a sub-Committee of the Pussellawa Planters' Association to enquire into the existence and spread of pests in general, beg to ask you to supply us with information on the subject.

We annex a list of questions and would ask you to fill in answers to same with as much accuracy and detail as possible. Please understand that, of course, all information now given will be considered absolutely private and confidential.—We are, yours faithfully, (Signed) A. L. FRENCH (*Chairman*), G. C. BLISS, GEO. BENZIE, J. M. DUNCAN, FRED. WERNHAM (*Honorary Secretary*).

*Shot-hole Borer.*—When first observed?—About six or seven years ago. Has it increased?—Yes, very much. Area now affected?—It is to be found now more or less over the whole estate. If any, what are the preventive measures taken—with what results? General remarks embodying any information you consider might be of interest or use.—I have tried every remedy and treatment I can think of or have had suggested to me: painting bushes with  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen or more sorts of washes, tar, etc.; leaving unpruned belts; acetylene lamps; burning all prunings at once; collar-pruning and burning, etc. I am now satisfied that burying prunings with slag systematically over all affected areas is the only practically effectual way of combating this pest. The good results on this estate have been remarkable. I am confident that, except over very badly-affected areas, where treatment of any sort has been long neglected, systematic burying of prunings will eventuate, if not in exterminating, at any rate in reducing the damage done by this most serious pest to an almost disregardable minimum. Burning all prunings at once, as soon as cut, would of course be equally, or even more, effective in destroying these insects, but I advocate the burying in preference, because of the unquestionable benefit to tea (in this district at least) of this treatment. The borer taps the rising sap and so materially reduces the leaf-growth and yield of the bush. Burying prunings not only certainly destroys a number of the insects (I think the large majority), but so stimulates the bush as to encourage it to produce more leaf from the untapped



branches and so reduce to a minimum the loss of yield. In short, high cultivation, combined with practical methods for the certain destruction of large numbers of the "borer" is the only successful method of combating this pest. Over very badly-affected areas where no treatment has been tried, perhaps the drastic and expensive one of collar-pruning, sweeping up and burning at once, had better be resorted to.

*N.B.*—Burying prunings, to my certain knowledge, destroys all the young grubs, even if many of the developed insects escape. So that, given a systematic continuance of this treatment, good results must follow.

I am personally of opinion that legislation on some such lines as suggested by Mr. Green—(power to enforce the burning or burying of prunings over badly-affected areas would be most effectual)—has now become absolutely necessary. I have some knowledge of the affected state of many native holdings in this district.

*Grey Blight.*—When first observed?—1899. Has it increased?—Yes; in 1900 it was very prevalent and had seriously affected about 200 acres; but in 1901 it had practically gone, and has not since been at all serious. If any, what are the preventive measures taken?—In 1900 the prunings from all the affected area were burnt. With what results?—The pest has practically disappeared, but I do not attribute this to the remedy adopted, though it doubtless did some good.

*Brown Blight.*—(Same answers as to Grey Blight.)

*Terria.*—Not found up to July, 1903.

*Helopeltis.*—When first observed?—Very slightly at intervals during the last 6 or 7 years. Has it increased?—It is doing noticeable damage over small areas this year (1903). Area now affected?—Can't say; but it is not yet at all serious either in damage done or area affected. If any, what are the preventive measures taken?—Am now (July, 1903) paying small sums for the insects caught and brought in.

*Red Spider.*—When first observed?—Always noticeable in patches at end of dry weather. Has it increased?—No. Area now affected?—Nil. If any, what are the preventive measures taken?—No measures taken. I have never considered this a serious pest. With the advent of rain and increased sap rising the red appearance rapidly disappears.

*Bag-worm Caddies-worm.*—When first observed?—In 1895 over a small area of inferior jât tea. Has it increased?—No. I have not seen it to matter for the last few years. Area now affected?—Nil. If any, what are the preventive measures taken?—As soon as noticed, boys are put on to collect them. I have had brought in as much as a quarter bottle full by each cooly. If not collected at once, they increase and do a great deal of damage. With what results?—Taken in hand at early stage little damage is done, and my experience has been that after 2 or 3 years they are not to be found; but this is distinctly a pest not to be disregarded.

## RUBBER CULTIVATION IN THE CONGO FREE STATE.

During the last few years a number of rubber plantations have been established in the Congo Free State. An interesting description of one of the largest of these has recently been given by M. Bemelmans in the *Revue des Culture Coloniales*, No. 116. All the principal rubber trees have been introduced upon an extensive scale in this plantation; and, as the experience gained may be of value in other cases, a short account of the experiments is here given.

*Manihot Glaziovii* (Ceará rubber tree).—The seeds of this plant possess a very hard coat, which protects them from damage during transit, but renders germination slow and uncertain. Several methods for obviating the latter difficulty have been suggested, and, after trials of these, the plan of cutting off the end of the seed was adopted as being the most suitable. This process is very expeditious, as four boys can prepare from 6,000 to 8,000 seeds per day, and from 30 to 60 per cent. of the seeds so treated germinate within ten days. The seeds are sown very superficially, at the rate of 500 to a bed 5 metres by 1.5 metres, and this should be screened from the sun for a fortnight or three weeks. At the end of two or three months the seedlings have attained a height of from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 metre, and are then planted out at intervals of 3 metres in every direction; it is desirable to remove some of their leaves at the same time. The plant stands transplanting very well, and the losses never greater

than 10 per cent. are replaced during the first fortnight. One advantage of planting the trees widely apart is that they then offer less resistance to the wind a point of some importance as the roots are very superficial, and the young trees are easily blown down. At first the ground requires attention once a month, and in these operations great care must be taken to avoid injuring the surface roots. The tree attains a height of about 3 metres in the first year, and at the end of the second it is 5 metres high and  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre in circumference. Longitudinal incisions made in two-year-old trees gave 20 to 30 grams of a thick latex, and the rubber from this was valued at 6 fr. to 7.50 fr. per kilog. according to the method of coagulation employed. At the end of the first year *Manihot Glaziovii* produces seeds, three of which occur in each fruit, and the easiest method of collection is to pick the capsules before they dehisce. In view of the abundant supply of seeds and the facility with which plants can be raised from them, propagation by slips is almost superfluous, but can readily be accomplished by selecting a sufficiently large piece from the well-seasoned wood.

*Hevea brasiliensis* (Pará rubber tree).—The seeds of this species are much more difficult to transport without damage, and experiments with them have not given very good results: but 5,000 seedlings have been successfully imported in Wardian cases. On their arrival the plants were placed in nurseries, where they were gradually exposed to the full light of the sun, and when about  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre high they were planted out at intervals of 3 metres. The seedlings do not stand transplanting so well as the Ceará plants and they require a more substantial and deeper soil with more moisture. When first planted out they require to be sheltered and in this particular case it was found necessary to protect them from goats and antelopes, which are very fond of the bark. Experiments conducted on land inundated for three months in the year have not given good results in general, though individual trees have shown considerable development under these conditions. The tree attains a height of 2 metres in the first year, and 5 metres in the second, and only branches during the third year at a height of 7 or 8 metres. Its stem remains very slender for a considerable time; and although this tree at first withstands the wind better than the Ceará tree, it often falls later. To prevent this it is expedient to pollard at a height of 1 metre about the fourteenth or fifteenth month. *Hevea brasiliensis* does not produce seeds at an early stage, and is propagated by layering on slips; the latter method is preferable, and the slip which should be as large as possible is taken from well-seasoned wood.

*Castilloa elastica* (Central American rubber tree).—Plants of this species have been raised from seed, and also imported as seedlings in Wardian cases, the latter being found the more satisfactory method. In cultivation the same general precautions are necessary as for *Hevea*; the growth is a little slower, but the general development is more proportional, and it may be noted that the plant does not stand pruning well. Propagation by slips has been found impracticable; but layering has given very good results. The trees have been planted in an avenue, 12 metres wide, at a distance of 5 metres from each other.

*Funtumia elastica* (Lagos rubber tree).—For a long time this tree was confounded with a similar species growing abundantly in many parts of the Congo Free State. Of the latter species, the belief that it was the true plant large numbers were propagated. The latex from this is known locally as M'Bole and has been found to yield rubber of very inferior quality. The mistake has now been remedied and specimens of the true *Funtumia elastica* have been introduced. They grow more slowly than the other rubber trees already mentioned, and at the end of six months had not been removed from the nurseries.

*Uccella esculenta*.—This rubber vine indigenous to Borneo has been successfully raised from seeds which can be transported without damage. The germination was slow, the cotyledons and the first pair of leaves being put forth with great difficulty after which, however, the young plants began to grow rapidly. At this moment they were transferred to the bases of large trees in the forest where in three months they attained a height of more than a metre, and have continued to grow well.

In addition to the above rubber trees, specimens of the plan-yielding *Balata* (a gutta-percha substitute) have also been successfully raised from seeds. The latter resemble peach stones in appearance, and require to be cut like those of the Ceará rubber tree in order to facilitate germination, which was most readily



induced by placing them in moist moss, and protecting them from the attacks of rodents and termites. Treated in this way 28 per cent. of the seeds developed. At first sight of germination, the seeds were transferred to small pots made of bamboo framework, and in another two months they had rejected their coat and put forth the cotyledons. After the production of the second or third leaf the seedlings were planted out, without being removed from the pots, as the roots are very sensitive and suffer when transplanted. The whole operation requires considerable care, and for several months the young plants need frequent waterings and shelter from the sun.

It will be seen from this summary of the report that the plantation has not yet arrived at the stage at which a definite opinion can be expressed on the value of the different trees, based upon the yield and quality of their rubber; but the information given will prove useful to those interested in similar undertakings.—*India-Rubber Journal*.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSAM BRANCH.

The Annual Meeting of the Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association was held at Moriani on Saturday July 18, about sixty planters being present. Mr. James Buckingham, C.I.E., in the chair.

**Tea Cess.**—The most important innovation of the year, said the Chairman, was the passing of the Tea Cess bill through the Legislative Council, on the Committee for which Messrs. Fitzgerald and Buckingham have been appointed as members for the Assam Valley. With regard to the disposal of the money, Mr. Buckingham stated that he has strongly urged the devotion of part of the sum available to the exploration of the South African market, but he had just received a telegram from the Chairman in Calcutta stating that no cess funds would be available in 1903 for this purpose, but it was being considered for 1904. Mr. Fitzgerald then proposed a Resolution that was carried that the Tea Cess Committee be urged that as soon as funds are available some should be devoted to the exploitation of tea in South Africa.

**Home Markets.**—As to the markets in England, a Resolution was passed thanking the London Association for their successful efforts, which have resulted in the breaking up of the Clearing House Ring in London and had thus led to the reduction in the necessary London sale expenses.

**Experimental Farm.**—In an energetic discussion which arose on this point it was stated with approval that the scheme proposed by Mr. Chamney a year ago had been declared to be far too extensive for the funds available, and that the matter would have to be carried out on a far less extended scale, by means of subsidies to planters willing to co-operate. Various members present expressed their willingness to give attention to the cultivation and exploitation of certain new crops. Mr. Buckingham referred to the uniformly unsuccessful efforts with rhea fibre in Assam, and sketched the history of attempts at coffee cultivation. General approval was expressed of the scheme drafted by the Scientific Officer, but it was considered that even the annual cost of Rs.10,000 which he considered essential might be still further reduced. Of this, the Government of India had promised to place Rs.6,000 per annum at the disposal of the fund, and it was suggested that the Branch might, in addition, offer Rs.2,000 per annum.

**Scientific Officer.**—The congratulations of the Association were expressed to Mr. H. H. Mann at the successful results he had obtained up to date and best wishes were given to him for a pleasant furlough in England. It was considered that the whole cost of his department should be borne by Government as in other countries, but appreciation was expressed at the Government's increased support. On a motion by Mr. Henderson, it was resolved that the Central Association be asked to allow Mr. Mann to spend a considerable time at an early date in the investigation of Red Rust, one of the most serious and increasing blights of tea. In the course of a lengthy reply, Mr. Mann expressed his willingness to spend several months in the investigation proposed by Mr.

Henderson in the early months of next year (1904). He also dealt with his recent researches on the ferment of the tea leaf which he stated would shortly be published, and several other matters of planting interest.

**Other Matters.**—Discussions then ensued on the working of Act XIII of 1859 in Assam, on the working of Act VI of 1901, in which great satisfaction was expressed at the extension of Chapter V, section 90 to the Assam Valley; on the opening of through traffic to Chittagong and the saving on freight of tea thereby obtained and various other matters.

The Meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Scientific Officer, to the Secretary, and to Mr. Fitzgerald who had acted as Chairman during Mr. Buckingham's absence in 1902, while quite an ovation greeted the motion for the reappointment of Mr. Buckingham to the Chairmanship of the Branch.

## CENTRAL TRAVANCORE.

Minutes of Quarterly General Meeting held on Saturday, 11th July, 1903, at Fairfield Bungalow. **PRESENT:**—Mr. F. M. Parker (*Chairman*), Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, Messrs. F. Bisset, R. H. Goldie, H. M. Knight, B. Laurie, E. Latter (*Honorary Secretary*), D. McArthur, Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham.

Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read.

**Post Office at Periyar Crossing.**—Read Postmaster-General's letter of 7th May and resolved that the terms offered are prohibitory, viz., free quarters to be provided and monthly deficiency (if any) paid up.

**Roads and Bridges.**—In reply to Honorary Secretary's letters of 25th April and 22nd June complaining of the condition of some of these in the district, Chief Engineer replied on 6th July that Divisional Officer had been ordered to take necessary action.

**Tea Cess Committee and Bounty on Green Teas.**—Circulars and rules in connection with this had been already distributed to members.

**Louisiana Purchase Exposition.**—U. P. A. S. I. circulars read and approved.

**U. P. A. S. I.** circular letters since last Meeting read and laid on the table.

**Cotton Wood for Tea Chests.**—Conservator of Forests' letter of 22nd June with conditions on which this may be cut on permit read and noted.

**New Chuckram coins.**—Read Honorary Secretary's letter of 22nd June asking that these be given in exchange for old coins at the local Treasury, and Dewan's reply of 2nd July.

**Land-Tax.**—The deputation to British Resident having reported the result of their interview, the following Resolution proposed by Mr. H. M. Knight and seconded by Mr. F. M. Parker was carried *nem. con.*:

"That owing to the continued depression in the Planting Industry the Honorary Secretary be requested to address H. H. Government with a view to securing a reduction of the Land-Tax; and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to South Travancore Association with a view to co-operation."

**Dispensaries.**—Mr. Knight reported result of this interview with Acting Durbar Physician and it was decided—

1. To continue subsidy to Medical Officer for the present.
2. To have two dispensaries—in place of the one at Granby—one at Arnakal and one at Pambanar—for which Government will make only one grant—the Estates served by these dispensaries to contribute at a rate not exceeding 5 annas per acre.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask the Durbar Physician to sanction fortnightly visits by Medical Officer to dispensaries in place of weekly visits as at present.

**U. P. A. S. I. Annual Meeting.**—*Delegate to Bangalore.* On the motion of Hon'ble Mr. Acworth, Mr. F. M. Parker was unanimously elected to represent the Association and Rs.150 voted towards his travelling expenses. The *Agenda Paper* was read and instructions given on certain items to the delegate.

**Labour Law.**—Proposed by Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth and seconded by Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham—

"That H. H. Government be requested to pass a Labour Act on the same lines as that recently passed by the Government of Fort



St. George and to proclaim Peermaad district under the Act at the earliest moment."—Carried *nem. con.*

**Tea Cess and S. India Exploitation.**—Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth explained what had happened at Tea Cess Committee Meeting at Calcutta and how support had been obtained for the scheme now under Messrs. Parry & Co.'s management. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Acworth for his successful representation of our interests.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Meeting ended.  
Papers laid on the table—

Planting Opinion.

Indian Planting & Gardening.

Travancore Government Gazette.

I. T. A. Circulars.

U. P. A. S. I. Circulars.

Agricultural Ledgers, Nos. 2 and 3 of 1903.

Pests and Blights of Tea Plant (Watt & Mann).

Advt. of "Hydro-Extractor."

E. LATTEK,  
Honorary Secretary.

PEERMAAD.

## COORG.

Minutes of a Quarterly General Meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association, held at the Bamboo Club, on Wednesday, July 15th, 1903. **PRESENT:**—Messrs. C. Appiah, A. B. Chengappa, E. Clarke, W. Davies, Geo. Davies, J. W. Finlayson, F. W. Gerrard, H. G. Grant, A. H. Jackson, J. Logan (*President*), A. Lambert, E. L. Mahon, F. Macrae, C. G. Maclean (*Proxy*), H. T. Shaw, N. M. Scholfield, and R. D. Tipping.

The President occupied the Chair.

The Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. K. Martin, being unable to attend, Mr. Lambert consented to act for him.

The President having spoken a few words relating to his election to office, the business before the Meeting was at once proceeded with.

**Delegate to the U. P. A. S. I.**—It was decided that either the President or the Honorary Secretary should go. The latter, not being present, to be asked to kindly undertake the duty. Failing which, the President consented to attend.

Mr. Lambert read through the Agenda paper of the forthcoming U. P. A. Meeting, remarking on the various subjects, when necessary.

Our Delegate is to receive instructions to vote according to the consensus of opinion of the Meeting on several subjects and in regard to the remainder, and when he may see fit to vote, he is to use his own discretion.

**With reference to the amount of subscription to be paid to the U. P. A. S. I. for the future.**—After some discussion, a proposition and amendment thereto were brought forward, with the result that the latter was carried. Our Delegate will be instructed to act accordingly. It was resolved, that our Delegate be empowered to suggest at the forthcoming U. P. A. Meeting, the advisability of approaching Government with a view to the appointment of a Commission to thoroughly enquire into the position of the Coffee enterprise in S. India, owing to its present critical condition, as such an enquiry might, in the opinion of this Association, be likely to lead to some practical and beneficial results.

Proposed by Mr. Mahon, seconded by Mr. Lambert, that Dr. Lehmann be written to and asked to kindly try and visit Coorg again during the course of this year, and that if he consents to do so, the Mysore Government be approached with a view to procuring the loan of his services.—Carried unanimously.

**New Members.**—The following gentlemen were duly elected members of the C. P. A.:—

Mr. J. A. Graham—proposed by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Lambert; Mr. W. Davies—proposed by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Mahon; Mr. L. Newcome—proposed by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Lambert; Mr. J. W. Finlayson—proposed by Mr. Macrae, seconded by Mr. Tipping.

The usual vote of thanks terminated the Meeting.

POLLIT BETTA, }  
July 15th, 1903. }

A. LAMBERT,  
for Honorary Secretary, C. P. A.

## A LAND OF PROMISE.

In the not very remote past when Europeans looked to South Africa only for ostrich feathers and sunshine, it was a common practice for English doctors to order hopeless cases of pulmonary disease to this country. "When there is no hope at home try the Cape of Good Hope;" "Keep below deck until you reach Madeira," etc. How painfully familiar such phrases sound. Often the prescription succeeded; more often it failed. It is within the knowledge of everybody that the late Cecil Rhodes came here to find health, not fortune, and succeeded in gaining both. But his experience was not the common one. The cemeteries of South Africa are dotted with almost as many graves of Englishmen who came here in quest of health as of those who were slain in battle or died of diseases incident to warfare.

It is a fact, established beyond possibility of dispute, that no climate the world can offer is sufficient in itself to arrest the progress of consumption, though unquestionably it is a very important aid to other treatment.

But what should that other treatment be?

No question was ever more debated, or is still further from settlement. We will not attempt to answer it, but allow Mr. Charles Rodgers, of East London, to give a brief account of two illnesses from which he has suffered, which throws considerable light upon the matter.

Writing on February 9th, 1903, Mr. Rodgers observes:—"I feel it my duty to bring to public notice the benefit I have received by using Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. Five years ago I was stricken down with rheumatic fever, and was attended by three different doctors; but their united efforts did me little or no good, and my condition was for a long time very precarious. It was then that a friend advised me to try Seigel's Syrup, and I resolved to accept his advice. I was delighted to find myself very soon able to walk about as usual, and after taking only three bottles of the medicine I was capable of resuming my business.

"In July, 1900, I experienced another and a more serious trouble. It was found that I was suffering from a very weak chest. A doctor whom I consulted told me plainly that he feared I was consumptive, and ordered me to come to South Africa. I entertained no doubt that I was far gone in consumption, having all the signs of that disease, but especially an extremely weak chest and an ever-present feeling of weakness and languor.

"Without being advised to do so, but with the recollection of the good that it had done me two years before in curing me of another complaint, I had the happy inspiration to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. The result exceeded my most sanguine expectations, and it was not long before I was as strong and healthy as any man could wish to be. I strongly recommend the use of that medicine to all who suffer as I did, and for the sake of humanity would like my case to be known far and wide."

Promise and performance are not quite the same thing, as many have discovered to their cost; but the people who have built high hopes upon that from which Mr. Rodgers received so much benefit were never yet known to be disappointed.

## MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated July 10th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	102,709	136,363	10,932
1902-1903 ... ..	100,778	155,701	8,809
14,363 pkgs. INDIAN } 20,893 " CEYLON } 1,632 " JAVA }	Total 36,888 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

Had it not been for the rise in the value of common tea towards the close of last year, the average price for the season would have been most disappointing; even now it is below that of 1901-2, and only about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. above that of the previous season, which was the lowest quotation ever recorded.



Average Price of Indian Tea sold on Garden Account.

1902-3.		1901-2.		1900-1.	
Pkgs.	Price.	Pkgs.	Price.	Pkgs.	Price.
1,293,688	7.52d	1,331,718	7.62d	1,376,680	7.24d
1899-00.		1898-9.		1897-8.	
Pkgs.	Price.	Pkgs.	Price.	Pkgs.	Price.
1,313,554	8.23d	1,143,396	8.78d	1,136,837	8.64d

From the following table it will be seen that the average price for every important district was less than the previous season.

Prospects for the present year seem to be brighter if only coarse plucking is avoided, the statistical position showing the trade to be in a stronger position than has been the case for many years past.

Average Prices obtained by each District are shown in the following table:—

	1902-1903.		1901-2.		1900-1.	
	Pkgs.	Price.	Pkgs.	Price.	Pkgs.	Price.
Assam ...	596,398	8.55	630,330	8.70	637,454	8.53
Cachar and Sylhet ...	333,724	6.20	332,042	6.22	372,856	5.70
Chittagong...	2,947	6.00	3,771	6.11	6,608	6.21
Chota Nagpore ...	1,925	5.42	1,920	5.27	2,676	4.68
Darjeeling ...	73,796	9.69	75,504	9.86	83,976	10.01
Dooars ...	189,028	6.53	202,919	6.62	194,273	5.69
Neilgherry ...	6,806	6.53	6,407	6.70	5,304	6.09
Terai ...	12,230	6.27	12,769	6.55	15,782	6.02
Travancore...	59,605	6.14	53,527	6.29	48,078	5.31
Kangra Valley	17,229	6.08	12,529	6.46	9,673	5.31
Kumaon						
Dehra Doon						

INDIAN.—A fair supply of New Season's tea was included in this week's auction, prices showing about previous values. So far nothing of very choice quality has been brought forward, and it is too early yet to form a definite estimate of the quality of the new crop. A few more closing invoices of last Season's teas were sold, competition for the poorer grades being rather languid.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 5,914 pkgs., av. 6.89d. 1902, 6,045 pkgs., av. 6.03d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 7,672 pkgs., av. 7.62d. 1902, 14,011 pkgs., av. 6.38d.

CEYLON.—The bidding was somewhat lacking in animation, and although teas for price and fine teas sold well, medium grades were again easier. Quality continues unattractive, the lower quotations being partly due to this cause.

Average for week 7.11d, against 6.00d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 528,187 pkgs., av. 7.61d. 1902, 592,821 pkgs., av. 6.83d.

JAVA.—Javas passed without material change, common teas, if anything, showing a slightly easier market, while anything with fairly good liquor sold well. The teas were all of direct import and nine estates were represented.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta  $1/4\frac{3}{4}$ . Colombo  $1/4\frac{7}{8}$ .

### CINCHONA.

There were only four catalogues at the monthly auction on Tuesday, representing 715 packages of bark. The demand was good, and the bulk was disposed of at steady prices, the average unit being  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. This is a slight improvement on the last Amsterdam sale, which showed a parity of  $1\frac{1}{8}$ d.

The following table shows the quantity of bark offered and sold:

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
East Indian cinchona ...	519	401
Ceylon cinchona ...	146	60
Java cinchona...	50	50
	715	511

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price  $1/1\frac{1}{2}$  &  $2/6$ .

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



The following approximate quantities represent the purchases made by the principal buyers:

The Brunswick factory	...	Lbs.	40,815
The Frankfurt-on-Main and Stuttgart factories	...	27,300	
The Mannheim and Amsterdam factories	...	16,975	
Messrs. Howards & Sons	...	14,820	
The Imperial Quinine factory	...	1,850	
Druggists, Brokers, etc.	...	22,380	
Total quantity sold	...	124,140	
Bought in or withdrawn	...	40,040	
Total quantity offered	...	164,180	

The following prices were paid:

EAST INDIAN.—Succirubra, quills and chips, ordinary, 2½d; branch, 2d; root, 2½d to 3½d; renewed stem chips and shavings, 3½d to 3¾d. Officinalis, stem chips and shavings, 2¾d to 5½d; renewed, 2¼d to 6d; broken quill, 5½d; branch, 2d; root, 4¼d to 6d. Ledgeriana, natural stem ships, 2¾d to 5½d; branch, 1¾d; root, 5½d per lb.

CEYLON.—Bright Succirubra quillings and chips, 3½d to 3¾d per lb.

JAVA.—Ledgeriana, branch, 5½; hybrid branch, 4¼d per lb. The auction that was to be held at Amsterdam on July 23 would consist of 6,647 bales and 331 cases, weighing 611,293 kilos., Java bark.

Twelve bales of Cartagena of recent import sold cheaply at 1½d per lb., and 3 bales hard flat native Calisaya-bark sold at 1s 5d for sound and 1s for second-class country damaged.

QUININE.

A higher tendency has developed during the week, and the market closes at higher rates. Several sales were made early in the week at 10¾d per oz. for spot, and since then 20,000 oz. at 10½d per oz. for August delivery. There are now buyers of December delivery at 11d.

CARDAMOMS.

Lower, 96 packages being sold partly without reserve. Medium to bold palish plump Mysore sold at 1s 8d, brown bold 1s 1d to 1s 2d, the bold from the same parcel being held for 2s. Small thin Mysore, 2 cases, sold at 10d, brown at 8½d, split at same price, and fair to good seeds at 1s to 1s 1d per lb. Medium brown Mangalores sold at 11d; small, 6½d to 8d; splits, 9d; seeds, 11d. Small to medium Malabars, brown, sold at 7½d to 8d, without reserve.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.02d., JULY 10TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry Prospect	120½c	7½	21½c	7½ 8¼	84½c	6¾ 7	14½c	7½ 8½	1½c	6½	...	...	...	...
Travancore	1113	6.40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashley	65	6	...	...	35	†6	25	†6¼	...	...	...	...	5	5¾
Balamore	200½c	6	...	...	126½c	6	64½c	6¼	...	...	6½c	5	4½c	5¼
Corrimony	140½c	6	...	...	59½c	6¼	55½c	6½	21½c	6	1½c	5	4½c	5¼
Isfield T Co I	10	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	...	...	...	...
Ladrum	120	6½	28	†6½	47	6½	22	7	11	6	...	...	13	6½
Lockhart	78½c	7¼	39	7 9	39½c	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Munja Malai	16	7	...	...	...	...	16	†7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seafeld	149½c	6½	...	...	82½c	6¼ 6½	40½c	6¾	24½c	6	1½c	5¼	2½c	5¼
S I T Co Kud. Ka...	159 p	6½	114	6½ †6¾	...	...	...	...	28	6¼	...	...	17 p	5½ 6¼
S T T Co Venture...	155 p	6½	...	...	60	6¾	52	†6¾	33	6¼	...	...	10½c	5¾
Woodlands	21½c	5¾	...	...	21½c	5¾	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to

CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.



His Majesty  
The King.



# PLANTING.

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1903.

[No. 31.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 14th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### THE U. P. A. S. I. MEETING.

A REPORT of the proceedings at the 1903 Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. is given in our present issue. We cannot, however, review these proceedings fully to-day. Every year, in fact, the impression deepens that as the speeches of various delegates are studied more closely, and as the resolutions passed receive consideration day after day, their interest becomes greater. On the present occasion there had been a probability that the very keystone of the constitution of the Association would have to be disturbed. Happily, however, the discussion that occurred in Committee caused a removal of some of the difficulties that threatened the prosperity of the U. P. A., and a way was seen to deal with others without resort to drastic measures. The constitution of the Association continues unchanged, therefore; and the subject was not entered in the final agenda paper laid before the meeting. Sufficient is said in the Secretary's Report to show that there is not adequate provision in the form of current income to meet the demands of normal expenditure. Some minor economies are to be introduced, and if the Coffee industry revives and as the Tea industry progresses there may be a nearer approach to financial equilibrium. As regards Reserves the Association is more fortunately situated; and a liberal vote has been made in aid of the endeavour to bring Indian Coffee prominently before the American public through the medium of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. This is a source of peculiar satisfaction to us. We have steadily advocated utilising the exceptional opportunity that will be afforded by the Exhibition at St. Louis. Not very long ago it appeared as

if a large number of planters had not been convinced by the arguments of those who thought that a strenuous attempt should be made to exploit the American coffee market. Now, the grant of Rs.10,000 has been voted, and we shall be greatly disappointed if the various Governments and District Associations interested do not raise this amount to Rs.25,000, a sum that should admit of a really representative display. In this connection there are just two points upon which we would lay stress. The first is the Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH's opinion that the opening up of the United States to Indian (and Ceylon?) Tea dates from the Chicago Exhibition. The second point is that which was strongly urged by Mr. H. P. HODGSON, *viz.* that an Exhibition is but a means to an end. Planters' work, if it is to be successful, must not end with the supply of exhibits. The Exhibition should be utilised to *create* a demand, and arrangements must also be made to meet that demand, if and when it is created. If this be borne in mind, the money to be spent on the St. Louis Exhibition should subsequently prove to have been well spent.

The chief interest of the proceedings centred in the discussion of the Madras Planters' Labour Act, I. of 1903. Much of this discussion was conducted in Committee, but the most important arguments were afterwards summed up in the remarks of various speakers in open meeting. The resolution thanking the Government was supported by the delegates of every Association. There were several delegates from Associations that did not fully approve of the measure; but the general feeling was that the Madras Government had done a great deal to further the wishes of planters and that it was but fair that the Act should have a trial. If, as is expected in regard to various districts, this trial causes material faults or defects to be exposed, the planters interested will have something practical to go upon when again approaching the Government and urging that amendments be introduced. The discussion may be described as exhaustive. It was not an attempt to scrutinise the Act



section by section, to pick holes, or to suggest improvements. Rather was it a declaration on the part of almost every planting district, through its particular spokesman, of conditions in each district that had to be taken into consideration. There was a consensus of opinion that Act XIII. of 1859 ought to be retained as an alternative to the new Act, and this was given expression to in the resolution on the subject. It is well understood that Government decline to allow this method of picking and choosing between the old Act and the new; so the U. P. A. S. I. has accepted the inevitable and has decided to use its influence with District Associations to get them to give the Act a trial. More than this could scarcely be done. As a matter of fact, now that the Act has been passed, it becomes a matter for discussion by District Planting Association rather than by the United Association.

It appears to us that an equally wise line of action has been decided upon in regard to the great question of the day, that of an inquiry into the Fiscal Policy of the Empire. Planters support the movement in favour of such an inquiry. We believe it may be said of them as a body that they hope that this inquiry will tend to changes in the direction that has been indicated in Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S recent speeches; and they urge, rightly, that India is, and must always be regarded as, an integral part of the British Empire, and that in any inquiry of the kind under reference India's interests must be considered side by side with those of other units of Empire. There is little also in the way of details that we need comment upon at present. Judged by the tone of the debates, the quality of the speeches, the earnestness of the speakers, the meeting takes high rank among meetings of the U. P. A. S. I.; and that is saying a great deal in its praise. There is always a certain amount of desultory discussion in the Committee stages of these proceedings, but it is marvellous how the chaff is sifted out, and how planters eventually arrive at some sort of a practical agreement as to what they want and how to try to get it, or what they ought to do, and how to do it. At few meetings of similar magnitude and importance is there a greater display of tact, conciliatory disposition, sound common-sense, and even eloquence. From its early years to now the Association has been fortunate in its selection of Chairmen and "Planting Members," and this has contributed no little to its smooth and progressive working.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**The Coffee Market.**—A holiday quiet prevailed in the market last week, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of July 7th. In the option market prices weakened and are near to the lowest prices from which there was no mean advance a fortnight ago. In actual coffee, prices remain as a rule unchanged from the slight advance recently noted. The world's visible supply increased 45,000 bags rather than decreased, making a total for July in excess of 11,900 bags, the largest on record for a July 1, the beginning of the new

crop year. Therein lies the cause of the weakening market. In actual coffee the lower grades remain temporarily scarce.

Brazil markets hold firm and, as usual, are higher than New York. There is no pressure to sell anywhere. Quotations for spot invoices are: 5c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5½ to 5¾c. for Rio No. 4, and 5½ to 6½c. for Santos No. 4. The jobbing business is reported light.

In mild coffee, while good roasting coffee is always in demand, and commands a good figure, prices are slightly easier, owing to heavy receipts and spiritless demand. Good Cucuta is 8c. East India kinds are quiet and unchanged.

Total stock in United States July 1, 2,461,664 bags, against 2,438,514 bags July 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States July 3, in store and afloat, 2,383,028 bags against 2,499,787 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 413,897 bags, against 311,713 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York July 3, 1,846,981. Stock in New York in other coffees, July 1, 311,198, in San Francisco, 94,087 bags, and in New Orleans, 8,664 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, July 1, 11,900,173 bags.

\* \* \*

**French Coffee Duties.**—Regarding the proposed increased in the tariff on coffee by France, M. Rouvier, Minister of Commerce, after hearing a protest by a deputation of Havre, Marseilles, and Bordeaux coffee men, replied that budget considerations had compelled him to raise the duty by 20f., and said that he would ask for the denunciation of the Franco-Brazilian Treaty before June 30, in order that the new tariff might be applied before the end of the year.

\* \* \*

The fall of Coffee prices is exemplified by the following statement:—In 1810 Java coffee prices were in Holland 46 cents (American money) a pound. In 1902 13½ cents a pound. The lowest price on record was in 1830, 8.4c. a pound.

\* \* \*

The receipts of coffee at New Orleans for the year ended June 30 were 883,355 bags, an increase of 70,681 bags compared with receipts one year ago. The city takes great pride in this showing as may be seen from the following comment of the *New Orleans Picayune*:

"In addition to Brazilian coffee, this port also imports considerable Mexican and Central American coffee. While we are yet a long way behind New York, we have far outstripped every other port, and there is no reason to give up hoping that eventually we will take first place as a coffee importing port."

\* \* \*

The following rules for the fixing of official quotations of Coffee, and concerning dealings at "1½d. prices," have been agreed upon between the trade and the L. P. C. H. company, to come into force on the 1st instant:—1. That the mean price shall be taken where the difference between buyers and sellers is more than 1½d., leaning to sellers' price where the difference between buyers and sellers is more than 3d. 2. That the sellers' price shall fix the quotation where the difference between buyers and sellers is only 1½d., thus acknowledging a 1½d. price as an official quotation for purposes of margins only. 3. That business done at the "call" shall not necessarily, of itself, fix the quotation: for example, if only 250 bags December are done at 25s. 6d., and several buyers thereat, the Chairman shall have the power to make the quotation 25s. 7½d. 4. That the Chairman shall fix the quotations in the above manner, but any dispute as to a quotation given by the Chairman shall be decided by a show of hands at the "call." 5. That a 1½d. price for 250 bags



Coffee shall not be acknowledged (*i.e.*, 1½d., 4½d., 7½d., or 10½d.), and that quantities dealt in at a 1½d. price shall be divisible by 500.

\* \* \*

Another coffee crop has been garnered and a new one started rolling up its millions of bags, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 7th ultimo. The present one just closed will probably be found to have yielded nearly 17,000,000 bags, which is about 1,000,000 bags more than the world is prepared to consume. Brazil is definitely known to have yielded 12,324,000 bags, a figure much larger than the boldest dared to predict last year. And what tale will she tell next year? From the manner in which the Brazilians continue growing coffee despite the very low prices, it would seem that the price has not yet sunk below profit and cost, and such being the case coffee will be offered in excessive production, and from the manner in which the planters are making ready to ship the crop now gathered an aggregation fully as large or nearly so as the 1902 bumper crop will be presented to the world. Fifteen million bags Brazilian are entirely too much for us one and all, but inasmuch as the Brazilians consent to be so painstakingly generous, what else is to be done but to take what is offered so cheaply and be happy? It is in ill wind that blows nobody good.

\* \* \*

The cheapening of the price of coffee in late years has caused the discontinuance of much of the former adulteration of ground coffee, but another thing has helped, namely, the growing practice of the purchase of the article in the whole bean or else in a freshly-ground state, the retailer grinding the coffee at the time of purchase. The old-time mixture was made up somewhat as follows: 2½ lbs. roasted coffee, 4 lbs. roasted peas, 2 lbs. roasted rye, 1 lb. roasted chicory, ½ lb. other ingredients, making ten pounds of so-called ground coffee. This was harmless, even wholesome, but it must have left an impression upon the palate of something wanting.

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The 1903-04 crop of coffee promises to be one of the largest ever harvested. That insures low prices and growing consumption. We look forward, says the *American Grocer*, to "deliveries of 20,000,000 bags yearly inside of three years."

\* \* \*

Brazil has abandoned its new scheme of taxation of low-grade coffee. No Government has ever yet been able to set aside the law of supply and demand, says a New York paper. It is stronger than legislative enactment. The silver men discovered that fact.

\* \* \*

The people as well as the trade are not so much governed by sentiment in relation to Java coffee as they were formerly, says the *American Grocer*. The popular notion, not many years since, was that Java coffee was unapproachable for body and flavour. Now they have learned that Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, and the Sao Paulo district in Brazil produce some of the finest coffee ever grown. The magic of the names Java and Mocha is less potent than in years ago.

\* \* \*

**Excessive Apparent Consumption of Coffee.**—A Bremen firm, Fink & Weindig, have something to say on this subject, to wit:

"In regard to the heavy consumption we desire to say that the so-called deliveries in 1901-1903 have been very large. The average

deliveries during 1896-1900, according to Duuring's statistics, were 815,000 tons per year; that is, about 68,000 tons per month. Admitting an increase in consumption of 10 per cent., we arrive at an average of 75,000 tons. That is counting fully; now, in spite of this the registered deliveries have been from July 1, 1901, to end of June, 1902, 945,000 tons, and from July 1, 1902, to end of June, 1903, 983,000 tons, making a total for twenty-four months of 1,928,000 tons, or 80,000 tons per month!

"Is it possible that consumption has increased since 1896-1901, *i.e.*, within three or five years, 12,000 tons per month? It seems to us that 7,000 tons would be enough. Now, there were delivered within twenty-four months (1901-1903) at least 120,000 tons, or about 2,000,000 bags too much. That is to say, the coffee has been transferred, after discharge from the vessels, direct to the interior. America has her warehouses in the different large cities. Hamburg has shipped northward, to Sweden, Russia the Baltic and to the interior of the Continent. The result is that the consumers, the merchants or the dealers in the interior, must have handsome stocks. These invisible stocks must play an important part at a given moment. The consumption is large, but not as large as people would like it to be, and the position still seems charged enough not to engage in the article and to continue to be on our guard. If one wishes to obtain the new crop at such low prices as to leave a margin upward, that moment is as yet not in the air."

\* \* \*

**The Making of Coffee.**—The world "do move," says an American paper. Here is a seventeenth century recipe for making coffee:

"To make the drink that is now much used, called coffee. The coffee berries are to be bought at any druggist's, about seven shillings the pound. Take what quantity you please, and over a charcoal fire, in an old fryingpan, keep them always stirring until they be quite black, and when you crack one with your teeth that it is black within as it is without, yet if you exceed, then do not waste the Oyl; and if less, then will it not deliver its Oyl; and if you should continue fire till it be white, it will then make no coffee, but only give you its salt. Beat and force through a lawn sieve. Take clear water, and boil one-third of it away, and it is fit for use. Take one quart of this prepared water, put in it one ounce of your prepared coffee, and boil it gently one hour, and it is fit for your use; drink one-quarter of a pint as hot as you can sip it. It doth abate the fury and sharpness of the Acrimony, which is the gender of the Diseases called Cronical."

\* \* \*

The arrivals of coffee in the United States during the twelve months ended July 1, were 6,871,027 bags, of which 5,616,984 bags were Brazilian and 1,254,093 mild, against total arrivals during the same period concluded in 1902 of 7,905,815 bags.

The deliveries of coffee in the United States in the twelve months were 6,847,877 bags of which 5,695,970 bags were Brazilian and 1,151,907 bags mild, against a total of 6,663,569 bags one year ago. Arrivals exceed deliveries by 24,150 bags. It would thus appear that at least the United States manages to consume as much coffee as in the years previous. Indeed deliveries compared with one year ago increased 152,000 bags, and it would seem that somewhat of the surplus stock imported one year ago has been encroached upon. The excess of arrivals over deliveries one year ago was 1,242,000 bags. The total arrivals of coffee in United States and Europe last year were 19,013,367 bags and total deliveries 15,516,663 bags.

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News from Maracaibo is that supplies of coffee are now moving more freely than heretofore in the interim and that shipments of 150,000 bags may presently be expected.

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Just to contradict the alleged injuriousness of coffee drinking, T. M. Procter, of Essex, Mass., has written a letter to acclaim coffee's values for longevity and prolonged good health. He began, he says, drinking coffee when he was 10 years old and his 83rd year still finds him drinking it. He sometimes drinks three cups a day.

\* \* \*

The Millwaukee Coffee Company has procured from the Governor of Vera Cruz a concession exempting from taxation a coffee mill to be inaugurated soon at Jalapa, the capital of the State.



The very unusual and highly valuable testimonial of President Roosevelt in praise of Porto Rico coffee is probably the result of the visit in the Winter of the President's daughter to the West Indian Island. It will be remembered that Miss Roosevelt was entertained as might be the daughter of a royal house, and no doubt the young lady was as surprised as was the mainland by the heartiness of the welcome and its elaborate extent. Fruit seems to be the conversion of the White House to the use of the coffee grown on the island, which no doubt Miss Roosevelt drank under the most delicious auspices. In token of appreciation, as soon as the conversion became complete, we have now the publication of the fact at the hands of the President himself. He knows that coffee is no inconsiderable part of the prosperity of the island, and to help it out of the slough of despond into which it has fallen by reason of the heartless elements of weather and war, he recommends the American people to use Porto Rico coffee. What is good enough to be drunk at the White House should be good enough for the American people, who quadriennially place a ruler there, is the argument. The testimonial is really priceless, and if the Porto Rico coffee-growers do not promulgate it for all that there is in it, they are unable to understand the knocking of fortune, which apparently is ready to be so liberal that the coffee shall become a household word and article of use, and to the extent that it shall be a surprise to suggest further that the coffee be protected by a tariff. That, moreover, would embarrass the administration, and since the President has given the example of noblesse oblige the Porto Ricans should be as punctilious in their regards and thanks.

While the brokers quote the market dull, without "animation," the coffee deliveries for the year in the States beat all records.

The Police have arrested a couple of coffee speculators, whose office is at 79, Fulton Street, Brooklyn. These two men, James A. O'Brien and A. S. Biles, are charged with swindling a Virginian out of \$1,779. They advertised a "wonderful" process for making superior coffee out of the lower grades, and the Virginian bit. He sent on his money and neither saw it nor heard of the advertisers until a few days ago, when he came to New York and found the two men at 79, Fulton Street, Brooklyn, where they were running a coffee store. Other complaints have been received against the accused. Bags in the store supposed to contain coffee were found to be actually filled with sawdust.

### TEA NOTES.

**London Tea Market.**—Cabling to Colombo on 30th ultimo Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton report that the market generally is steady and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 6⅞d. (⅛d. down). The average for the same period last year was 6¼. Reuter reports that the tone of Ceylon tea, common and fine qualities, is very firm. Medium to fair medium dull. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 5½d. (same as last week) and the average for the week is 7d. (same as last week). 32,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 29,000 disposed of. Indian tea:—Packages offered 12,000 and sold 11,000. Average price of Indian tea 7¾d. (⅛d. higher than last week).

**Tea Samples for the U. S.**—Assistant Secretary Armstrong has instructed collectors of customs that as tea is now on the free list no objections will be interposed to the importation by mail without examination sample packages of tea weighing up to 12 ounces. Hitherto these packages have been limited in weight to three ounces.

The Indian and Ceylon tea interests are pushing packet teas in the United States, the sale of which is increasing. Besides the English and Canadian tea packers are the local jobbers, who are putting up blends under proprietary labels, and competing for trade against the extensively advertised tea of London firms. In many stores demonstration booths are maintained, and good tea is served free.

**American Taste.**—Judging from the past, says the *Merchants' Review*, it will be a long while before India and Ceylon teas become as popular here as the Chinas and Japans. The latter suit the American taste.

**Ceylon Oolong.**—There appears, remarks the *Merchants' Review*, to be some doubt as to whether Mr. Larkin, the Salada tea packer, was right in recommending the packing of a Ceylon Oolong tea in the hope of winning a greater share of the American trade, the object being to introduce the Ceylon Oolong as a substitute for Formosa Oolong. It is objected that the market here for the Formosa Oolong is not extensive enough to warrant a trial of Mr. Larkin's suggestion, at least that is the inference we draw from an article in the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, but we believe that American consumers would prefer the Formosa Oolong if they could get it. What chance have they to make a choice? They must buy what the grocer offers, for he is the arbiter. This suggestion of Mr. Larkin's is a valuable one, provided it is possible to imitate the real Formosa leaf on Ceylon plantations. It may be possible to do so, for all grades of China tea are made from the same plant, and the wide variations in flavour are due chiefly to the differences in the processes of curing. Note, for instance, the difference between the flavour of English breakfast tea (Congou or Souchong) and that of Oolong, although all three teas belong to the black leaf variety. Compare also the flavour of red leaf Congou and that of green Pingsuey. If these differences can be produced by curing alone, why cannot the qualities of China tea be closely copied by the Ceylon growers? The Ceylon Oolongs would sell freely enough, provided the resemblance were not an imaginary one.

**Tea in the United States.**—The United States is perhaps the best customer for Japanese tea, and yet we take less from the Japanese than from the Chinese, says the *Merchants' Review*. During the eleven months of the fiscal year, when the gross tea imports of this country aggregated 104,266,416 pounds, against only 73,246,228 pounds in the same eleven months of 1902 and 85,783,747 pounds in corresponding period of 1901, the imports from China were 54,732,000 pounds and from Japan 35,359,000 pounds, whereas the East Indies sent us only 6,290,000 pounds and the United Kingdom 5,494,000 pounds. These two quantities should be combined in order to show the gross imports of Ceylon and India tea, and the resulting total shows a remarkable increase of the trade in those teas. We would suggest that an average of 87,795,493 pounds imported during eleven months of 1901, 1902, and 1903 furnishes a very good supply for the American market, and as over 104,000,000 pounds have arrived between July 1, 1902, and May 30, 1903, there is no reason to fear a shortage of tea during the remainder of the calendar year.

The average import value of tea per pound during the past eleven months was 14.15c., as compared with 12.42c. per lb.



in the full fiscal year 1902, 12·18c. in 1901, 12·45c. in 1900, 13·05c. in 1899, and 14·16c. in 1898. The rise in price means increased profits for the growers, rather than a rise in quality.

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**Colombo Tea Sales.**—On 29th ultimo prices were steady for teas up to about 38 cents, but buyers showed less inclination to buy medium kinds, and prices for these were irregular, with an easier tendency, particularly for Broken Pekoes. The best invoices were well competed for at firm rates. Green teas showed a fractional decline.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market locally is quiet and in prices unchanged, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of July 7. In the East the markets continue provokingly high. The consequence here is that very few buying orders arrive, and general dullness prevails. Furthermore, in many instances sellers in the country to consumers are well supplied, and inclined in consequence to hold off from new teas until prices should ease, if that is to happen. Rather than buy, they will draw on their stock chest by chest, and the diminution being gradual, the realization of a depleted stock will come suddenly. Then, as many think, will occur a general rush in the sellers' favour, which remains to be seen.

More Congous may go out, for there is again inquiry from London at New York. London will take any kind of cheap tea. In the East Congous are still 10 at the lowest for United States government standard.

New high-grade Japans are nearly all sold, if not entirely so, and at high figures as during the last year. Contemplation rests on the common grades always most in demand, and it is the belief that these will rule lower. As the export of Japan teas this season will be in excess of 40,000,000 lbs. it would seem that there will be enough to go around at reasonable rates; the quantity itself should hold prices down, and a further factor is the Ceylon greens, which intend competing with the Japans, and may this year to the extent of 7,000,000 pounds. There will also be 4,000,000 lbs. India greens. As there has been an extension of the tea subsidy equal to 75 per cent. of that allowed for the first 7,000,000 they may be a much larger output by Ceylon greens. Much will depend on the more profitable attraction of Ceylon blacks' prices to the growers.

New India and Ceylon blacks are generally reported less in quantity than one year ago, and so there is in not a few lines firming up in prices.

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The imports of tea into the U. S. during May were 1,933,737 pounds for eleven months ending May, 104,266,416 pounds; for eleven months ending May, 104,266,416 and 85,783,747 pounds in 1901. The Chinese Empire furnished 53 per cent. of the total; Japan, 33½ per cent. Imports from the East Indies and the United Kingdom and British North America were 13,716,260 pounds, against 7,846,190 pounds in 1902. A good increase that for British-grown tea.

\* \* \*

Settlements of tea at Yokohama to May 31 were 81,328 piculs; at Kobe to May 29, 37,365 piculs; total, 118,693 piculs, against 66,158 piculs last season. The bulk of tea was of grades commanding 40 to 49 yen per picul; lowest price paid, 23 yen; highest, 60 yen.

Japan tea market very firm in the American market. It is reported by cable to New York that the second crop will be much below that of last season.

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The total quantity of tea exported from New York since January 1 up to July 1st is 60,988 packages, mostly Congous.

\* \* \*

The tea-producing capacity, at Natal, is limited to an area of 3,000 acres, and the labour is imported from India at a great expense. The import duty of 6d. per lb. protects the colonial tea.

\* \* \*

New crop tea at New York range from 25 to 40c. for Japan, 16 to 40c. for Formosa, and 14 to 35c. for Congou.

\* \* \*

Great Britain and Russia prefer Congous to other Chinese teas. The United States prefers Japan teas to ordinary China teas, and uses but little Congou leaf. The great consumption of tea outside of the producing countries is among the English-speaking nations:

## NOTES.

### The Development of Mexico.

The American Tropical Planters' Company of Chicago has been incorporated in Delaware to develop lands in Mexico, marketing crops of coffee, vanilla, cocoa, and tropical plants, capital \$100,000.

### Pepper in Trinidad.

During 1902-03 Black Pepper (*piper nigrum*) grew freely at St. Clair, Trinidad, and for the first time produced a small quantity of berries. It has fruited regularly for some years in the older botanical garden in that island.

### Scientific Investigation in Mysore.

Dr. Butler, Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India, and Mr. Lefroy, Entomologist to the same Government, are expected to visit Mysore Province very shortly.

### Singapore Rubbers.

Samples of rubber from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, have been valued at from 4s. to 4s. 1d. per 10, pancake form, and from 3s. to 3s. 3d. scrap. The quality is said to be very good. Some other rubber from the Straits Settlements, Pará variety, has been valued at 4s. 3d. to 4s. 5d.

### Another Rubber-Producer.

A new rubber-producing creeper, called *Rhynchodia Wallichii*, has been discovered in the Pegu district by Mr. Hearsey, Divisional Forest Officer, Shwegyin. This creeper is found growing abundantly on low land in light forests on both sides of the railway line in the Nyaunglebin sub-division, but is liable to destruction by *potta* soldiers.

### Rubber and Tea.

An experienced planter just back from a visit to Kalutara tells the *Times of Ceylon* that two years ago planters made the mistake of planting rubber trees among fine tea. They were then taking a hopeless view of tea, but in four years' time they will have to toss up to see which they will cut out—the bushes or the trees! Our visitor admits that there is plenty of land in the low country suitable for rubber where the tea is poor, and that there is plenty of suitable soil right up to Ratnapura and beyond. He found the Kalutara estates he saw free from shot-hole borer—and, of course, of tortrix, Grey blight was to be found, not in patches, but only on single bushes here and there.



**From the United States.**

The coffee trade of the country increases steadily, and the tea trade doesn't, says the *American Grocer*. Coffee is better in quality than in former years, and tea isn't. There, as we believe, is the true explanation. You can't get away from quality in the grocery business. The word is as omnipresent and overpowering as the word "propuppy" in the Northern Farmer poem of Tennyson. Men may sneer at quality, but they can't afford to ignore it and stay in the grocery business. Tea is cheaper than it was, say, ten years ago. So is coffee, but whereas superior coffee is now to be had by the average consumer—coffee that was formerly drunk only by the rich—the average tea-drinker gets no better tea than in former years, and the epicurean tea-drinker finds the very choicest teas no longer abundant.

**Banana Coffee.**

The banana coffee is the richest, most aromatic substitute for the real thing which the writer has ever seen, says the *American Grocer*. The manufacturer is a fruit evaporator of British Guiana, named A. F. Spawn. This is how the idea of making banana coffee was born. A coffee tester and expert in New York was inspecting samples of Mr. A. F. Spawn's evaporated fruits and vegetables, in which was a package of evaporated bananas. With his sensitive smell he detected a rich, natural coffee flavour from the evaporated bananas, and remarked it. This was a tip for Mr. Spawn, and at once he made some experiments, which astonished him, giving the coffee a most delicious flavour. He did not stop there, as he was fully convinced from experiment that he could produce from bananas a perfect substitute for coffee, and has without doubt succeeded. The *Review* has tried the banana coffee and likes it.

**Cacao in the Philippines.**

The importance of cacao growing in the Philippines can hardly be over-estimated, as recent statistics place the world's demand for cacao, exclusive of local consumption, at 200,000,000 pounds valued at more than \$30,000,000 gold. This forms one of the chief articles of commerce in the islands, and is cultivated in nearly every part of the Archipelago. It is grown in several parts of Luzon, Mindanao, Jolo, Basilan, Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol, and Masbate, and its presence can be reasonably predicted upon all the larger islands anywhere under an elevation of 1,000 or possibly 1,200 meters. In most of the cacao producing countries its cultivation has long since passed the experimental stage, and the practices that govern the management of a well-ordered cacao plantation are as clearly defined as those of an orange grove or a vineyard in California. There is little danger of over-production, and consequent low prices for several years to come. So far as is known, the areas where cacao prospers in the great equatorial zone are small and the opening and development of suitable regions has altogether failed to keep pace with the demand for the product. The cacao grown in the Philippines is of such excellent quality that there is keen rivalry among buyers to procure it at an advance of quite fifty per cent. over the common export grades of the Java bean, notwithstanding the failure on the part of the local growers to "process" or cure the product in any way. In parts of Mindanao and Negros, despite ill-treatment, the plant shows a luxuriance of growth and wealth of productiveness that demonstrates its entire fitness to be considered a valuable crop in these regions.

**THE U. P. A. S. I.****ANNUAL MEETING.**

(Chiefly from the *Madras Mail*.)

The Annual General Meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, Incorporated, opened at the Resident's Court, Bangalore, on Monday, the 3rd instant, at 2-30 P.M., Mr. J. A. Harris, Chairman of the Association, presided. The Hon'ble Mr. G. Acworth, "Planting Member" of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George was present, as also were the following

**DELEGATES :**

Annamalais	...	Mr. H. P. Hodgson.
Central Travancore	...	Mr. F. M. Parker.
Coorg	...	Mr. G. K. Martin.
Kanan Devan	...	Mr. E. E. Williams.
Nelliampathis	...	[No delegate.]
Nilgiris	...	Mr. H. P. Hodgson.
	...	Mr. C. H. Brock.
North Mysore	...	Mr. O. Scot-Skirving.
	...	Mr. L. King Church.
South Mysore	...	Mr. F. Norton.
Shevaroy	...	Mr. R. Gompertz.
Travancore Cardamom Hills	...	Mr. F. M. Parker.
Wynaad	...	Mr. Geo. Romilly.

At a Committee Meeting held at 10 A.M. the same day, the following list of

**AGENDA**

was adopted :

1. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
2. Chairman's Address.
3. Work of Planting Member.
4. Currency Notes.
5. Finance.
6. Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904.
7. Voting Powers of Executive Committee.
8. Legislation—
  - (a) Labour Law.
  - (b) Tea Cess Act.
9. Duties—
  - (a) British Duties on Tea, Coffee, etc.; and Differential Duties.
  - (b) Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.
  - (c) Indian Import Duty on Tea.
  - (d) Duties on Pepper, etc., imported into France.
  - (e) Duty on Flowers of Sulphur.
  - (f) Travancore Export Duty on Coffee.
10. Coffee—
  - (a) Markets (including sale in India) and Proposed Coffee Cess.
  - (b) Paris Shop and Advertisement of Coffee.
  - (c) Adulteration.
  - (d) Delegate to Brazil.
  - (e) Quality and Curing.
  - (f) Proposed Commission of Enquiry.
11. Tea—
  - (a) Markets (including sale in India).
  - (b) Green Tea.
12. Agricultural Matters—
  - (a) Products.
  - (b) Fertilisers.
  - (c) Standardization of Fertilisers.
  - (d) Cultivation.
13. Railway and Steamer Freights—
 

Enhanced Coffee Rates on the S. M. R.
14. Roads and Communications.
15. Proposed Harbour on the West Coast.
16. Remission of Assessment on Coffee Land.
17. Weights and Measures in India.
18. Labour Recruiting.
19. Election of Planting Member.
20. Election of Office-bearers (including Secretary) for 1903-04.



# FIRST DAY, August 3.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT,

read and revised in Committee, was taken as read in open meeting and was adopted. It read as follows:—

Towards the close of the year the newly-formed Annamalai Planters' Association was elected a Member of the Association. Mr. J. C. Sanderson alone has represented South Indian Planters' interests with the London Chamber of Commerce. The Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth's term of office as "Planting Member" of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George will expire before the next Annual Meeting, so a fresh election has become necessary.

Official intimation has been received of the gracious acceptance by His Majesty the King-Emperor of the address presented by the Association on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty.

In accordance with the plan adopted last year, reference will first be made to the subjects that have previously come under the notice of the Association, any that have been brought forward this year being dealt with later.

**Madras Labour Law.**—During the year the Madras Planters' Labour Law of 1903 has been passed. The Planting Member, cordially supported by the Hon'ble Sir George Arbuthnot, succeeded in getting certain amendments made in the draft bill, on lines suggested by different Associations, but he was not able to induce the Government to adopt all his suggestions. The Act, as it now stands, has been widely criticised, but it has not yet been applied to any of the planting districts.

**The Indian Tea Cess** has passed into the practical stage. The Association is represented on the Executive Committee entrusted with the administration of the funds; the Madras Chamber of Commerce has also elected a representative on that body; and the interests of the planting community in the South may now be said to be in the charge of Mr. A. D. Jackson and the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth.

**Indian Tea for India.**—A further report on the working of the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission has been published during the year by Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co., the Commissioners. A scheme of a similar kind has been started in Southern India, through the agency of Messrs. Parry & Co., Madras, and is now understood to be making good headway with the propagation of a taste for Indian tea among the population. The above schemes are in no way hostile to each other, and private enterprise has also been stimulated to give considerable attention to the development of "home" consumption of Indian Tea.

**Sale of Indian Coffee in India.**—Various inquiries have been instituted in regard to this important matter, but the Special Committee appointed to deal with it were not able to make a practical start. The suggestion that a Voluntary Cess of Rs.5 per ton should be levied in order to raise necessary funds received only half-hearted support, and on the 12th March, 1903, the members of the Special Committee reported as follows:—

"The Sub-Committee hoped to have been able to place a scheme before District Associations, in time for some steps to be taken this season, but it has taken so much longer than was expected to find out reliable Firms who were willing to undertake the business, also their terms, that it has been impossible to do so. It has now been definitely ascertained that several good firms are willing to undertake the sale of our inferior grades of coffee, but as nothing can be done without funds, and as far as can be gathered from the reports of District Associations, these are not likely to be forthcoming, and the season being far advanced, the Sub-Committee have reluctantly come to the conclusion that any scheme had better remain in abeyance until the next Annual Meeting, when, if it is determined to go on with the matter, the information gathered will be of use, and will certainly save a lot of time.

"As nothing further can be done at present, the Sub-Committee therefore beg to tender their resignation."

**Adulteration of Coffee.**—In accordance with the Resolution passed at the Annual Meeting of 1902, various Chambers of Commerce in India were communicated with. The replies received from them do not encourage the hope that any material support will be received from these bodies.

**Imperial Differential Duties.**—This question has assumed new importance in consequence of the recent utterances of the Colonial Secretary with regard to his idea that a fiscal policy of Imperial

Preference is essential to the welfare of the United Kingdom and the Empire.

An opportunity for discussion will present itself at the Meeting.  
**French Import Tariff.**—It has been officially announced that a satisfactory agreement has been entered into between the French and H. M.'s Government with respect to the duties levied in France on British Indian products imported into that country.

**British Import Duty on Tea.**—A reduction of the present duty has been urged in Parliament without success, but the Home Government's refusal is only final as regards the current financial year, and the tea duty must be taken into consideration once more whenever the suggested revision of British fiscal policy is discussed in Parliament.

**Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904.**—It has been suggested that South Indian Coffee as well as Tea should be exhibited at the great Exhibition that is to be opened at St. Louis in August next, and that the most economical way of arranging this will be found in co-operation with the Indian Tea Association.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—From the replies received from the Government of India and the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore to the requests made for assistance in respect to this matter, it is obvious that a definite scheme must be drawn up, and that planters must give some idea of the extent to which they are prepared to subscribe towards the cost of sending a delegate to Brazil and other important coffee-producing centres to investigate and report upon coffee-cultivation there.

**Indian Import Duty on Seeds.**—The necessary action was taken with reference to the Resolution carried last year, but the Association was informed by the Government of Madras that, as there are administrative objections to the differential treatment of one article for tariff purposes according to the object for which it is intended to be used, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council was not prepared to exempt from customs duty seeds declared to be intended for agricultural or experimental purposes. The Government of India, it was intimated, had further observed that the aggregate value of the seeds so imported is insignificant, and that the relief that would be afforded by exempting them from duty would be too small to justify any departure from what is considered to be a sound customs principle.

**Need of Scientific Assistance.**—With Reference to the resolution on this subject, it was arranged that the Vice-Chairman (Mr. E. G. Windle) should avail himself of an opportunity to make a personal representation to H. E. the Governor of Madras. Effect was promptly given to this arrangement, and in September last the Vice-Chairman reported that the matter had already received sympathetic attention from the Madras Government. Besides applying for an Agricultural Chemist they had also asked for an Entomological Assistant to Mr. Barber, the Government Botanist.

**Pepper Vine Disease.**—In connection with the above it may be said that the Government Botanist, Madras, was duly deputed to investigate the Pepper Vine Disease in the Wynaad and that his report on the subject was issued during the year.

**Cardamoms.**—Some statistics of Imports and Exports of Cardamoms were obtained and circulated. They were also published in *Planting Opinion* and will be republished in the Book of Proceedings, 1903.

**Currency Notes.**—The Government of India have raised an important question with reference to the use of currency notes of higher values than Rs.5 for the purpose of remittances from one station to another. The Association having been invited to express an opinion, the subject has been entered on the Agenda Paper. A definite expression of opinion is desired by the Government of Madras as early as possible in the current month. For this reason the subject is entered high up in the list.

**Accounts** for the period from 22nd July, 1902 to 31st July, 1903 (both dates inclusive) have been duly audited and laid on the table, together with the customary balance-sheet.

**The Reserve Fund** is in the same position as last year, the balance available being Rs.7,059-12-0 of which Rs.7,000 is invested in fixed deposit with the Association's Bankers.

**The Ladybird Fund**, in accordance with the decision arrived at last year, has been transferred bodily to the

**Paris Exhibition Fund**, which now shows a credit balance of Rs.8,076-1-11, of which Rs.5,873-14-3 is represented by investments in  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  Government Paper of the face value of Rs.6,000.

A change in the name of this account is suggested, as the Paris Exhibition is now a thing of the past.



The General Fund shows a balance of Rs.635-13-7 in hand, but it should be noted that the expenditure during the year has exceeded the actual income for the year.

Coffee Fund Cess Account,—a newly-opened fund—shows a sum of Rs.49-12-0 in hand.

The Balance-sheet submitted shows that the Association has a total surplus of Rs.16,156-7-6.

My thanks are due to the Chairman, the Planting Member, and other Councillors, among whom are included the Honorary Secretaries of the various District Planting Associations, for the courtesy they have shown me throughout the correspondence that has been necessary during the year.

#### THE ACCOUNTS,

after scrutiny in Committee, were formally adopted at the Meeting.

#### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. A. Harris) then addressed the Meeting as follows:—

The past year has been remarkable for the passing of two measures of first importance to us, the Madras Planters' Labour Bill, and the Tea Cess Bill. The former I consider is a distinct matter for congratulation. The labour troubles of the planter in S. India were the first grievance that this Association brought to the notice of the Government of India, and it is gratifying that we not only obtained its ear, but a practical result in the shape of the Bill now before us. Our success is in a great measure due to the sympathetic attitude of the Government of Fort St. George throughout the negotiations, and I think an expression at this Meeting of our appreciation of the action of both Governments would be becoming.

The Bill has been received with some hostility in certain quarters, but I would remind those who have criticised it unfavourably that the main points for which we contended are embodied in it, and that because circumstances in some Districts have changed so that there is not now the same necessity for a new law as there was, this is no reason why we should stultify our previous contentions. I would also remind those who regard what may be called the inquisitorial sections with dread, that a Labour Ordinance must of necessity be viewed from two sides, and that as the employer looks for protection from swindling, so the labourer must be guarded against oppression and ill-treatment. It may be as well to point out, on the other hand, with respect to the coffee area, that the fact of any District expressing a wish that the Bill should not be introduced at present need not necessarily be interpreted as disapproval of the measure, but rather that, owing to the critical state of the industry, when a single adverse swing of the pendulum may produce disaster, it hesitates to ask for a new law, the practical working of which has not yet been tested, lest it should find itself subject to disabilities which it is not in a position to bear. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth had a by no means easy task, his difficulties being greatly accentuated by the fact that the revised version of the Bill was not published in time to allow Councillors to meet in consultation. He had, therefore, to extract his instructions from a voluminous correspondence. I think the result shows that he acted with wisdom and discretion, and I feel sure that this Association will show its appreciation of his labours, which were very prolonged, by a unanimous vote of thanks.

The passing of the Tea Cess Bill marks an epoch in planting history. It shows the willingness of Government to legislate in favour of a community taxing itself when it is clear that a large majority deem such tax to be for the general good; and it indicates the firm determination of tea-planters to push their product into all parts of the world. They may be sincerely congratulated on the result. The carrying out of the Resolutions passed at the recent Meeting of the Committee appointed to administer the cess will be watched with keen interest,

especially that which offers a bonus on the manufacture of green teas. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth and Mr. Jackson have earned the thanks of tea-planters in S. India for representing them at this Meeting. It is pleasing to notice that there has been a decided improvement in the tea trade, especially in view of the disappointment that was felt at the refusal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce the duty. I wish I were able to record a similar improvement in coffee. Unfortunately, last season witnessed the lowest prices ever realised for East Indian kinds, and if it had not been for bumper crops the situation would have been more than critical. However, the depression in the industry, which we must hope will gradually pass away, must not be allowed to stifle enterprise. There are several matters of deep interest now before coffee-planters which, if it is demonstrated that they are likely to help their industry, they should not fail to support.

First, there is the coffee cess, with which I regret to say no progress has been made, save that it has been ascertained that several firms of good standing in different parts of the country have expressed their willingness to undertake the business of pushing the sales of lower grade coffees. It is obvious, however, that a voluntary cess will not receive adequate support, and should this Meeting determine that the question of a compulsory one is impracticable, the matter for the time being must be laid aside.

Second, comes the subject of the delegate to Brazil. The Government of India have been good enough to offer to assist us to the extent of Rs 5,000. It seems to be generally agreed that Rs.15,000 would cover the cost of the Mission, and when we have ascertained to-day what support District Associations are prepared to give, we shall be in a position to judge whether the project shall be proceeded with or not.

Third, comes the St. Louis Exhibition. Tea-planters throughout India are making great efforts to be adequately represented, and it would appear that the best chance coffee has is to accept the proposal, which the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth kindly brought forward when he was in Calcutta, for representation in the Tea Show rooms, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made. Funds, however, will be required. You will be asked to-day to consider what this Association on behalf of tea and coffee should subscribe, and I trust delegates have come ready to state what their Associations will give. The large sum that will be devoted by tea-planters to this object is proof of their belief that benefits will ensue, but there seems to be an idea prevalent among coffee-planters that because America has some of the mild coffees near at hand it would be useless to exhibit East Indian. I ask those who hold this view to consider what has been done by Indian tea, which previous to the Chicago Exhibition dealers refused to look at. By effectively exhibiting it there and by vigorous and well-directed efforts subsequently, a large demand was created, which has developed to such an extent that it has, in combination with increased business with Russia, relieved the pressure in London. I see no reason, if only funds be forthcoming, why by like measures we should not bring the United States to recognise the superiority of our coffee. Moreover, the Exhibition, which will be attended by people of all nations, will offer an opportunity of world-wide advertisement.

Last but not least comes the question of the quality and curing of East India coffee, which I am very pleased to see among the Agenda. To coffee-planters, I may say, it looms bigger than any other matter that will be discussed at this Meeting. The past season showed two remarkable features. One, the terribly low rates realised for the bulk of East India coffee, and the other the exceptionally high prices certain Mysore marks fetched. A thorough investigation is demanded, as to whether the quality of E. I. coffee has, generally speaking,



fallen off, and if so what steps may be taken to rectify it. I trust our deliberations will lead to some important practical Resolutions. It does not appear to me that the working of the Paris Shop is satisfactory from our point of view. It is on too small a scale to do the work that we hoped it might accomplish. Mr. Hodgson, however, will I trust give us full information, and we must decide whether we should continue to support it or not. Some sensible letters have appeared in the *Madras Mail* drawing attention to the enormous difference between the price realised by the producer and the price paid by the consumer, which suggest that it might be more profitable to devote funds to direct retailing of our produce than to the above-mentioned institution. Such an enterprise, however, bristles with difficulties, and would have to be approached with great caution.

It is satisfactory to notice that as a result of Dr. Lehmann's interesting Address last year several firms are offering fertilisers with analyses guaranteed, and I trust they will be widely encouraged.

Since our last Meeting the question of preferential duties has been launched by Mr. Chamberlain into the arena of possible, if not practical, politics. This Association has already pronounced itself in favour of such a tariff, but it is a matter of such huge and varied interests, such wide ramifications, and so much light has recently been thrown on it from both points of view, that it could scarcely be called inconsistent if we should pause, before giving our final dictum, until the proposed investigation has taken place. I apprehend that we entirely approve of preferential duties in principle, and should they be shown to be feasible, would cordially welcome them. As the question, however, is still, as it were, *sub judice*, it would perhaps be wise to express in the Resolution that we shall pass to-day our entire approval of the inquiry that is being made, and our hope that the result will be to show that a Commercial Union between the various parts of the Empire is practicable, and would be likely to be, as we anticipate, a boon to all who would enter into it. Thanking the Planting Member, the Councillors, and the Secretary for the support they have accorded me during my year of office I place my resignation in the hands of this Meeting. (Cheers.)

#### THE WORK OF THE PLANTING MEMBER.

The next business on the Agenda was the statement to be made by the Hon'ble the Planting Member of the work he had been able to do in that capacity. The Hon'ble Mr. Acworth said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I do not think there is anything to tell you more than you have already seen in the Press of my work as Planting Member. It has been almost wholly in connection with the Labour Bill, about which I shall not say anything just now, as it has a Section in the Agenda Paper and will be more fully discussed later. The only other matter that came up during the year was the Impartible Estates Bill, a sort of sequel to the Court of Wards Bill. I would here take the opportunity of warning members of this Association that if they wish to enter into agreements with Zemindars for leases of lands either for planting, mining or other purposes, it would be just as well for them to find out before doing so, whether the estate in question is on the schedule of the Impartible Estates Bill or not. If it is, they will have to take care to obtain the sanction of the Collector in whose charge the Zemindary is situated prior to entering on a contract, otherwise they will find that their contract will not be approved by the Government and will become null and void. I have nothing else to say, gentlemen, unless anybody has any questions to ask me. If nobody has any questions to ask, I now beg to place my resignation in your hands, as my term of office shortly expires, and ask you to elect another Planting

Member for the ensuing period, as I do not propose to seek re-election.

I have now served four years and have always endeavoured to do the work the office entailed conscientiously and to the best of my ability. I well know, particularly in the case of the Labour Bill, that I was not able to please everybody; but I never hoped to be able to do so. I was absolutely certain when the matter first came up that there would be a certain amount of friction and, I say it with regret, a certain amount of ill-feeling. I have very much to regret the intemperance of certain letters which I received, letters which made my work very much more difficult, inasmuch as their intemperance made it impossible for me to place them before the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill. At the same time I admit that I received very great assistance from many Associations. I could not have got the work through but for this assistance so freely rendered. I would here express my regret that I was not sufficiently acquainted with the subject of local labour to do justice to the views of those employing that labour as we have none of that particular class of labour on our Hills. It was only after the Bill came under discussion and during the discussion that I really grasped the importance of local labour and its peculiar conditions. I think, therefore, that in this respect some other gentleman might have served your interests better than I have done. At the same time I did my best and I know that you all recognise that (hear, hear). I know that you all recognise that from the cordial votes of thanks accorded to me by almost every Association. Indeed, I may say by every Association but one, and I know that in that Association many members were absent from the Meeting whose votes would have swung the pendulum the other way, and would have converted the vote of censure into one of thanks.

I have now to lay my resignation in your hands; I do not seek re-election and I desire to thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me (cheers).

Mr. F. M. PARKER (Travancore Cardamom Hills) said that it was a matter for regret that the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth, the godfather of the Labour Act, was not able to remain in office long enough to see the infant walk. It would, he thought, be to the interest of the Association and to the Act itself, if he was able to see it through its first stages.

#### CURRENCY NOTES.

The CHAIRMAN, in connection with this subject, said that the Government of India had made a proposal which would tend to restrict the circulation of Currency Notes. Its proposal was that notes issued by a Sub-Circle—with the exception of Rs.5 notes—should not be encashable at the Circles. The proposal would only affect the Association so far as Calicut was concerned because there were only two offices of issue in this Presidency, namely, Calicut and Madras, and notes issued by the Calicut office would no longer be encashable at Madras. It seemed to him that anything that interfered with the free circulation of currency notes was to be deprecated, as it was a distinct advantage in commercial circles that there should be free circulation of currency notes. As the Bengal Chamber of Commerce had opposed the proposal he did not think they could do better than support the action that body had taken.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH, in seconding the proposal, read the summing up of the letter in which the Bengal Chamber of Commerce had opposed the proposal.

Mr. R. GOMPERTZ (Shevaroy) said that this was a matter which affected a wider circle than planters, and while he would support all that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce had said, he would go a little further and point out that the time had come when Government Currency Notes, of whatever Circle, should be encashable in every Treasury in India. He quoted largely from a previous speech he made on the subject



at a Meeting of the Association in 1897. In advocating his proposal he said that Government had made the general taxpayer a great bugbear, by insisting that trade would be benefited at the expense of the general taxpayer. He did not believe this. The proposal would be for the convenience of everyone, and it was the business of Government to consult the convenience of its subjects, and this was a good opportunity for doing so.

The Meeting then proceeded to discuss the matter in Committee, when the following Resolutions were passed and afterwards confirmed in open Meeting.

Proposed from the Chair "That this Association is in accord with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and desires to support the policy it has laid down."

Proposed by Mr. GOMPERTZ and seconded by Mr. Romilly, "That the U. P. A. S. I. takes this opportunity of stating that in its opinion all Government currency notes should be encashable at every Treasury in India, without reference to its Circle of issue, because (1) it would encourage and foster trade, (2) it would be a great convenience to the public generally, since it would popularise currency notes and increase their circulation, and (3) because in consequence of the enormous profit to it in issuing notes, it can very well afford to do so."

#### THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. L. ACWORTH, in opening the discussion on this subject, said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—It seems rather absurd to say over again all that I said this morning; but it is necessary to do so in order that it may be recorded in our Book of Proceedings. When I was in Calcutta last June, in connection with the Tea Cess Fund, the Committee determined to devote Rs.50,000 of their funds towards the St. Louis Exhibition. In one way and another, they hoped to altogether make up the sum of £10,000. I was asked whether the scheme would have our approval and whether we in South India would do anything to assist it. I suggested that I thought this Association would be willing to contribute to the Exhibition a sum of Rs.20,000 or Rs.25,000, provided Coffee and Cardamom were allowed to be exhibited in the same room with tea, and that coffee should be served in the cup in the same room as tea. I think the Indian Tea Association would be quite willing to agree to these terms and to allow our products to be exhibited alongside of theirs. I propose making up the funds necessary by a contribution of, say, Rs.10,000 from this Association; and I hoped we should make up the balance by contributions from the various local Governments which have always been generous to the planter on these occasions. On contributing Rs.20,000 or Rs.25,000 the Indian Tea Association would be willing to let us in and I hope to be able to tell them to-night that we have got the first Rs.10,000. I see from the Paris Exhibition Fund that we have Rs.8,076 to our credit; Mr. Hodgson, I think, will refund £120 from the Paris Shop Fund, making a total of Rs.9,876, which leaves a balance of Rs.124 only to be found, about which there will be no difficulty. That is the position and I would ask you to sanction an expenditure of this sum of Rs.10,000 towards the St. Louis Exhibition.

Mr. F. M. PARKER seconded the proposition.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON said that both as the representative of the Nilgiri and Annamalai Associations he was in favour of the proposal to exhibit their coffee at the St. Louis Exhibition if it could be done, Mr. Acworth had suggested the means by which it could be legitimately done. A fund of over Rs.8,000 had been raised for the express purpose of Exhibitions and it was only transferring the money from the Paris Exhibition to the St. Louis Exhibition, a legitimate transfer, as had been shown that day in Committee. He only repeated the

statement in order that it might be recorded. From what he had learned at home the results of advertising at Exhibitions had proved useless. Unless advertisement in the shape of exhibits is followed up by supplies, it was only money thrown away. At the Paris Exhibition their coffee and tea were both exhibited and distributed in cup. Large numbers of people liked them and appreciated them, and after the Exhibition considerable enquiries were made for both; but, as a matter of fact, none was to be had by people who wished to get them. The demand that had been created was lost and the money that had been spent on the Exhibition to create this demand was also lost. He would, therefore, like planters to bear in mind that if they are prepared to spend this sum of money on exhibiting their produce, they must also make some arrangements to see that the demand created is followed up by supplies. The Indian Tea Association would see that this was done in the case of tea, but he was afraid that it would not be done in the case of coffee. He, therefore, wanted coffee-planters to be prepared to arrange to follow up any demand for coffee that may arise after the Exhibition with supplies of coffee to meet it.

Mr. ROMILLY said that he agreed with what Mr. Hodgson had said. It always seemed to him that money spent on Exhibitions was money thrown away unless it was part of a big scheme of advertisement, Exhibitions did no good to anybody except it might be to the Railways, hotel keepers and the local people connected with them. He mentioned that in a letter to Mr. Acworth, who replied that it was the Chicago Exhibition which had really started Indian tea in America. It was then merely a case of following up advertisement with supplies. As Mr. Hodgson had said, all the money spent—and a large sum had been spent—on the Paris Exhibition, was practically money thrown away. He would, therefore, strongly advise them to consider what more money they could spend afterwards, and not consider as final the mere act of advertising their produce at the St. Louis Exhibition.

The CHAIRMAN said:—I think, with reference to what has fallen from Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Romilly that it would be advisable for us to formulate some scheme of backing up the proposal to exhibit at the St. Louis Exhibition. I think the best way to do that would be to appoint a Sub-Committee to consider the matter and bring forward some proposals. We have, I know, done that very often and such proposals have had no result. I should like to ask Mr. Acworth whether if the Rs.25,000 is subscribed by us, the Indian Tea Association would consider it sufficient to cover the representation of our tea, coffee and cardamoms.

Mr. ACWORTH: I presume so.

The CHAIRMAN, continuing: If we can get this sum in the manner suggested, I would propose that the money we would get from District Associations, etc., should be devoted to backing up the scheme.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH said he was in perfect accord with what had fallen from the previous speakers. If they liked to appoint a Sub-Committee by all means let them do so; but he believed that the whole scheme would end in smoke, as it had on every occasion in the last four years. There was no reason at all why the efforts to push the sale of coffee after the close of the Exhibition should fail. He could see no reason why a certain number of coffee-planters should not bind themselves together, in the event of their coffee being appreciated, and devote a certain proportion of their tonnage to meeting the demand that might arise. If 50 men would only ship a ton apiece of their produce to America, he was quite sure that large retail dealers would be quite willing to store it, and if it was better than what they had got, would be quite willing to push it, and they would find that they would get a better price for it than in the London Market at this moment. It



might prove the nucleus of a large business, just as many large businesses had sprung from very small beginnings. If they were unable to get the whole body of coffee-planters to join them, they ought to take action by themselves. It might seem presumptuous of him to give this advice as he was not a coffee-planter; but he could not help taking an interest in the industry and would like to see the coffee industry flourishing as it ought to flourish. He felt that if it went to the wall it would break up the Association. He was perfectly certain they could place their coffee in a profitable market in America, provided the coffee was liked, and if they could not do so as a general body they could do it individually, by forming a Syndicate, picking their men, who ought to be perfectly able and willing to push the article. This would be a businesslike way of setting to work.

The Meeting at this stage went into Committee to discuss details, when the following Resolution was passed:—

Proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, and seconded by Mr. F. M. Parker, "That this Association do subscribe Rs.10,000 to the St. Louis Exhibition." It was carried unanimously and confirmed in open Meeting.

#### VOTING POWERS OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. GEORGE ROMILLY said that before they discussed this matter he would like to call attention to the proceedings of last year. On p. 44 it would be found stated that Mr. Lechler's Resolution on this subject was carried unanimously. He was instructed by the Honorary Secretary of his Association to enter a protest, as that gentleman said that when the subject was discussed in Committee he spoke against it and in open Meeting he voted against it. He thought that Mr. Gompertz, the Chairman at the time, would probably remember the fact and he thought it would be sufficient if the matter was admitted by those present at the time to be as stated. He merely desired to call attention to the fact that Wynaad did not vote for Mr. Lechler's Resolution. Mr. Gompertz said that Mr. Malcolm wrote to him at the time and that he sent a correction to the *Madras Mail*. He did not notice that the mistake appeared in the proceedings.

Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING said that at the last Meeting of the North Mysore Planters' Association the following Resolution was passed with the request that the delegates representing North Mysore would bring it up at the next Annual General Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I.:—"That the system of voting in the Council revert to that in use prior to 1902, with the exception that the Chairman shall have a vote equivalent to that of the largest voting Association, but he shall not vote for the Association which he represents." As all were aware, the voting at the annual General Meetings of the U. P. A. S. I. was on the basis of the subscriptions of the various Associations, and he was at a loss to see why the same procedure had been departed from in regard to Council Meetings held during the year.

Mr. GOMPERTZ: I think there is an initial error in your proposal. You say that we ought to revert to the system of voting existing prior to 1902. It was because there was nothing laid down in the rules as to the voting in Council that this proposal was brought forward.

Mr. ROMILLY said that with reference to what had fallen from Mr. Gompertz, during the two years he (Mr. Romilly) was Chairman, nothing came up between the Meetings which called for an enumeration of votes, and in consequence the question never arose. His Association had now instructed him to call attention to the same point that Mr. Scot-Skirving had raised and to record its desire that the voting throughout the year should be on the same basis as at the Annual Meetings, namely a monetary vote. He confessed he did not see any logical reason for giving a small Association with a subscrip-

tion of Rs.50 an equal vote with an Association subscribing Rs.500.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON supported what Mr. Romilly had just said. He could see no reason or consistency in altering the system of the voting power of the Association in intermediate business from what it was at the Annual General Meeting. He thought it very desirable that Associations paying a larger subscription should have a larger vote, not only at the General Meeting, but for all intermediate business which took place between Meetings.

The Meeting then went into Committee to discuss the matter in detail, when the Resolution proposed by Mr. Scot-Skirving and seconded by Mr. Romilly was withdrawn in favour of the following, brought forward by the same gentlemen:—"That the following be substituted for Rule 5:—'That in all Meetings and the conduct of business by the Council, the system of voting be on the subscription basis of one vote for every Rs.10 subscribed, and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Legal Member and the ex-Chairman of the previous year shall each have one vote.'" It was carried in Committee and subsequently confirmed in open Meeting.

#### SECOND DAY, August 4.

The delegates met at 9 A.M. and sat till 1 P.M., the greater portion of the sitting being devoted to a very exhaustive discussion of the Madras Planters' Labour Act (Act I. of 1903) in Committee.

#### THE TEA CESS ACT.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH said he had nothing fresh to say regarding this subject.

Mr. ROMILLY said:—Mr. Chairman, with your permission with regard to the tea cess, I wish to ask Mr. Acworth what he actually did say at Calcutta with regard to the coffee industry, because, what he was reported to have said was in my opinion unfair to the coffee industry. It is with very great reluctance that I say anything that even seems to reflect on Mr. Acworth's public conduct, because no one knows better than I do all that he has done for our community, and no one appreciates it more than I do. We are all unanimous I am glad to think on that. But that does not affect our duty, though it does make it more difficult, to call him to explain anything we may object to in his public speeches when we consider that he has gone astray. So long as a gentleman is a representative of this Association on the Legislature, a post of great responsibility in which he has the full confidence of both industries he represents, in my own opinion he cannot in any matter dissociate the one industry from the other. He told us in Committee that for the moment he was merely acting as an advocate of the tea industry. That position I hold is untenable. If his sense of duty compelled him to speak on behalf of tea and tea only, there was, it seems to me, no necessity to introduce the subject of coffee at all.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH, in replying, said:—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, when I saw the paragraph in the *Madras Mail* to which Mr. Romilly refers, I could not help feeling what a pity it was that the paragraph had ever appeared, because it seemed to me a very great pity to try and stir up strife between our different industries. If you are going to do that then an Association must fall to the ground. This Association represents various industries such as tea, coffee, cinchona, pepper, cardamoms, etc.; but of these industries tea and coffee are the two greatest, and it is idle to pretend for a moment that these two products will work hand in hand. Rivals they are and rivals they will always be. Now to return to what I said in Calcutta; I beg in the first place to say that I was not very well reported—I am told I am a difficult person to report;



but this is the only time I have ever had my speech thrown up against me, for in school I was always in trouble because I was heard talking, etc. What I said was that we were starting the sale of tea in South India in a similar manner to what Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. were doing in Northern India. I then proceeded to say that the condition of things was very different in North India. In South India every native liked a hot drink and was accustomed in the mornings to drink hot coffee. To a large section in South India coffee was a thing of the past and the consequence is—these were the words omitted—now that it is impossible to get it, the natives are turning from coffee to tea. I then went on to suggest that money would be well spent in endeavouring to get natives in South India to drink tea in place of coffee. As regards my position when making these utterances, I beg, in the first place, to state that I was not the representative of the United Planters' Association of South India. I was sent up as the representative of the whole tea industry of this Presidency and felt bound in duty to advocate every possible means of pushing that industry. My second contention is that the business of the Planting Member is merely to stand between Government and the planters. It is absurd to suppose that he cannot dissociate himself occasionally from his official position and push the sale of his product, which has nothing whatever to do with his work. As I said before, what is the use of pretending the two products tea and coffee are allied? They always must be rivals. Again I would ask what harm have I done to the coffee-planter? Personally I think I have done him a good turn by pointing out a market as open to him as to the tea-planter, and I think I deserve the thanks of every coffee-planter for pointing out a market which is still lying open to him, of which, however, he appears to have been ignorant, of which he has not yet availed himself, but of which he can still avail himself. It is as open to him as it is to me if he will only take the trouble of going down to it. Mr. Romilly knows as well as I do that tea cannot stand against coffee; it has no chance at all. The native of South India will not drink tea if he can get coffee. I think, therefore, that Mr. Romilly will agree that I have pointed out a market to him of which he appeared ignorant, and to which if he cares to send his produce, he ought to find little trouble in disposing of it.

Mr. ROMILLY said that he was much obliged to Mr. Acworth and was glad to have given him the opportunity of making the explanation which he had just offered. The matter then closed.

#### DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH said:—Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—It will be within the recollection of everybody, that some two or three years since we in this Association took up the subject of Preferential Tariffs, and with the object of ascertaining the feeling of the Commercial World we corresponded with almost every Chamber of Commerce of any importance throughout the Empire. At that time we had little or no hope of the topic being publicly discussed in the near future, but the Fiscal Policy of Great Britain is now not only agitating politicians at Home, but is creating a scare in such strictly protective countries as Germany. That the mere mooted of the question, the mere demand for an enquiry should create such a scare, seems to me most significant, and to my mind emphasises the absolute necessity for such an enquiry. My own opinion is that our present fiscal policy is unsuited to the times, that a careful readjustment of taxation, by which our Colonies and Dependencies would benefit, might be so made as not to add a single additional penny to the poor man's burden; that it is neither business nor policy to allow foreign goods to be dumped down on our own shores at under the cost of production; that such a system, if persisted in, must eventuate in the crushing of our manufactures, which after

all are our own life blood; that the policy of foreign nations being what it is, we ourselves in order to obtain concessions from them, must have something in our own hands to bargain with, and finally that nothing can so bind the Empire together as self-interest, and that that self-interest can only be found in an Imperial Zollverein. I do not like the words Preferential Tariffs. To trade freely with our own kith and kin, though it be only in certain specified commodities is no more fixing Preferential Tariffs than is the free trade intercourse between the different German States, and I am fairly confident that had it not been for their Zollverein these States would not have held together so long as they have done.

But, Mr. Chairman, I have no intention of making a long speech on this most interesting question, nor do I propose to give you a lecture on political economy. For my part, I am content to follow Mr. Chamberlain. There is no man living, in my opinion, no man has lived since the great Earl of Chatham, who has done more for the magnificent Empire of which we are so proud, than Mr. Chamberlain; and it is idle to suppose that this great statesman would carelessly throw away the immense reputation he has achieved for the mere sake of creating a sensation, as a certain section of the Press, both British and Foreign, would have us to believe. There is, however, one point, on which I would touch before I close. In the event of the enquiry leading to some sort of Zollverein, India must not be left out in the cold. India would benefit under such system as much as any other part of the Empire, and this is as much a part of the Empire as is any one of the Colonies. India has done much and suffered much for the Empire, and we all know the great part that India recently played when the Empire was in danger.

To sum up, then, I am of opinion—

- (1) That the whole of our manufacturing industry is in danger through the closing of foreign markets against us.
- (2) That for this we can receive no redress, until we have something to give for concessions made to us.
- (3) That we cannot hope to draw closer the Imperial ties, that should subsist between us, our Colonies and Dependencies without appealing to the self-interest of all concerned.

I beg therefore to move the following Resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Association Mr. Chamberlain has done a great public service in raising the question of the fiscal policy of Great Britain, her Colonies and Dependencies, and his demand for an enquiry into that policy has our most cordial support." If you pass this Resolution I would add by way of a rider that steps be taken to publish it in all the leading London daily papers and in the daily papers of the large manufacturing towns, so that the British public should know what is the opinion of a great British industry in Southern India. Mr. Fletcher Norton, under the instructions of his Association, seconded the Resolution. In doing so he said that Mr. Chamberlain's policy was the outcome of the Conference of Colonial Premiers two years ago, and his recent tour through South Africa opened his eyes to the way in which British trade and British industries were being destroyed abroad and in her own Colonies. The Resolution was put and carried unanimously.

#### BRITISH DUTIES ON TEA.

Mr. F. M. PARKER, in proposing the Resolution which follows, said that the subject could not be brought too frequently to the notice of the authorities. He thought that very often people suffered from their own unintentional apathy by not continually worrying to get their grievances remedied. He need not mention the tea duty which was a great incubus on the industry and kept prices high and tended towards checking consumption. He thought they should lose no opportunity of reminding the authorities that it would be greatly to their benefit if the duties



were taken off. He therefore moved "that in the opinion of this Association the Chancellor of the Exchequer should again be reminded of the heavy burden caused to the industry by the present heavy duty on tea, amounting to about 80 per cent. of its present market value.

Mr. ROMILLY seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### FLOWERS OF SULPHUR.

Mr. F. M. PARKER said that the Cardamom Hills Association had asked him to bring this matter to the notice of the Association for such action as it might deem necessary, as the restriction on the import of flowers of sulphur was causing much inconvenience. Flowers of sulphur were necessary for curing cardamoms, and at present the only port by which they could be brought in was Madras. Consequently flowers of sulphur obtained in Ceylon and landed at Tuticorin had to be re-shipped to Madras and brought from that place to the Cardamom Hills, entailing a great deal of inconvenience, expense and loss of time. To the best of his belief these restrictions had only been imposed within the past year. He therefore proposed "that the Government be requested to allow flowers of sulphur used in the curing of cardamoms to be imported into Tuticorin under a declaration."

Mr. FLETCHER NORTON seconded the motion though he did not think they would be very successful. When they approached Government about the import duty on manures they very kindly made a number of manures free of import duty, but they retained the duty on nitrate of soda because it might form a constituent part of gunpowder. For this reason they would probably retain the restriction just imposed on flowers of sulphur.

The Resolution was then put to the Meeting and carried unanimously.

#### TRAVANCORE EXPORT DUTY ON COFFEE.

Mr. E. E. WILLIAMS brought forward this subject, and in doing so, said:—

I feel sure all of you who read the proceedings of the various District Associations will have noticed that the question of the Travancore Export Duty on coffee has been continually brought up for discussion by our Association. Two years ago Baron Rosenberg brought up this subject at the U. P. A. Meeting, but it was pointed out to him that he should first exhaust the official channels of redress in Travancore before seeking aid from this Association. This we have done, but with no success. We now appeal to the U. P. A. S. I. for help. I cannot put the matter more clearly before you than by quoting parts of a letter from a correspondent signing himself "N. Travancore" to the *Madras Mail*.

The history of this export duty is this:—In 1872 the planters of Travancore asked for a reduction of the then ruling export duty of 5 per cent. to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and this was granted in 1877. Subsequently, seeing that leaf-disease and borer were killing out their estates, they asked for the full export duty to be reimposed and their land-tax remitted. This again was granted by the Durbar in 1883. Those were the days in which coffee was grown only in South and Central Travancore. It has since almost entirely disappeared from those Districts, and tea has been almost entirely planted in its stead. Coffee-growing is now almost entirely confined to the High Range, where for years it has been a success and shows no sign of going out, as its southern predecessor did, provided of course that it be still possible to sufficiently cultivate it. But in 1872 the High Range was not opened, and in 1883, though we had begun operations in a small way we were not, so far as I know, consulted as to the proposed change in taxation, nor was our land-tax reduced, as was that of the other planting Districts.

It has been rightly urged by the authorities that we went into coffee with our eyes open, knowing that we would have to pay a land-tax of 12 annas, per acre and an export duty of 5 per cent., and that therefore we have no reason for complaint. But that surely is not the point of view that a liberal Government should take, when dealing with an industry which is suffering from causes (*viz.* over-production in other countries) subsequent, to a large extent, to its own beginning. Taxes are not based on cast-iron principles, and when they are likely to suffocate an industry, which, if suffered to keep itself alive through a crisis, may yet again become a valuable one, then it is desirable that the State should remit or at least ease the burden. Nor is there even a precedent wanting, for in this very question this has been shown by the previous reduction of the export duty in the hard times of 1877.

The correspondence between our Planters' Association and the Sircar asking for a remission of the tax dates over several years, but although the Dewan appeared to take a sympathetic view of the question when interviewed, the official reply in the negative has been absolute. The Resident was then approached for his advice on the subject, but his opinion was equally unfavourable. The total amount obtained from this duty is so small that it is perhaps not realised how few the pockets are it comes from, and how hardly it bears on the small acreage. Taking my own case as an illustration, and striking an average I find that it comes to approximately Rs 4 per acre, in addition to the land-tax.

Now, in the last Report of the Nilgiri Planters' Association a Resolution was passed to ask for a remission of their land-tax, in view of present times of stress; yet I believe they only pay from Re.1 to Re.1-8 per acre. This will emphasise how hard it is for us to pay nearly Rs.5 per acre. But it is made additionally hard to us by the fact that those estates which originally asked that coffee be saddled with this burden, pay now a tax of 2 annas per acre only on their tea—*i.e.* that our coffee virtually pays a portion of their land-tax. This may seem a dog in the manger view, but it is the plain truth. If it be necessary for purposes of revenue that the planting produce of a country should be taxed, surely it is fair that the contribution required be distributed generally and so be less felt, and not confined to one product grown on a very small part of the total acreage. As my own acreage under tea is larger than that under coffee, I cannot well be accused of undue partiality in this statement.

The Resolution I wish to put to the Meeting is as follows:—  
"That this Association views with regret the special disabilities the coffee-planters of Travancore labour under, and the refusal of the Government of that State to grant relief from the burden of an export duty on coffee during a period of stress such as the present, and that the Secretary be instructed to address His Highness' Government asking them to once more go into the question and express the hope of a more favourable consideration in view of the hardships the coffee industry is now suffering from—hardships undeserved and beyond its control."

The Resolution was seconded by Mr. Fletcher Norton and was carried.

#### THIRD DAY, August 5.

The delegates met at 9 A.M. when the Chairman opened the proceedings by announcing that he had received a letter from Mr. Meenachshiya with reference to certain experiments in coffee-growing which that gentleman was conducting. The letter was circulated for the information of the delegates.

#### ENHANCED RATES ON THE S. M. RAILWAY.

Mr. MARTIN, on behalf of the Coorg Planters' Association, drew the attention of the Meeting to the recent action of the



Southern Mahratta Railway authorities in suddenly raising the rates of freight on coffee from Parchamvalieni to Bangalore and asked for the support of the United Planters' Association in the protest that was being made against this action.

A Resolution was accordingly passed giving the support required.

### The St. Louis Exhibition.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN then presented the following Report of the Committee appointed to consider the details in connection with the St. Louis Exhibition and after:—

With reference to the exhibits the Committee proposed:—

(1) That it be ascertained from the I. T. A. what quantities of tea, pepper and cardamoms would be required as exhibits, and how much coffee for coffee in the cup; when these would be required, to whom they should be sent, and how it is proposed to procure them

(2) That exhibits should include all the grades of coffee from No. 1 to triage as well as coffee dried in the cherry.

With reference to the subsequent action, the Committee is of opinion that planters themselves must arrange for the first supplies of coffee to meet any demand which may arise after the Exhibition and therefore propose:—

(1) That the members of the District Association be invited to contribute cured coffee of any grade in quantities of not less than 1 cwt. to be consigned to an Agent for sale. The proceeds on realisation to be remitted to the U. P. A. S. I. for distribution to the contributors in proportion to the amount and grade of coffee supplied.

(2) That the I. T. A. Commissioner be asked to kindly ascertain as soon as he conveniently can the names of a reliable firm or firms to whom such consignments could be made. Further that to save time, he be asked to instruct such firms to communicate with the Secretary, U. P. A., stating the terms on which they would receive such consignments.

The Committee is of opinion that a small portion of the Funds raised for the St. Louis Exhibition scheme should be reserved to cover expenses which may be incurred in connection with our object of promoting such a demand as may arise subsequent to the Exhibition. It is understood, however, that contributors should pay all ordinary charges on their respective consignments.

(Signed) L. KING CHURCH.

" G. R. MARTIN.

" J. H. HARRIS.

" H. P. HODGSON.

The Report was exhaustively discussed in Committee and the following Resolutions were finally adopted:—

(1) "That the Report of the Sub-Committee be accepted with thanks."

(2) That a Coffee Committee, consisting of Messrs. Harris, Hodgson, King Church and Martin, be appointed to carry out all business in connection with the St. Louis Exhibition, and with the subsequent efforts to promote the demand and the sale of coffee in the United States of America."

#### THE COFFEE CESS.

The CHAIRMAN:—The next subject on the Agenda is the coffee cess. As the only member present of the Standing Committee appointed last year to attend to this matter I think it necessary to make a few remarks. The chief reason why the Standing Committee was unable to make any progress was the lukewarmness shown throughout by District Associations—I may perhaps except the Nilgiris Association, in which a considerable amount of interest was shown. I wish before proceeding further to draw your attention to a letter published

in the *Madras Mail* received to-day. I do not attach much importance to the letter, because it is anonymous; but, gentlemen, I think I may say that the part of it which has reference to the representatives of coffee at the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. having shown themselves weak to a degree, is not only uncalled for, but absolutely untrue. The weakness has not been shown by the delegates but by the planters themselves in every coffee District. They have shown in this matter a great want of interest and have insisted on a full fledged scheme before they would consent to subscribe to the cess. I quite agree with the remark made by Mr. Hodgson, at an earlier stage of to-day's proceedings, that it is quite impossible to draw up any scheme until you know what funds you will have to deal with. The Committee, during its labours, ascertained the names of certain firms who were willing to take and push the sale of our lower grades of coffee. But these firms very naturally wanted to know what quantity we could supply and what prices we could quote for our coffee, information we were absolutely unable to give. The truth of the matter is that a voluntary cess is hopeless; men will not subscribe to a scheme under which those who do not subscribe will benefit equally with themselves. With respect to a compulsory cess I am afraid that it is very doubtful whether it will receive sufficient support to warrant its adoption. Moreover, it must be remembered that though the Government have given tea a compulsory cess, it does not necessarily follow that they will do so with regard to coffee because you must remember that tea stands alone. It cannot for a moment be contended that coffee—important though our interests are—is as important an industry as tea. If we ask for a compulsory cess for coffee, and it is granted by Government, it must be considered that the logical outcome of such a concession would be to grant a compulsory cess to pepper, cardamoms and other products and Government would see no end to these requests for a compulsory cess. I do not wish to discourage you in this matter, because it is one in which I personally have taken a great interest; but unless men show a greater earnestness in meeting the requirements of the situation—I still think there is a market for our coffee at our very doors, and the Standing Committee has shown how that market can be captured—I think we must abandon the idea.

Mr. GOMPERTZ:—In thanking you, Mr. Chairman, for your able account of the failure of the Coffee Committee I desire to take exception to one statement. You said you received no support from anybody but the Nilgiri Planters' Association.

The CHAIRMAN:—I said little support. I said the support was lukewarm.

Mr. GOMPERTZ:—I do not think it can be said that my Association was lukewarm. Immediately after the Meeting we agreed to subscribe Rs.5 per ton and no other Association did the same. I wrote several times to the Committee and got no reply as to what was going on, except from Mr. Windle, who said that he could say nothing. Finally I learnt that as the Committee were receiving no support for the scheme they were going out of office. Perhaps you will make an alteration in your speech in accordance with these facts, if the speech is to be published.

The CHAIRMAN:—I regret very much the omission to except the Shevaroy from my charge of lukewarmness. I am aware that the Shevaroy did show an interest in the scheme and I regret that I did not couple their names with that of the Nilgiris.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH:—Mr. Harris has referred to the letter which has appeared in the *Madras Mail* received this morning. You will observe that there is in it a second attack on myself, but I will pass that by, as the letter is from an anonymous correspondent. What I wish to draw special



attention to is the subject to which Mr. Harris has just referred. He has said that you can proceed no further in this work of opening out a market that lies at your very door or very close to your door, which we in tea propose to make use of. What I wish to ask now is, is that market to lie altogether fallow and neither tea nor coffee to be put into it? Is the tea-planter to be blamed for taking up and pushing his produce in a market you refuse to avail yourself of? And is the Planting Member to be blamed because, as a tea-planter, he has pointed out this market for tea which the coffee-planter refuses to use?

Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING:—As Planting Member you were blamed.

Mr. ACWORTH:—I am a tea-planter first; that is my living.

#### THE PARIS SHOP.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON, in speaking on this subject, said that he did not propose to take up much time with what he had to say about the Paris Shop. As promised before he went Home last year, he visited the shop and ascertained that it was in the hands of a Mr. Rogers who was managing the shop, and that there was a distinct demand for East India coffee in Paris, supposing supplies were there to meet the demand. Mr. Rogers had done a limited business in coffee by retailing packets of coffee, and the business was steadily growing. People who bought a packet came back for more; but the demand was one that would have to be built up, and this would take time and a certain amount of money. The U. P. A. had remitted him (Mr. Hodgson) a sum of £150, when he was in England, to use, at his discretion, in supporting this work. He went into the matter very carefully and came to the conclusion that it would not pay very much to support one shop. However, he paid a sum aggregating about £29-5-11 to Mr. Rogers for the purpose of purchasing coffee, sending out free samples and for printing advertisements, etc. He had written to Mr. Harris on his return giving the results of his enquiries, and, summarised, they were as follows:—Indian coffee was practically unknown as such in Paris, as it was all used for mixing with other coffee; when supplied pure it was much appreciated and there was a considerable demand for it after the Exhibition, but there were no supplies to meet the demand and finally if they wanted to push the sale of coffee in Paris they must make arrangements for their own supplies. In the concluding paragraph he said that considerable business might be done by subsidising retail dealers, but to work through one man was only a waste of money. Since then he had received a letter from Mr. Rogers giving a report of what he had been able to do and asking for further support to the extent of about £50 a year for a fixed period. He would have the letter circulated and members could decide what could be done. He thought it right to place their request before the Meeting, but would rather somebody else moved a Resolution on the subject. Some people were of opinion that it was a waste of money to support small concerns, but he did not regard this matter from that point of view. Perhaps it would be better to concentrate the greater portion of their money on a big concern, but he did not think it would do any harm to put a little money on an outsider if they could afford it, as this frequently turned up trumps. Lipton's, for instance, had originally started in a small shop; it had grown to a huge business with world-wide ramifications growing its own produce, etc.

The Meeting then went into Committee and discussed the matter at great length, and the following Resolution was finally adopted:—“That this Meeting regrets that, owing to large demands on its funds, it is unable to accord Mr. Rogers the support that he asks for, but it resolves that District Associations should be asked to communicate with him with a view to ascertaining on what terms he would receive small consignments of coffee and tea.”

#### Dr. LEHMANN'S LECTURE.

Dr. LEHMANN, the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Mysore, at this stage attended the Meeting and delivered the following interesting and important lecture on the possibility of determining the quality of coffee by means of chemical analyses and on the absolute necessity for a guaranteed analysis for all manures.

#### QUALITY OF COFFEE.

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—Wit the present low prices and the attempt to discriminate between different brands of coffee by other means than simply the appearance it presents to the eye the question of “quality of coffee” has come more prominently before us during late years than it did in the past. In order to get paying prices most of us want to improve the quality of our coffee. Personally, I have not the slightest doubt that this can be done in many instances. The soil and climate may be factors beyond our control; but if cultivation, manuring, shade and pruning have any effect on quality we will be able to do something in the direction of improving it. One of the factors is doubtless a careful and systematic selection of seed. What can be done in this direction in other agricultural products may be illustrated by the fact that in four years experiments with Indian corn have obtained from one cob of corn (originally taken) two strains (if I may so call them) one of which contained twice as much nitrogen as the other. There are two objects for which Indian corn is grown in America. The one is for feeding stock, the other for the production of starch glucose and syrup. For the former purpose a high percentage of nitrogen is desirable. For the latter a low percentage of nitrogen, or rather a high percentage of starch, is looked for. To get different varieties of corn best suited for these different requirements was the aim of some of the investigators at the American Experiment Stations. The result of the experiment I have quoted above is the outcome of some of these experiments, and illustrates most strikingly what can sometimes be done by careful selection of pedigree seed. This must, however, be undertaken systematically, and as it would lead too far to describe the methods fully at this Meeting I refer any who would like to try similar experiments to Bulletin No. 82 of the Illinois Experiment Station.

Of course with coffee it would be much more difficult to carry out such a line of work as the coffee-tree is perennial and requires three or four years to come into bearing, while corn produces its full crop in a few months. A much greater difficulty than this is, however, our lack of knowledge as to what is really required of coffee, or in other words what really constitutes quality in coffee. We have no reliable standard of quality. Without this we are groping in the dark; and, while it is not out of the question that by a lucky coincidence of circumstances we may possibly chance to improve our quality, there can be no systematic work without a reliable and easily applicable standard of quality, or without knowing exactly what we want to get. No doubt a step in advance has been taken by applying the “liquoring test” to coffee when determining its quality. But notwithstanding that it is the best at our disposal at present, it is really a very primitive one, and cannot be very reliable, as it depends entirely on the so-called personal element of the expert. It lacks the capability of accurate numerical expression, and is furthermore difficult of application in India, where, so far as we are concerned, most experiments in regard to the improvement of the quality of coffee from an agricultural standpoint would have to be conducted. The liquoring test, so far as I know it, consists of a uniform roasting of the various samples to be tested, and subsequently grinding and steeping each separately and the expert determining the relative merits of the samples by their taste. As we all know, the tastes of different individuals vary somewhat, and therefore the



possibility of different experts arriving at different conclusions regarding the relative merits of the same samples of coffee is not excluded. Moreover, the taste of the same individual varies sometimes when in different states of health, so that it appears to me to be in no wise impossible that the same expert may grade the same samples of coffee differently if he tests them at different times. And one of the chief essentials of a perfect standard of any kind is of course that it does not vary. It ought to give the same results no matter who uses it, nor when and where it is used. As our senses are always subject to variation and deception, they ought to be excluded as much as possible from all standards. Furthermore mechanical appliances and chemical tests are generally much more sensitive than our senses. However delicate a man's sense of touch may be he can never hope to detect differences in weight which a comparatively coarse balance will easily indicate. I am sure we all place greater reliance in the figures relating to the length of an object determined by a proper measuring instrument than if estimated by the unaided eye, however much training the latter may have. What applies to the senses of touch and sight applies also more or less to the sense of taste.

Undoubtedly the quality of coffee depends on its composition, and it is therefore to the chemists we have to look for a standard of its quality. It is rather surprising that they have not yet discovered on what constituents in coffee its quality really depends. No doubt one of the reasons is that it is likely a difficult problem to solve. At one time the quality of coffee was supposed to depend on the quantity of an alkaloid called caffeine which the coffee possessed. But as the chief alkaloid in tea is identical with that in coffee, and as tea and coffee have decidedly different tastes, and as the quality of coffee depends at least to some extent on the taste of the extract made from it, the quality of coffee cannot depend exclusively on its caffeine contents. To judge the coffee by its caffeine contents was therefore abandoned, or rather not seriously taken up. It is possible that the quality of coffee depends on the presence of a very minute quantity of some substance hard to determine; as for example, in wines. But even if this is the case the possibility of finding a fairly reliable chemical standard is not excluded, for, it is possible that other substances which can be more easily determined exist in a fairly constant or fixed ratio with the substances which actually give coffee its aroma.

With this assumption I undertook the analyses of five different samples of coffee supplied to me by Messrs. Binny & Co. The coffee, which was represented by these samples, had been sold in London a little over a year ago, the bulk of it on the strength of the liquoring test. The prices realised varied from 59 shillings to 80 shillings per cwt., and as the wholesale price in the open market is at present the best indication of quality we have the prices realised were taken to indicate the true quality of the coffee under examination. In these samples colour and size as judged by Messrs. Binny & Co.'s agent had not determined the market price, as the sample which in his opinion ranked highest in these respects had realised almost the lowest price, and the sample which brought the highest price had almost the smallest size beans.

From my experience with wheat I thought that possibly the compactness of the beans and their nitrogen contents might be made an index of their quality. The assumption was that the denser the bean or the higher its specific gravity the larger its percentage of nitrogen would likely be, and that the higher both of these were the better the quality of coffee might be found to be. Generally speaking, this has been found to be the case. But the differences are so slight and the number of analyses made too few to justify very definite conclusions.

*Analyses of five samples of raw coffee of 1901-02 from Mysore and Coorg, after drying at 100 C.*

No.	Price.	Specific Gravity.	Nitrogen. %.	Organic Matter.	Phosphoric Acid.
1	80	1.268	2.5	93.79	.45
2	77	1.267	2.3	95.54	.45
3	60	1.258	2.3	95.88	.44
4	59	1.259	2.3	95.83	.43
5	59	1.250	2.3	95.78	.43

The composition of these five samples (so far as they have been analysed) is surprisingly similar. The differences so far observed can hardly justify the difference in price obtained. Of course the analyses are only partly finished as yet; and as far as they go they are almost in complete harmony with the price. The most compact sample and that containing most nitrogen and phosphoric acid brought the highest price, while that of the lowest specific gravity and lowest nitrogen and phosphoric acid contents brought the lowest price, and the intermediate samples so far as the analysis goes brought intermediate prices. But notwithstanding that these results are very encouraging I want to carry the analyses much further and want to analyse many other samples before making any general conclusions. I have brought this subject before you now to tell you what I am doing in this line. I hope I may be able to continue this work and trust that if I do so I may get some very valuable results. But as the work connected with it is very heavy and takes considerable time I can make no definite promise in this direction. Possibly the Association might help me by getting say 15 or 25 1 lb. samples of coffee which have been sold this year in London on the liquoring test. They should cover as wide a range of price as possible, and should be accompanied by the name of the estate on which they were grown, the price per ton realised, all the details as to the liquoring test which can be obtained, and as much other information, such as colour, size, etc., as can be collected.

#### GUARANTEED ANALYSES OF FERTILISERS.

Before taking my seat permit me to again touch on the subject on which I addressed you last year, *viz.*, the desirability of buying all your fertilisers on the strength of a guaranteed analysis. I fear the great importance of this subject is not yet sufficiently understood. That the manurial value of a fertiliser depends on the composition appears self-evident to me. Nevertheless there appears still to be a temptation to judge a manure solely by its weight. I have heard of a manager of a coffee plantation being allowed a certain number of tons of manure irrespective of its nature. An agent told me that some planters would buy the manure for which they would have to pay the least number of rupees per ton, no matter what its composition; and that under such circumstances it was of course quite out of the question to think that by supplying a guarantee with their fertilisers they could reap any benefit. I am sure you will all agree with me that the planters described by this agent do not deserve the name of planter; that such men must be few and far between; and that if any of them are still able to buy manures they will have to adopt more intelligent methods if they wish to remain in the position to buy manures in the future.

The analyses I have made since last I had the pleasure of being with you have supplied me with figures which would enable me to speak even more strongly than I did at that time. Some poonacs, apparently unadulterated, contained much less than half of the percentage of nitrogen found in others having the same name, but undoubtedly of different variety. There can be no possibility of a doubt that the quality of the commercial fertiliser is liable to vary very materially. The name of an unadulterated fertiliser is not sufficient indication of its quality. To make this more impressive than I could by words



I give the following figures I sent to one of your brother-planters not long ago:—

*Analyses of Various Poonacs, Bone and Fish.*

Name.		Nitrogen %.	Phosphoric Acid %.	Relative Value.
White Castor (Bombay)	..	3.1	1.4	23
..... (Bengal)	..	8.0	3.4	60
..... (Mysore)	..	7.4	..	55
.....	..	6.5	2.3	48
Neem	..	4.4	..	33
.....	..	5.1	..	38
.....	..	4.1	..	30
Ippe	..	1.8	..	13
Hongay	..	4.1	.84	30
.....	..	3.8	1.4	28
Kurdi	..	5.8	1.9	43
.....	..	2.5	..	18
Bone	..	2.5	18.6	55
.....	..	4.0	23.3	76
Fish	..	4.0	1.7	33
.....	..	8.7	6.1	77

These figures should make it plain that every one buying a manure should strive to get a guarantee as to its composition, as one manure may be worth more than twice as much as another sold under the same name, and the only means the planter has of distinguishing between the two is a guarantee as to its composition. If times were so prosperous that we could afford to throw away half the money we may be able to spend on manures the necessity for a guaranteed analysis might not present itself with such irresistible force as it must do to those who really want to save every penny to make ends meet. There may be difficulties in the way of getting a guarantee as to composition for fertilisers. But these do not detract from the desirability of having such guarantee.

From the correspondence I had nearly a year ago with firms supplying fertilisers I am confident that most of them would have been prepared to give a guarantee if asked for it. In fact one firm volunteered to supply a guarantee with the fertilisers they offered for sale. But unless the users ask for or indeed insist on a guarantee they must be prepared to pay at times double the price for their fertilisers that they need have paid for the same amount of plant-food. Last year I told you how to select manures giving the best value for the money expended on them, and offered to help any one with the selection of his manures, provided he would send the guaranteed analysis and the price of the fertilisers available. Of course this promise still stands good.

The fact that some estates have passed more or less into the control of the agents is often spoken of as a barrier in the way of getting guaranteed analyses with the fertilisers these agents supply. But unless I am very much mistaken it should not be difficult to convince these agents that it is to the interests of the industry in which they have put their money and in which they are more or less directly interested to get the best value in the way of fertilisers for the money invested; and that this cannot be done without a guaranteed analysis. These agents are generally not specially interested in any one particular fertiliser, but would be quite prepared to stock the best procurable provided their managers and the planters as a whole demanded the best.

The matter of guaranteed analyses for fertilisers is within your reach. You can get them by stretching your hand out for them. But I doubt if they will be as easy to get in a year or two if you do not get them now. I fear they are not quite so easily got even now as they would have been nine months ago. Gentlemen, while striving to solve the difficult and interesting problems such as quality of coffee, do not let us neglect the simple and easy ones such as guaranteed analyses of fertilisers which we can practically get at present for the asking.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Lehmann for his very interesting paper on two subjects so very important to the coffee-planter, and on the motion of Mr. Acworth it was decided, as was the case last year, to print this paper and the subsequent discussion with Dr. Lehmann separately in pamphlet form for the benefit of subscribing Associations.

There was then some technical discussion on the subject of the lecture, after which the Meeting resolved into Committee when Dr. Lehmann answered the questions put by members on various points raised under both heads of his lecture.

MR. CAMERON'S LECTURE.

Mr. CAMERON, Superintendent of the Lal Bagh, and Government Gardens in Mysore, then attended the Meeting and read a paper on "Rubber, Silk, Tannage and Fibres" as supplementary products for planters. He said he had specimens of three new plants at the Lal Bagh which members might like to inspect. One was the Arab tea-plant, another the newly-discovered Mosquito plant of Sierra Leone and a third was a new and valuable variety of Pineapple.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—Three years ago I had the honour of reading you a paper on industrial exotics. Since that time considerable progress has been made in the acclimatisation of such plants, and knowing more about them, I make no apology for bringing forward the subject again to-day. The prevailing prices of coffee and tea are less hopeful than they were three years ago, and unless some unexpected reaction takes place in the supply from other countries, the outlook, especially in the former product, is not cheerful. But, fortunately for the Indian planter, there is an increasing demand in the markets of Europe and America for other products which he may be able to supply; and it is concerning some of these that I venture, with your permission, to say a few words. In official correspondence with planters I am frequently asked for advice in the selection of cultures suitable to this part of India. This paper may, therefore, be of some general service as a *précis* of my views on the subject.

The vegetable products for which there is a growing demand are india-rubber, textile fibres, tans, lubricating oils and fancy woods. There are also numerous other products which it is impossible to refer to in one paper.

RUBBER-YIELDING PLANTS.

So pressing is the demand for good rubber at the present time that, while experts are exploring the world for further supplies, the chemists are actually trying to manufacture an artificial caoutchouc. If they should succeed in the latter attempt, rubber-planting would, I suppose, become an unprofitable enterprise. But it is unlikely that they will succeed to copy nature exactly. I should here mention that an artificial product claiming to possess all the best properties of gutta-percha is now manufactured in Germany, and is used for insulating wires and cables. Then let us see, gentlemen, how we stand in regard to a possible rubber industry in Southern India. Of several rubber-producing plants on trial, the American trees stand out prominently in the estimation of the public. These are *Hevea brasiliensis*, producing Pará rubber, *Castilloa elastica* the source of Central American or Panama rubber, and *Manihot Glaziovii*, which yields Ceará rubber; here entered in the order of merit as regards the quality and value of their respective rubbers. But the prominence of these trees is due to their extensive use and productiveness in America, where they form part of the arborescent flora of the country, and we have still to learn, to a large extent, how far they may prove remunerative to the State and planter when cultivated as exotics in this country.

This brings me to my own experiences of the three trees, and as far as their utility to Mysore is concerned, I am going to



Reverse the order of things by putting Ceará first and Pará last. Within the past decade the Ceará tree has thriven amazingly, and has certainly come to stay in the country. It will flourish from the seaside to an elevation of at least 4,000 feet. Matured trees shed their seeds so abundantly that thousands of seedlings can be picked up wherever a few trees abound. Nor is it an unproductive tree, as it has so long been considered in this country. Recent tapping experiments in the Lal Bagh have conclusively proved that trees ranging in age from 8 to 14 years are highly charged with latex, and that the latter flows freely when tapped at the correct season and in the proper place. During the dry season, when the tree is leafless, the large root limbs should be tapped; and after the rains the operation should be transferred to the trunk, which yields its milk sap freely throughout the cold season. These experiments have also proved that, as regards the productiveness of latex, no two trees are exactly alike. Between the two extremes of a copious discharge and hardly any discharge at all, we seem to possess every degree of productiveness. This peculiarity does not appear to be due to situation, exposure, or even the quality of the soil, in whole, as two trees growing together under the same conditions of soil, etc., were found to be wholly different in the amount of latex they contained. It seems to be rather a constitutional feature that some trees contain more laticiferous vessels than others. In view to ascertaining what quantity of rubber a mature tree will yield without being injured, a specimen has been tapped twice a week for the past three months and the coagulated latex (it is not all pure rubber, as I shall explain later) now amounts to a trifle over 3 lbs. The experiment is going on, as the tree shows no sign of exhaustion either constitutionally or in the flow of latex. Early dawn is much the best time of the day for tapping, and the operation should cease about 8 A.M. The quantity collected from each of these tappings has varied from half an ounce to two and a quarter ounces.

What we have to do now is to raise nurseries of seedlings from the good trees and try to eliminate the bad ones. Being so hardy during long periods of drought, the Ceará tree would adapt itself readily to many of the scrub tracts at elevations ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 feet, with an annual rainfall of 25 to 40 inches. We know, of course, that it grows vigorously at higher elevations where the rainfall is heavy. But there seems to be a doubt (although nothing is proved) if the outturn of rubber would be as plentiful and good under the latter conditions of growth. Personally, I am in favour of the maiden as the best location for a Ceará rubber industry on an extensive scale. This you will naturally think cannot be of much advantage to the planter, who is confined to the hills. But in a large concern of this kind the planter, with his matured experience and larger capital, is bound to have a share sooner or later. It is now proved beyond a doubt that the Ceará tree is wholly adapted to the climate of Southern India. It is also being proved that as it approaches maturity some varieties of the tree are highly charged with latex, and I may here state that the dry climate of the plains is all in favour of a pure rubber being easily prepared from the latter. American imports of the rubber into the United Kingdom are valued at a somewhat lower rate than similar products of Pará and *Castilloa*. But with the improved methods of purifying the actual rubber by the extraction of hurtful ingredients such as phosphates, resin, and albuminous matter, the best tree of the future will be the one producing the largest quantity of pure rubber or caoutchouc. The latter is suspended in the latex fluid in the form of minute globules, and needs to be separated in much the same way that cream is separated from milk. An ideal preparation of pure rubber would be to drain the latex from the tree by means of a syphon into a kind of churn where the caoutchouc is

separated by centrifugal force. It follows from this that any rubber at once depreciates in value when it is allowed to coagulate with all its impurities as it is taken from the tree. This ball of rubber, for instance, which was taken from a tree a few days ago, is full of hurtful ingredients rendering the whole mass subject to the growth of fungoid disease and putrefaction, results which are greatly aggravated in a damp climate. The old American remedy to prevent disease was sun drying and smoking. But that is only partially effective and does not purify the rubber.

We now come to a brief review of *Castilloa elastica*, which has also attained the reproductive stage in the Lal Bagh. In its culturable requirements this important tree seems to be intermediate between the Pará and Ceará species, requiring neither the tropical humidity of the former nor the open and comparatively dry conditions of the latter. It is, in fact, a tree for the coffee zone, as, no doubt, some of you have already discovered.

Mr. C. O. Weber, an expert, who has recently visited *Castilloa*, a plantation on the Isthmus of Colombia, writes thus:—

"All the reliable evidence seems to show that the trees grow badly in dense forests, and produce a poor yield of rubber when grow on open ground. They appear to prosper best when growing up together with other trees, so that the trunk is always shaded, whilst the top of the tree, at least for a certain time during the day, receives the direct rays of the sun." These are the conditions which I have also found most favourable to the growth of *Castilloa* at Bangalore. Our trees, which are about nine years old, have only been tapped very slightly in one or two places to see if the latex would run freely. It appears to be a characteristic of at least two varieties of the species that the latex does not run freely, but collects in beads and tears under the punctures. Local trees are apparently of this class. Mr. Weber further writes that in Mexico and Ecuador the latex fluid runs freely. Three distinct varieties are described by this authority, e.g., *C. elastica alba*, the richest variety, producing a thick creamy milk *C. e. nigra*, yielding a thin fluid, and easily bled to death. *C. e. rubra*, affording good rubber but deficient in quantity. These names (which indicate the colours white, black and red) have reference to the colours of the bark in the different varieties, there being no botanical difference. The first named is apparently the best tree to get hold of. The seed of *Castilloa* ripens here in May. But as yet we have only a limited quantity—3,000 seeds were sent out to planters this season. It loses its vitality in a few weeks if not sown and I have not observed any self-sown seedlings under the trees, as happens in the case of Ceará. But there will be no difficulty about propagation as the species increase in age and number. I only hope we possess the most productive variety. What has been said previously about centrifugalisation applies with even greater force in the preparation of this valuable rubber, which readily lends itself to such treatment. There is a large percentage of albumen in the latex which if left for even a short period would cause fermentation in the solid product.

Although I do not say positively that *Castilloa* would fail on the *maidan* I certainly think it will have a better chance in comparatively open spaces throughout the coffee zone. Indeed it may become a good shade tree for coffee for all we know at present.

Now we come to the last of the three American trees, e.g. *Hevea brasiliensis*, or Pará rubber. When pure, the latter is worth Rs. 4 a lb. and is admitted to hold the market at present. But under improved methods of preparation it will soon be closely run in quality, and perhaps greatly exceeded in quantity, by the rubber which I have just reviewed. Anyhow, it is not likely to be of much practical use in the drier



parts of India: therefore, we are justified in turning our attention to more hopeful subjects. The Pará rubber tree is essentially tropical in its requirements, and needs a humid atmosphere such as is found in the Amazon Valley—its native habitat. Ceylon has started cultivation in a small way. But the only eastern country which is likely to compete on fairly equal terms with America is the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. Along the West Coast of India, and in moist situations under the Ghauts there may be spots where the climatic conditions are tolerably favourable. But careful experiment should be conducted before a large investment is made. At Bangalore the tree languishes and dies during the long dry season. Irrigation gives only temporary relief, as there is too little moisture in the first four months of the year. *air during the*

The Assam rubber tree, (true india-rubber) *Ficus elastica*, I have all along said will grow well in the coffee districts, and the reason why it is not found there in quantity is possibly due to the difficulty of rapid propagation. But in any South Indian rubber plantation this useful tree should certainly find a place. It is said to be doing well in the Straits Settlements.

Much nonsense has been written lately concerning a new rubber plant—*Landolphia thalloni*—found on the French Congo. I have little doubt, too, but some of the writing was done to influence the rubber trade, for good or otherwise. The latex of this little shrub, which is only half a foot high, is chiefly stored in the root. But this is not an exceptional discovery, as I have shown in this paper that the roots of the Ceará rubber tree are full of milk sap. So are the roots of several species. Scientific experts who are in the best position to judge are not of opinion that this latest discovery will influence the rubber market greatly. They rather expect that many similar discoveries may be jumped upon us during the next few years. The African genus *Landolphia* promises to be a large one, and doubtless all the species contain latex. We have one or two species on trial which grow well. But as climbing plants they are not, in my opinion, very suitable for rubber farming in this country. Should we be driven to utilise climbers in preference to trees for our supply of rubber, which is improbable, the long established *Cryptostegia grandiflora*, a plant of Madagascar, offers a richer source of rubber, I believe, and it can be grown without trouble. It is known around Bangalore by the local name *Mate wuli umboo*. In concluding these details of my own experience with some rubber-yielding plants you will gather, gentlemen, that I favour the selection of Ceará for the plateau of Mysore and Castilloa for the moister region of the hills. Pará may succeed in parts of tropical West India; but of that I am uncertain.

#### FIBRES AND SERICULTURE.

The fibre industry is passing into the practical stage, and seems to hinge, at present, on capital outlay and a good market. Cultivation, as I told you on a former occasion, is assured in this country, where there are fibre-yielding plants suitable to almost every condition of soil and climate. The plants most suitable to the tea and coffee tracts are those producing Rheá, hemp, Mauritius hemp, and perhaps Manilla hemp; while at the highest elevations on the Western Ghauts, in somewhat sheltered positions, of course, an unlimited supply of New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) and Ban Rheá (*Villebrunea integrifolia*) could be produced.

Sericulture is also well worthy of trial in the drier Districts. In connection with the latter industry the new Japanese reels recently imported by Mr. Tata promise to increase the value of local silk by at least 50 per cent. A consignment of silk thus reeled on Mr. Tata's farm, has been valued by the Home brokers at Rs.13 per lb., and is highly praised for its excellent quality. Silk prepared by the native method is only worth Rs.5 to Rs.6 per lb. What we really require for our

Indian industries is the best class of machinery that can be procured. Even the few products which I have named require three distinct machines or apparatus. These are, firstly, a powerful engine with decorticator, like Todd's (costing £600), to manipulate strong leathery leaves such as afford the so-called aloe fibres, bowstring hemp and New Zealand flax. Also Death and Ellwood's scraping wheels worked by Marshall's portable engines. The latter appear to be exclusively used in Yucatan, where a single wheel can clean leaves at the rate of 20 per minute. For further information on this point. I would refer you to an interesting article which appears in the last issue of *Planting Opinion*.

Secondly, a machine after the style of Faure's, priced, I believe, at £100, to deal with the more delicate fibre of Ramie, Rheá, and possibly Manilla hemp. Then we find that with proper reeling the value of silk is greatly enhanced. It is not, however, necessary that every grower of fibre should possess a machine. The one used by the South Indian Fibre Company is carried all over the country-side, just like a threshing machine at Home. It would be the same in dealing with silk, which is not a bulky article. One central depôt for reeling should suffice for a large area. Although essentially a poor man's industry, I see no reason, especially in times of planting depression like the present, why the planter should not have a mulberry patch and try his hand at sericulture.

In Assam, the Bengal Rheá Syndicate possesses a large area of cultivation, and it is highly probable that Ramie and Rheá may do for the north of India what the aloes and hems are expected to do for the south.

The common railway aloe, *Agave americana*, has risen to the expectations of the South Indian Fibre Company, whose best consignments have realised as much as £32 per ton of clean fibre. This only shows what a splendid opening there is in this country when Sisal and other first-class fibres shall be established in quantity, and supplies assured to the brokers at Home. Another healthy sign is the increasing local demand for plants of Sisal, and the Mauritius hemp. At the gardens we are booked for all that can be raised during the next two years—approximately a couple of lakhs. Fortunately our Sisal plants have commenced to pole, and propagation from that source already amounts to about 18,000 plants.

There are in Mysore alone, as you well know, immense tracts of poor, but still comparatively good, land under scrub. Many of these tracts, situated near the railway, I should like to see taken up for the cultivation of fibre and Ceará rubber, the success of which, if properly taken in hand, there can be no doubt whatever. At present the two redeeming products on these lands are grass for cattle and the tanner's shrub, *Cassia auriculata*, yielding *tangadi* bark, the staple tan of the Province. High prices are offered for the best tans, evidently because natural supplies are unequal to the requirements of the time. The pinch is being felt, for instance, at Cawnpore, where there are extensive leather and boot factories. The babul tree, which furnishes the bark in that locality, is becoming exhausted, and to carry bark in bulk from distant parts of the country is too expensive. For this reason, and for its richness in tannic acid, the comparatively light pods of the Divi Divi tree command a high price and are eagerly sought for. Plantations of this useful tree should certainly be raised at elevations ranging from 1,000 to 3,500 feet, with a rainfall of 30 to 70 inches. The Divi Divi is a very hardy and long-lived tree, which becomes more productive of pods (fruit) up to at least 60 years of age. It needs an open situation with good drainage. I am now in a position to supply a large quantity of seed, should it be bespoke some months before the ripening season at the close of the hot season.

After a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Cameron had been passed, the Meeting adjourned for the day.



## FOURTH DAY, August 6.

The delegates met at 7 A.M. and sat with an interval for lunch till nearly 5 P.M., many important matters on the Agenda Paper being discussed.

## THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR LAW.

This matter which was thoroughly discussed in Committee on Monday came up again to-day for discussion and ratification of the Resolution in open Meeting. Mr. Romilly in opening the discussion said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—The motion that I rise to propose is that this Association tenders its most cordial thanks to the Government for their endeavours to meet the requirements of the planting industries as embodied in Act I. of 1903 and while regretting that it is made to apply to all forms of contract and all conditions of labour and that Act XIII. has not been allowed to run concurrently with it, accepts it as likely to prove of benefit to the several planting Districts of South India, and will endeavour to induce its members to give the Act a trial in their respective Districts.

By the wording of it you will see that I by no means express unqualified approval of Act I. of 1902. It would have been a miracle if an Act had been passed which at the outset commanded our unanimous and unqualified approval. But I maintain that this Act, with one very important exception, contains most of the provisions that we have been asking for for years; it gives us the enforcement of specific performance of our contracts, and it gives to the Native States the right of extradition. That these concessions should be safeguarded by careful and elaborate precautions for the welfare of the cooly is only what an intelligent employer of labour was bound to expect. I can see nothing in these precautions if they are fairly and honestly carried out by the minor Government officials that will entail any injury to the employer's interests or entail unnecessary expense. I am quite aware that this is not the general opinion, and that most of our Districts shudder as they contemplate a plunge into a new sea of labour difficulties, and many would like to remain shuddering on the brink while some poor Association is chucked in to try it. *Fiat experimentum in corpore wili.* But you will see that my Resolution does not enforce specific experimenting on the most timid. I merely want to have the grateful acceptance of this Act recorded by this our parent Association, as a proof to Government and to all who take an interest in the matter, that we have not been drifting for the last 10 years, and that we still adhere to the principles laid down here 10 years ago. I hope to see the Act put in force and tested in more Districts than one. We have been accused, I know, of inconsistency, of not knowing our own minds. I have heard it stated in planting circles and also by Government officials, that ever since the Report of the Committee of Enquiry came out, we must have known that Act XIII. of 1859 would be done away with and that we acquiesced in it. Now this is a complete misconception and misstatement of the case. There has been deplorable inconsistency I admit in some quarters, though I am glad to say that the action of the planters is not endorsed by their Associations or by their official representatives here, notably on the part of the rank and file in the Nilgiris, but I will refer to that case presently. For the present I will apply myself to vindicating the conduct of the leaders of our community. The main action which underlies the whole history of the agitation is that we wanted protection in the enforcement of our contracts for imported labour, and for imported labour only. In this we have been consistent throughout and are consistent now in raising objection to an Act which, by removing one class of disabilities, created as we believe, a perfectly new and unexpected one, so far from the Committee of Enquiry having recom-

mended the abolition of Act XIII. they say in paragraph 136 "that the question, etc. . . ." We discussed the Report at our Meeting in August, 1897, and our views were embodied in a letter which I, as your Chairman, addressed to Government on the 13th August, 1897. In it we said *vide* page 16, "It is considered, etc." We have persisted in this throughout. When Mr. Hodgson was our Member on the Legislative Council, I used to discuss the provisions of the proposed Bill with him. There was still no mention of doing away with Act XIII., nor yet of forcing the new Act on all alike. Certainly, for myself, I always understood that any legislation would be of a permissive character,—I mean by that, that if you were satisfied with your labour arrangements, no Act would be forced on your acceptance. I imagine every one was under the same delusion even as lately as at this Meeting last year, when I see that you discussed the new Bill with closed doors as usual, and apparently were all well satisfied.

Government published the Bill at the end of last year and we were suddenly confronted with a new clause,—a clause which in its initial form, would have upset all labour arrangements throughout the length and breadth of the planting Districts, and would have cost the community lakhs of rupees in unrecoverable advances. That Government was able to frame such a clause and to publish it as their serious idea of the wanted legislation shows how utterly they had failed to understand the position and labour arrangements of the people for whom they were going to legislate. I myself put down this want of knowledge to the absurd secrecy as it seems to me with which all our discussions of the proposed legislation and all our communications from and to Government are veiled.

In 1897, when the Report of the Committee of Enquiry was considered we were told to conduct our discussion with closed doors—the Report of it even was published not in our ordinary book of proceedings, but as a confidential supplement. Ever since, the same ridiculous course has been adopted, with the inevitable result that those who are unable to attend the Meetings never know what is the latest plan of Government may be and Government never knows the real feeling of the planters for whom they are going to legislate. During the late agitation before the Bill was passed, you will find in Mr. Acworth's Reports the passage:—"Don't let this go beyond your Association or don't let it appear in the papers"; the reason being that the Government of Madras are (I daresay very properly) not allowed to publish their attempts at legislation before they have received the sanction of the Government of India, until they have received sanction, publication is forbidden and consequently discussion on them is a hole and corner one. When sanction is given, discussion is too late.

The Member of Government in charge of the Bill had, I suppose, not had time during the last four years to master the true position of affairs and could never have read these secret discussions. At any rate the ignorance he displayed was sublime. I note in one of the circulars that went the round of our Associations that one Planting Member, in reply I think to the Shevaroy, in a rare moment of petulance said that if the Angel Gabriel came down to legislate for planters, there would be 10 per cent. of malcontents. Well it was not the angel, and there were 99 per cent., at least a considerable percentage I believe. The outcry was apparently so unanimous and persistent that the clause as originally framed had to go. The question suggests itself whether we should not then and there have refused the Bill outright. It was a distinct breach of all previous negotiations with us, and we should have been consistent and in a stronger position had we done so. As it was, Government amended the objectionable Section and we trusted that they would still further amend the Act, so as to



allow Act XIII. to run concurrently. I cannot help thinking that with more firmness on our part they might have done so. The Act first of all abolished Act XIII. altogether and with retrospective effect. Then when that was rectified, our Hon'ble Member assured us that Act XIII. was doomed for the future, and that the Government of India would have none of it. That threat again was withdrawn you will remember, and we are now assured that if on trial the new Act does not suit us that Act XIII. will be restored to us. The Hon'ble Member has told you that it was a matter of regret to him that he was not more conversant with the conditions of local labour, and I will agree with him because I think that had he had practical experience of them he would have engineered a Bill satisfactory to all. I will here pay a passing tribute to the services he did render, and I do it with all the more pleasure as I know it always evokes agreement.

So far I have vindicated the action of this our Central Association for its consistency in the past. It is now at the present moment and with regard to our future action where vacillation comes in. There is no doubt that we have accepted the Act through our representative on the Council, who seconded the reading of the Bill in its amended form and so passed it into law. If we did not now endorse his action by a formal recognition of it, we should not only be making a fool of him, but also of the Madras Government which has, you must all admit, notwithstanding the display of some ignorance, tried to meet our views and spent much time and trouble over this piece of legislation. We should in consequence, I maintain, accept it gratefully and, notwithstanding any fancied shortcoming, we should give it a trial. Our only ground of objection to it is that most of us still think that in its amended form even, it is inapplicable to the conditions of local labour. The Act has granted nearly everything that we have previously worked for, and every rational man must have known that in asking for Government interference and sanction to our contracts, we were also inviting such supervision as Government might think necessary on behalf of the labourer. None of these precautions in this new Bill on behalf of Government are more than we could naturally expect. They are fair to both sides, and on a previously well-managed estate should cause no extra expense or fear of consequences. And yet those Nilgiri planters are so alarmed at the prospect that they go back on all that they have said or that has been said on their behalf before. They now assert that so far as they are concerned no legislation was ever required.

The petition has been published in the public newspapers, or otherwise it might be as well to pass it over in silence, but it has been published and has been much discussed in planting circles, and I believe it has attracted the attention of Government, and when I saw it last, it had no less than 33 signatures attached. Now there is a Moorish proverb that a good bundle of faggots, well bound, will float a laden ass across a river, whilst cut the faggots apart and they will not bear a chicken to safety. It is a true proverb, but it takes no account of the possibility of the ass himself who is being ferried into safety ending through the rope that binds the faggots together. This unfortunately is what has really happened in our case. I take it for granted that you do not for one moment imagine that I am applying the word "ass" to any one of those 33 Nilgiri planters, no, not even in a Pickwickian sense. I am merely carrying out the Moorish metaphor, but yet I call them foolish politicians who having taken many of them an active, and the rest a passive part in the agitation of the last four years against Act XIII. and labour troubles in general, suddenly wake up with a start to the horror of having to realise that their efforts have actually been successful, and that they are on the brink of legislation that they have been too lazy to foresee. In a

sudden panic, without even being at the pains of securing a man with a good knowledge of their own vernacular or with a knowledge of the commonly accepted form of drawing up petitions, they sign a declamatory statement in which they assert that they live in a labour paradise from which their coolies occasionally are sent to the local hospital, and the same coolies return year by year to the same estate. The most extraordinary portion of the petition is the statement, that they have no difficulty in recovering advances when once given out. I have already called attention to this statement in the *Madras Mail* and asked the direct question if it was absolutely true—or a possible mistake; I think I suggested an exaggeration. I have no doubt that it is true in some individual cases, but I do not believe that the manager of any big concern can produce his books over a term of years and show no bad and irrecoverable advances. I see that the Vice-Chairman of this Association, Mr. E. G. Windle, signed the petition. Surely Mr. Windle must have given evidence before the Committee. Surely many of these 33 gentlemen must have done so, and if they gave their evidence to the same effect as their statement to Government now it would most assuredly have been mentioned in the Committee's Report. Even if their statement was true which, as I have said before, I can hardly believe, I consider it a most injudicious and impolitic document. The truth of the matter is that they prefer to rest content with the ills they have than fly to others that they know not of; but why they should go out of their way to assert that everything is for the best in this best of worlds of theirs I know not. I have only been a few months in this Elysium, as an Acting Manager of a very big concern, and my experience has been exactly what it has been elsewhere, that there are good maistries and bad maistries, good coolies and absconding coolies, maistries who always want more instead of pressing back their advances on you, and coolies who think nothing of leaving the estates and their advances unpaid to get others elsewhere. I have yet to learn that these advances are easily recoverable.

I would not have dwelt so long on this document but that I believe it has done us much harm, and would do still more if we did not repudiate it utterly. I must tell you, gentlemen, that when I was deputed by my Association to represent them at this Meeting, I was given definite instructions as to how to vote on certain subjects. In accepting the invitation I pointed out that I must reserve to myself the right to modify their laid down instruction in the light of the forthcoming debates. Otherwise it seemed to me that in a Meeting of this sort every vote might as well be a proxy. I very soon realised the absolute truth of this contention. I was instructed to vote for a petition to Government asking that this Act might run concurrently with Act XIII., and I admit that I was in complete accord with my instructions. Now I would ask other representatives of their Associations, who I know have also received distinct instructions, to listen to me patiently and carefully. I was in Ootacamund and asked leave to have an informal conversation with His Excellency the Governor. At that interview I told His Excellency what my instructions were, and he at once assured me that any such course on the part of this Association would be absolutely futile. His Excellency gave me leave to repeat to you the gist of his remark. It was to this effect:—"You planters laid your grievance before Government. It was listened to. A Committee of Enquiry reported on your grievances and a Bill was framed with your full concurrence to meet these grievances. Your representative on the Council after certain amendments accepts it on your behalf and it becomes law, and now without even giving it a trial you ask us to amend it. This is futile. You will not be listened to. Your fear of it may be unreasonable. Give it a trial, and then if in its working you do find that it operates harshly,



then come up to Government, not with vague surmise, but stating a concrete instance where hardship has occurred and we will listen to you." I quite but reluctantly admit that the logic of this advice is unanswerable. Do not think it weakness to change your views when convinced against your will. It is only common sense. I changed my views and wrote off at once to my Association to tell them that I had done so and that I could not being forward their Resolution. They have not met since and in consequence have not absolved me from the fulfilment of their injunction, but I have taken the responsibility on myself of acting as I think right.

When an authoritative statement comes like this from the head of the Government, and I can assure you that His Excellency was emphatic, it seems that not only should we be wasting time in going up with a petition to have the Act amended, but we should be putting ourselves in an absolutely false position. The only thing that is left us to do now is to give the Act a trial or to abandon the labour question for once and for all time, and to admit that we do not know our own minds, and that we have defeated our ends by gaining that which we asked for. Now, gentlemen, consider for one minute the lengthy and exhaustive debate that has taken place in Committee. Mr. Acworth, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Norton and myself were for a long time alone. Many of you admitted that your views were modified by the arguments which had been brought forward. You were bound hand and foot to vote by mandate against your own feelings. I ask you to justify yourselves before your own constituents hereafter, but now to give a unanimous vote in favour of my Resolution and try effectually to get it carried into force. I am sure that it is the only logical course open to us, and I do not for one instant believe that the Act will entail the losses and sufferings on the employers of labour, which many of you foresee, and which as you will remember were equally predicted by some of the native members of Council and vernacular Press for the labourer.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON, in seconding Mr. Romilly's motion, said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise to second Mr. Romilly's Resolution. I am sure my doing so will be approved by the Associations I represent, as we are tendering to Government the thanks which is their due for the time and trouble they have given to the framing of Act I. of 1903.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association held at Ootacamund on the 8th of June last, the following Resolution was put to the Meeting:—

"This Association sees no great reason why the Madras Planters' Labour Act of 1903 should not be beneficial to the planting interests in this District, and is both ready and willing for the said Act to be extended to the Nilgiris."

The votes for and against the above Resolution were exactly divided, being 14 each way, and considering the importance of the question at issue the Chairman's casting vote was not used, but it was decided to send a circular to all members of the Association so that each one might have the opportunity of recording his vote.

The result of this circular was a very large majority against the introduction of the Act into the Nilgiri District.

That this feeling extended beyond the members of the Association I am also bound to say, and it took the form of a circular letter which was published in the *Madras Mail* and in *Planting Opinion*. I think its untimely publication is to be regretted. This letter was signed by 34 planters, 22 of whom were members of the Nilgiri P. A., the other 12 not being members.

The reasons given in this letter for declining the Act are briefly—

(1) That there is no difficulty in obtaining labour or in recovering advances on the Nilgiris.

(2) The fear of expense under the rules to be framed providing for medical attendance, and accommodation for coolies.

(3) Objection to Government interference as likely to introduce "constant worry" by Government inspectors.

(4) Fears that too much will be left in the hands of local native Magistrates.

The letter concluded with a suggestion that "the Act will be given a trial elsewhere," and with a firm protest against its introduction "at present" to the Nilgiri District.

The above petition can hardly be considered as representative, as it only recorded the opinion of 34 planters, whereas in reply to the Honorary Secretary's circular sent out under instructions of the Meeting of the N. P. A. held on the 8th June, which was sent to members and non-members of the Association, 72 replies were received. Of these, 6 representing 3,800 acres were in favour of an immediate unconditional trial of the Act and 66 representing 16,000 acres were against it. Subsequent to this an amendment was circulated reading, "that this Association will be pleased to accept the Labour Act tentatively, if it be allowed to run concurrently with Act XIII., and on the understanding that the former will be withdrawn should the Association find it unsuitable after a trial, and that the delegate to Bangalore be instructed accordingly."

This amendment is supported by 34 for and 26 against, and is the final Resolution of the Nilgiri Planters' Association I have to lay before this Meeting. Of the 34 planters voting for this amendment 14 were signatories to the petition previously alluded to. I have gone thus fully into the various stages of the discussion of the Act, because, firstly the petition referred to was published in the public journals, and, secondly, to show that although the Nilgiri planters are doubtful of the suitability of the Act in its present form, they hesitate to decline it absolutely in view of the time and trouble expended in obtaining it.

The Anamallai Planters' Association on the 25th of July confirmed the Resolution passed at the General Meeting of the 11th of July which reads:—

"That the delegate be instructed that this Association has only been formed a short time, and under the prevailing conditions would never have asked for such an Act to be applied to this District."

I might mention that at present there is no long term contract imported labour in this District, the coolies going up and down from the low country at short intervals under fresh advances, and for such agreements the new Act is considered unsuitable by the Association.

So far, I have spoken on behalf of the two Associations I am representing and have endeavoured to put their opinions and Resolutions before you as clearly as circumstances admit, rendered the more necessary after the somewhat severe, though perhaps partly deserved comments, Mr. Romilly has made on their action.

I would now ask leave to make a few remarks on my own account, which I hope will not be considered out of place, seeing how closely I have been personally connected with first the enquiry and subsequently the early stages through which the Bill, which has finally come out as Act I. of 1903, has passed.

As Mr. Romilly has said, planters have been accused of being inconsistent and also unreasonable, in not at once accepting an Act for which they themselves asked. I cannot agree that this accusation of inconsistency is a fair one. What was asked for originally was an Act to control and deal with *imported labour*, for which the existing Act XIII. was unsuitable and



inefficient. It was never contemplated that on the introduction of such an Act, Act XIII. would be withdrawn from operation, specially as in Assam it runs concurrently with their labour laws, and the Committee of Enquiry in its Report considered such withdrawal as improbable and undesirable in paragraphs just quoted to you by Mr. Romilly. Act I. of 1903 may be said therefore, to give with one hand and take away with the other in this respect. Act XIII. of 1859 is, and always has been, much used for contracts with local labour, and for short term contracts and contracts for specified works, for which purposes it is very useful and convenient, and I can see nothing inconsistent in the objection of planters to its withdrawal.

The other principal objection to the new Act is raised through apprehension of the liabilities that may be imposed on the planter under Section 15, Chapter III of the Act. I would now emphasise my opinion that there is no desire on the part of the planter to evade the responsibility attaching to him, as an employer, to provide proper accommodation, and medical aid to his employees. Chapter V of the Enquiry Committee's Report deals fully with this subject, and in paragraph 33 you will find that "good lines are built and maintained for coolies;" "in case of illness ordinary medicines are administered on the estates;" "that in Malabar, Wynaad, Coorg and North-Mysore the planters subscribe to Medical funds," etc. In fact the whole of this paragraph shows that the Committee of Enquiry after extensive inspection and exhaustive enquiry was satisfied that everything possible was done for the health and comfort of the cooly.

But the Act as now offered to the planter has no finality as to what may be demanded of him in the future under Section 15, and it is this uncertainty which is evidently one of the chief cause of hesitation in accepting it. This is the fault of the system which allows the Government to take power to introduce unknown rules and regulations into an Act which has already become law. It is easy to see that in the nature of such rules much must depend. Rules of a harassing, stringent and inconvenient character might be imposed on the planter involving much expenditure and aggravating interference. Personally I do not fear that the local Government would impose any rules throwing large outlay or unnecessary trouble on the planter, but one cannot deny the argument that it is possible, and it is reasonable that the planter should at least be cautious in accepting unknown liabilities.

To remove this cause of apprehension, and possibly with it one of the chief objections to the Act, I would suggest that the proposed Rules to be made as laid down in Section 42, Chapter V, should be framed and published by local authorities as soon as possible, to enable planters to know definitely what is expected of them. With the conclusions arrived at by the Enquiry Committee and expressed in Chapter V of the Report, I cannot see why the planter must be put to any extra expenditure than that which in his own interest and the dictates of humanity he already cheerfully incurs.

It will be gathered from what I have said that I agree with the planters of my District so far as allowing that there are objections to the Act as it now stands. But I cannot agree that the best course to remove them is being followed.

It cannot be expected that an Act which has only just been made law, and has had no trial, can be amended in any way. The only possible means of obtaining amendment is by accepting the Act, giving it a fair trial, and then, if found necessary, applying for amendment. Act I. of 1903 fortunately allows us to give it a trial tentatively, in itself a great privilege, and what I most earnestly desire to see is planters giving it that trial, honestly and fairly, when I firmly believe that the Act in operation will be found to work with few if any of the disabilities attributed to it. If otherwise, however,

amendment can then be fairly sought or a return made to the old position.

Finally, I have sympathy with those who now say they never wanted or never asked for such an Act. Although they may find it convenient to forget, past history is recorded, and those who did not actually call for legislation tacitly acquiesced in it, by raising no dissentient voice. Turning to the Enquiry Committee's Report I find that 33 members of the U. P. A. gave evidence in favour of the proposed legislation and others replied accepting the answers furnished by the Honorary Secretary of their Association.

In the past eight years conditions no doubt have changed, and the coffee industry which was a prosperous and flourishing one when this legislation was started, has since fallen to the brink of ruin. In consequence competition has fallen off and with it some of the chief labour difficulties have disappeared for the time. For instance, I see that in 1896 N. Mysore had outstanding advances amounting to over Rs.5 lakhs of which over Rs.3 lakhs were considered to be unrecoverable. (See Appendix VII to Enquiry Committee Report.) Now I imagine that at that time the planters there would gladly have accepted this Act which they now say they do not want for the present. But, gentlemen, you may rest assured that competition for labour among ourselves will return with the first revival of prosperity for coffee, and in the meantime is increasing, and will increase, from other quarters. The scarcity of labour in Assam and in Ceylon is already acutely felt, and as the latter country draws its entire labour supply from South India, will push us harder as time goes on.

There is one warning note I wish to sound, *viz.*, the possibility of Act XIII. being repealed. We all know that the Government has long considered the Act as applied to contracts for labour as unsuitable and undesirable. With Act XIII. removed and Act I. of 1903 not in operation, you would have free labour, and advances recoverable only by Civil suit. How would planters and how would their maistries like that position? I think the possibility deserves your consideration.

I will conclude by expressing my earnest hope that each and every Association will, in the light of the discussion that has taken place at this Meeting, especially in Committee, carefully consider whether they cannot give the Act a trial and see how it works in operation, which is really the only practical way of testing its efficiency, and certainly the only possible way of arriving at any amendment of Sections which in operation may be found to be defective, and I therefore join with Mr. Romilly in asking you to make this Resolution unanimous if possible.

Mr. G. K. MARTIN supported the Resolution.

Mr. FLETCHER NORTON also supported the motion in the following speech:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I am sure we are all pleased at the satisfactory nature of this Resolution which has received the almost unanimous support of the delegates here. I do not think we need to convince one another that this is a good Bill, but that we should try and bring round to our opinion our brother-planters who still hold a contrary view, and to that end I make these remarks. Had I been living in British India I should have welcomed this Bill (with some modifications which we hope to get introduced into it, always bearing in mind that the principle of the Bill must not be touched, and because the labour conditions in Mysore vary from those in other Districts, I am sure it can be made acceptable to us). Most of the criticism has been directed against Chapter III relating to Inspection of lines, etc. We are here in accord, but a very large body resent official interference, and have conjured up a bugbear from which they do not seem to be able to relieve themselves. I believe these clauses will work either smoothly or with friction just as each manager works them. The man



who is continually in Court seeking redress will most likely bring on himself those very evils which he fears. I know of no law where large bodies of labourers are employed, whose health and comfort are not specially provided for by legislation.

Instead of being an argument against the Bill I consider it the strongest argument in favour of it; for the planter has absolutely nothing to fear from the official inspection of his lines which would sink into a mere formality, and I am convinced that the great majority if not all planters are in the same happy position, for we may take it for granted that coolies would not return year after year to the same estates if they were not well looked after. I never realised until I came here, though I followed the course of this Bill closely, the enormous difficulties that the Planting Member had to contend with and the many conflicting interests he had to reconcile, and this Bill which I believe will bring us the relief we have so long desired will remain a lasting monument to his tact and ability. I have much pleasure in recording my vote in favour of the Resolution.

Mr. BROCK then explained, with reference to a remark made by Mr. Romilly, that Mr. E. G. Windle in signing the petition of the Nilgiri Planters against the Bill did so with the remark that he was supporting the principle and not the form of the petition.

Mr. R. GOMPERTZ supported the Resolution in the following explanatory speech:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—If I were to vote for this Resolution without explanation, it would probably be understood as a request, on behalf of my Association, that Act I. of 1903 might be introduced into the Salem District; and as my instructions to abstain from any such request are explicit and peremptory, I consider it my duty to place on record the reasons which dictated those instructions.

My Association yields to none in its appreciation of the assistance kindly accorded to planters by the Government of Madras, in their endeavours to get their wants understood and remedied by the Supreme Government; and of the Planting Member's laudable exertions in his hopeless endeavours to please everybody. But our conditions are exceptional as I will explain.

The estates of all the planters of my Association are situated on the Shevaroy Hills, in the Salem District, and none of our labour is imported from a distance. By far the greater part of it is purely local; by which I mean that the homes of the labourers are so close to their work that they live in their own villages, and not on the estates where they are employed. And so far as I am aware there is not a single coolie employed on the Shevaroy Hills who comes from another District, or whose home is so distant that he cannot reach it in a single day. We have to give advances, it is true. The system is so deeply rooted that we are compelled to give them even to coolies whose village is within a mile of their work. But they are very small compared with what planters, who recruit their labour from a distance, are obliged to offer. Our labourers—particularly the hill men—rarely work regularly; and, at ploughing time or harvest, absent themselves for weeks together to cultivate their fields. But, as a rule, they come back, when their private business is concluded and work out their advances. There are exceptions; but, when they do not, a summons under Act XIII of 1859 is generally sufficient to remind them of their duty. There are of course black sheep in every community; and it sometimes happens that when a coolie is ordered by the Magistrate to return to his work, he fails to do so, and is sent to prison for a fortnight or so when (under Act XIII.) the planter loses his advance. But with us, such cases are comparatively infrequent; and the loss is trivial compared to what we should suffer under the new Act, which limits contracts to one year, and under which a planter would

either have to take the whole of these men before a Magistrate (i.e. those who have worked on the estate for years and who have always honestly returned before, as well as the said black sheep) and have them punished and compelled to work for him, when it was of vital importance to them to attend to their own fields; or he would lose their service altogether for such portion of the year as they were absent, since he had not complained of it, as well as any balance of the advance that might be due, when the year expired. If he did the first, no local labourers would ever work for him again; if the second, he would have to suffer a loss which he can by no means afford.

Then in the case of coolies who do reside on the estate, their homes are so near that they are constantly visited by a host of relations and connections without the knowledge or consent of the planter; so that we should constantly be getting into trouble under Section 13 which obliges us to keep registers of our coolies "and of their dependents" and there are other reasons with which I need not trouble you. Suffice it to say that a few weeks ago the Collector enquired officially if we wished the new Act introduced, and we replied that as all our labour was local we did not desire a change. The Labour Enquiry Commissioners (in Chapter III of their Report, "The Labour Supply," page 10) frequently mentions that the Salem District is exceptional—a fact which is repeated no less than three times on the 1st page of the chapter. They couple Madura and Tinnevely with Salem, but the first two are not planting districts and are not represented on the U. P. A. S. I. And when the Bill was being discussed in the Legislative Council, the Planting Member specially mentioned the Shevaroyas as a District "in which labour conditions had always worked smoothly, and in which planters were therefore naturally nervous of any change." Whilst, therefore, I intend to vote for the Resolution before the Meeting, I consider it undesirable to disturb the Arcadian simplicity of the Shevaroy Hills by the introduction of Act I. of 1903, and that it is incumbent upon me to record my reason.

Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING also supported the Resolution and in explaining away the alteration that came over the views of the North Mysore Association with regard to the Act, he said that when North Mysore protested against Act XIII. of 1859, it was working very badly indeed. Since then the Act had been working very much better, and they are well satisfied with it. The advantage of the new Act was that it gave all that was asked for in Act XIII., namely, specific performance of contract and reciprocity in the issue of processes between British and Native States, and were it not for a latent fear that some of its provisions would bring expense and inconvenience to the planter, it would have been better received in Mysore than it had been. Though the N. M. P. A. considered some of the provisions of Act I of 1903 unsuitable to its District it was second to no other Association in its appreciation of the sympathy which the Government of Madras had shown to the planting industries of South India, and it rejoiced in the opportunity now afforded of recording that appreciation.

Mr. E. E. WILLIAMS, in supporting the Resolution, said:—My Association instructed me as their delegate to vote against the introduction of this Act into their District. There were several clauses in the Act which they took objection to. These have, I consider, in several instances been satisfactorily explained in Committee by Messrs. Acworth, Hodgson, and Romilly. I consider, however, that the Resolution now before the Meeting is such an open one that by supporting it I am only acting in the interests of my Association. I would suggest that the Committee proceedings on this question be printed separately as soon as possible, so as to allow of delegates putting the whole matter once more clearly before their various



Associations, thus enabling certain Districts to come to a speedy conclusion as to the question of a trial.

Mr. F. M. PARKER said that without unduly wishing to exalt the horn of the Central Travancore Association, he was glad of the opportunity of mentioning that his Association had applied to the Travancore Government for the Act, and would use it as soon as it was passed. He never had had a case brought against him, nor had he ever had to bring a case against his *Kanganis*, and he hoped that this happy state of things would continue. Why he welcomed the Act was because it would help *Kanganis* to recover advances from defaulting coolies. Under the present condition of things *Kanganis* lost heavily from this cause.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. L. ACWORTH briefly expressed his satisfaction at the turn the debate had taken.

The CHAIRMAN, in summing up the debate, said that the discussion had been so full that he would only make a few brief remarks. There had been so much adverse criticism of Act I. of 1903 in the Press and elsewhere, that he could not help feeling some anxiety as to the line that would be taken in the discussion, and must confess now a sense of great relief at the tone which had prevailed right through. It was necessary to member in the first place that the Bill had not the personal approval of the planting community; secondly, it was necessary to remember that the Planting Member had induced the Government to agree to several amendments which had been accepted, and finally, in order to reach a logical position, he had had a difficult course to steer, and that they had successfully done this, avoiding rocks and shoals, he thought was due to Mr. Romilly. It would have been a matter of great regret if any steps had been taken, which in any way repudiated the work of the past 10 years, on the one hand; or on the other, if they had failed to show their appreciation of the labours of Government on behalf of all concerned in the planting industry. He thought the Resolution put before the Meeting entirely met the situation. Personally he thought the new Bill, in the main, a satisfactory measure. It contained the two concessions which they had always demanded, specific performance of contract and reciprocity in the matter of issue of processes between Native States and British territory. Another very satisfactory point alluded to by Mr. Parker was that maistries and *Kanganis* would benefit even more largely under the Act than planters as it would protect them against the great losses which had hitherto fallen on them on account of absconding coolies. It was very evident that Government in drafting the Bill were entirely ignorant of local labour and entirely overlooked it, and it was only through the instrumentality of the Planting Member that the provisions under Section 4 were subsequently inserted. It was regrettable, too, that Government could not see their way to allow Act XIII. of 1859 to run concurrently with Act I. of 1903, as Mr. Romilly had shown. With greater determination it might have been possible to succeed on that point. But now as Government had pronounced finally on this point, he saw no good in kicking against the pricks. If, however, they had only been able to give the Planting Member full information regarding the conditions and difficulties of local labour, there was no doubt he would, with his usual ability, have persuaded the Government into inserting a clause which would have rendered the Bill a much more suitable one. He congratulated those Associations that were going to give the Act a trial as it would enable its working and alleged shortcomings to be viewed from the point practical experience. He reminded his hearers that the more numerous were the Associations who followed the example of Wynaad and Central Travancore and gave the Act a trial the more would be the opportunities for judging of its alleged shortcomings, and the

more evidence would there be of these if there were any. Finally he congratulated the delegates from the Shevaroyes, Coorg, North Mysore and the Cardamom Hills that they had been able to see their way to support the Resolution.

Mr. ROMILLY rose to correct any impression that Wynaad had pledged itself to give the Act a trial. He hoped he might persuade them to do so, but he had not pledged them to any action of that sort.

The CHAIRMAN then put the Resolution to the Meeting when it was carried unanimously and with acclamation.

#### DR. LEHMANN'S EXPERIMENTS.

Mr. HODGSON said that they had all listened to Dr. Lehmann's lecture yesterday as a subject of vital importance to coffee-planters. He thought it only right that they should show their interest in and appreciation of the work that Dr. Lehmann was doing. He therefore proposed the following Resolutions:—  
“(1) That this Association which so fully appreciates the benefits which accrue to the planting community though the labours of Dr. Lehmann, instruct the Secretary to respectfully approach the Mysore Durbar regarding the advisability of appointing an entomologist through whose instrumentality the work of the Agricultural Department would be rendered more complete.”  
“(2) That this Association respectfully urge the Mysore Durbar to allow Dr. Lehmann to devote sufficient time to the very important experiments he proposes to conduct in connection with the quality of coffee to enable him to complete them as early as may reasonably be expected, and also to continue his valuable investigations in connection with coffee fertilisers.”

The Resolutions were seconded by Mr. E. E. Williams and carried unanimously.

#### QUALITY AND CURING OF COFFEE.

Mr. FLECHER NORTON in opening the discussion on this subject said:—Under the head of deterioration of coffee a long and interesting debate took place at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in 1899. In the discussion of 1899 the carefully conducted methods of preparation which are practiced on estates in Mysore were most fully explained, and special attention was drawn to all the subsequent processes through which our produce goes at the curing works on the Coast. I wish to clearly explain that it is our sincere desire to co-operate with our curing agents in the most friendly spirit possible, as we are already to acknowledge what a thankless and impossible task it must be for a Coast Agent to make our coffee attractive in appearance and general quality if the preparation has not been properly attended to on the estate. It will, however, be readily acknowledged that when exporters on the coast find no fault with the coffee that reaches their works and are frequently kind enough to pass most gratifying opinions on it, it is indeed extraordinary that such unsatisfactory reports of appearance, colour, quality and flavour should be received from London. In a letter from Mr. Rouse, the Chairman of the Coffee-brokers Committee to the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce, printed on page 149-50 of the proceedings of the Association for 1899, it is stated that “There are practically two markets supplied by London (a) the English home trade who owing to coffee being retailed roasted, buy consequently only on the roast; and (b) the export trade to the Continent where the coffee is sold raw who buy entirely on size and colour and have a good variation in price.” It is, therefore, self-evident that in order to secure good prices in London much must depend on the special requirements of the particular buyers; those that supply the Home demands insisting on having coffee that roasts well and yields a good flavour; while those who purchase for export are very particular about size and colour. These facts prove the truth of the conviction which exists among many producers that exceptional prices are frequently given for particular marks, which have



been favoured had purchased by certain buyers for many years past. I am quite prepared to acknowledge that certain estates, which are most favourably situated, have excellent soil and are carefully and liberally cultivated, produce coffee of an exceptionally fine character, but there are vagaries on the London market which experience has definitely proved are absolutely unexplainable. Leaving these vagaries out of the question, what we have to ascertain is what suggestions can we make in regard to improving the attractive appearance and conserving the good qualities of E. India coffee generally. Numerous experiments have been made and the members of my Association have conducted most careful investigations having for their object the elucidation of the most important points.

Samples of coffee hand-rubbed on the estate have been sent to London, and expert opinion has been obtained in regard to them. The difference in valuation between these samples and the consignments for which they were taken varies to the alarming extent of from £20 to £30 a ton. This is not all. Samples are now regarded in London as most unreliable by forward buyers, as the characteristics of the samples and the consignments are absolutely different in roast, colour and flavour; thus definitely proving that something prejudicially influences the coffee after it has left the estate. Even an hour's over-drying in the fierce heat of the low country sun will entirely change the colour of coffee for the worse, and if the delivery from the carts takes place in the open, even the exposure entailed in measuring large batches must have an injurious effect. In some reports received from the coast accurate accounts have been supplied of the number of hours drying to which the coffee was subjected and the weight per bushel before and after exposure. In some of the statements 1-2 lbs. loss of weight is recorded for the same number of hours drying, and this clearly proves what a delicate operation this must be, and what tremendous solar heat must be prevalent during the time of preparation. Again it is a well-known fact that some coffees are much more susceptible to damage by pressure or violent friction than others, high-grown coffee being harder and hornier than low-grown coffee. If an ordinary well dried coffee bean be subjected to pressure the diffusible pigment which constitutes "colour" will be either irregularly re-distributed giving a mottled appearance, or will be squeezed out leaving the bean quite pale. If a similarly well dried bean be held in the fingers and rubbed with a certain amount of rapidity on cloth or similar soft material, an oily bloom will be established on the surface; but if too great pressure or rapidity of action is used this oily bloom will be evanescent and the bean will have a faded shrivelled appearance. A very strong conviction exists among practical planters of experience that improvements in the peeling machinery are essentially necessary. Under any circumstances it is eminently desirable that elaborate experiments should be conducted with all the various machines at present in use. Samples of the same coffee should be prepared before and after secondary drying in each machine and should be promptly submitted for expert opinion in London. The varying stages of dryness at which coffee is peeled should be accurately recorded in another set of experiments, and similarly the varying effects of pressure and friction should be ascertained. In conclusion I have the honour to state that the following expert opinions have been obtained in London, and these I feel confident afford ample justification for the remarks which I have made on behalf of the members of the Association which I have the honour to represent. I can assure the preparing Agents that any suggestions as to improvements in the preparation on the estates will always command the promptest attention and I feel sure in the matter of technical and expert advice we may confidently rely on the valuable assistance of Dr. Lehmann who is ever ready to help us.

The Meeting then went into Committee to discuss the subject when the following Resolution was arrived at:—"Proposed

by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Hodgson:—That in view of the extreme importance of quality in coffee with reference to its value in the London Market, the Coast Agents be again addressed by the Secretary asking them to give special attention to the effect produced upon the colour of coffee during the curing operations (1) by pressure on the bean in removing the various skins; (2) by exposure to the sun; (3) the possibility of drying by artificial means; (4) any other points which may suggest themselves to the curers.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

#### THE DELEGATE TO BRAZIL.

Mr. ROMILLY said that he was instructed by his Association to support this Resolution very strongly. He had, however, prepared no notes in favour of the scheme, but with his usual perversity had prepared a few notes against it (laughter). But after his behaviour on the question of the Labour Act, he did not wish to go against his Association again, and he would mention, as a proof of his Association's interest in the scheme that it was prepared to subscribe Rs.107! He was very willing to admit that if they would get the information they wanted from Brazil that was absolutely reliable as to what the cost of production was to planters there, what profit they were making and what was the margin of loss, it would be of infinite value to them. Many planters were now going on working coffee in the hope that better times were in store. If as a result of their mission to Brazil they came to the conclusion that better times were impossible, then no doubt they would stop. In November last he was invited to Calicut to meet Sir Edward Law, and when he mentioned the matter of sending a delegate to Brazil, Sir Edward Law approved of it as an excellent idea. When the United Planters' Association and Sir Edward Law both formed an opinion on one side, he thought another humble individual should withdraw his ideas against them. He would, however, like to put forward the difficulties he had thought of before the scheme was put into practice. First of all he believed they were prepared to subscribe Rs.15,000, which it was thought would cover the whole cost of the expedition. One great difficulty would be to get a good man. They might have an able man, but for his Report to be of any value he ought to know Spanish or Portuguese. They wanted a man who would be able to talk to the farmers and pick up all the information necessary at first hand instead of being dependent on an interpreter. Besides a knowledge of the language they must get a man who could really get to the bottom of things, and get information by talking things over. Different people advocate different methods of work. Mr. Hodgson would tell them that his idea was to send a man to the principal ports and trading centres, with credentials from the Government, and thus get all the information he could as to the actual financial position in which the coffee-planters in Brazil were. On the other hand, his own Association (Wynaad) said that the delegate must go to each individual District. The knowledge thus gained would perhaps be worth the time and money spent, if it could be done. He thought, however, that after all that travelling and living in the various Districts had been done, there would be very little of that £1,000 left for the delegate himself. He did not think therefore that they would be able to find a man with ease.

Another question was what were the advantages to be gained from the mission. The main question underlying the whole scheme was this:—Was it worth while continuing cultivating coffee in India. After all the delegate's labours and troubles, they would probably hear something which they knew already, namely that Brazil could grow the commoner kinds of coffee cheaper than they could in the East Indies. What would seem more worth the trouble and expense to discover would be the question of quality, a matter they had already discussed.



All knew where they did grow coffee of good quantity the estates were paying well. He therefore moved "That in the opinion of this Association it would be desirable to send a delegate to Brazil to report on the coffee industry there."

Mr. H. P. HODGSON in seconding the Resolution, said that Mr. Romilly's was a strange method of moving a Resolution he was asked strongly to support. He could only explain the flippant manner in which Mr. Romilly had dealt with the subject as showing his relief at having got the Labour Bill off his chest. He did not agree with Mr. Romilly at all that the money spent would be money wasted. Personally he was of opinion that the expenditure they prepared to devote to their mission would be most remunerative. He regarded it as a matter of vital importance to find out the position in Brazil. If they could do so he did not think such grave difficulties surrounded the scheme as Mr. Romilly had suggested. Supposing in the first instance Brazil wanted to find out the position of the coffee industry in India, and a delegate from Brazil came over and going—properly accredited of course—to a Coast Agent asked what he could tell him about coffee in South India. He (the speaker) thought the Coast Agent could tell the delegate a good deal about coffee, its prosperity and the reverse in this country. In the same way their delegate could get much valuable information from the ports in Brazil as to the financial position of coffee there, and, no doubt, the delegate would also be told what Districts to visit where he would be able to gather detailed and valuable information. At the present time planters in South India were carrying on their estates with borrowed money in many cases in the hope that better times were in front of them; but if the delegate's report showed that even at present prices the Brazil planters were making a profit out of coffee, many in South India who were now hesitating would throw up the sponge and look in other directions for a livelihood. Mr. Romilly had referred to the difficulty of getting a suitable man. That, of course, was a difficulty, but it was another instance of putting the cart before the horse. They must first find out if they could get sufficient money and then look out for a suitable man.

Mr. FLETCHER NORTON and Mr. Scot-Skirving on behalf of the two Mysore Associations supported the scheme. Mr. G. Martin, on behalf of Coorg, opposed the proposition as a waste of their own money and the Government subscription which he would rather see transferred to the St. Louis Exhibition.

The CHAIRMAN said that it would be a good thing if they could get the information regarding the state of the industry in Brazil, as it would be a distinct advantage to planters to know whether the industry could be carried on at present prices or not. The question, however, to be considered was whether this information might not be ascertained in another way. He believed that Mr. Acworth's mysterious friend still contemplated visiting Brazil and was willing to place his services at their disposal in a private way, and he thought they ought to ascertain whether this source of information would be available or not before proceeding any further with the bigger scheme. Mr. Hodgson had suggested that most of the information could be ascertained from the Coast. If this was so, it could probably be obtained through the British Consuls without going to Brazil at all. Another point that had not been considered in the discussion at all was the financial aspect of the scheme, for, after all, the whole thing hinged on that very necessary consideration. They did not know to any very great extent what a District Association or individuals were prepared to subscribe, and until they knew that they could not proceed further with the matter. It had to be remembered that the U. P. A. S. I. could not subscribe towards the scheme and they must also remember that they were going to the various Governments now for money for the St. Louis Exhibition. They would have to

decide now if they were going to ask for assistance for two schemes or one. If one, which were they willing to support.

The Meeting then went into Committee to consider this point, when the following Resolutions were carried and adopted in open Meeting :—

"That the Secretary be instructed to communicate with the Government of India with a view to eliciting the good offices of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs towards obtaining the special services of H. M.'s Consuls in Brazil to conduct as exhaustive an enquiry as possible into the condition of the planting industry in that country."

(2) "That the Secretary be instructed to inform the Government of India that the U. P. A. S. I. have determined to exhibit their produce at the St. Louis Exhibition, for which purpose they have subscribed a sum of Rs.10,000, and as in the present depressed state of the industry it is impossible to contribute both towards the Exhibition and the sending of a mission to Brazil, the Government of India be requested to transfer the sum of Rs.5,000 referred to in their letter of the 27th February, 1903, to that of the St. Louis Exhibition." The original Resolution fell through when the first of the above Resolutions, which was an amendment, was carried.

### Tea Markets.

#### SALE IN INDIA AND GREEN TEA.

Mr. ACWORTH on this subject said that the tea cess had been established, and he went to Calcutta in June last to attend a Meeting to consult as to how the money was to be distributed. They were very well satisfied with the progress made in America by black tea: in fact they were well satisfied with the progress made by black tea throughout the world, and it now became a question of relieving the black tea market by making green tea. There was a large market in America and Canada for green tea and a smaller market in Italy and Brazil. The first thing to do was to make it worth while for the planter to manufacture it as it required special machinery. As usual Ceylon was first in the field, and with the Government cess were able to give a bonus to such estates as went in for green tea. The Indian Tea Association, while not going so far as the Ceylon Tea Association, had agreed to pay a bonus on four million pounds of green tea at 6 pies per lb. or a total sum of Rs.1½ lakhs. It had further agreed tentatively to give a sum of Rs. 2,000 a month for pushing the sale of South India tea in South India. That sum was given for six months, and if it was found satisfactory it would probably be continued for another period of six months. These sums together with the Rs.50,000 which it was proposed to give to the St. Louis Exhibition would absorb all the money given under the tea cess.

#### THE STANDARDISATION OF MANURES.

Mr. ACWORTH, as a means of following up Dr. Lehmann's proposals in this matter, brought forward two Resolutions for the choice of the Meeting. One was by himself, the other was the suggestion of Mr. Brock. The first Resolution ran as follows: "That this Association do from time to time publish in the *Madras Mail*, *Madras Times* and *Planting Opinion* the names of such firms as were willing to give guaranteed analyses of their fertilisers and that the Secretaries do urge members of their respective Associations as to the supreme importance of dealing with such firms." Mr. Brock's proposal was "That the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. be instructed to publish and circulate for the benefit of all Associations a list of the firms who have agreed to give guaranteed analyses of the fertilisers they supply, and that the firms who have not agreed to do so be requested to meet the wishes of the Association in this direction." Speaking personally, although he did not favour one Resolution more than another, he would try and gain the object they had by giving as much publicity to it as possible,



and from this point of view his own Resolution was perhaps preferable.

The matter was thoroughly threshed out in Committee when the following Resolution was adopted and afterwards confirmed in General Committee:—That the Secretary shall be instructed to again request all firms which have not yet agreed to give guaranteed analyses with all fertilisers they supply, to meet the wishes of this Association in this direction, and on their replies being received, that the Secretary shall communicate the result to the Chairman with a view to publishing and circulating for the information of the District Associations, the names of such firms as have agreed to supply guaranteed analysis, and that this Association would urge members to purchase their fertilisers as far as possible from such firms." The Resolution was proposed by Mr. Brock and was seconded by Mr. Parker.

#### MAIL COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. ROMILLY gave a fairly satisfactory account of the roads in the Wynaad District, but under this head this year he desired to go further afield than their own local wants and touch upon a matter of Imperial interest. He therefore moved "that in the opinion of this Association the carriage of the Mails between Brindisi and Bombay should be so accelerated as to ensure delivery in Bombay on the thirteenth day after their despatch from London, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Government of India in support of the letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hodgson and carried unanimously.

#### THE HARBOUR ON THE WEST COAST.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH explained the situation with regard to the investigations being carried on by the Madras Government regarding the proposed Harbour at Cochin. A recent Government Order on the subject said that the cost was so prohibitive that the Government had been compelled to reluctantly abandon the scheme.

#### REMISSION OF ASSESSMENT.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON opened the discussion of this subject in the following speech:

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—This is a subject that requires no explanation and but few words to recommend it. That coffee-planters need every support and assistance to enable them to survive the present crisis—is known to the Government, and the aid we propose to ask for is only what is constantly afforded in like cases of trouble and disaster, to which alas the cultivators of all agricultural products are more or less the victims. The cultivation of coffee lands is with very few exceptions being carried on at a loss, and yet owing to the capital sunk in it cannot be abandoned without ruin to the investor. The remission of the land-tax would be a practical form of relief greatly appreciated by the planter who finds it difficult to provide or raise the money to pay the coolies which the land, though worked at a loss, is obliged to support. Expenses have been cut down to the last anna compatible with keeping the coffee bushes alive—the planter has to deny himself the small luxuries and pleasures of life—and I fear in many instances even some of its necessities. More in this respect he cannot do. He moved that the Government of Fort St. George be addressed by this Association with a view to obtaining remission of assessment on all coffee plantations, as owing to the crisis in the coffee market the land is being worked at a loss and is unable to bear the taxation. The Association would urge that such a concession would be a great boon and assistance to the industry at a time of unprecedented difficulty.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Romilly and carried after some discussion.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The following Resolution on this subject was proposed by Mr. Norton and seconded by Mr. Martin:—"That this Association again emphasises the necessity for the establishment of a uniform standard of weights and measures throughout the Indian Empire."

#### LABOUR RECRUITING AND EMIGRATION.

On the complaint of the Cardamom Hills Association, the following Resolution was proposed by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Brodrick:—"That this Association is prepared to investigate the matter of labour-recruiting for countries outside India, and on satisfying itself that there are abuses will lay the matter before the Planting Member who will bring it to the notice of the Government of Fort St. George."

The Meeting then adjourned for the day.

#### THE FINAL SITTING, August 7.

The delegates met for the last time at 11-30 A.M. to close the business of the Meeting which was for the most part formal and complimentary.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—

*Chairman.*—Mr. Geo. Romilly.

*Vice-Chairman.*—Mr. O. Scot-Skirving.

*Planting Member.*—Mr. H. P. Hodgson.

*Secretary.*—Mr. H. Ormerod.

*Auditor.*—Mr. A. Ronaldson.

The new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Planting Member very briefly acknowledged the compliment that had been paid them by electing them to office.

#### VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Acworth.

The Hon'ble Mr. ACWORTH, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said,—Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN:—I really hardly know how to thank Mr. Hodgson for what he has said. It is true enough that I have had the interests of this Association very much at heart and have devoted a certain amount of my time to it, but that time has been given perfectly willingly and with no after thought of the inconvenience and trouble it entailed. I am only sorry as I said before that I have not been able to satisfy everybody; but I am afraid that is an impossible thing to do in this world. I can only say that I thank Mr. Hodgson most heartily for the kindly and handsome expressions he has made use of and to you, gentlemen, for endorsing them in the same way. If I should leave the country for good next year—a contingency which is problematical—I can only say that I will carry away in my heart a feeling that this Association, and my connection with it, has been one of the brightest spots in my life in India. I have made friendships here—friendships which I hope will always endure. The time may be near at hand for me to part from this country, but I shall always remember the many friends that I have made here.

Mr. F. M. PARKER proposed a most cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Ormerod for the untiring energy and courtesy he had displayed in carrying on the onerous duties of Secretary of the Association.

Mr. ORMEROD replied briefly thanking the Meeting for the vote of thanks.

Mr. ROMILLY in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman said:—Mr. Harris, I am sorry to tell you that the duty has fallen on me of proposing a vote of thanks to you. I am sorry for your sake because, as you know, I have not the gift of speech. The few words I can utter, you may be sure, are sincere, and



is inspires me now, speaking on behalf of all here to assure you of our gratitude and respect. What struck me particularly was the excellent way in which you managed and the admirable manner in which you handled that excessively difficult and contentious matter, the Labour Act, in your opening speech. We were all aware that it was going to be a difficult discussion, but you handled it with a delicacy of touch and a firmness of expression which in my view must have influenced everybody and you put the climax to it all by the admirable manner in which you summed up the debate in Committee. I have never heard anything better done. I have only now to thank you for the courteous way you have ruled over us at this Meeting which is now drawing to a close. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN in reply said:—

Mr. ROMILLY AND GENTLEMEN,—I can scarcely find words to thank you for the warm vote of thanks that you have offered to me. I can assure you that I have had the interest of the Association very much at heart and though I may not have done as well as I might have, I have at any rate done my best during my year of office. But in view of the fact that the Labour Act is about to be introduced by several Districts, I feel sure that you have made an excellent selection in your next chairman. He fully appreciates the difficulties of the Labour Act, and being so closely in touch with Government he will be able to afford you greater assistance than almost any one else could have done.

Among the many important subjects we have discussed at the Meeting there is none of wider interest than the Labour Bill, in future to be designated Act I. of 1903. It would have been well nigh incomprehensible, and, moreover, an incalculable misfortune if our labour of the past 10 years, the work of the Enquiry Committee, and of the Government of Fort St. George, had culminated in a Bill which failed in a great measure to meet the aspiration of the planting community. Fortunately, this has not been the case, and we have been able to show, in the course of our deliberations, and by the Resolutions we have passed, that though we regard the Bill as far from perfect, nevertheless the main principles we desired are embodied in it. It is a matter of great satisfaction that our Resolution was passed unanimously, and I trust that the experience of these Associations who intend to ask for the introduction of the Act will be such as will induce others to follow suit. Meanwhile, we shall await a Report on its practical working with eagerness, and I cannot too strongly urge that further criticism may be suspended until this is forthcoming.

We have passed a Resolution in support of Mr. Chamberlain's proposed enquiry into the fiscal policy of the Empire, and we have taken the important steps of not only subscribing to the St. Louis Exhibition scheme, but also of deciding to follow this up by measures to meet the demand that may subsequently arise. I am afraid disappointment will be felt at the withdrawal of the "coffee cess" and "the delegate to Brazil" from the list of projects, but I should like specially to emphasise that the failure of such schemes is in no measure due to the unpopularity of delegates at this Meeting—but to the lack of support that is afforded them in the different Districts. My last request as Chairman of this Association is that the proposals in connection with the St. Louis Exhibition may not be allowed to meet a similar fate; for there is the danger that if a continuance of indifference in such matters were discharged this Association might cease to concern itself about them. Dr. Lehmann could not have chosen a subject of deeper interest at the present time to coffee-planters than the question of quality, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to spare sufficient time to conduct the very important experiments he contemplates. If he, in conjunction with ourselves also investigate this matter, we may reasonably hope that some good, and possibly a great deal, will result.

I have great pleasure in welcoming the Anamalai Association as a member of this body, and trust it may grow and prosper until it shall become one of the largest subscribers.

I congratulate you gentlemen interested in tea on the brighter prospects that present themselves to you, and I wish you a long spell of prosperity, and I trust that the tea cess, now an accomplished fact, will prove the means of popularising your product still more widely. To you in coffee I say that though at present there is no sign of the cloud that is hanging over you dispersing, there is no telling when the sun may burst through, and bright times once more prevail. Meanwhile, your course is clear. By working economically as well as efficiently, I have no doubt you will be able to tide over this spell of depression and by sparing no effort to improve quality, and to push your produce into all corners of the earth, you will greatly mitigate your present difficulties. In conclusion, gentlemen, on behalf of this Association I thank the British Resident for the use of the room, and the Editor of the *Madras Mail* for the kindly support, assistance and advice which he continues to give us in the columns of his paper.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### STREET SCENES WHERE RIO SHIPS COFFEE.

A Special Correspondent of the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* says:—

RIO JANEIRO June 1, 1903.

Rio Janeiro is, next to Santos, the greatest coffee port of the world. Millions of bags are here shipped every year, and the chief business of Brazil's vast coffee crop is done here. Rio Janeiro lives upon coffee. The big coffee factories are interesting places. Some of them are as full of machinery as a Minneapolis flour mill. You walk under a network of moving belts through air mixed with coffee dust, and go through room after room filled with machines for dressing the berries to suit the different tastes of the world. Each market seems to have its particular desires. The Germans, for instance, demand that the husks be on the beans when they arrive in Hamburg. The Germans prefer to do the shelling themselves; the coffee is sold as washed coffee, and brings a much higher price.

Other countries want their coffee polished. It is shined up as you shine silver, being brushed by the most delicate machines, which do not injure the grain. The coffee which goes to the United States is sold just as it comes from the plantation. It is passed through the separators and graded, but so far as I know there is no demand in the United States for polished coffee or for any other than that natural in colour. A great deal of coffee for the United States is bought by the great roasting companies. It is shipped directly to the roasting mills in New York and Chicago, and the average man does not see it until it is handed out to him by his grocer in fancy packages at so much a pound.

There is no busier place in the world than the exporting section of Rio Janeiro. There are great warehouses near the wharves, which are filled with coffee and into which coffee is brought by the thousands of bags. The streets of this section are narrow and dirty. They are filled with wagons and cars laden with coffee.

#### CLEANING STREETS OF COFFEE.

You can scarcely get through the streets. There are scores of half-naked men going from the cars to the warehouses with great bags on their heads and scores of negro women down on their knees sweeping the coffee up from the cobblestones where it has dropped. They may wash it and sell it. Each of these street cleaners has a sieve, in which she puts the coffee beans as she picks them up, shaking out the dirt as she works. I am told that many of the women make a good living by gathering these stray coffee beans.

Stop a moment and watch the men as they unload the coffee. Every bag is tested before it is taken into the warehouse. The tester has a little tin pipe as big around as a broomstick, with a sharp point at the end. He jabs this into a bag, and in it brings out a handful of coffee. A glance at the beans tells whether they



are according to samples, and, if not, the rest of the load is carefully watched.

Notice how the men carry the great bags on their heads. Each bag weighs 132 pounds, but they stand straight up under them and walk off as briskly as though they were carrying feathers.

#### BAGGING OF COFFEE.

But let us follow them into the warehouse. The carload which is now being handled is in all sorts of bags and it has to be repacked for shipping. We walk through long aisles with bags of coffee piled on each side from the floor to the ceiling and come into a hall where the floor is covered with great piles of green coffee beans.

At each pile are a dozen half-naked negroes in bare feet. They are scooping up the coffee in bowls much like a bread bowl and pouring it into the bags. We hear the scratch, scratch, scratch of the bowls as they touch the floor, varied by the sound of the laughter of the men at work. Now they burst out in a song, keeping time with their scoops as they sing. As soon as a bag is filled it is dragged off to a pair of scales to be weighed. It is next handed over to the sewers, who sew up its mouth, leaving enough vacant space at the top that it may pack well in the steamer.

In other factories the bagging is done by machinery, and in all the work goes on in a business-like way.

Each of the big American establishments of Rio handles vast amounts of coffee in a year. Its manager must have good business ability and be a sharp trader. He must be a good judge of coffee and must know how to take advantage of the rise and fall of the market. Each establishment has its coffee expert, who can tell by the eye and nose just what the coffee is worth. His judgment is usually passed without grinding or burning the berries. Samples of about a pint each are spread out on blue paper, and the coffee expert will put his price on each grade by looking at, handling and smelling the sample.

### COCOA IN TRINIDAD AND GRENADA.

In the *Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica*, we read that in 1884 Kamerun became a German Colony. For nine or ten years cocoa was planted only in a small way, but in 1896, a commencement was made of Cocoa plantations on a large scale. The soil and climate was all that could be wished, and the trees grew in a satisfactory manner, but the cured cocoa did not get as high a price as was hoped. Researches were carried out, but with no satisfactory results. The surest and the quickest way to arrive at a solution of the question was to go and examine on the spot the methods of culture and preparation in the West Indies and Central and South America, where it had been longest cultivated and with the best results, to study their different species of Cocoa and their conditions of development, and to import into the German Colonies those species which are the most profitable and the most suitable. With this aim Dr. Preuss was commissioned to travel in Surinam, Trinidad, Grenada, Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Mexico. The account of his travels and the results of his mission are presented in his Report entitled, "Expedition nach Central und Sud-Amerika," published in Berlin by the "Colonial Wirtschaftliches Komitee;" the second half of which has been translated into French, and published by the "Société d'études coloniales de Belgique" under the title "Le Cacao, sa culture and sa préparation." The following is taken from this valuable treatise:—

#### METHODS OF CULTIVATION.

*Shade.*—The distance of the plants is generally 14 feet for the cocoa trees and 28 feet for the shade trees. In many plantations the distances are 10 to 12 feet, but these are gradually being given up, and planters are adopting 14 by 16, or 16 by 16 feet. The distance of the shade trees from one another varies with that of the cocoa trees, being in the proportion of one shade tree to two cocoa trees. Dr. Pruess had long discussions with the Trinidad planters on the subject of the shade being too dense, but they maintained that it was necessary. As proof, they told him that cocoa trees ceased to yield whenever their shade trees were blown down. Moreover, they informed him that formerly when less shade trees were planted, the cocoa trees dried up by the hundred in years of great drought. Dr. Pruess, in his journey through the best cocoa districts of Trinidad, saw evidence that the trees had suffered much from drought, and that a great number had died in spite of the thickness of the shade. What was said then about the ruin by drought of entire cocoa plantations that were insufficiently shaded, appeared to be quite

credible, and the distance of 28 feet between the shade trees did not seem too small. The explanation seems to lie in the amount of rainfall, the average at the Botanic Garden for 13 years being 68.19 inches. In other parts of Trinidad, for instance at the plantation "La Reunion," the rainfall was for 1896, 107 inches, for 1897, 101 inches, and for 1898, 93.5 inches.

The absence of shade trees in Grenada astonishes anyone who has seen the cocoa plantations in Trinidad so carefully shaded, and he asks with surprise how is it possible in the same latitude? The reason for this difference does not, however, lie in the fact that Grenada is extremely mountainous, and that it has deep depressions, so that the plantations are only exposed to the sun during a few hours of the day. This cannot be the cause, for in the first place the most extensive and the best plantations are not situated between steep hills, but on the contrary in the most level part of the island, where they are fully exposed to the sun. Besides the morning and evening sun is not of much importance, and there is no mountain in Grenada sufficiently lofty to be able to protect cocoa plantations against the sun after 9 o'clock in the morning.

The principal reason is rather in the very large rainfall, in the sky being much more overcast, and in the very great humidity of the air. The resistance of the variety which is planted there, also counts for something. A rainfall of less than 100 inches is a rarity in Grenada, while it is the rule in Trinidad. In Grenada the annual rainfall is about 220 inches. Thanks to this circumstance, the chief cause disappears which leads the planters of Trinidad to shade their plantations, namely, the fear of seeing them perish through drought.

The absence of shade which the Grenada planters partially supply by planting the trees very near one another, results in a different method of working the estates.

The cocoa trees yield a crop much sooner without shade, if the humidity is sufficient, than with shade. In Grenada a very fair crop is obtained in the fourth year from planting, and a full crop in the fifth year; while in Trinidad the trees only commence to yield a full crop after the tenth year.

It must be noted that trees not shaded become exhausted much more rapidly than the others, above all when they are planted close; a distance of 9 by 10 feet is not rare in Grenada. If it is desired to preserve as long as possible the fertility of the trees, it is necessary to manure and cultivate the soil, and this is done to the greatest extent in Grenada, where manuring and tillage play a very important part. This fact constitutes a great difference between the method of culture of Trinidad and Grenada.

The tilling is done by means of a four-pronged fork. No particular care is taken to avoid destroying sometimes a root that comes to the surface, but when this happens great trouble is taken to cut off the torn ends clean in order to prevent decay. The results obtained are considerable and far surpass those of the Trinidad plantations. In Grenada they cultivate very intensively, and the soil is completely exhausted at the end of a short time. The methods of culture in Trinidad is on the contrary more extensive, and they do not manure much. If manuring was given up in Grenada, the plantations would certainly have attained the maximum of their production at the end of 10 to 12 years, after which they would go down very rapidly. In Trinidad, on the contrary, the trees only attain at the end of 10 to 12 years that degree of development when full production commences, and they remain then for a great number of years at this maximum without manuring.

*Yield.*—The following figures are quoted as a maximum crop in Grenada. The Rev. Mr. Branch, of Good Hope, obtains in his plantation of 16 acres, the soil of which is of medium fertility, and the situation is in a hilly district, 4 to 5 lbs. of cocoa a tree per annum. The distance of the trees is 9 to 12 feet and less, the manuring is constant, pruning is not practised except to lop off the suckers. The manure consists of dung, leaves, and all sorts of vegetable matter, and care is taken to bury the manure. Mr. St. George of the Boulogne estate obtains on the best part of it, a valley of more than 10 acres, 27 cwt. per acre or more than 6 lbs. of cocoa per tree. He prunes the trees with much care and intelligence. The distance of the trees is greater than at Good Hope.

The following information relates to one of the best plantations in Trinidad, namely "La Tortuga":—

4,019 trees, 20 years of age, planted 12 by 12 feet, yielded 10,300 lbs. of cocoa—2.5 lbs. a tree.



1,250 trees, 17 years of age, planted 12 by 12 feet, yielded 4,450 lbs. of cocoa—3·5 lbs. a tree.  
 2,382 trees, 10 years of age, planted 10 by 10 feet, yielded 5,400 lbs. of cocoa—2·3 lbs. a tree.  
 1,080 trees, 25 years of age, planted 12 by 12 feet, yielded 3,600 lbs. of cocoa—3·3 lbs. a tree.  
 918 trees, 10 to 12 years of age, planted 12 by 12 feet, yielded 3,150 lbs. of cocoa—3·4 lbs. a tree.  
 2,770 trees, 20 years of age, planted 12 by 12 feet, yielded 7,100 lbs. of cocoa—2·5 lbs. a tree.  
 4,416 trees, 6 years of age, planted 12 by 14 feet, yielded 3,425 lbs. of cocoa—0·77 lbs. a tree.

The average yield of a cocoa tree in Trinidad is estimated in good plantations at 1·5 or 1·6 lb.; it is a little higher in Grenada. The price of cocoa from Trinidad is, on the contrary, a little higher than that of cocoa from Grenada. The explanation in Dr. Preuss's opinion is to be found in the variety cultivated. In Grenada the variety "Amelonado" is principally planted, whilst in Trinidad "Forastero" is more grown.

**Pruning.**—Great care is taken both in Trinidad and Grenada to give the trees a good shape. An essential principle for this effect is to cultivate them to maintain a low trunk, and the head in the form of a crown, but so that one can always pass under the trees without difficulty and without being obliged to bend too much, and so that all the labour of cropping and cultivating can be carried on. All lengthening of the trunk is prevented, as well as every attempt to form a second tier of branches.

In Trinidad the young cocoa trees are allowed to grow until they fork naturally. This happens when the trunk has attained a height of 2½ to 5 feet. The number of branches in the whole is 4 or 5. These are reduced to 3 or 4, and only rarely are 5 allowed to grow. In the varieties which have much wood developed and a thick mantle of leaves it is well to leave 4 or 5 branches for, if only 3 are left, the weight of each branch becomes too great, and the trunk is liable, during heavy winds to divide into three parts from above downwards. In varieties with feeble growth, only 3 branches are left in order to favour the development of solid branches. The pruning of the trees takes place oftenest a little after the crop in June and January. Dr. Preuss does not like the very heavy pruning practised in Trinidad. The ground is covered, after the pruning, with a thick layer of branches and leaves. Such treatment cannot be good for the trees. It results not in an increase, but in a diminution of the yield, for the trees have to devote a great part of their sap to form leaves again which are indispensable to them to nourish them properly. The planters say that the cutting off of a large number of leaves is of no importance since the trees recover themselves very quickly with new leaves, but this fact shows the evils of an exaggerated lopping since it has very little effect and the force and energy which the tree employs to cover itself again with leaves are lost to it, and the production of fruit is by so much lessened.

It cannot be overlooked that the leaves have the same claim as the roots to be considered organs of nutrition. The work people use a knife to prune the trees, and when they cannot reach high enough, they climb on the branches. They very rarely use a knife on the end of a pole. Cutting branches an inch thick, a constant practise in Trinidad, should be forbidden. Pruning should commence as soon as the tree forks, and should be continued as often as possible, but always to a slight extent only. The shoots ought naturally to be cut off, always. In large plantations it is difficult to spare a man to prune regularly and frequently. Pruning is done, therefore only once every 2 or 4 years, or the very outside once a year, and then heavily. Whilst a reasonable pruning favours fruit bearing, it is nevertheless a question whether, in place of pruning too severely it would not be preferable not to prune at all, and be content with taking away the dead wood. One of the two planters in Grenada who obtain the largest crops, prunes his trees very well, the other does not prune at all.

The trees attain sometimes in Trinidad, considerable dimensions. In the plantation of "La Vega," Dr. Preuss states that he saw a tree which had at 6 inches from the ground, a circumference of 59 inches; and at the height of 40 inches a circumference of 45 inches; it was 25 years of age. Very old trees which no longer bear fruit, and those which have been blown over, are renewed by allowing one of the shoots which arise near the ground to develop and become a trunk, while the old trunk is finally removed.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

If we except the *Daily News* and the *Review of Reviews*, the book entitled "The Failure of Lord Curzon," published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, has not received much attention from the newspapers here at present. In the *Daily News*, however, two long articles have appeared, in which certain interrogatories suggested by the author's statements are put forth with sweet and insinuating simplicity. Amongst them we find the following: "Is it true that the revenue from liquor supplied to the tea gardens of Assam has increased 250 per cent. in the last ten years, that the liquor is made at a Government distillery, and that on analysis it has been found to contain seven times more fusel oil than the worst unrectified Scotch whisky? Has the Excise revenue risen from £1,755,000 in 1875 to £4,239,000 in 1901? We profoundly hope that these allegations are baseless. What is the real truth about the retirement of Sir Henry Cotton, formerly Chief Commissioner of Assam, who pointed out the dangerously low wages paid to indentured—i.e., enforced—workers in Assam tea gardens, and who was allowed by Lord Curzon to be driven by clamour from the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal? In 1900 the death-rate among these 'Act labourers'—who are recruited upcountry and bound over to serve for a certain number of years—amounted to 43·5 per 1,000. The death-rate among 'non-Act coolies' is 26·2 per 1,000. Again, we can only inquire," says the *Daily News*, "are these things so?"

According to the *Chemical Gazette* of America, quoted by the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of New York, Mr. G. Wahgel has studied the cause of the fermentation of tea, which was presumed to be due to certain germs. To sterilised water he added as much tea powder to render the liquid about equal in strength to the natural juice of the tea leaves. This liquid was then kept for three days in an incubator at the same temperature used for the fermentation of tea—namely, from 27 to 30 degrees Celsius. At the expiration of this time fungus formed on the cloudy liquid. Mr. Wahgel examined a drop of this under the microscope. As often as he made the experiment with different sorts of black tea he found a certain species of yeast germs. The high-priced kinds contained only this certain species, while the cheaper ones contained less, but an immense amount of other bacteria. The strong and pleasant quality of the flavour seems to be dependent upon the quantity of the certain species of yeast germs. It is to be regretted, the *Chemical Gazette* states, that Mr. Wahgel did not continue his researches in order to ascertain whether the artificial addition of this peculiar yeast could not be used to increase the flavour of tea.

A number of tea merchants in Montreal have been interviewed by a representative of the *Canadian Grocer* as to the possibility of dealers in Canada imitating the action of certain tea merchants in London in discarding the shilling tea. The following are views of some of them:—Mr. E. D. Marceau says: "They have been selling too cheap over there, and ought to raise the price. The scheme here would not be practicable, as there are no concerns feeding some forty or fifty stores throughout the country as in England. If the retail stores could be controlled from one head, and every house have fifteen or twenty or thirty stores, it could perhaps be carried out. As its conditions are entirely different, and packers do not sell direct to the retailer or consumer." Mr. James A. Mathewson, junior, of J. A. Mathewson & Co., says: "It would be a good thing if we could get the people to use a better quality of tea, but it would not be possible to get rid of the 25c. article in that way." Mr. James Rutherford, of James Rutherford & Co., said: "What we need in this country is an Association such as has been formed in the United States, which would have something to say about the quality of tea allowed to come into Canada. At present this is the dumping ground for teas that are refused in other countries. What is not good enough for the United States, for instance, should not be good enough for Canada. But the standard here is low, and prices are kept down."

The New York correspondent of the *Grocer* says, referring to Indian and Ceylon tea, that these packet teas are being pushed, and the sales are increasing. He adds: "Besides the English and Canadian tea packers are the local jobbers, who are putting up



blends under proprietary labels, and competing for trade against the extensively advertised tea of London firms. In many stores demonstration booths are maintained, and good tea is served free." With regard to coffee the same authority states that the deliveries of coffee for the year ending June 30 in Europe and the United States will be fully 16,000,000 bags, indicating the greatest year's consumption on record. The grocers are pushing their coffee trade, and seem to be vying with each other as to which will furnish the most satisfactory blend for 1s. the pound. The result is seen in average monthly deliveries so far this trade here of 573,293 bags, against 526,138 bags in 1901-2, an increase of nearly 9 per cent. Coffee is retailed absolutely pure at prices ranging from 5d. to 2s. per pound, but very little is sold above 1s. 5d. per lb. The portable coffee mill, frequently run by electric motor, is made a prominent feature in the coffee section of the better class of stores. Buyers want to see the coffee ground before their eyes. The aroma which arises from the ground coffee pervades the store and invites customers busy elsewhere to find their way to the coffee counter.

The imports of tea into the United States during May were 1,933,737 lbs., and for eleven months ending May, 104,266,416 lbs.; and for eleven months ending May, 1901, they were 85,783,747 lbs. China furnished 53 per cent. of the total; Japan 33½ per cent. Imports of British-grown tea were 13,716,260 lbs., against 7,846,190 lbs. in 1902.—*H. & C. Muil.*

## RUBBER IN THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES AND THE STRAITS.

Mr. Donald Mackay writes to the *Ceylon Observer*:—

*July 24th.*—I am reminded of your enquiry about rubber in the Straits. I think you meant the "Federated Malay States" which do not like being classed as part of the Straits (any more than Scotland likes being classed as part of England). I am afraid my information is only enough to enable me to answer your question in a very rough fashion, but here it is for you.

The greatest progress in rubber has been made in Selangor which is, undoubtedly, the Premier State in agriculture, the same as Perak is in tin-mining. It is estimated that Selangor has rubber planted through close on 10,000 acres and has considerably over two million trees growing from no age, or under a year planted up to six. One half of the total quantity is under age or less than a year planted. Negri Sembilan comes next with something like 1,500 acres and over 310,000 trees from less than one up to six years growing. Unlike the neighbouring State it has little more than a tenth under age.

Perak comes last with broken and uncertain figures, but I am not inclined to put the total higher than 50,000 trees of all ages. Province Wellesley has a good many rubbers growing. I can, only in the absence of returns, hazard a guess of half-a-million trees growing. I think the whole Straits and States can be put at three millions. Out of the total there are not a hundred-thousand five and six years old, so that will give you an idea of the probable influence in the next few years on the market of the produce of the Straits and States. This, I take it, is what your correspondent has in view in asking for information about this part of H. M.'s tropical dominions, or he may be making an estimate to decide whether in view of the great areas, over wide-spread surfaces, now planted with rubbers, it is not advisable to call a halt.

We are a long way off the "end of our tether" in respect of what is considered suitable land which so far has been all on the flat. I am inclined to think, judging from the localities of the indigenous rubber trees in the forest clad slopes, that the Pará might do as well there if not better than on the alluvium and decomposed vegetable matter of the more or less swampy water-logged lands on which the greater part of the planting in Selangor has been done, and, indeed, in the other states as well. Probably lands so situated might not have been chosen, but for the failure of Liberian Coffee in respect of paying prices and the estates having been drained for the growth of that product. The planting in Province Wellesley is on lands drained for sugarcane and there is, figuratively speaking, any amount of such abandoned land. One estate alone last year put 50,000 cocoanuts in nurseries to utilise lands abandoned for cane-growing.

It may exercise your active brain why Selangor, a smaller state than Perak, took such a decided lead in planting Coffee. (It is natural enough having taken that lead that it should keep it up in Rubber.) I can only attribute it to the one man influence; there is no superiority in soil or difference in climate to account for it. The present Governor of the Straits was resident in Selangor 22 years or so ago. He started the railway from Klang to Kwala Lumpur and virtually started Coffee planting with it, but not on the swamp lands; it began and was continued on the higher lands until the accident of some coffee plants, growing luxuriantly in a Malay garden on the borders of the swampy low-land revealed the possibilities of that soil. (Of some of which William Forsythe and others had a dearly-bought experience in the Coffee-growing days when land at Klang was all the rage.) What Sir Frank Swettenham was to Selangor in influencing progress, Sir Hugh Low was at the same time to Perak in the introduction of new products, (he introduced the Pará seed from which grew the 250 trees which have been giving much of the seed which has planted up so much), establishing Experimental Gardens and generally enthusiastic with knowledge in all that concerned agricultural development. Our High Commissioner crowned his Federation labours by his excellent speech the other day at the opening of the Federal Conference in Kwala Lumpur.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE FEDERATED MALAY STATE.

At a Meeting of this Association held at Kwala Lumpur recently there were present.—Mr. W. W. Bailey (*Chairman*), Messrs C. Meikle, E. B. Skinner, E. B. Prior, and M. S. Parry (*Members of Committee*), also Messrs. H. F. Browell, F. M. Bell, E. V. Carey, H. M. Darby, W. R. Fraser, A. Irving, A. B. Lake, R. W. Mitchell, W. Meikle, H. M. Parkinson, and P. Stephenson.

The Honorary Secretary read correspondence from the Resident-General's Office re the expression of opinion on the decisions of the Singapore Labour Conference. The first letter stated—"that a copy of your letter will be submitted to the Colonial authorities for their consideration, but that the Resident-General understands that employers of Indian labour were fully represented at the Labour Conferences convened at Penang and Singapore."

The Honorary Secretary reported that no reply had yet been received from the colonial authorities to whom his letter of enquiry as to the price to be paid the Central Agency for recruiting free coolies, had been referred. He also read a letter from the Colonial Secretary, covering a letter from the Madura Company, asking whether the Members of the Association would be prepared to take "rejects," the fee to the recruiter being 4 Rupees. The approval of the Committee to the suggestion subject to a medical examination of physical fitness for light work was reported, and after some discussion, which brought out the fact that "rejects" had already been brought into the F. M. S. and were so far as equally fit for estate work as other coolies, it was proposed by Mr. E. V. Carey and seconded by Mr. C. Meikle, that the Honorary Secretary be instructed to write to the effect—"That this Association agrees to the general proposition of 'rejects' being sent over for estate work always provided that they are passed as physically fit for light work upon payment of the usual fee."

*Rubber Returns.*—The acreage as reported up to date under Pará Rubber amounts to 9,430 acres, containing approximately 1,352,547 trees. The Honorary Secretary reported the difficulty of making the returns tally owing to the different times at which the returns had been called for.

*Advertisement for Coolies to be circulated in India.*—Mr. Bailey reported that he had discussed with the Protector of Labour a proposed advertisement to be circulated in India, and that with the assistance of the Committee tentative paragraphs only dealing with Kangany recruited labour had been forwarded by him, but that until a reply had been received to the enquiry as to the powers of the new Central Agency no definite decision could be arrived at.



## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

## COMMITTEE MEETING.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 21st ultimo:—

There were present:—Messrs. H. C. Begg (*Chairman*), T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), A. C. Lawrie, Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

Letters dated 26th June and 3rd July from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, having been previously circulated, were brought up for disposal.

In a letter dated 24th June the Indian Tea Cess Executive Committee addressed the Committee with regard to the following Resolution which had been adopted by the Cess Committee on the 1st June, viz.:—

"That a sum of Rs.50,000 be allotted to the Exhibition of Indian Tea at St. Louis in 1904, provided that on enquiry it is found that further support can be obtained sufficient to make a satisfactory and adequate exhibition."

The Cess Committee, after carefully estimating the cost of an adequate representation, were, it was stated, convinced that a sum of £10,000 was the minimum without which it would be useless to proceed. The Hon. Palmer Bowen, an American Commissioner for the Exhibition, who had visited Calcutta, had explained that to make an effective representation a separate pavilion would be required, the cost of which, he estimated, would be about £4,000 to £5,000. Working expenses were estimated to require at least a further £5,000. Towards this, the Cess Committee were willing to contribute Rs.50,000. The Government of India would, it was believed, assist liberally, and the planters of Southern India would endeavour to raise about Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000 if they were permitted to exhibit Coffee and Cardomoms in the same hall with tea, and if the United Planters' Association were allowed to have a special show-case of their own.

The Cess Committee enquired whether the Indian Tea Association would be prepared to contribute the remainder, a sum of Rs.25,000 to Rs.30,000, from the balance of the American and Foreign Market Fund. In the event of the whole amount being forthcoming, it was suggested that the Committee of the Indian Tea Association, London, could most efficiently organise the representation, as has been done on similar occasions in the past.

A copy of the letter had been forwarded to the Indian Tea Association, London, and as expression of their views requested, by telegraph.

A telegram had been received on the 15th July to the effect that if the £10,000 were guaranteed, the London Committee would make the necessary arrangements.

The papers were now brought up for further consideration, and, after considerable discussion, it was decided to telegraph to the London Committee proposing that the Association should contribute a sum of Rs.25,000, the Calcutta balance of the American and Foreign Market Fund, approximately Rs.21,000, being utilised for that purpose.

It was also decided to address the Government of Bengal and the Assam Administration on the subject, soliciting financial assistance in aid of the proposed exhibit. The Committee fully recognised that although a sum of £10,000 would admit of an exhibit being made, this was the minimum upon which it was possible to work. They considered it highly desirable, therefore, that a larger sum should, if possible, be provided, especially as the Ceylon planters were spending £15,000 in connection with the exhibition of their teas.

## MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated July 17th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	110,298	160,440	12,516
1902-1903 ...	116,422	188,389	11,646
7,589 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 33,250 packages were offered in public auction			
4,077 " CEYLON } this week.			
1,584 " JAVA }			

Re-exports from this country when taken in conjunction with transshipments are encouraging, although there has been a falling off in the exports of Indian tea to North America from Great Britain. Of the large quantity of Indian tea transhipped from here to other places than North America, nearly the whole was sent to the Russian market, which is now becoming an important consumer of Indian and Ceylon tea.

Quantity of Indian and Ceylon Tea re-exported from U. K. from 1st January to 30th June.

INDIAN.					
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Countries in Europe ..	2,309,386	2,730,182	3,390,394	2,026,470	1,496,661
United States ..	493,077	902,554	823,048	209,257	257,420
Canada ..	460,507	865,390	969,718	581,892	809,749
Newfoundland ..	63,418	53,736	57,688	43,528	45,404
Other Countries ..	1,484,348	1,882,582	1,716,640	1,149,833	527,081
Total lbs. ..	4,810,736	6,434,444	6,957,488	4,010,980	3,136,315
Transshipments to North America ..	678,779	685,911	347,233	410,900	180,356
To other Countries ..	1,051,338	116,260	252,482	589,947	273,486
CEYLON.					
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Countries in Europe ..	3,498,118	3,470,500	4,813,152	3,837,612	3,171,523
United States ..	1,524,834	1,330,534	1,241,102	542,819	542,617
Canada ..	1,126,276	1,242,156	1,018,272	923,916	795,546
Newfoundland ..	96,873	154,146	185,863	117,673	99,831
Other Countries ..	1,560,883	1,757,861	1,625,655	1,009,975	638,039
Total lbs. ..	7,807,034	7,955,197	8,884,044	6,431,995	5,247,556
Transshipments to North America ..	1,375,919	1,504,773	1,087,099	697,132	161,294
To other Countries ..	126,457	74,623	151,996	894,046	308,147

INDIAN.—The small quantity brought forward was readily taken at rates current last week. Very little old season's tea was included in the auction. The official wire gives exports to U. K. for the first half of July as 9,530,000 lbs., against 8,020,000 lbs. for same period 1902, making the total exported to U. K. from 1st April to 15th July 19,472,000 lbs., against 20,590,000 lbs. last season.

SOUTHERN INDIA gradually increases in importance as a tea-growing locality, and now regularly exports large quantities to this market.

Revised Customs Imports of Indian and Ceylon Tea from 1st June to end of April:—

Bengal Presidency (including Calcutta and Chittagong) ...	143,617,038	1902-03. lbs. 150,931,695	1901-02. lbs. 155,681,371
Madras Presidency (including Travancore) ...	4,386,943	149,194,325	3,972,839
Bombay Presidency ..	1,190,344	776,837	
Ceylon Tea ..		83,073,266	84,021,488

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 4,087 pkgs., av. 7.12d. 1902, 7,823 pkgs., av. 5.85d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 17,211 pkgs., av. 7.23d. 1902, 21,834 pkgs., av. 6.14d.

CEYLON.—With a moderate sized auction there was a fair demand at last week's rates, although quotations appear to be somewhat lower on account of the continued falling off in quality. This is not unusual at this time of year, but we are now approaching the season when arrivals usually begin to show improved character. Private advices from Ceylon gives shipments to U. K. for first half of July as 5,500,000 lbs., against 4,500,000 lbs. last year.

Average for week 6.91d, against 5.99d in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 550,990 pkgs., av. 7.58d. 1902, 624,542 pkgs., av. 6.79d.

JAVA.—The auction was again light, comprising only six garden invoices, the remainder being tea brought over from Holland. Prices were generally steady at quotations fully up to last week's rates.

## QUININE.

Very firm and dearer. Sales of B. & S. and/or Brunswick have been made at 11d per oz. on the spot, while 10,000 oz. has been disposed of for December delivery at 11½d per oz.



## CINCHONA.

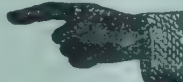
The auction to be held at Amsterdam on July 23 next will consist of 6,648 bales and 331 cases Java bark. The total weight of the bark is 611,393 kilos., containing 28,428 kilos. of sulphate of quinine. The February auctions at Amsterdam averaged 5.86 per cent. of quinine, April 5.57 per cent., May 5.42 per cent., and June sales 5.2 per cent. The average analyses of the ten Dutch auctions

during 1902 was 5.51 per cent. of quinine. This points to a steady decrease in the quinine-content, and the average analysis of the bark at the sale next week is the lowest percentage of alkaloid submitted at the Amsterdam auctions for many years. The shipments at Java during the first half of the month were 610,000 Amsterdam lbs. against 700,000 Amsterdam lbs. last year, and 691,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.05d., JULY 17TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ...	338	7.38												
Prospect ...	286½c	7¼	34½c	8	200½c	6¾	52½c	8¼	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vellingherry ...	52	7¾	...	...	25	7	27	8½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore ...	1370	6.48												
Cherian Malay ...	32	6¼	...	...	14	6	8	6½	10	6	...	...	...	...
Fairfield ...	105	6½	24	6½	58	6¼	23	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glenmary ...	127 p	6¾	53	6½	6¾	...	34	7¼	20	6¼	...	...	20 p	5¾ 6½
Glenmore ...	157½c	6	...	...	104½c	5¾ 6¼	50½c	6¼	...	...	2½c	5½	1½c	5¼
Kan. Dev. H C G ...	425½c	6½	151½c	6¾	7	118½c	6¼	85½c	7	35½c	6¼	...	36½c	5½ 5¾
„ Nallattani ...	240 p	6¾	79	6½	7	35	6½	53½c	7¼	20	6¼	...	53 p	5½ 6½
Merchiston ...	83 p	6¼	26	6½	6¾	39	6 ½	...	...	...	10	6	8	5½
T T E Co Bon Ami..	100	6½	25	6½	6¾	40	6½	35	6¾	...	...	...	...	...
„ Pambaner ...	101	6¼	50	6½	6¾	31	6	...	...	7	5¾	2	5½	11 5¾

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

“All Sorts and  Conditions of Men”

USE

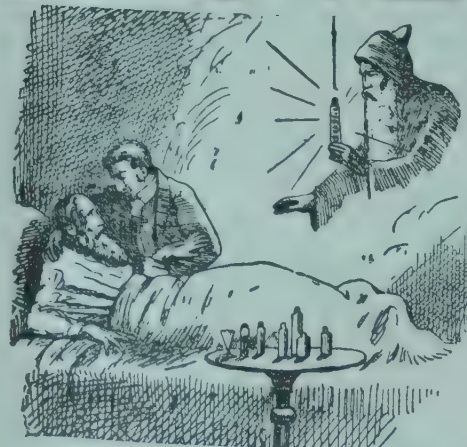
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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1903.

[No. 32.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 21st instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*July 27th.—Weather*—This last week was a deluge of rain, never less than one inch on any day. Wind strong. *Works*—Planting and weeding. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant.

#### Munzerabad.

*August 3rd.—Weather*—Rainfall last week was in excess again, rain being from 2 inches upward; the total of rain is much in excess of the average. Weeding and planting progressing. Coffee bearing the heavy rain splendidly. *Health*—Fair. *Labour*—up to requirements.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 11th August.—Weather*—After a long spell of wet we are now enjoying a welcome break since Wednesday last. The coffee trees, which were beginning to look sick, have now turned round again. Paddy fields in some parts out east are in need of more water. *Crop* is full size now and is looking more full of promise than was supposed. *Plant diseases*—There is no sign of leaf-disease, and little or no borer is showing up. *Labour*—There are far more coolies than are required. *Health*—Coughs and colds and some fever are prevalent but, on the whole, health is fair.

### EMIGRATION OF LABOURERS.

To SOME of our readers it will seem that there are before coffee and tea planters in Southern India more interesting and more pressing problems than the question of emigration of labourers. We admit that this is the case, yet our present subject has been selected after mature deliberation. There are others that will fare no worse if left over for a time. The chief among them have been so recently discussed at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. that no harm will be done if planters are left for a little while to think matters over for themselves, without advice or comment from journalists. The Labour Question—as distinct from the Labour

Act—is one to which perhaps many of our readers devote little attention. So long as they get the labour they need, and get it at what appears to them reasonable terms, they are apt to neglect to follow the general trend of wages, or of the relations between labour supply and demand. In our present issue we give some interesting notes from Ceylon on a trip in what are known as the Cooly districts of India. There is a hint given in these notes that serfdom still prevails in those districts. There is truth in this; but the writer has failed to realise that this serfdom is of a dual character. Alluding particularly to the relations between Capital and Labour he remarks that the landholders complain that since Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Natal and other importers of Indian labour have offered the cooly inducements to emigrate, wages have been steadily rising, until they are now double what they were a generation ago. He then states that he was told that Indian landholders look upon the coolies on their properties as assets or live-stock, much as they regard cattle and horses. "The property may change hands, but the cooly never leaves the soil and is practically as much a fixture as the buildings on it." Again, "the cooly is, in many cases, in debt to his master, but, as long as he remains on the estate, the amount is seldom worked off."

This is no doubt true; but most planters will realise that the same condition of affairs prevails on many of their estates as well as on the estates of native landholders in the Tanjore district. It may be regarded, in the case of the latter, as a survival, in that of the former, as an adaptation, of the old patriarchal system; and while something might be urged against it, much might also be advanced in its favour. If there is no oppression, no deliberate attempt or intent to reduce the labourer to the position of a slave, we see no reason why the prevailing system should be altered, except in this one respect, that, if the prosperity of the landowner increases, the wages of the cooly cannot remain stationary. There is, however, a different kind of serfdom upon which the Ceylon writer has not touched. We allude to the serfdom of the labourer in his relations, not with his master, but with petty local and village officials. There are instances, no doubt, where the landholder resorts to unfair measures in order to retain his labour supply. There are also instances in which quite as unfair measures are resorted to in order to take that labour supply away from him, and to induce the cooly to emigrate. We do not intend to amplify



these remarks as fully as we might do. We allude solely to *instances*, not to any general practice; and this for the simple reason that the time has not arrived for the complete exposure of systems that are but too common. One thing that we assert is that, in many cases, the recruiter of labour for "home" use suffers from the disadvantage of having no official support during his operations, while the recruiter for emigration would not meet with the success that attends his efforts were it not that he proceeds with what is, or appears to be, official sanction and official support to help him, and is aided by pressure put upon the poorer classes through the medium of village or district officials. This is a matter that calls for special investigation on the part of Government, and there is just a possibility that such an investigation will be demanded at no distant date.

As regards recruitment of labour for employment on estates in India, it was admitted by the South of India Planters' Enquiry Committee that a system of advances was a necessity. Planters, as a body, know this to be a fact. They are induced to think, perhaps, that the key to success or failure in recruiting lies in this system. This, however, is not a fact. It is not always large advances that tempt coolies away from India, that induce them to seek service abroad. To some extent they are likely to be deceived by recruiting agents, and probably they are in still greater measure open to the influence of officials who take the part of these agents, in the belief that by so doing they are acting according to the wishes of the Sirkar. The object of our present remarks is merely to touch upon this point in particular, with a view to urging upon the Government that Free Trade is desirable in the Labour Markets of India. We are no advocates of Protection in this matter. Our whole aim is to protest against anything that savours of a system of Bounties to exporters. There are instances, however few or however many they may be, of minor official pressure put upon labourers to induce them to take service abroad. Such pressure is the equivalent of the granting of a Bounty. We do not wish to keep wages where they are. An increase in the scale of wages is, *prima facie*, evidence of increased prosperity, and prosperity is what we desire to witness. But it is quite another matter when the "home" employer has to pay high wages mainly in order that the employer abroad may get labour on terms that practically include a subsidy towards which the "home" employer contributes. It is against indirect "Bounties" that we raise our voice, and we shall on a future occasion explain our meaning more fully, should the necessity for so doing arise.

### BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS. JUNE 1903.

**Cocoa (raw).**—Very heavy quantities were landed in the United Kingdom last month, but as their effect was counteracted by equally large deliveries, the bonded stock remained in relatively the same position.

In the first six months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	lbs.	31,975,125	32,050,345	30,938,439
Home consumption	"	22,859,917	27,825,910	24,255,031
Exports	"	6,294,149	7,326,202	5,787,192
Stocks in bond	"	13,286,000	9,192,000	17,846,000
Value of imports	"	£910,076	£933,598	£928,799
Do. exports	"	187,688	203,969	181,269

**Cocoa (prepared).**—What may be called "bulged out" totals were still characteristic of this article.

In the first six months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	lbs.	5,452,899	4,226,826	4,257,012
Home consumption	"	5,067,750	3,910,112	4,003,109
Exports	"	212,567	345,510	467,514
Stocks in bond	"	245,000	153,000	125,000
Value of imports	"	£529,884	£428,218	£434,083
Do. exports	"	24,908	36,964	50,497

**Coffee.**—Only the imports, exports, and stocks were bulky.

In the first six months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	cwts.	836,931	621,864	726,284
Home consumption	"	139,492	168,412	180,093
Exports	"	328,423	167,509	332,917
Stocks in bond	"	890,000	526,000	492,000
Value of imports	"	£2,427,661	£1,848,654	£2,387,380
Do. exports	"	837,769	506,396	990,005

**Chicory.**—Most movements fell behind those in 1902.

In the first six months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	cwts.	44,277	50,950	57,857
Home consumption	"	40,217	44,855	44,550
Exports	"	159	274	428
Stocks in bond	"	6,000	18,000	21,000
Value of imports	"	£20,216	£22,590	£26,432
Do. exports	"	167	268	439

**Tea.**—Greatly augmented clearances, operating concurrently with rather light importations, brought down the stock to about 10,000,000 lbs. below that of the previous June.

In the first six months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China	lbs.	4,001,497	4,583,708	3,245,266
Do. British East India	"	37,350,123	44,585,814	46,775,358
Do. Ceylon	"	49,619,694	55,528,718	57,072,657
Do. Other countries	"	11,604,895	7,484,450	4,892,362
Total imports	"	102,576,209	112,182,690	111,985,643
Home consumption—China	lbs.	7,627,362	6,440,218	4,956,866
Do. do. B. E. I.	"	73,858,358	76,882,678	83,070,511
Do. do. Ceylon	"	37,142,504	40,846,087	46,286,844
Do. do. O. C.	"	5,383,598	4,737,621	2,906,197
Total	"	124,011,822	128,906,604	137,220,418
Exports—China	lbs.	5,289,369	5,269,080	5,651,633
Do. British East India	"	4,810,736	6,434,444	6,957,488
Do. Ceylon	"	7,807,034	7,955,197	8,884,044
Do. Other countries	"	589,660	575,763	740,322
Total	"	18,496,729	20,234,484	22,233,487
Stocks in bond	lbs.	67,236,000	77,405,000	73,386,000
Value of imports	"	£3,204,956	£3,524,108	£3,530,730
Of which British Indian	"	1,178,837	1,475,727	1,492,165
Do. Ceylon	"	1,564,079	1,697,923	1,782,890
Value of exports	"	806,304	833,223	859,962



## U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

## THE TEA INDUSTRY OF THE CAUCASUS.

A British consular report on this subject states :—

Before the year 1894 but little interest had been taken in tea-planting in the Caucasus, except by one or two private individuals who had been carrying out experiments as to whether the tea plant could be successfully grown near Batoum. Since that year, however, experiments on a very extensive scale have been made in the cultivation of the tea plant in the immediate neighbourhood of this town.

According to persons who are competent to pass an opinion on the matter, the results hitherto obtained are decisive, and it has been distinctly proved that the Trans-Caucasus is one of the countries in which tea can be profitably grown.

So far as it has been possible to ascertain, the portion of the Trans-Caucasus most favourable for tea-planting comprises a belt along the Black Sea, stretching from Soukhoum in the north to the Turkish frontier in the south, the general aspect being from southerly to westerly, but many causes, principally climatic, combine to prevent the zone from extending any distance inland, and attempts made to grow tea in the direction of Tiflis and other districts situated in the interior of the country have, I am given to understand, hopelessly failed. Although tea has been grown in and near Soukhoum it has never been undertaken on an extensive scale. It is, therefore, very doubtful whether its cultivation in that part of the Caucasus could be rendered a profitable commercial enterprise, and I am informed that success is more likely to be secured a few miles further south.

Land can be acquired by persons of Russian nationality, either by lease or purchase from private land-owners or from the Government. Foreigners of all nationalities, according to the existing laws, are excluded from acquiring lands along the coast, either by purchase or on lease, and the tea-growing zone, as stated above, is situated along the Black Sea littoral, therefore no foreigners can engage in the industry.

Roads, in the English sense of the word, are unknown in the country districts, but their construction (unmetalled) would be neither difficult nor expensive. The Trans-Caucasus Trunk Line from Batoum and Poti to Tiflis, and thence through Baladjari and Petrovsk, traverses the southern half of the tea-growing zone, and I think that in a couple of years its northern half will be also intersected by a railway coming from the north and joining the Trans-Caucasian main line at the station of Novo-Senaki; so that, in this respect, the tea district is already well served, and, at a later date, will be still better furnished with convenient outlets for its produce.

The most important factors in tea-planting, as in almost every other agricultural pursuit, are soil and climate.

The soil in the tea-growing district or zone spoken of above varies in different localities from a deep red clay to a light blackish earth, in many parts freely interspersed with stones, while the subsoil is clay with shelving rock of volcanic origin out-cropping on the hillsides. There are considerable stretches of alluvial land along the basins of the rivers, and these lands, from time immemorial, have been cultivated principally with maize, but the lower hills are almost entirely

covered with forests and brushwood, and have a surface soil of loam more or less rich in humus. Here and there patches of cleared land now covered with bracken occur, with few trees and occasionally the remains of buildings and orchards, thus proving former cultivation, abandoned however since the Russo-Turkish War. The slopes vary in different degrees, but the area of good land that could not be profitably brought under plantation by terracing is relatively small.

Every variety of weather occurs in the tea-growing district. At times severe drought, at others deluges of rain, whilst severe frosts and snow 3 feet at the coast line have been known to do enormous damage to the tea plantations. The weather otherwise is well adapted for tea-growing; the rainfall is heavy, averaging 96 inches per annum, and in some cases even in excess of these figures; it is, however, fairly evenly distributed throughout the year; but, if anything, the months of May and June are the driest months of the year, and are occasionally accompanied by more or less drought. The heat is never very excessive, ranging from 100 to 130 Fahr. in the sun; but, even during the hottest season of the year, the atmosphere is rarely very dry, averaging from 50 to 70 per cent. of moisture, except probably for one or two short periods during the year, when it is only 30 per cent. or so, but I do not think that I have ever noticed it to be drier than this.

I would imagine that the temperature and climate of the Batoum neighbourhood resemble, in a great measure, those of the Himalaya tea districts of India, the monsoons, which do not exist in the Caucasus, and somewhat more severe winters constituting the only differences, and the opinion that seems to prevail is that when the tea bushes are out of sight with snow in the winter a good first crop is ensured. The soft spring weather usually prevailing at the beginning of March enables transplanting to be carried out with perfect safety, and the spring rain frequently renders the watering of nurseries and seedlings unnecessary. As already stated, the heat during the summer months, although great, is never very excessive as the temperature on the hill slopes on which the tea is grown, having a southerly aspect, face the sea, and the heat is generally tempered during the day by a moisture like westerly sea breeze. Autumn varies little from the rest of the year, while November and December are usually bright and, as a rule, calm and warm months.

Next in importance is the question of labour supply, and in this respect the system in vogue some four years or five years ago was anything but satisfactory, as labourers were scarce and the gardens were worked by day-labourers, and the men coming and going at will, so that they could not be depended upon. A few Chinese and Japanese specialists, whose services had been engaged by contract in their countries, and who received monthly wages, formed an exception to the above, but their numbers were very few and have since dwindled down to only one Chinaman, who is now permanently employed on the tea estates belonging to the Imperial Domains. Things in this respect have, however, altered during the past two or three years, and I am given to understand that women and children are employed for picking the leaf. The method being that they are paid by piece-work, or by the basketful, and in this manner women earn about 35c. (9d.) per diem, the more industrious and expert being able to increase their daily earnings from the figures



just given up to 80c. (1s. 9d.) and children in the same proportions from 25 to 40c. (6d. to 10d.) per day. Men are no longer sent out to gather the crop but are employed in the factories at rates varying from 18r. (about £1 18s.) to 35r. (about £3 14s.) per month, according to the work on which they are employed. Labourers of the country, principally Georgians and Mingrelians, I am told, are not as good as Russians. The latter stay longer, the Georgians being averse to heavy work of any kind no matter how well it may be paid for; they are also said to be prone to scamp the tasks set them, unless very closely watched. As soon as they have earned a little money they must be off home to spend it, whether there be a press of work on hand or not. This would, of course, prove most detrimental in the event of the industry expanding and on occasions when a heavy crop has to be gathered. On the whole the labour question in the tea-growing districts of the Caucasus leaves much to be desired, and should the industry develop and assume very large proportions, considerable attention will have to be devoted to the study of the question of importing outside labour for the requirements of the industry.

On existing plantations the bulk of the plant is, I am told, pure China, the older portions exclusively so; but seed also has been imported from India, Ceylon, Java and Japan. They are all doing well, and the China plant appears to thrive in whatever situation it has been planted. Almost every system of planting has been resorted to from dibbling in the seeds to transplanting at from six months to three years old, with and without lumps of earth on the roots; the best results have apparently been obtained with young plants having earth attached to the roots, a process which, although expensive, gives an extremely small percentage of empty spaces. In previous years, owing to the want of knowledge in tea-planting, a considerable waste of land took place, as bushes were planted at ridiculous distances from each other in order to arrive at exactly a certain number of plants per dessiatine (2·7 acres) and in this way a dessiatine would only carry about 7,000 plants. Now, I believe, the number of plants on a dessiatine has been augmented to 10,000, the space between each row or bed of plants being about 4 feet with a space of 3 feet between each shrub. Terracing has, I am told, been done before and after planting. In some of the tea-growing localities, where the slopes of the hills are somewhat steep, a system of hedge planting has been adopted, the lining out being carefully done with this object in view. In these localities each hedge consists of a double row of plants, each plant being 3 feet from its neighbour in the same row, and 2 feet from the nearest plants in the parallel row, with 6 feet clear between each pair of rows.

In the remarks made in my agricultural report for the year 1902 (Annual Series No. 2916), I stated that the crop for that year had been far in excess of anything that had been expected, and on an average had yielded 20 poods, or as near as possible 7 cwts., per dessiatine of 2·7 acres, which crop had been sold at the all-round rate of 1 rouble per Russian lb., and therefore had brought in a revenue of nearly £30 per acre to the owners of the land. It will be admitted that this result is exceedingly good, and I am informed that the prospects for the present year are, if anything, still more brilliant.

The area of land under tea near Batoum is at the present time as near as possible to 1,134 acres.

Caucasian teas possess a very agreeable aroma and a flavour not unlike Ceylon and Indian teas, and some samples of tea furnished by the Imperial Domains have been valued by Russian experts as being worth from 4 to 5r. (8s. 4d. to 10s. 6d.) per lb. Tea samples from Batoum have been valued in London by experienced importers at 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb.

According to Mr. Yachervsky, Phytologist of the Central Station of the Imperial Botanical Gardens at St. Petersburg, only two kinds of diseases, or blight on the leaf, have been noticed in the Caucasus. One of a fungus nature (*Pestalozzia guepini*) and the other a tick-like insect of the tetranychus species. Both made their appearance for the first time on the Chakva tea plantations of the Imperial Domains, and on the estate of Mr. K. Popoff near Batoum in 1897.

The first-mentioned parasite develops fast and spreads over the leaves with great rapidity; the only way to diminish its evil effects is to destroy the leaves attacked by it, otherwise, if a leaf attacked falls to the ground, whilst remaining there, it continues to spread the germ. Besides collecting and burning the leaves attacked it has been proved efficacious to sprinkle the bushes with a solution of 2 per cent. of Bordeaux fluid, exactly in the same way as is done when curing vines of mildew. This blight also spreads to a variety of other plants.

The second, although an insect of diminutive proportions, attacks the leaf in very large numbers, the latter becoming pitted with fawn-coloured spots, which, after a time, run into each other giving the leaf a bronze colour. They first appear on old leaves at the base of the shrub, but in the process of their development they gradually rise to the upper portions of the shrub and infect the whole plant. They do most damage in hot, dry weather, when they increase with wonderful rapidity. As soon as rainy, damp weather sets in the parasite disappears.

The remedy used on the Chakva estates against this pest is an emulsion of one part kerosene, two parts of green soap, and ten parts of water, also a solution of 1 per cent. of carbolic acid with 10 per cent. of green soap.

Two tea factories exist near Batoum. One of them, on the estates of Mr. K. Popoff, of Moscow, and the other on the tea plantations belonging to the Imperial Domains at Chakva. Both these factories are corrugated iron buildings, erected by a Belfast firm, and I understand are fitted with the most modern and up-to-date appliances for drying, rolling and in general otherwise manipulating the tea-leaf. The Popoff factory only manufactures tea grown on the plantations of its owner, whereas the tea factory belonging to the Imperial Domains undertakes to manufacture, at a small charge, tea grown on other estates, situated in the surrounding district, the quality of which is, however, up to the present, not great, although it is becoming an accepted thing that all landed proprietors and owners of small plots in the neighbourhood should, either more or less, take up the cultivation of tea. Thus it will be seen that the action of the Domains is to encourage tea-planting.

I learn that no more seed is being imported into the Caucasus from the Far East, and that seedlings and plants locally grown are being used now on the estates of the Imperial Domains and on the property of Mr. K. Popoff for extending the area under tea. The Imperial Domains also



furnish seeds and seedlings to any persons desirous of taking up the culture of tea.

Mr. Simonson, scientific agriculturist, who is manager of the Imperial Domains, has visited Ceylon, India, China, and other tea-growing countries. During his travels he also studied tea culture in all its phases, and has published a work in the Russian language which treats on the subject, and which is widely used as a practical guide by all persons in the Caucasus desirous of taking up tea-planting.

In conclusion, I may say that tea can be made to pay and pay well in the Batoum district, provided suitable land be selected and the gardens be judiciously and economically worked. The difficulty in this country is the lack of practical experienced men, and this difficulty is rendered still more acute in view of the restrictions in force in regard to foreigners owning and leasing lands. On the other hand, most of the private enterprises in the neighbourhood of Batoum are not sufficiently extensive or prosperous to admit of the heavy expenditure which the engagement of efficient tea-planters from abroad would entail; besides which the large majority of lands in the district do not possess the necessary means to enable them to engage in tea-planting on a large scale.

#### THE U. P. A. S. I. MEETING.

It is regrettable to have to call attention to more or less serious errors in some of the telegraphic reports of the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting that have found their way into the columns of the leading Calcutta and Bombay papers. For instance, before the resolution in respect to the new Labour Act had been passed, it was gravely announced that it had been carried with one dissentient. As a matter of fact, it was carried, at a later date, *unanimously*. Then it was stated that it had been resolved to spend Rs.25,000 to represent South India coffee, tea, cardamoms and pepper at the St. Louis Exhibition. Nothing of the kind was done. A grant of Rs.10,000 was voted from the Association's funds, and efforts are to be made to get this raised to Rs.25,000 by means of Government and private subscriptions. This money has nothing whatever to do with *Tea* exhibits. For these, the Indian Tea Association will provide out of its own funds, aided by Government contributions.

However, it is encouraging to receive praise for enterprise from enterprising Ceylon. The *Times of Ceylon* remarks:—"The necessity of following up the work done at an Exposition explains why the Ceylon Commissioner is not going to sell tea in packets—under a brand that would have to be dropped when the gates finally closed—at St. Louis. This must be left to private enterprise, and then it can be continued after. The other subject—Preferential Tariff—supplies an object-lesson. In Ceylon our public men either have no views on the subject, or shirk the duty of expressing them. We urged that something should be done by the P. A. and the Chamber of Commerce before Mr. Chamberlain opened his autumn campaign. Nothing has been done here in Ceylon. How different with the United Planters' Association of Southern India! The resolution passed at Bangalore on Tuesday last is to be published throughout Great Britain. Action that would be 'premature' in Ceylon is timely and effective across the Palk Straits."

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in America.**—Messrs. Henry Nordlinger & Co., of New York, reviewing the coffee market under date of July 8, say:—

"During the past crop year the supplies which came into sight were slightly in excess of the extraordinarily large consumption encountered. The receipts during the past fiscal or crop year from all producing countries were about 16,500,000 bags, the deliveries from port stocks in consuming markets about 16,000,000 bags, showing that production and consumption closely approached each other.

"The earlier expectations of a considerable deficiency in the supplies have not been realized, and experience has again been purchased dearly by traders, investors, and speculators. The world has learned that it is no longer possible for Brazilians to estimate their crops with any degree of accuracy since the area under cultivation has grown to such vast dimensions."

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**Porto Rican Coffee Growers.**—The first thing that should be done to help the coffee-planters out of the hole, says the *San Juan News*, is for themselves to organize and contribute to their organization to make it strong and powerful. It will soon become evident that a coffee-planter cannot afford to stay out of the organization and that it is for his benefit to keep in.

After the organization is well on its feet, we can safely leave the details of the advancement of the trade to the organization. A company could, no doubt, be formed among the planters themselves to handle the coffee, protect it from imitations and carry on a campaign of advertising in the United States. The advance in price, due to the advertisement of the coffee, would no doubt pay for the expense in one year, and probably a great deal more. Business men with whom we have talked about these matters agree that it would be a success if properly started and handled, but the trouble is in getting planters sufficiently interested to go into it for their good.

The Porto Rico experimental station is now investigating the coffee situation and experimenting on the best methods for reviving the production. Arrangements have been made to carry on experiments at "La Carmelita" estate, near Ponce. Experiments are also being made with different kinds of coffee to find out which brand of seed is most applicable to the soil. We have little to complain of, however, in regard to the brand of the coffee grown here. It is probably the best in the world. It is so rated by those people who know the coffee. In the United States they do not know the coffee and do not know how to prepare it. It is advertising then that is needed.

For many years before the hurricane, the coffee crop was the most important on the island. Its values exceeded that of all other crops combined, often. Most of the 200,000 acres of soil planted in coffee are now idle and producing nothing, because of the conditions well-known to all of us. There should certainly be a determined and intelligent effort made to return to the times when coffee was the wealth of the island.

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**Coffee in the U. S.**—The annual report of the Coffee Exchange has been made public by Mr. C. B. Stroud, Superintendent of the Exchange. The year under review is that



which closed June 30, and in that time the total sales on Exchange have amounted to 9,956,250 bags, compared with 9,707,000 bags during 1901-02, an increase last year of 149,250 bags. In 1900-01 the total sales amounted to 7,393,000 bags. The highest price reached was in November 1901, when September and October sold for 8c.; the lowest figure, 3.60c. was reached last June.

The following show the deliveries of coffee for the last five years:—

		U. S.	Europe.	Total.
1898-1899	...	5,682,636	7,798,268	13,480,904
1899-1900	...	6,035,623	8,937,076	14,972,699
1900-1901	...	5,843,883	8,486,042	14,329,925
1901-1902	...	6,663,569	8,853,094	15,516,663
1902-1903	...	6,847,877	9,118,621	15,966,498

The highest and lowest prices at which sales of each month were made are as follow:—

Delivery. Mos. 1902.	Highest.	Lowest.
July	Nov. 1901—7.80c	July 1902—4.65c
August	Nov. 1901—7.90c	July 1902—4.70c
September	Nov. 1901—8.00c	July 1902—4.70c
October	Nov. 1901—8.00c	July 1902—4.80c
November	Dec. 1901—7.75c	Nov. 1902—4.40c
December	Dec. 1901—7.75c	Nov. 1902—4.35c
1903—		
January	Mch. 1902—6.25c	Jan. 1903—4.20c
February	Mch. 1902—6.25c	Jan. 1903—4.15c
March	Feb. 1902—6.30c	Mch. 1903—4.10c
April	May 1902—6.05c	Apr. 1903—3.75c
May	Aug. 1902—6.00c	Apr. 1903—3.65c
June	Aug. 1902—6.00c	June 1903—3.60c
	*	*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Coffee is quiet with little change in prices at any point, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 14th ultimo. The speculative market has had advances and reactions, and, on the whole, remains but little changed. In the course of the week the Lewisohns did some buying and the market strengthened a little on the expectation that they had returned as active buyers. The buying and the expectation were not continued and the Exchange trading relapsed. The Brazil markets at the end of the week took an easier turn after an inclination to firmness. Firm offers were accepted on a lower basis of values. A sale was 7,500 bags of Santos, Nos. 3 to 6, averaging Nos. 4 to 5 at 5½ c. and f. The movement of the crop continues very full, the average Santos interior receipts being 75,000 bags daily. Spot invoices closed slow at 4½c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5¾c. for Rio No. 4, and 6 to 6½c. for Santos No. 4. In jobbing business during the week was fairly active, closing flat, however.

In mild coffee offerings are free generally, but buyers for large lots are scarce. Hand to mouth buying seems to be the rule. The supply of West India growths is now very abundant in the market, and all signs indicate swelling of the plethora. No firming-up of prices can hence be hoped for in the immediate present. Good Cucuta is 8c. East India growths are steady and quiet.

**Hawaiian Coffee in New York.**—San Francisco coffee men showed samples of Hawaiian coffee in the New York market recently. They did not please, although having fine cup quality. They lacked a handsome appearance in the roast, and grade for grade could not as to price dislodge coffee already well received here.

According to the Dairy and Food Commissioner of the State of Michigan, the Woolson Spice Company, of Toledo, O., has been

offering for sale in Michigan a coffee consisting of broken coffee berries, sticks, pieces of husks, charred and immature berries, etc. It would be interesting to learn what else under the name of the Sun could possibly be included under the "etc."

Dr. B. H. Warren, the new Pennsylvania Food Commissioner, has signalled his advent in the department by making the discovery that among coffees in Pennsylvania ground coffee shows the largest percentage of adulterants. Incidentally he has vouchsafed the information that "in one case a neighbouring State found a ground coffee in the open market which contained 12 per cent. of finely ground coal." And this, too, in the face of an advancing coal market and a declining coffee market!

## TEA NOTES.

**Indian Tea Prospects.**—The following telegram has been sent from Calcutta to the Tea Association in London:—

**ASSAM.**—The outturn for July is normal and the immediate prospect fair. Blight is now not so severe.

**CACHAR, SYLHET, DUARS AND TERAI.**—The outturn is normal and immediate prospects good.

**DARJEELING.**—The outturn is poor and prospects poor. Blight generally is severe and is checking leaf.

**Indian Tea Exports.**—The Indian tea exports from Calcutta and Chittagong from 1st April to 31st July are 30,631,175 lbs. against 29,917,108 lbs. last year.

It is estimated that through a fire that occurred on the ss. *Heathford* last month some 1,300,000 lbs., mostly of one grade of Formosa tea, was so damaged as to be unmarketable. This tea was intended for the American market, where stocks of this type are unusually low.

**Colombo Tea Sales.**—A strong tone prevailed throughout the sale on the 5th instant, and all kinds met with good competitions, particularly medium to good broken Pekoes. Prices, although irregular, were distinctly firmer, medium kinds recovering from last week's dull tendency. Green teas were steady at previous rates.

**Tea Stocks in London.**—Commercial advices state that on the 31st July the Ceylon tea stock was 25,100,000 lbs. and the Indian stock 24,300,000 lbs. This is described as 1,300,000 lbs. up and 6,500,000 lbs. down, respectively; but, according to Messrs. Geo. White & Co.'s latest figures, the differences are 1,700,000 lbs. and 7,500,000 lbs.

**The Tea Market.**—In a quiet way considerable business is being transacted in tea, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 14th ultimo. Several substantial invoices, especially in Formosa, were disposed of last week, and it would seem that a more active market were imminent. The fire in the *Heathford* has caused a rise of ½c. in the price of Formosas, of which she carried a large quantity in her hold. About a similar quantity was destroyed one year ago by the burning at Suez of the steamer *Satsuma*, and the price of tea advanced 2 and 3 cents, to the injury of the market in Formosas. The lesson has been appreciated in a degree, but in view of the probable exportation of 19,000,000 pounds, the rise of even ½c. a pound is not justified. Except in the choice grades, which are relatively scarce, there should be enough Formosas to go around. The loss which probably has



occurred can well be repaired. On account of the London inquiry Congous have hardened locally, and cannot now be had under 8½c. Japans continue fairly held, but it is thought that common grades will presently rule softer. A recent sale of Pingsueys amounted to 2,000 packages, but spot quotations for these as well as Country greens are nominal. India and Ceylons are firm. Apparently there is some easing in the price, but this is due to the arrival of inferior tea, with consequent lowering of quotations. Grade for grade, prices continue at least unchanged. Present conditions have been at least preshadowed by the reports from Colombo and Calcutta.

Not a few samples, and from nearly all markets, arrived Monday, July 13, to be discussed this week, and be the basis for present transactions.

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**South Indian Tea in London.**—Messrs. George White and Co., in their Report, July 23, say: There was a rather better tone in the market, and the attention of buyers was chiefly centred on the offerings from Assam and Darjeeling, which included a more attractive selection of the current season's crop than has been shown hitherto. From South India 2,500 packages were brought forward, quality being ordinary. A fair demand was experienced, previous rates being maintained.

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A writer in the *Spice Mill* remarks:—The American Tea Growing Company of Charleston, S.C., general agents for the Pinehurst tea gardens at Somerville, in the same State, has kindly favoured me with some samples of its American-grown teas. Not being an expert on tea, I turned them over to Mrs. Oracle, who at least thinks she is qualified, and she has assured me that they are all right—or words to that effect. It strikes me, however, that the company has a lot of educating to do before it can hope to lure the tea-drinking public away from its East Indian loves. I also think it will have to come down on its price somewhat. One dollar a pound is too "sudden."

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Mr. A. R. Robertson writes in the *Spice Mill*:—In reviewing movements in tea for the month of June it would impress one that "conservatism" prevailed, and only "hand to mouth" buying had taken place, yet at the close of the month careful inquiry shows that orders were decidedly more numerous, and requests for samples were far in excess of anything noted for several months.

Thus, while trade is not especially active, there are buyers taking advantage of easier quotations on some "spot" teas.

Formosa Oolong is quoted at lower figures, and even this, in conjunction with high prices at primary markets, fails to stir up any great demand. Some wonderful values are offered in medium and finer teas.

New teas are beginning to arrive, quality and leaf being reported good. The high prices asked, however, tend to check buying abroad, and native packers are said "to be mixing inferior leaf," with the view of reducing cost, an unfortunate procedure, for while "teas for price" held sway during the period of duty, we now look to see more demand for the better teas.

Congous are still slow of sale, with good value to be had. From Hankow we learn that the quality is the best in the

past two or three seasons. Prices are higher, with an active market. Teas to pass Government standard are quoted up to ten cents. Some excellent trades can be picked up "spot." It would appear from heavy Russian buying that supplies for United States will be curtailed.

India and Ceylons have had fair attention, the demand running on the better grade teas. This is to be accounted for by the prices asked for Pekoe Souchongs, which readily bring fourteen cents. While desirable, good leaf Pekoes, with cup, can be had sixteen to eighteen cents, and handsome, good liquoring Orange Pekoes from twenty-one cents up. The "Greens" are gradually making their way into consumption in all forms, that is, blended with Japans and colored, to take the place of China, Hysons and Young Hysons. Of course the result consequent to this is that consumers get educated to taste, and later will not be so particular as to whether they are colored or not. Some beautiful teas in the "natural" leaf are being sold at eighteen to twenty cents.

Japans are reported to show most excellent quality for reason, with prices also higher than last year. First crop teas closed earlier than expected, and the stock remaining at last advices were from "fine downwards." Prices are still uncertain, but no concession is expected from holders.

Pingsueys remain very firm in price on this market. The new season market opened at Shanghai on the 2nd ultimo with prices above those of last year's opening. The teas are well made, with good, attractive leaf and color, but the liquor lacks the brightness of the past two seasons. County Greens are quiet and steady in price.

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**Consumption of India, Ceylon, and Chinese Teas.**—In the last ten seasons the consumption of Indian tea has grown from 48 to 54 per cent., and that of Ceylon tea from 30 to 35 per cent., while the figure for China tea has dropped from 21 to 9 per cent. Comparing the two seasons 1902-03 and 1901-02, the percentage of India tea has remained stationary at 54, but that of Ceylon has receded from 36 to 35 per cent., to the advantage of China, which has risen from 8 to 9 per cent. This is the first upward movement shown by the China product in ten years, though in the previous season the decline had been arrested.

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**Cape Bush Tea.**—There could be no formal report on this article, so Messrs. Forbes & Walker, to whom the *Times of Ceylon* sent a "sample," replied as follows:—

This South African estate evidently possesses no factory, for the so-called "tea" is not manufactured at all, and has apparently never been inside a factory. The leaf is small and oval in shape. In some cases it is broken, in others it is whole and untwisted and in its natural state, but the planter has not failed to leave the stalks in the tea, also in a natural state. Probably the only attempt at manufacture is sun-drying. The liquor tastes of *nothing at all!* The infusion is a mixture of bright red stalks and green leaves.

\* \* \*

**Green Teas for America.**—The finished teas are taking time to reach the Pacific Coast, but a former Ceylon planter, now resident there, sends the *Times of Ceylon* a letter from which we quote the following:—

I see a letter in the *Overland Times* of the 22nd May on green tea in the U. S. of A. I think the writer on "finished greens" has hit the nail on the head when he advises his fellow-planters to finish their teas according to Japan ideas. The unfinished greens have



very little sale on this coast, anyway, whereas a finished green, not too broken up, has a ready sale, and can early influence the Japan article; but this never will be done on the present lines. The grant seems to me to be against the best interests of the green tea producer. "Pure tea," unfaced tea, never will have a ready sale, and why not take a higher price for what will sell than attempt to force the sale of an article that no one will look at. Faced teas are now arriving in 'Frisco from two or three different firms in Colombo, and will find a ready sale on this market. Japans have gone up in price some 15 cents since the 1st January, and higher prices are asked for. What is wanted is a grass-green tea, like the Japan tea, of a leafy appearance. Appearance goes more than quality with the American buyer, and why not make the thing that is wanted and will sell. The forced article would fetch 6 to 8 cents more than can be got for the uncoloured tea.

What spoils the sale of tea more than anything in America is the price charged by the grocer, which is out of all proportion to the buying price. Some want as much as 300 per cent., and most charge 200 per cent. more than it cost them. Very little pure Ceylon is sold. China tea is mixed and sold as Ceylon tea to make a bigger profit.

Most of the Ceylon greens now shipped are "finished," without being adulterated with Prussian blue, for example. Producers and merchants are justified in still going ahead if our correspondent is correct in describing the waiting market in California.

\* \* \*

**Record Tea Shipment direct to America.**—A Colombo paper says:—The "Schönfels," running for the joint direct service of the "Hansa" line and Bucknalls lines to Boston and New York (American and Indian line), which sailed from Colombo on the 24th July, took, in addition to a large general cargo of Ceylon produce, a record shipment of Ceylon tea to America, viz.:—527,772 lbs. green tea, 424,195 lbs. black tea=951,967 lbs.

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Mr. Dawson, an Indian tea expert, reports that there is a good opening for investment in tea cultivation in Jamaica.—*Sell's*.

### NOTES.

#### German Quinine, etc.

The exports of quinine-preparations, etc., from Germany during the four months ending April amounted to—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Kilos. ... ..	51,000	48,800	69,800

#### Scientific Investigation.

Mr. H. H. Mann, Scientific Officer to the Indian Tea Association, has announced his intention of devoting his attention next year to that dangerous tea pest, "Red Rust." Mr. Mann has been so successful hitherto that the best results may be anticipated.

#### Calcutta Tea Sale.

At the sale on 7th instant 18,800 packages were offered at to-day's tea sale, making a total of 162,146 against 147,112 for the same date last year. There was a strong competition for outside markets, prices being firm at last week's rates. Green tea was a shade dearer: Assam Company's teas sold well.

#### Vanilla in Trinidad.

In the Annual Report of the Trinidad Botanical Department for the year ended 31st March, 1903, it is stated that the small plantation of Vanilla did fairly well for its age and in April last was producing numerous flowers which were setting freely by the aid of artificial pollination. A few pods of good quality were produced last year from flowers that opened late in the season of 1902.

#### Freight on Tea.

We are glad to learn that this subject was lately discussed by the Tea and Produce Committee, and that the Secretary was directed to write to the Shipping Conference, protesting against rates being raised without any notice to shippers, and without consulting them. The rate and shipping ton is now 27s. 6d. from Colombo to London. A few years ago it touched 7s. 6d., but has gradually been rising for some time. Freights from India also are capable of reduction without unfairness to shipowners.

#### The London Tea Clearing House.

According to the London correspondent of a Colombo paper, the Clearing House, except as a medium for clearing tea, is dead. Dead also, or very nearly so, are all the schemes of which we have heard so much during the last few months. The latest one—for the appointment of an experimental council—came before the Tea and Produce Committee this week, but found no favour with them. The Indian Association is to have a meeting shortly to consider the subject, but we already know the views of the bulk of the members—that they consider the C. H. should confine itself strictly to its ostensible objects.

#### The French Customs Tariff.

It will be remembered that the Ceylon Government reduced by 50 per cent. the duty on vinegar in casks and green copperah imported into the island, and the French Government agreed recently to apply the minimum tariff to cocoa in the event of its being decided to introduce a dual scale of duty. It is now notified that the French Government has decided to raise the minimum duty on coffee from 136 francs for 100 kilos. to the former rate of 156 francs per 100 kilos. The change comes into effect on 1st January next. The despatch to this effect has, says the *Times of Ceylon*, been received at the Secretariat from the Home Government.

#### Venezuelan Coffee.

Exports of coffee from Maracaibo in 1902 amounted to 17,692,832 kilos. as against 25,626,629 in the previous year. Another statement shows the following exports:—

	1901.	1902.
La Guaira ... ..	120,217	126,848 bags.
Maracaibo ... ..	422,386	294,880 "

Puerto Cabello figures are given in metrical tons, 5,008 in 1902 against 9,280 in 1901, and 10,842, the average of five years. The average price of coffee per 100 lbs., f.o.b., Maracaibo may be calculated at £1 6s., the same as in 1901 and 1900, against £1 5s. for 1899, and £2 4s. for 1897. During the whole of 1902 coffee was free of export duty.

#### Tea in Paraguay.

"When the natives of Paraguay drink tea they do not pour it from a teapot into a cup, but fill a goblet made out of a pumpkin or gourd and then suck up the hot liquid through a long reed. The tea is altogether different from that which comes from China, being made out of dried and roasted leaves of a palmlike plant which grows in Paraguay and Southern Brazil. The natives say that this tea is an excellent remedy for fever and rheumatism, and chemical tests which have been made by German physicians seem to show that there is good ground for this statement. Certain it is that tea is



widely used throughout Paraguay in cases of illness and that, so far as has been observed, the effects produced by it are highly beneficial." The above is from the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, but surely "Maté" is what is referred to, not "tea"?

**St. Louis Exhibition.** No duties will be levied upon exhibits at the St. Louis Exhibition except for goods sold for delivery after the close of the Exhibition, in which case they will pay the regular taxes fixed by law. Goods intended for exhibit may be shipped to any port, whence they will be transported in bond to the Exhibition grounds—made by law a bonded warehouse—in which the goods will remain until their removal before March 1, 1905. If not sold they will be returned to the country of origin through the port of entrance. The freight rates are simple. Thus far about £2,000,000 has been spent by the management. This includes the preparation of the grounds and the cost of advertising in foreign countries and at home, but the principal part of it has gone into buildings. Of these, ten are now fairly complete, and it is expected that all will be practically finished by the end of the current year.

**The Man on the Spot.** Mr. J. T. Verner, Chairman of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company, has recently observed at the Annual General Meeting of the Company:—"The success or non-success of each individual garden forming the Company's property is dependent, I may say, almost entirely on the staff in India. With good superintendents, and on each garden a capable manager, supported by an efficient European and native establishment, every garden in this Company ought to be successfully worked, and in normal times give satisfactory results. Without a good local staff the working of the best tea garden in India may show no profitable result. I speak from personal knowledge, and from what I have frequently observed and noted during my eighteen years experience as a planter. I may sum up by saying everything depends upon the 'man on the spot.' The Board fully recognise this." Nevertheless, in fact, in many cases 'the man on the spot' gets little but the crumbs that fall from the Board!

**Shells an Adulterant.** The amended New York State pure food law, known as Chapter 524 of the laws of 1903, which went into effect on May 9, contains certain definitions of adulterated and misbranded foods which appear to have caused more or less confusion among manufacturers in the trade. There has been considerable speculation among grinders of spices in particular as to whether pepper shells would be considered an adulterant within the meaning of this Act. An opinion from the office of Commissioner Chas. A. Wieting, of the Department of Agriculture, states "that in the judgment of this department the mixing of ground pepper shells with pepper would be a violation of the provisions of Chapter 524 of the laws of 1903, unless the commodity is labelled, branded, or tagged so as to show that they are mixtures, compounds, combinations, imitations or blends, and to show the character or constituents of the product." As there seems to be an impression abroad that other food laws were passed by the Legislature of 1903, it might be well to state here that the Act of May 9, 1903, was the only pure food law passed during the winter, and that it took effect immediately.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### FRUIT TREE FUNGUS.

The following extract is from Leaflet, No. 87, supplied gratuitously by the Board of Agriculture (4, Whitehall-place, London), and relates to a fungus disease of young fruit trees.

*EUTYPELLA PRUNASTRI* (Sacc.).

Every now and again this minute but very destructive parasite appears under the form of a disease wave, causing a very considerable amount of damage, hundred, or, in some instances, thousands of young trees being injured or completely killed during one of these sporadic attacks.

Young standard fruit trees, up to the age of eight years, are most liable to the disease, and, as the stem or stock is the part attacked, the girdling of this portion of the plant by the fungus growing in the bark and cambium means the death of the entire tree, which, in a dull and damp season favourable to the rapid growth of the parasite, usually occurs during the Spring following the first year of attack.

In the case of nursery stock, plum (especially the variety called Victoria) and apple trees have suffered most severely in this country; peach, apricot, and cherry to a less extent. The fungus is also often very abundant on wild plum, bullace, black thorn, etc., and it is the spores produced on such wild trees that infect cultivated stock.

The first indication of the presence of the disease is the premature yellowing and fall of the leaves, followed by a drying up, browning, and shrivelling of the bark of the stem. During the Spring following the first year's inoculation, numerous minute, elongated cracks, arranged in dense clusters, appear in the dried-up bark. These represent the first form of fruit produced by the fungus, and are followed during the second season after inspection by larger, fewer, and more irregularly-scattered cracks, always transversely arranged in the now dead bark, containing a second and more highly-developed kind (ascigirous) of fungus fruit.

The spores of the fungus are mature during late Spring and early Summer, and it is at this season that infection of young fruit trees takes place, the spores gaining access to the stem either through the unprotected ends of pruned twigs or through the living bark itself.

All wounds on the stem exposed by cutting of shoots, however small, should be protected at once by a coating of gas tar, until the tree is at least ten years old. If this precaution is neglected, spores frequently alight on the newly-formed wounds, where they quickly germinate and spread upward and downward in the living bark, which becomes discoloured; finally, the fungus bursts through the bark it has killed, and produces spores on the surface.

#### REMEDIAL MEASURES.

In order to prevent spores from germinating on the surface of the stem, and then entering through the bark directly, the entire stem of the tree should be painted with the following composition: Reduce soft soap to the consistency of thick paint by the addition of a strong solution of washing soda in water. Add 1 lb. of powdered quick-lime to every five gallons of the dissolved soap and stir the whole until thoroughly mixed. Apply to the trunk with a paint brush being careful to cover every part. This mixture is tenacious, not easily dissolved by rain, and usually lasts for one season, if properly made and applied.

Up to the present disease has only been observed on a large scale where the trees are growing in stiff clay. Under such conditions it is very important to avoid deep planting, otherwise the roots are liable to be killed, owing to the presence of stagnant water, lack of air, etc., during a continuous rainy period especially in Spring or early Summer. If the trees are not actually killed by this means alone, which is very frequently the case, their vitality is considerably weakened, and they are thus rendered more susceptible to the attacks of parasitic fungi.

In a case of an extensive attack which the Board investigated in the county of Nottingham in 1902, the trees had evidently been seriously crippled by being planted too deep in a strong soil, and were consequently specially susceptible to attack.

It is important that the fungus should be recognised by gardeners, as its frequent occurrence on wild trees in hedgerows might lead to the infection of nursery stock in a wholesale manner, as has, in fact, taken place more than once, unless detected and removed without delay.



All diseased plants should be burned at once, as, if allowed to lie about, the spores mature on the dead wood, and are scattered by wind, a risk of further infection being thereby incurred.

#### DISEASE AND INSECTS AFFECTING FRUIT TREES.

A small but influential deputation of gentlemen interested in fruit-growing, comprising representatives from the Association of Herefordshire Fruit-growers and Horticulturists and the National Federation of Fruit-growers, waited on Lord Onslow, the new President of the Board of Agriculture, to represent to him the desirability of taking some steps to prevent the spread of disease and injurious insects in nurseries and fruit plantations. It will be remembered that the Herefordshire County Council, acting on a report from the Association of Herefordshire Fruit-growers, recommended legislation on the subject, and requested the members for the county and city to draft a measure to effect this object. Consequently Sir James Rankin, Capt. Clive, Mr. Arkwright, and other members brought in the Prevention of Diseases (Fruit Trees) Bill, which followed the lines of several colonial enactments, but was confined in its application to nurserymen in accordance with the report of the Association. When the attention of the trade was called to this Bill a unanimous feeling was expressed that any measure of the kind ought to apply to all fruit-growers as well as to nurserymen. The latter, of course, were strongly in favour of this extension, contending, not unreasonably, that where, as in many cases, their nurseries were adjacent to fruit plantations it was useless and harassing to require them to keep their nursery stock clean when it was always liable to be reinfected from the neighbouring fruit plantations. Sir James Rankin, in introducing the deputation, stated that they did not ask for immediate action on the part of the Government, but rather an inquiry into the necessity for legislation and the form which it should take. . . . Some doubt was expressed as to whether a compulsory measure was demanded, but, on the whole, the feeling of the deputation evidently was that without compulsion any measure would be a dead letter. . . . Lord Onslow . . . assented to the appointment of a departmental Committee to consider the whole question.

#### A COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY.

The points with which the Committee will have to deal are not so much the existence of disease and injurious insects and the damage caused by them, for these are admitted on all hands, as what are the best methods of combating these evils, and how legislation should be framed so as to be effective with as little cost to and dislocation of the trade as possible. That legislation, and this of a compulsory character, will be necessary is hardly to be questioned, as otherwise concerted action cannot be obtained. At present. . . while the largest and most enterprising nurserymen and fruit-growers took all available steps in their own interest to keep their plantations free from disease and injurious insects, there was no means of obliging their neighbours to adopt the like measures, so that their labour and money was often vainly expended, owing to the ignorance or apathy of others. The example of the colonies and many of the States of America shows that the first countries in the world have been compelled to pass restrictive measures for the protection of their fruit industries. Although the laws in force in these communities have not been many years in operation, they have already been productive of excellent results. Mr. Alfred Dobson, the Agent-General for Tasmania, writing lately to the President of the Herefordshire Fruit-growers' Association, was emphatic on this point. "The operation," he said, "of the laws (the Codlin Moth Act 1888 and amending Acts) has been most beneficial, and has practically saved the fruit industry of Tasmania from absolute ruin."—*The Field*.

#### TEA PESTS.

At a Meeting of the Dimbula Planters' Association on the 27th ultimo some correspondence relating to Vigilance Committee business was read. It included a circular letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Pussellawa P. A., enclosing a copy of a circular that that Association had addressed to all estates in that district (and which we have already published), and asking the Dimbula P. A. to supply them with information as to what steps they were taking in this matter.

The Honorary Secretary read the following letter regarding the shot-hole borer from Mr. Green, under date June 23rd:—

In view of the importance of keeping a watch on the spread of the above pest, it is most necessary that I should be acquainted with the total

acreage of tea at present involved. I would, therefore, ask you to *voluntarily* supply me with the necessary information, by obtaining and sending me approximate figures of the acreage affected in the area embraced by your Association. Please note that it is unnecessary that names of estates should be mentioned.

I should ask for similar returns after an interval of 12 months, by which means it may be possible to gauge the result of any defensive measures that may be employed. As it is important that this information should be available as soon as possible, may I suggest that you circulate this letter amongst the members of your Association, without waiting for the next Meeting, which may, perhaps, not take place for some weeks.

The Honorary Secretary also read a letter from Mr. A. Philip, Secretary to the Planters' Association of Ceylon, enclosing Minute and Resolutions on the 'shot-hole borer' question:—

Mr. E. E. Green was introduced to the Meeting and gave an address on the subject, answering the questions of members thereafter.

*Resolved*:—"That having heard Mr. Green the Committee is of opinion that the legislation on the lines indicated is desirable. (2) That meantime it be again pointed out to the District Associations that the proposed legislation will be purely confined to the absolute prohibition of the distribution of tea-plants, or any parts of tea-plants from affected estates until such estates shall have been certified by the Government Entomologist as free from the disease. (Tea seed need not be included in the prohibition.) (3) That a hearty vote of thanks accorded to Mr. Green."

The CHAIRMAN:—At the proceedings of the last Committee meeting in Kandy at which Mr. Green was present I was much impressed by his speech as to the effects of this pest. He pointed out that it had been on one estate for 16 years and that estate is not dead yet. (Laughter.) What Mr. Green really wants is that steps should be taken to stop the spread of the shot-hole borer. He does not want to take possession of your estates. He merely wants to make it illegal to sell plants which have this pest in them. That is the only way in which the disease spreads. The pest does not travel very far in its own natural life. What you are wanted to do is to cancel your opposition to Mr. Green's scheme. At the first I was very much opposed to it altogether; but now that it has been cut down to such a small point I think we should support it.

Mr. WIGGIN:—Who is to decide as to infected districts?

The CHAIRMAN:—The Government Entomologist. If anybody knows or suspects that the shot-hole borer is in the district he has merely got to call in the Government Entomologist to state what plants are infected.

Mr. Jackson stated that three years ago he had found a shot-hole borer on his estate and had reported to Mr. Green. It was investigated and got rid of. He thought it was the very shot-hole borer they were talking about.

Several members disputed this; but the Chairman remarked that if it was so it was very satisfactory to know that it had been eradicated. Still he was very doubtful that what Mr. Jackson had said would point to the pest being the shot-hole borer.

On the Chairman's motion that the P. A. resolution be supported being put to the Meeting, it was carried with one dissentient.—Col. Farquharson.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

There are several lovers of humanity at home who claim to possess a special knowledge of Indian affairs, and are not slow in calling attention to cases of alleged oppression on the part of planters in the treatment of their coolies. The planter meanwhile finds very few champions eager to do him justice. If in the performance of his daily task he carries his life in his hand it is presumed that a risk of this kind is naturally associated with his duties, and that all the machinery of law and order is at his disposal with a view to his protection against the weaklings who do his bidding. The reverse of this picture does not present itself to the vision of the philanthropists absorbed in contemplating the wrongs of the oppressed labourer. But a study of the cases recently reported in the Indian papers shows clearly to those who wish to inform themselves on the subject, that life on a tea garden, apart from its average ups and downs, has become of late increasingly risky owing to the lawless habits of some of the coolie labourers. Riots and assaults on planters seem now everyday incidents in some districts of Assam. If we may judge by a note in the *Englishman* of July 2, the aid the planter in Assam receives at the hands of the local authorities leaves much to be desired. We learn that while



the military police of Assam are given an excellent record for the past year in the annual police report, "the discipline of the civil police force during the year is unfavourably noticed in the report, the number of resignations, which had been on the decline during the previous three years, again increased. Punishments, however, show a decrease. The Inspector-General has dealt at length with this subject, and he attributes the high percentage of resignations, as well as the lack of discipline in the force, to the fact that the police in Assam are both overworked and underpaid. The year was marked by an increase of rioting, especially in Sylhet, where there were sixty more cases than in the preceding year."

Who knows but that some friend of India, inspired by the love of justice and fair play burning within his breast, may relax for a brief period his study of the planter and his iniquities to enlarge the point of view? The fact that the planter is living in a remote province of India should not entirely cut him off from the sympathy and consideration of those who seem to possess such a large stock of these admirable qualities. The tea-grower may not exhibit all the endearing qualities of the coolie, who is supposed to do his bidding, but he has claims on his own countrymen, and one of these is that as he is not very plentifully distributed over the land, it is necessary that he should be fully and properly protected from those who are in the majority when they happen to be inclined to the crime known in the West as "hooliganism."

The Germans are not great tea-drinkers, and this is not surprising. According to the report of H. M. Consul at Hamburg the tea duties at the present time are no less than £4 18s. per 220 lbs. avoirdupois, and to show the great margin there is in this excessive duty it has only to be mentioned that under the new tariff the amount will only be £1 4s. 6d. To compare these sums is to see how heavily the consumption of tea has been hitherto handicapped among the poorer classes of the population.

The Consul's report has already been quoted as an argument against any fiscal system of food taxation in this country. But preferential traders here seem in favour of free tea. The preferential trade proposals of the Imperial Tariff League (now absorbed with the Tariff Reform League), as set forth by Mr. Ernest Williams, the Honorary Secretary, in his well-known work, "The Case for Protection," show that they are for "an all-round 10 per cent. duty on such colonial imports as come into competition with home produce, allowing the rest—such as raw sugar and tea—free admittance, and an all-round duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* on competing foreign merchandise, and of 15 per cent. on foreign merchandise which competes only with colonial produce." Mr. Farrer Ecroyd, writing in Monday's *Times*, propounds a scheme of 2s. a quarter on foreign wheat,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on foreign meat, 15 per cent. on foreign manufacture of metals and textiles ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on half manufactures), and the repeal of the duty on tea. He believes that this would leave the consumer not a penny the worse.

The increasing consumption of Indian and Ceylon teas is making itself felt in the Dominion. According to a circular from Japan the exports of Japan tea to Canada to June 1 fall short of those for 1902 to an enormous extent, and still more so compared with those for 1901. Exports from Yokohama and Kobe up to June 1 to Canada were only 28,825 lbs. against 130,618 lbs. for the same period in 1902, and 413,716 lbs. for the same period in 1901. On the other hand, the total shipments to North America exceed those of 1902, being 3,628,167 lbs. against 1,841,773 lbs., but are less than those of 1901, which were 4,653,592 lbs.

The remarks of the British Consul at Foochow on the subject of Chinese tea-growers and their ways are instructive. They prove, if further proof were needed, that the hopeless conservatism of the Far East removes all chance of the Celestial successfully competing with India and Ceylon in the tea trade of the world—at any rate just yet. The United States market seems to be the mainstay of the Foochow trade. The Consul says: "The trade in tea has always been the life-blood of foreign commerce at Foochow. It has for many years been a decadent industry, and on the causes of this decadence I animadverted in my trade report for 1901. In that document I recommended British merchants to make a bold bid

for the retention of a market which appeared to be slipping from them by imitating the tactics pursued in Ceylon and India, or, at least, some of them. It was, I confessed, hopeless to expect the native grower to adopt their improved methods of culture and manufacture, which are, I doubt not, to be credited with the larger part of the success met with by the produce of Ceylon and Assam. The native agriculturist is so insanely and indissolubly wedded to the methods of his ancestors that, even when ruin is obviously staring him in the face, he will consent to use no device which savours of novelty. The adder is not only congenitally deaf, but he stops his ears into the bargain, however wisely the European may charm. I pointed out, however, that China tea, though its preparation leaves much, desperately much, to be desired, is in its essence an admirable article, and, thanks to its delicate flavour, can, even when handicapped by faulty manufacture, give points to the robust Indian article. I therefore recommended the British merchants interested in tea to imitate the practice of his competitors of the nearer East, by making the wares better known to possible customers by the medium of advertising. I believe it to be a fact that many people in the United Kingdom would distinctly prefer to drink China tea if they only knew where to buy it, but that there is only one China tea company which advertises at all. My recommendations were widely admitted to be well-grounded, and one British merchant at Foochow strove earnestly to give my abstract counsels a concrete form; but his attempts have not met with the success he hoped and perhaps anticipated. He gave the wheel of the Foochow tea-cart a vigorous heave, but it has sunk back into the rut, and, I am afraid, will remain 'bogged.' No single effort could avail, and cohesion in the Far East tea trade appears to be a hopeless consummation. I remain of the opinion that in advertisement lies the only real remedy; for a sudden change in popular taste, which should replace the teas of China on the pinnacle they once occupied, would be too much of the nature of a miracle to be safely looked for. The export of tea in 1902 shows a large advance on that for 1901. This was due to an increased demand in America. Mr. Cave Thomas was so good as to communicate to me the following remarks on the state of the Foochow tea market in 1902: 'There was a falling-off in the trade to the United Kingdom and Australia, caused by the increased consumption in those countries of the teas of India and Ceylon. In this respect there appears to be no prospect of immediate improvement. In the trade with America there was a considerable increase, mainly due to a speculative demand brought about by the rescinding of the war tax of 10c. gold per lb., but also partly to the circumstance that stocks had been allowed to fall low in anticipation of the above tax. The Russian brick tea trade is practically dead. The Russian firms at Foochow appeared at one time to be thinking of closing their establishments, but have relinquished that intention. The export duty on tea, which had pressed heavily on tea buyers for many years, and had been the cause of much complaint, was reduced to 1.25 taels per picul (*i.e.*, about 12 per cent. *ad valorem*), but the concession was granted too late to check the downward tendency of the trade. The crop in 1902 was of a fair average quality, and met with a good reception from the European buyer. When the market opened the prices were slightly higher than those of 1901, but later in the year they gradually receded.'

The food-consuming public has become hardened upon the subject of warnings in the medical papers, and is now prepared to learn that most of its food is mildly or acutely poisonous. But the *Lancet* lets coffee down gently this week. It says: "Although coffee is little used for breakfast in this country, it is very commonly drunk after dinner, a custom which perhaps is justified, particularly when wine-drinking accompanies the meal, for coffee is an antidote to alcohol. On the other hand, a cup of hot coffee disagrees with many persons, and the dyspeptic must eschew hot strong coffee as well as tea. The excessive drinking of coffee is in any case an evil. But it is often forgotten that coffee can be taken in other ways, and in none better than in the form of jelly. A clear coffee jelly after dinner is every bit as good as the hot infusion, while it is free from some of the drawbacks of the latter. Coffee, unlike alcohol, diminishes organic waste, rouses the muscular energy without the collapse which follows alcoholic imbibition, and gelatin in the form of jelly is cooling, assuages thirst, is soothing, and has a tendency to absorb any excessive acidity of the stomach. Gelatin is what is known as a 'proteid sparer'—that is, it saves



the destruction of proteid, such as albumin. Moreover, the astringent principles of coffee, which, however, are different in kind and degree from those present in tea, are nullified by the gelatin. In short, jelly is an excellent vehicle for coffee, but, as is necessary in making the infusion, the quantity of coffee in the jelly should not be stinted. Coffee serves an admirable purpose in dietetics, and those with whom it disagrees when taken in the form of a hot infusion will very probably find the jelly quite satisfactory."

While there is a great desire on the part of Indian planters to give attention to rhea cultivation they seem at present in doubt as to the right methods to be employed. Apparently the so-called new method of decorticating the ramie fibre by salt water or a saline solution is not being regarded very favourably in India. The process of steeping ramie has been employed for many years past in a primitive way in Bengal, Assam, Burmah, and other parts of India where rhea for native requirements has been produced. With reference to the Algerian patent, it is remarked by a Calcutta authority that a process which takes five days for fermentation, ten days for the removal of the bark from the stem, and six days for the drying of the fibre, or twenty-one days in all, before baling can be proceeded with is no improvement on the method of treatment already employed by the natives. Rhea, it is added, cannot be treated like jute; it will not thrive on low-lying lands where rice and hemp are grown, nor near the sea, and experts declare that the fibre suffers unless the stems are decorticated almost immediately after being cut. Apart, however, from these objections, any steeping process which takes twenty-one days' time and labour cannot compete commercially with a machine which turns out marketable fibre within twenty-four hours. This, it is added, was recognised some time ago when the Indian Government offered a prize of £5,000 for the best decorticating machine. The Algerian patent, it is concluded, may be dismissed as regards its application to India on account of the time required and the expenses involved. The cartage of saline solutions and the construction of extensive arrangements for steeping, which would involve a very great outlay, will not appeal to the Behar and Assam planter, and it is their soil which is required for the successful cultivation of rhea.

Cocoa-planting prospects on the Gold Coast are encouraging. No systematic effort was put forward to encourage cocoa-planting among the natives until 1898. In that year the Gold Coast Government sent the Curator of the Botanic Gardens—an institution which has proved its utility—on tours throughout the eastern and northern districts of the colony to instruct the natives in the cultivation of the plant. At the same time thousands of seeds were distributed gratuitously throughout the country, and to encourage the native planters the Government itself took charge of the native crops and forwarded them to the home markets. From that moment the industry went up by leaps and bounds. In 1898, 414,201 lbs. of cocoa were exported, valued at £9,616 4s. Four years later the output had increased to 5,367,405 lbs., valued at £94,944 2s! The present results have been obtained without any expenditure of European capital.

### LABOUR RECRUITING FOR CEYLON.

Mr. J. H. Westland writes to the Colombo Press:—

Permit me to thank the Chairman of the Ambegamuwa Planters' Association for the kind way he handled the subject of recruiting coolies from the Telugu district and for the resolution carried by the meeting. The small increase of pay we agreed to give to induce coolies to come to work on our estates from a distance of 267 miles north of Madras is not so serious as the present state of affairs, as exemplified in the paragraph headed kangany's promissory notes.

Under the arrangement by which the Telugu coolies have been brought to the estate not a pro-note has been signed. Each individual cooly is responsible for the money advanced to him and the actual expenses incurred on his journey from his village to the estate, and for rice, curry-stuffs, cumbly, and cloths supplied, if required, on his arrival.

I hope the system of recruiting will be discussed and modified, if coolies can be induced to come to Ceylon estates on easier terms, but it must be remembered that in breaking ground in a new district, some inducements had to be held out to the coolies to come to Ceylon, to them an unknown country. The difficulty was to

get them to believe they were to be taken to Ceylon, seeing that at almost every station at which the coolies stopped to be fed the Natal recruiters tried to prevent them from going on, and, in not a few cases, succeeded.

As to raising the standing rates of pay, how many estates pay their coolies according to standing rates in their district? It would puzzle some to say what the standing rates are.

Have we not pluckers earning from 50 to 75 cents and even more per day in busy crop time? Do all pay alike per lb. of leaf? Have we not factory coolies from 33 to 50 cents per day? and some estates paying field workers 33 to 37 cents with 4 to 6 cents head money (on all coolies)? Where does the standard come in? In certain districts the rate is supposed to be much higher than in other districts. How about P. W. D. and rates of pay to road coolies; do coolies complain of the inequality? There are reasons for the various rates, and coolies must realise the fact.

In reply to the second objection, let me refer to the following paragraph of that most valuable letter of Mr. E. V. Carey published in the local press last month:—"During the last four years some 300 coolies have been imported direct from the coast, and the advance account at the end of March stood at \$76.10 cts. with a force of 191 Tamil coolies, each of whom has had to pay off from \$16 to \$20, for in the case of free labour all coast advances are recovered from the coolies." This may not be our experience at the end of two years, but it is worthy of a trial.

During the past 30 years I have on pay-day always assisted to recover debts due by coolies to their kangany. If any complaints are raised at the pay-table, the cooly, as a rule, gets his pay and deals with the kangany himself. The result of this system is that a record of the amounts recovered is kept in the check-roll, and a large number of the coolies soon wipe off their debts, and, but for their agreeing to become security for money paid to, or on account of, their friends, their debts would be *nil*.

We may not be legally entitled to recover debts in this way, but the system of recovering at the pay-table has the full consent of the coolies.

The weak point of the individual indebtedness is touched on by the Chairman, *viz.*:—"That long before you would be able to recover these expenses from coolies some might die, others desert, or give notice and leave, and, not having a responsible kangany, their debts would be irrecoverable." Those risks must be run, the notice and leaving coolies can do so now, and we have even heard of kangany doing likewise. Our two-cent fund, which has not to be drawn upon by a cooly until his debts are paid and his two years' service completed, some of it may become available to go against loss by bolters or death.

Should the Ceylon planters adopt the recommendation of the Sub-Committee of the Planters' Association and establish an agency in the new districts, he can extend the term of service should he find that coolies flock to his standard and are eager to be drafted to Ceylon.

At the end of their two years' service, when they become entitled to 2 cents per day for every day they have worked, and their train-fare paid back to the railway station nearest their village, the probability is they may not want to return but wish to send over money to bring over their friends, so that the sender of the money may become a kangany on the same lines as the kangany from the older districts.

If the right class of coolies are brought from the new districts, men with wives and families, the chances are, after they get used to the climate (which is very different from theirs) they come to stay; but if the coolies recruited are the scum of the townsmen, who don't work in their own country, they will be loafers whom the recruiting agent can get any number of willing to take his money and go to Ceylon. The employer of such will find them of so little use that, when they bolt, as they are almost sure to do, he may not care to spend money in having them apprehended and put in jail; but if he does it will have good effect on the others who may have intended to change their abode or return to their country without squaring accounts. Like other new coolies, Telugus have to be taught their work; but they are quiet, able, and willing workers at what they can do, and compare favourably with the Tamils.

If it be admitted that estates have not sufficient coolies, that they are unable to get their requirements from the older districts, and that recruiting in new districts is possible, and desirable, why should the consideration of the proposed agency, recommended by the Commissioners, be allowed to drop? Surely not because the



first lot of coolies have been engaged at a slightly higher average rate of pay, all risks included, than has been ruling; cannot this be considered by a meeting of planters who support the idea of recruiting labour from new districts?

Bringing over a few coolies as a first venture need not prevent others being brought to Ceylon on, perhaps, more favourable terms; but to attempt recruiting without a suitable agency, will, in my opinion, be found a very expensive method of adding to one's labour force. This letter is already too long or I might give my reasons for this opinion.

As an appendix to this the following appears :—

SOME NOTES OF A TRIP IN THE COOLY DISTRICTS OF SOUTH INDIA.

Left Colombo on the evening of 8th May, and, after a pleasant passage in ss. *Africa*, arrived at Tuticorin at 9 a.m. next day.

Entrained at once for Madras—22 hours' run by express. The country from Tuticorin to Madura is absolutely flat and all under cultivation, generally cotton or other dry crop in the south. When the Petiaar water is reached this is replaced by wet crops, rice, tobacco, betel, etc. As far as the eye could reach was seen one vast rice field, broken at intervals by villages and clumps of palmyrahs. All this part of the country was rejoicing at the late harvest. Seldom has one been so abundant and never has labour been so scarce to reap it. The landowners complained that up to 30 years ago rates were paid to their coolies which have obtained since there were records in South India. Since Ceylon, the Straits, Natal, and others have offered the cooly such inducements to emigrate, wages have been steadily rising, and they are now double what they were a generation ago.

Was told that the landholders look upon the coolies on their properties as assets or live-stock, much as we regard cattle and horses. The property may change hands, but the cooly never leaves the soil and is practically as much a fixture as the building on it.

The more valuable estates, along river banks and under tanks, are of fabulous value. Land has, in some cases, changed owners recently at over Rs.2,000 to Rs.3,000 per acre.

COPY OF OLD ENGLISH SERFDOM.

The mirasidars, or landholders, find that emigration is now so general in these districts that in Negapatam there is actually a landholders' *Anti-emigration Association*.

The cooly is, in many cases, in debt to his master, but, as long as he remains on the estate, the amount is seldom worked off, and may gradually increase to anything from Rs.10 to Rs.20.

The recruiting kanganies or agents for Ceylon or elsewhere get hold of the cooly, represent to him that he is a slave and point out the advantages of other countries and induce him to bolt with them. As soon as the mirasidar hears of it he wires to the agent of his Association to watch the nearest shipping port or railway station, and is often successful in getting back his man.

This does not apply to any great extent to Ceylon, where our own kanganies, who know the island and are more or less in touch with their relatives in S. India, find it to their advantage to be open in their dealings with their village authorities.

The rate of commission paid to recruiters by the Straits for able-bodied single men and marriageable girls is Rs.35 per head. No children are accepted, and the recruiter gets his commission on presenting the cooly at the depôt, in Negapatam or Madras. For Natal the commission is Rs.29 for men and Rs.32 for girls, and medical examination is not so strict as for the Straits. Failing both the Rangoon companies pay Rs.12 per head with few questions asked.

In view of these large sums it is not surprising that the recruiting agents sail as near the wind as they dare. I am told that they make a clear Rs.20 a head off each cooly for the Straits and Natal, and that after allowing a very liberal percentage for rejections. One other point in this connection, the cooly from Tuticorin to Bezwada and Madras to Cuddapah has heard of Natal and hates and fears the name. The recruiter for that country knows this and uses Ceylon as a bait. Wherever I was our island had a good name if known at all, and it is hard that we should have other countries trading on it. To the average cooly, Ceylon and Natal are adjacent districts, and he does not discover the true state of things till too late.

THE FERTILE PLAINS.

A great many coolies come to Ceylon from Trichinopoly district, but the supply is not unlimited. From Tanjore Junction to Chingleput, he would be a fool, indeed, who would think of emigrating to any other country, as this is a land flowing with milk

and honey. Cultivation to the highest degree meets one on every side, and the run is very similar to Colombo to Hanwella by road on a much larger scale.

I saw a recruiter at Chingleput, who said he had supplied some coolies to Ceylon, and the Rest-house book contained some well-known names in proof of his statements. He also showed me letters from Ceylon planters offering in one case Rs.7 per head, and in another Rs.12 per head for all coolies supplied. He told me it was hopeless to get coolies from Chingleput district, but they were to be had in Salem.

After a month's work he got me 8 coolies, pariahs, two of them had been in the Wynaad and wanted to go back to tea-planting. Their village was a long way from Chingleput, and they were for the time without employment.

From Madras to Bezwada the country changes completely and there are miles and miles of sandy, scrub-covered tracts without a house or sign of cultivation. Gudur is a large village in the centre of a poor population, who find it hard to make a living. The same may be said of Ongole and Bapatta. These are very good centres and a great many labourers emigrate to other parts from thence.

Bezwada itself is on the edge of an enormous district, the Kistna, one of the richest in all India. It is hopeless to think of getting coolies from here as there are large areas of irrigable land waiting for cultivators to take them up. There is a good sea-port within reach, a railway passes through the centre of it, and there is abundant water. The natives are Telugus, fine, well-set powerful men, quite the finest men I saw anywhere.

From Bezwada to Guntur district dry cultivation is met with and, as we went further west, the country got poorer till at Phirangipuram, 53 miles from Bezwada, I found what we wanted—a people accustomed, able, anxious to work, and subject to famines.

THE HOME OF THE ESTATE COOLY.

The country is a series of flat plains surrounded by steep, low rocky hills, covered with prickly-pear and, except for wells, absolutely without water. The crops are cotton, cholum, chillies, and ragi—all dry country products. There has been no monsoon here for six years and all the wells in one district had dried up except one, fifty feet deep, to which all the villagers near had to go for water.

I was assured that there would be a famine there this year and, from appearances, one could easily believe it likely. Guntur is the centre of this district and is surrounded by such coolies. The average rate of pay for a man is 2½ annas, a woman 1½ annas, and for that they have to work hard all day long. I had great difficulty in persuading a gang to emigrate as they feared they were to be shipped to Natal. I found the most powerful inducement was the promise that, if they worked, they were sure of at least one square meal a day.

We started eventually, and, as most kanganies have similar experiences, they may be of interest. All went well till we stopped at one station to wait for a connecting train. Here some Natal agents got at my coolies and persuaded 6 of them, that Ceylon was a dreadful country, all going to it were treated like slaves or died in a few months, etc., and frightened them so much that they refused to proceed. The police were appealed to, but without result. I found afterwards that the police get a commission from these recruiters for every man they can stop in the trains on any pretext whatever.

BLEEDING COOLIES.

The usual way of blackmailing a gang is to ask a cooly who his maistri is, then to charge him with travelling without a ticket, boarding the train while in motion, or similar trifling act. Rather than be detained, the unfortunate kangany or maistri tips the constable fifty cents or a rupee, only to have the same experience further on. Since the kidnapping laws have been so strictly enforced, the favourite dodge is to pretend that a woman in the gang is being taken away against her husband's wish or is under age, the demands of these sharks are limited only by the amount of money the cooly has on his person, and he is systematically bled all the way down to Tataparai Camp. I saw clear cases of this myself and am prepared to give the superintendent of railway police any further information as to dates, stations and names he may desire. It is scandalous and one of the greatest evils our coolies have to face on their journey to Ceylon.

Arrived at Tataparai the cooly is at once under the protecting wing of the Ceylon Government and his troubles are practically at an end.



I visited the Camp early one morning during the absence of the superintendent. I had thus an excellent opportunity of seeing the ordinary everyday work of his staff, and I can truly say that if the cooly complains of Tataparai he does so without cause.

He is housed, fed like a fighting cock (3 curries and as much rice as he can hold) and taken on boardship at Tuticorin by the Camp peons, who look after him and are responsible for him until he is safely handed over to their friends at Ragama. If the weather be rough the passage is a long night of horror for the cooly who is, as a rule, no sailor.

Just two words on the Cuddapah district in which I spent some days. Coolies were to be had in plenty, they were strong healthy men, of a much more independent class than the Telugu appears to be in other districts, and many professed a willingness to come with me if I could convince them that they would not be taken to Natal. Two men came with me and say they are delighted. They have written good accounts of this country to their friends and more may follow.

#### UNIVERSAL DISLIKE OF NATAL.

The most striking point in the trip was the universal dislike to Natal. Of the many hundreds of coolies who have gone there, few have returned and none of those will go back at any price, preferring famine and death in their own country.

Should a Ceylon man wish to try recruiting in Cuddapah, Guntur or Negapatam district, he must be prepared at all points, the country is being thoroughly worked by the native agents for Natal and the Straits, and they do not always play the game. In one district of a few miles in diameter one agent has 300 recruiters working for him. They leave no village untried, as the high commission is worth their best energies.

I could not expect the Collectors, or other high officials, to give any assistance to one more than another, and letters of recommendation from Ceylon to these gentlemen are of little value, except to prove one's identity and the object of his mission. However willing they may be to render assistance, they have not time to do more than mention the fact to the deputy collectors, tahsildars, and other headmen in their districts. As these latter are the landholders and actual owners of the coolies we have come to take away, we cannot expect very great help from them.

The best aids we have are the coolies who have already come over, to spread the fame of Ceylon through their village and the next, and, *in time*, the others may think of trying this new country—Ceylon.

The Telugu coolies now in Ceylon, as a result of this trip, are nearly all family men. Those who did not bring their wives are now anxious to send for them. Those who have their wives and children here will soon settle down and will think twice before undertaking the long and trying journey back to their country.

Guntur is, I think, the most promising of any of the many centres of labour I visited and saw with my own eyes. Many hundreds would gladly exchange the constant toil and frequent famines of their native land for the easy work and happy life of the Ceylon estate cooly.

#### OOLONGS FOR AMERICA.

The London correspondent of the *Ceylon Observer* gives the following account of an interview with Mr. Larkin:—

I one day visited Mr. Larkin who is over here for a stay of some weeks, but missed him. A second attempt this week was more successful, and I happened in on him at the Hotel Metropole just as he and Mr. Wm. Mackenzie were finishing breakfast together. Mr. Larkin is very sanguine on the subject of Ceylon tea in America. If his conversation could be called a sermon, then "Ceylon tea" would be the text, and Greens and Oolongs the two heads into which the discourse was divided. He has only one regret for the past, and that is that the Ceylon planters did not go in for green tea long ago. Had they done so they would to-day be in practical command of the market in the United States, and the hard times caused by accumulation of stocks in the home market would never have happened. America and Canada would have absorbed these black tea accumulations in the form of green teas and the Japanese trader would have been to-day nowhere. To Mr. Mackenzie's zeal in inducing Ceylon growers to make the trial, Mr. Larkin bears the heartiest testimony. As regards the present

he is, as I said, sanguine. Now that the kind of tea that is acceptable to American consumers is being sent from Ceylon, the crushing out of her Japanese rival is only a question of time. In a few years, three or so in Canada and perhaps rather longer in the States, Mr. Larkin prophesies Japanese tea must wholly disappear, provided Ceylon continues sending good quality teas, and goes on advertising. "Some people think," I remarked, "that advertising should be about come to an end in America, that the taste for Ceylon tea has been formed, and that there is hardly so much need for spending money in campaign work now as there was, that the industry should be able to stand on its own legs now in fact."

"Well," drawled Mr. Larkin in the true Yankee manner which no man, born on this side of the herring pond, has ever been able to imitate, "so it should. So it would, and you know if we were all going

#### TO LIVE FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS

that would be all right. But seeing we're only to be here for a few years, and we want to make the money while we are here, well, I take it advertising's the only thing that's going to do it. The Ceylon planter may think that because he's got the public in America to take his tea and to like it, there's no call for him to do any more; but while he's waiting for the trade to grow, somebody else is going to cut in, and take it away from him. That's what he's going to find, you depend upon that. Its advertising in newspapers and advertising by samples, and advertising by demonstrations that makes any business pay and that will make the tea business pay. I spent last year 80,000 dollars on advertising and I mean to spend more this year because I find it pay. And so will the Ceylon planters. In the first five months of this year the increase of trade over the whole of the Salada business total up to about 44 per cent., that is on the whole, black teas, green teas and everything. But the approximate increase on the green teas sales amounted to 128 per cent. on the corresponding period of last year. My manager, who looks after the New England branches in which are included Boston and New York, reports an increase of 140 per cent. on his sales during the same time, and that shows you how Ceylon green tea is going in America."

As to whether Ceylon will be able to displace fifteen or sixteen million pounds of Japan green teas during the coming season, Mr. Larkin, however, refused to commit himself. "Mind you," he remarked, "it's a big thing, but Mr. Kingsford is a first-rate man, and understands that it's worth baiting the line with a minnow to catch a 'salmon.'" From all of which it may be seen that Mr. Larkin is not on the side of the cautious party.

But, perhaps, his greatest point was that to which he next directed attention. "Now here is what the Ceylon planter has to do," he resumed, "if he wants to

#### CAPTURE THE AMERICAN MARKET.

He has got to make Oolongs and Formosa Oolongs. Nothing but Formosa will do. We want that peculiar flavour which is only given to the teas manufactured in Formosa, and it, surely, ought to be possible to find a shrewd, clear-headed, capable man in Ceylon with tact and patience who would go down to Formosa and find out how these teas are made, and be able to come back to Ceylon and make them himself."

"The Japanese might have a word to say to him first"? I suggested. "Well, they might if they knew, but he would have to chance that. And they are not Japanese in Formosa you must remember, though the country belongs to them now. It is the Chinese who make the tea, and ten to one they would never trouble to ask what he came there for. I question very much if they even would know there were such places as India or Ceylon where tea could be grown. Any way that's what we want in America, and what we must have."

"The man that's at the bottom of the shoot knows better than the man at the top whether the right stuff is coming out, eh, Mr. Larkin"?

"That's it. If Ceylon is at the one end of the pipe, I'm at the other, so to speak. That is to say, I know what people will buy. But I'm not complaining of the pipe. What I should like to impress your Ceylon planters with is that we want ANOTHER pipe. Let them send as much green tea as they can along to us and black tea to England, but make the Oolongs as well. There is a splendid demand for that special tea with us, and I can promise the Ceylon planters they will find it pay. It isn't a matter of soil or climate I am convinced, but simply some peculiarity in the manufacture



THAT GIVES FORMOSA OOLONGS THEIR SPECIAL FLAVOUR and, as I said before, I can see no reason whatever why they cannot be produced just as well if not better in Ceylon. And then your market here would be less liable to stagnation. The more you can send us, the better for your London markets, I take it." "Have you any plan of campaign for the St. Louis Exhibition by the way I asked?" "Well, we shall have a stall in the Exhibition, and though I haven't settled it quite yet, I expect we shall open a branch in the city. That was where you Ceylon people failed in Chicago. The tea was in the Exhibition, but when folks wanted to buy it, there was no place outside where they could get it. Well, good-bye. Mind you put it strong to Ceylon about the Oolongs." And Mr. Larkin, with a farewell wave of his hand, left me at the door-step, to rejoin his family who accompany him on his trip, and, as he says, make him feel at home wherever he is.

In a great deal of this everyone will be ready to agree. There is no question that the making of green tea should have been entered on long ago by Ceylon, and this adds point to Mr. Larkin's suggestions which, I fancy, he put forward before when last here about the manufacture of Oolongs. But on the whole, Mr. Larkin ought to be pretty well satisfied with the Ceylon planters, for they have given him mostly everything he has asked for up-to-date, and to do him justice he is perfectly willing to admit the fact.

#### A CEYLON PLANTER'S VIEW.

*Apropos* of the above Mr. H. Walthew writes:—

Oolong is a partially sound and a partially unsound tea, skilfully fired by the manufacturers of Formosa and Amoy and Foochow.

The flavour is all in the firing and the fumes off the chulahs.

If a tea-maker attempted to make green teas with a partially-fermented leaf, after presenting the order of the boot to the tea-maker, the planter to save himself from loss might make a piebald tea of what the tea-maker had spoiled; that is a tea neither green nor black, or in other words an Oolong. This is only a question of firing, hard firing, fierce firing, scented firing. He need have no care for his infusion, the essential oil, the theine, the natural flavour of tea, soundness, or, in fact of any of the essentials of real good tea, provided he is able to scorch all the sourness out of partially rotten leaf and impregnate it with the fumes of the proper sort of charcoal.

Having done this the planter *may* (?) make a profit—and Ceylon may congratulate herself upon having made her first retrograde step in tea manufacture.

You infer in your note in yesterday's paper that the writer in the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of July 7th, who questions the wisdom of Mr. Larkin's advice, has an interest of his own to serve. The refreshing innocence of this inference is, as I once heard an auctioneer in New York city remark,—*lovely*.

Everybody in Colombo who has dealt with your Canadian friend will agree, that though others may advertise and strive and sweat for interests of their own, at least the *Times of Ceylon*—OUR "TIMES"—supports an advertising Bayard, *sans tache and sans reproche*, whose crusade is solely dictated by the purest ideals for the benefit of our island.

Nobody who has ever had a parcel thrown up (and which of us has not?) in a falling market fails to recognise the salutary lesson for him personally and the island generally in the incident.

### TEA AND COFFEE IN THE STATES.

The Chamber of Commerce of the City of New York honors as usual this year in its annual report, just issued, the tea trade with a review. The situation in the past year is thoroughly canvassed, but the writer is guilty of some heresy, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*. Of such seems to be the following, which we cull from the report:—

"The removal of the tea duty cannot be said to be beneficial in any respect, so far as this country is concerned. A duty is the only practical barrier to the importation of low grade, undesirable tea; hence it vastly improves the quality of our supply. Consumers do not obtain cheaper but inferior tea, prices being only reduced by the substitution of inferior quality; and, finally, the Government loses a revenue that is easily collected, and is no burden upon the tax-payer. From the trade point of view, the placing of tea upon the free list was a political rather than an economic measure."

The matter has been heretofore thoroughly threshed out and the specious argument needs no reputation here. In several and

obvious instances the logic is very much at fault. Anyway no tea inferior to the standard set by the United States government can be admitted and so we in this country are receiving no worse teas in duty free times than one year ago when a duty was collected. To be sure in not a few instances we are this year paying for tea as much as was paid for the same tea with the tax of ten cents on, but the advance is not so much caused by the removal of the tax as by market conditions. Conditions next season may bring about a market ten cents lower and yet the same class of tea will come—none lower. We are sure that the major portion of the tea trade, and especially that portion of it that does its business in New York, will read with surprise the statement in the report, which considering the source and the use that may be made of it by economists and statisticians is very important. It may be said with some emphasis that it was politics that sought to retain the duty on tea, and it was economics that finally caused the erasure of the tax from the revenue laws. The review closes with the following:—

"The early purchases for the season of 1903-04 have not developed any new feature in the primary markets. Prices remain firm and the supply will be fully adequate for all requirements; but, as already remarked, low-grade teas have again invaded the market, and the inspection law will scarcely prevent the evil. The removal of the tea has operated, as might naturally be expected, and as has been the case in other similar instances; that is, it has increased values in China and Japan to very nearly the equivalent of the duty, so that practically the producer now receives what was formerly paid to the Government."

The Indian and Ceylon tea traders will also have their "regrets" we are sure when they read the following, found in the review on tea:—

"INDIA AND CEYLON.—These descriptions have gradually pushed their way to the front on account of the scarcity of China greens; manufacturers of these kinds have been, therefore, encouraged to imitate Shanghai varieties; and it is intimated from India that the supply of colored teas shipped hither the next season will aggregate ten or twelve million pounds.

"The ordinary uncolored teas India and Ceylon teas are used, to a certain extent, for mixing and making of blends that have become popular with consumers; but it is scarcely probable that with a normal supply of China teas, for which use these are used as substitutes, there will be any material increase in the demand."

Nine-tenths of this inference is wrong. The teas in question are making their way because of their inherent merits and the business push behind them. If they have superseded China teas, it is because by comparison these are inferior in quality, and when once successfully substituted, they remain so. Indeed, the trade is not a little impressed with the suspicion that the Indian and Ceylon teas will quite drive out most China teas, and rather than a diminution in the importation of them because of the recovery of plentifulness in the China sorts, larger and larger importations in the immediate years will occur. The trade at large knows this, and we say it that the Chamber may know.

Coffee has been favored with a more accurate review of conditions. We are quite sure that no exception will be taken to the following observation:—

"The growth of the roasting industry within the past few years has been one of the phenomenal developments of the trade in the United States, and is responsible for the complete change that has taken place during that period in almost the entire method of conducting the trade. A very large percentage of the consumption is now distributed green, as was the case a few years ago. The demand is now chiefly for 'package' and roasted coffee, and this industry is now concentrated in the hands of a few large concerns, whose keen rivalry a few years ago was a disturbing factor, but who seem to have conducted their business during the past year without apparent friction."

Or this:—

"Only once during the year was the situation relieved by a ray of hope and that was during the month of August, when a syndicate of operators in this market, who had a large speculative interest, endeavoured to create a bull sentiment by active speculative dealing based upon reports that the growing crops were endangered by drought, but the movement was scarcely launched, and prices



## Food is Poison, UNLESS DIGESTED.

The vigour of health depends on good digestion. Undigested food poisons the blood, which clogs up the skin, the liver and the kidneys. Food properly digested makes new strength, new blood, new flesh, new life. Relish for food and power to digest it comes with Seigel's Syrup. Compounded of fruits, roots and herbs, it tones and cleanses the liver and kidneys, and clears the stomach of the decayed products of indigestion—the fruitful cause of headaches, languor, brain fag, constipation and anæmia.

# SEIGEL'S SYRUP

"For a number of years I suffered, especially during the hot summer months, from acute indigestion and severe bilious attacks. On such occasions I was completely prostrated by spitting headaches. I had no appetite, slept poorly, was low-spirited and extremely nervous. I tried many tonics, and reputed headache cures, but got no relief until I took Mother Seigel's Syrup, and in a few weeks that remedy set me up again. I can now eat well, sleep well and perform my duties with ease." Mrs. Belle Conlon, 4, Parnell Place, Newcastle, N.S.W.

**AIDS  
Digestion.**

had responded by a light advance, when abundant rains deprived the weather of its terrors. On the 18th of August a sudden drop in the temperature in the district of São Paulo caused a frost that slightly damaged the young trees, but the loss was so trifling compared with the enormous proportions of the prospective crop that it failed to receive more than passing notice. In other words drought, frost and the operations of an American syndicate combined, were ineffectual in neutralizing the influences of supply and demand."

The quotation will have to be corrected in the first mention of the month of August, where the word "Winter" would have suited the actual facts better.

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club, August 5th, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. Atzenwiler, Behr, Day, Mackinlay, Nicolls, Taylor, Waddington and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*.

Mr. Waddington in the Chair.

1. **Proceedings of last Meeting.**—Taken as read.
2. **Roads.**—Read letter of July 12, 1903, to President, District Board, to which no reply had been received. The *Honorary Secretary* was instructed to ask for an early reply. It was further *Resolved*, that this Association strongly protests against the "Cutch" metal, which has been collected on parts of the Chundale-Meppadi road, being put down—, as should this be done the road, though it may look repaired, will not last.

3. **Currency and Cash.**—Read correspondence with the Collector of Malabar, ending with his letter of July 27th, stating that Currency Notes could not be cashed at the Treasury at a commission.

*Resolved*, that the Collector be addressed, requesting him to consider whether arrangements could not be made by which Planters may be supplied with small change at the Vayitri Sub-Treasury in future.

4. **U. P. A. S. I. Delegate.**—Read correspondence with Mr. Romilly ending with *Honorary Secretary's* reply of July 27, 1903.—The *Honorary Secretary's* letter was approved and confirmed.

5. **Labour Law.**—Madras Planters' Labour Act.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,

*Chairman.*

( " ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

### MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated July 24th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	121,985	183,058	14,674
1902-1903 ... ..	132,620	222,408	15,147
11,687 pkgs. INDIAN 22,618 " CEYLON 2,158 " JAVA	Total 36,463 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

With the use of Indian and Ceylon tea continually expanding in foreign and Colonial markets, the subject of duties levied in different countries increases in importance.



Anything that can be done to widen the area of consumption will be of advantage to the industry, and with the object of drawing attention to this matter we print the following table:—

APPROXIMATE DUTY ON TEA LEVIED IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES  
PER ENGLISH POUND.

Argentina	...	...	4½d. and 12 %.
Australia	...	...	Free.
Austria and Hungary	...	...	9½d.
Barbados	...	...	3d.
Belgium	...	...	Free.
Bermuda	...	...	5 % ad val.
Brazil	...	...	50 % ad val.
Bulgaria	...	...	14 % ad val. and 4½d. excise.
Canada	...	...	Free from country of production and U. K., otherwise 10 %.
Cape Colony	...	...	4d.
Chili	...	...	9d.
Denmark	...	...	4d.
Egypt	...	...	8 % ad val.
France	...	...	9d.—11½d.
Germany	...	...	5½d.
Great Britain	...	...	6d.
Greece	...	...	1/0½d.
Holland	...	...	2½d.
Honduras	...	...	2½d.
Italy	...	...	11d.
Jamaica	...	...	1/-.
Mauritius	...	...	Abt. 3d.
Morocco	...	...	10 % ad val.
Natal	...	...	4d.
Newfoundland	...	...	33 % ad val.
New Zealand	...	...	2d.
Norway	...	...	1/-.
Orange Riv. Colony	...	...	4d.
Persia and Arabia	...	...	Abt. 4½d.
Peru	...	...	65 % ad val.
Portugal	...	...	2/0½d.
Roumania	...	...	3½d.

Russia	...	...	8d.—1/10½d.
S. Rhodesia	...	...	4d.
Spain	...	...	6½d.
Straits Settlements	...	...	Free.
Sweden	...	...	3d.
Switzerland	...	...	1½d.
Tasmania	...	...	Free.
Tobago and Trinidad	...	...	6d.
Transvaal	...	...	4d.
Turkey	...	...	8 % ad val.
Uruguay	...	...	5½d. and 3 %.
U. S. America	...	...	Free.
Venezuela	...	...	Abt. 5½d.

CEYLON GREEN TEA FOR NORTH AMERICA.—Since the bonus was first given for the manufacture of Ceylon Green Tea in October, 1898, very steady progress has been made, the total quantity on which the Grant was paid up to the 31st December last being 6,075,985 lbs., viz.:—1898, lbs. 13,302; 1899, lbs. 86,327; 1900, lbs. 472,294; 1901, lbs. 1,590,000; 1902, lbs. 3,914,062—Total lbs. 6,075,985. From the first January to the 27th June this year Certificates had been granted on lbs. 5,483,264.

INDIAN.—Although bidding was somewhat languid, no change was noticeable in quotations for the small quantity of New Tea brought forward. Quality of arrivals to date is fair average from Darjeeling, Assam and Dooars, but a little disappointing from Cachar and Sylhet. Latest musters received appear to indicate improving quality from all districts except the Dooars, where weather has been unfavourable. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Doom Dooma Co. Samdang," 1/2½; "A. F. T. Co. Hilika," 1/1¼; "Hokangoorie," 1/-; "Talup," 11½d.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 7,897 pkgs., av. 7'67d. 1902, 10,948 pkgs., av. 6'17d.

New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 35,108 pkgs., av. 7'33d. 1902, 32,782 pkgs., av. 6'16d.

CEYLON.—Offerings continue for the most part of poor quality, hence quotations are low, although no change has taken place in

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



the market. The following averages may be mentioned:—"Wanarajah T. Co. W.," 10d.; "Talawakelle T. E. Co. T.," "Troup" and "Waltrim," 9½d.; "Portmore T. Co. P.," 9d.

Average for week 6·97d. against 6·08d. in 1902.

Ceylon tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 572,336 pkgs., av. 7·56d. 1902, 657,697 pkgs., av. 6·75d.

JAVA.—Sold without material change with fair general competition, the Teas being nearly all of direct import, although a few brought over from Holland were included in the sale.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>32</sub>. Colombo 1/4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.

### QUININE.

The firmer tone noted in the second-hand market last week has since continued, owing, it is said, to a better demand for consumption. On Monday a fair business was done, including spot and August delivery, at 11d. per oz. for good German sulphate in bulk. Subsequently further spot sales were made at 11d., August at 11½d. and January-February at 11½d. To-day (Wednesday) 11½d. has been paid for spot stuff.

### CINCHONA.

At the bark auctions on July 23rd 25,382 kilos. manufacturers' and 2,164 kilos. druggists' bark were sold. The amount worked out at 6·55 cents per ½ kilo. (about 1½d. per lb.).

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·54d., JULY 24TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	401	6·51												
Halashana	132½c	6½	40½c	7½ 7½	46½c	6½	...	...	38½c	6	...	...	8½c	6½
New Hope	112 p	6½	33 p	6½ 7	41	6½	...	...	32	6	...	...	6½c	5½
Ossington	89½c	7½	12½c	8½	53½c	6½	24½c	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Terramiah	68 p	6	41 p	†6 6½	16½c	†5½	11 p	†6 6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore	2072	6·64												
Elangy	101 p	5½	...	...	45	5½	20	6	30	5½	...	...	6½c	5½
Invercauld	69 p	6½	21	6½	24	6 6½	...	...	20	5½ 6	...	...	4½c	5½
Kan. Dev. H C G	416½c	6½	161½c	†6½ †6½	96½c	†6½	76½c	6½	44½c	6½	...	...	39½c	5½ 6½
" Kalaar	27	7½	...	...	...	...	27	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Munaar	344 p	7	71 p	7½	76	6½	83	7½	50	†6½	...	...	64 p	5½ †6½
" Periauvurai	417 p	6½	142 p	6½ 6½	101	6½ 6½	43½c	6½	105	6½	...	...	26	6
" "	63	6½	63	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sevenmally	241 p	7	63	7½ 7½	50	6½	50	7½	53	6½	...	...	25½c	5½ 6
" Yellapathy	143 p	6½	41	6½	36	6½	66½c	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merchiston	70 p	6½	16	6½	39	6 6½	...	...	...	...	7	6	8½c	5½
S T T Co Venture	91	6½	...	...	...	...	70	6½ 7	21	6	...	...	...	...
T T E Co Bon Ami	90	6½	40	6½ 6½	30	6½	20	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynaad	408	6·36												
Arrapetta T Co A	39	6½	...	...	9	6	28	6½	2	5½	...	...	...	...
Cherambadi	48	6½	13	†6½	16	6½	10	6½	9	6	...	...	...	...
Chulika	52 p	6½	23½c	†6½	24	6	15½c	†6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kanambyle & Cher.	75	7	6	9½	33	6½	28	7	8	6½	...	...	...	...
Pootoomulla	106 p	6½	17½c	6½	14	6½	23	6½	26	6	26	6	...	...
Richmond	10 p	6½	2 p	7½	4 p	6½	...	...	4 p	5½	...	...	...	...
Tanga Mulla	78	6	42	6½	17	6	...	...	...	...	10	6	9	5½

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

**CROSSE**

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1903.

[No. 33.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 28th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### SALES OF INDIAN TEA IN INDIA.

IN OUR present issue we publish in full the latest report of the Commissioners in connection with the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission. The series of reports issued up to the present time has not dealt simply with the intervals between the various reports. For instance, the one under reference deals with the work of the Commission from its beginning, so that we have a period of two years discussed in very convenient form, the latest date being July 31, 1903. There can be no doubt that the Commissioners have pushed Indian tea under the notice of people to whom it was previously unknown. Generally speaking, their sales have not, we believe, diverted trade to any marked degree from former channels. They have largely opened up new channels, and it is to the keeping open, the widening, and the "feeding" of these that Indian tea-planters must look for satisfactory returns for the expenditure they have incurred. Judged by results up to the 1st ultimo, the expansion schemes, however well it may have worked, has proved very costly; and the chief point at issue now, is whether it is or is not likely to be desirable to continue operations when the three years' work that was undertaken by the Commission shall have been completed. The third year will end on July 31, 1904. It is with special reference to the above issue that we propose to review the present report. If some of our remarks appear to express dissatisfaction, let it not be thought that they are unfriendly. As a matter of fact, we regard the working of the scheme in the friendliest of attitudes, and, recognising the magnitude of the task that was undertaken,

we cannot be surprised if the tangible results show that the direct return has not been proportionate to the outlay.

The financial aspect of matters is of the first importance. It is on record that during the two years of work the total disbursements are Rs.1,84,701; but the cost of working is put at about Rs.1,33,000. The total amount of tea disposed of is 552,323 lbs. Taking this estimate of working expenses and setting it against sales, we find that the expenses amount to about 3as. 10p. per pound. The bulk of the tea—nearly 75 per cent.—was contributed by subscribers. The value of 438,193 lbs. is put at Rs.1,04,269 or say a little under 3as. 10p. per lb. The cost of 154,561 lbs. of tea purchased was Rs.49,261; or about 5as. 2p. per lb. Taking tea subscriptions and purchases together we may say that the Commissioners have had control over 592,754 lbs., the average value of which was a little under 4as. 2p. per lb. It is not altogether encouraging that the expense of placing on the market an article that cost (or was estimated at) 50 pies should be 46 pies. In fact, even if we take as a basis the actual cost of the purchased portion, it is not satisfactory to see that tea that was bought for 62 pies cost 46 pies to place on the market. The figures before us are not such as to enable an exhaustive criticism to be made, however, as some of the tea was given away. The Commissioners state that they will, when giving their final report, try to summarise the results in such a way as to make the record of the scheme as complete as possible. To do this they should at least show the exact quantity that was given away, the quantity sold in chests, half-chests or tins (and average sale price), the quantity sold in packets (and the average price per pound), and the quantity used for sales in the cup (with the average nett price per pound) after deducting the cost of brewing the tea and incidental expenses other than those incurred up to the time of the distribution of the tea for brewing purposes.

It is stated that an extensive area has been covered, embracing over 2,500 villages and towns in India and Burma, and



that all classes of Society have been approached. After all, 2,500 is but a small proportion of the total villages and towns in India and Burma. Nearly 4 million pice packets have been put into circulation, which represents little more than an average of two packets per day in each of the 2,500 towns and villages referred to. Obviously, the Commissioners have only reached the very fringe of the Home demand that must be regarded as a potentiality. Roughly, the sales of packet tea and brewed may be stated to have more than doubled in the second year; but during the last few months sales cannot be said to have increased. It is said that the falling off shown in sales of packet tea during the last few months is attributed to tea being more often taken in larger quantity, in preference to packets. "Many small traders, after selling packets, for a time, ask for the same class of tea in bulk or tins, for purposes of retailing." There is nothing to show how many pounds of tea were thus sold, or how many in packets, or the quantity brewed and sold as an infusion. Sale in bulk or tin is no doubt what should be eventually looked forward to, but it has this demerit, that it may easily lead to adulteration—and thus damage the work of the Commission. As we have said, however, it is to the future that planters must look rather than to the past. Considering the vast area they had to attack, the difficulties of organization for distribution purposes, the novelty of the undertaking, they must be held to have rendered a good account of their stewardship so far; and as, for lack of support, they have had to restrict some of their operations, it would be unfair to criticise results harshly. Properly regarded, this trade that they have opened up should prove to be, in great measure, a permanency. We do not mean that it would be profitable to go on spending Rs.66,000 a year in order to sell 266,000 lbs. of tea; but if the work of expansion be continued for another year or two a permanent demand should be created. A great share of the benefit of this may possibly fall to Messrs. ANDREW YULE & Co. themselves, but they will have worked without commission for three years and will at the end of that period be exposed to competition if they try to secure for themselves the bulk of the Indian trade in tea for Home use. We had, we confess, hoped for larger results, and less costly, from the Expansion scheme; but in years to come it is possible that all the outlay incurred may yield very handsome dividends. This will depend chiefly upon whether a permanent or only an evanescent demand for tea can be established among the peoples of this country.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION, 1904.

The Indian Tea Association (Calcutta) has issued the following circular:—

I am directed by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association to inform you that arrangements are being made, in conjunction with the Committee of the Indian Tea Association, London, for an adequate representation of Indian teas at the International Exposition to be opened at St. Louis, U. S. A., in 1904.

The exhibit, it is intended, shall include a collection of teas, both black and green, from the various tea districts of India, and the General Committee are desirous of having samples prepared before the end of the present manufacturing season. The samples preferred are ordinary trade samples say of 2 lbs. weight and they should be securely packed in lead so as to ensure their keeping until next year.

Samples may be consigned to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and the Committee will make arrangements for forwarding them to the London Branch of the Association. Further information will be given as to the latest time for receiving samples.

The General Committee are particularly desirous of sending a representative exhibit of Green Teas, in order to follow up the good beginning already made in America with teas of this class.

#### INDIAN TEA MARKETS EXPANSION COMMISSION.

##### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST JULY, 1903.

The Commission came into operation two years ago, and is now entering on the final period of its existence. Former reports having described the various channels of work initiated to further the consumption of tea in India, it would only savour of repetition to go over these details again, and the present Report is therefore a short one.

The Tea Industry to-day is fortunately in a very different position to what it was when the Commission was started. As to what share the scheme may have had in bringing about the improvement, is an open question, but there is not the slightest doubt, but that the steadily persistent effort to introduce tea-drinking to the people of India, has resulted beneficially in many ways. Not only has tea been placed in villages where previously it was unknown, but in many of the larger towns foreign rubbish has been supplanted by sound Indian tea. The foundation has thus, it is hoped, been laid of a demand which, although of slow growth, may be confidently expected to expand until India herself becomes one of the largest consumers of Indian tea.

The previous report indicated that unless further help were accorded an extension of working was impracticable. Such additional support has not been forthcoming, and it has therefore been found necessary, in some measure, to restrict the operations previously initiated. No effort, however, has been spared to make the most of the means available.

An extensive area has been covered, embracing over 2,500 villages and towns in India and Burmah, and all classes of Society have been approached.

The cost of working for the past two years is approximately Rs.1,33,000. The apparent increase for the last six months of this period is due to the adjustment of the Delhi Durbar demonstration account and other ventures. The resources still available roughly amount to Rs.65,000, supposing tea in stock and outstandings realize valuations.

PICE PACKETS.—Nearly 4 million packets have been put into circulation during the period under review. When it is remembered that these are purchased by people who mostly cannot afford to take more than one or two at a time, it will be admitted that this large total shows a considerable amount of work.



The figures for the various months are as follows :—

	1901-02.	1902-03.
August	Nil	171,088
September	45,901	203,580
October	82,588	203,894
November	86,521	210,155
December	64,327	220,107
January	111,640	230,983
February	135,038	215,003
March	67,298	199,310
April	109,761	188,956
May	191,660	193,402
June	195,743	170,200
July	207,589	183,023

The falling off during the latter months is attributed to tea being now often taken in larger quantity, in preference to packets. Many small traders, after selling packets for a time, ask for the same class of tea in bulk or tins, for purposes of retailing.

BREWED TEA.—The demand for brewed tea continues to expand, nearly one million cups having now been sold, as follows :—

	1901-02.	1902-03.
August	1,130	38,574
September	13,880	53,758
October	16,440	49,869
November	18,922	53,368
December	16,458	53,758
January	18,705	56,388
February	30,687	59,084
March	31,714	58,864
April	35,086	56,726
May	36,222	54,537
June	37,533	54,608
July	46,133	57,869

Considering the excessive heat of the past few months the figures are distinctly encouraging.

The above by no means represent the actual quantity of cups of tea disposed of, but only what have been accounted for, for it is impossible to secure accurate returns from the vendors. These figures, moreover, do not include a large number that have at various times been distributed free of charge, the most notable occasion being the feeding of the poor on the Calcutta maidan, in connection with the Coronation Festivities, when 85,000 cups were given away.

OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL OPINION.—The following are a few of the opinions expressed on the last Report :—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.—“Congratulate you on the steady progress made.”

THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.—“Read the Review with interest, and delighted to see that the satisfactory progress of last year has been maintained.”

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.—“Acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the interesting Report.”

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BURMAH.—“Perused the Report with interest.”

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.—“Read the Report with much satisfaction. The success obtained is most encouraging.”

H. H. THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD.—“The Hon'ble the Resident has read the Review with much interest. One copy of the Review has been forwarded to H. H. the Nizam's Minister for the information of His Highness' Government.

H. H. THE MAHARAJAH OF DURBHUNGA.—“Congratulate you on the progress made.”

THE SECRETARY, INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, LONDON.—“Read the Report with much interest, and note it continues to show satisfactory progress. Best wishes for a continuance of same.”

HON. MR. J. BUCKINGHAM, C.I.E.—“The progress made seems highly satisfactory, and I am sure we all are indebted to you for the interest you have taken in this matter.”

MR. JOHN HENDERSON, CHAIRMAN, NOWGONG BRANCH, INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.—“Most encouraging results, and the Tea Industry are greatly indebted to you for the success of the scheme.”

MR. W. EDWARDS, CHAIRMAN, BISHNAUTH BRANCH, INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.—“Remarkably satisfactory results. The Industry owes a debt of gratitude to you for the successful way in which you have coped with the undertaking.”

MESSRS. MCLEOD & Co.—“Progress distinctly encouraging.”

MESSRS. W. S. CRESSWELL & Co.—“Congratulate you on the steady progress made in pushing the sale of Indian tea, both by pice packets and brewed tea, as shewn month by month. Few people realize the difficulties incurred, and the volume of detail work that has to be put through in connection with it.”

MESSRS. BEGG DUNLOP & Co., LONDON.—“Glad to note the satisfactory progress made and the encouraging comments of subscribers and others interested in the scheme.”

MESSRS. GOW, WILSON & STANTON, LONDON.—“The result of the work so far is most encouraging, especially as the pice packets and number of cups of tea sold during the past six months of the Commission amount to about as much as during the whole previous year. This seems to show that a market for Indian tea can be found amongst the natives of India, and we most heartily wish you every success in the sustained efforts you are making in this direction.”

MESSRS. WM. JAS. & HY. THOMPSON, LONDON.—“You are due the gratitude of all concerned in Indian tea. The difficult and arduous work of pioneering has been more than ably carried out by your firm. We note the steady improvement in sales month by month, and consider that you have now tapped the source of a demand which may easily exceed the hopes of even the most sanguine.”

MESSRS. GEORGE WHITE & Co., LONDON :—“Pleased to note the progress that has been made in cultivating a taste for Indian tea amongst the native population.”

MESSRS. LLOYD, MATHESON & CARRITT, LONDON.—“Pleased to see such gratifying results from your efforts.”

MESSRS. SHEPARD & Co., LONDON.—“Glad to note the progress which has been made, and heartily wish you continued success.”

W. A. DRING, ESQ., AGENT, EAST INDIA RAILWAY.—“My congratulations on the great progress shown.”

MESSRS. PARRY & Co., MADRAS.—“Congratulate you on the success that has met your efforts.”

HON. MR. GRANVILLE L. ACWORTH, CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TRAVANCORE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—“A most satisfactory record of satisfactory progress, and I congratulate you most heartily on the result achieved in the brief space of 18 months. Further I congratulate you on the public spirit you display in inviting others into the field. I myself consider that the whole planting community of both N. and S. India is most deeply indebted to you for the public spirit, for the energy and intelligence you have brought to bear on the work, and for proving that we have a market in this Empire if we take a little trouble to acquire it. The most satisfactory feature of your Report is the steady monthly increase in the sale of pice packets. This goes to prove that the native is learning how to brew tea for himself, and that he is also acquiring a taste for sound tea.”

SUPPORT RECEIVED TO 31st JULY, 1903—Is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Tea from Subscribers, 4,38,193 lbs. valued	1,04,269	1	1
Cash from the Indian Tea Association	40,000	0	0
“ “ Subscribers	37,050	4	8
Total	1,81,319	5	9

Received through the following Agencies :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Indian Tea Association	40,000	0	0
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co.	25,408	9	2
“ Macneill & Co.	20,222	1	9
“ Andrew Yule & Co.	18,403	9	9
“ Finlay, Muir & Co.	14,664	13	2
“ Balmer Lawrie & Co.	10,652	7	11
“ W. S. Cresswell & Co.	9,737	10	2
“ Williamson Magor & Co.	5,601	9	10
Doears Tea Co., Ltd.	5,012	3	9
Messrs. Kilburn & Co.	4,096	5	8
“ Barlow & Co.	4,043	6	10
“ Barry & Co.	4,013	7	7
“ McLeod & Co.	3,389	14	4

Carried over ... 1,65,246 3 11



	RS.	A.	P.
Brought forward ...	1,65,246	3	11
Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. ...	2,179	4	4
" Kettlewell Bullen & Co. ...	2,153	0	4
" Davenport & Co. ...	2,004	3	0
Doom Dooma Tea Co., Ltd. ...	2,000	0	0
Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co. ...	1,602	1	2
" George Henderson & Co. ...	1,348	8	0
C. A. Stewart, Esq. ...	1,291	14	5
Messrs. Begg Dunlop & Co. ...	1,270	5	9
" J. Mackillican & Co. ...	1,158	12	0
Sephenjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. ...	500	0	0
Planters' Stores Agency Co., Ltd. ...	300	0	0
B. Palchowdhury, Esq. ...	152	2	8
E. R. Durnford, Esq. ...	112	14	2
Total ...	1,81,319	5	9

**PURCHASE OF TEA.**—To 31st July, 1903, 154,561 lbs. of tea were purchased at public auction, at a cost of Rs.49,261-13-9, bids being confined to the produce of supporting gardens, who profited by the increased competition thus secured, as although the quantity actually purchased was not heavy, bids were made for a number of parcels, thus assisting towards enhanced values being obtained for same.

**ACCOUNTS.**—Audited statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements to 31st July, 1903, is submitted herewith:—

The total Receipts for the 24 months amount to	Rs.	2,25,423	3	3
" Disbursements	"	1,84,701	9	1
leaving Balance in hand of Rs.		40,721	10	2

Audited statement of Tea Stock is also attached as follows:—

	lbs.
Received from Contributors.	438,193
" by purchase	154,561
	592,754
Tea disposed of in 24 months	552,323
Tea in stock on 31st July, 1903	40,431

**COST OF WORKING** for the 24 months is approximately Rs.1,33,000 and the

**RESOURCES STILL AVAILABLE**—May be put roughly at Rs.65,000—thus—

Cash in hand	...	say	Rs.	41,000	0	0
Tea in stock	...	"	"	12,000	0	0
Outstandings	...	"	"	16,000	0	0
			Rs.	69,000	0	0
less deposits from Agents	...	"	"	4,000	0	0
			Rs.	65,000	0	0

Subscribers may rely on the continued efforts of the Commissioners to do the best possible with the resources at their disposal, which, with care, it is hoped, will enable the working to be carried on for the remainder of the period for which it was framed, and which will terminate on 31st of July next.

More detailed Reports might be furnished, but this would entail an amount of work which at present can be applied more usefully in other directions. The Commissioners will, however, endeavour, if possible, in giving their final Report, to summarise the results in such a way as to make the record of the scheme as complete as possible.

(Signed) ANDREW YULE & CO.,  
Commissioners.

CALCUTTA,  
8th August, 1903. }

## TEA IN CACHAR AND SYLHET.

### POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING QUALITY.

The following are extracts from Mr. Harold Mann's latest pamphlet, entitled "The Tea Soils of Cachar and Sylhet":—

When all allowances are made for exhausted teela lands, low lying rank lands, or even exhausted or droughty flats, there remain some gardens and some areas which ought, by every consideration of soil, to produce high-class tea, or at any rate tea at least equal in value to that of the Jorhat District of Assam. Thus the upland of Kalline seems quite capable of making excellent tea. The same applies to the older parts, at any rate, of Doloo, to a large part of the Koombergram plateau, and many places in Sylhet. Why, however, is it that the produce does not compare with that in the district I have named, and is constantly two pence or three pence per pound below the latter in value? The question of the necessity for this state of affairs becomes all the more pronounced when certain gardens, as, for instance, some in the Monoo or the Luskerpur Valleys in Sylhet, have been able to maintain a fairly high quality for several years, or recently to attain to it. In fact, when everything is taken into consideration, I am not only unable to account for the low dead level of quality said to be unavoidable in the districts we are considering on such gardens and types of land as I have named, but positively I can hardly believe it to be unavoidable at all in many places. When it is remembered that the quantity of tea demanded from the land is very large as compared say with the Jorhat, Sibsagar, and Golaghat Districts in Assam, it cannot but be regarded as a necessity that the quality of tea should be correspondingly lower. Into the vexed question of whether it pays best to go in for making a large quantity of low medium or common tea, or for producing a smaller quantity of high medium or fine tea, I cannot, of course, enter here. But I can see no reason, if a corresponding reduction in the demand for quantity is made, why a type of tea at least of high medium quality cannot be obtained in the cases above cited, and some others.

But I do not want it to be understood that it is my opinion that all gardens can make fine quality teas by merely plucking finer, and so reducing the amount demanded. By no means. This is a fallacy which has too often led to disaster in the past three or four years. There are gardens in which no amount of fine plucking will give really fine teas, and were only "a bud" plucked in many places, I have much doubt as to whether the tea would fetch a very high price. Such places are exhausted teelas, and rank low lying lands, or the stiff and shallow soils with which I have dealt above. In many of these it is a case of quantity or nothing. But to condemn Cachar and Sylhet to produce teas more or less common, and say that no place there can produce the high quality of Assam, seems to be to make far too wide a statement, and to apply what may be true of some properties to all. There is no reason, in my opinion, why a much higher grade tea should not be produced in Sylhet, than has hitherto been the case, always postulating, of course, that less tea be made.

But is it not possible, without materially reducing the yield, to make a much higher grade tea? It is known that in many of the Dibrugarh and Sadiya Road (Assam) properties, a very large yield of very high quality tea is made by a particular process of plucking, which, however, is said to be inapplicable elsewhere.



The yield on these gardens is as high as almost any properties (except those on bheels) give, and yet the quality stands about the highest in the plains districts of India. As is well known, this is produced by a system of close plucking, the exact character of which, as it is not generally understood in Cachar and Sylhet, I will indicate here. The growth of the bushes is allowed to become a good length in the early spring, and then plucked, say in early April, leaving three or four (preferably four) leaves on the new growth. This is again allowed to grow, and again plucked in May, leaving two more leaves on the secondary shoots thus produced. From that point every shoot containing two leaves and a bud or less is plucked at every round of the garden, and thus in every case very fine leaf is obtained, which in Dibrugarh makes very fine tea,—and yet a large quantity is obtained. The objections always raised to this system are two.

- 1. It cannot be carried out without an exceedingly large labour force, owing to the difficulty of plucking the small leaf obtained, end owing, as it is said, to the rapidity with which the round of the garden would have to be made.
- 2. It means that under the climatic and soil conditions of Cachar and Sylhet, and even of the lower Assam Valley, the bushes would be ruined, for what with the long droughts which prevail, and the hot weather, the bushes have not the recuperative power of those at Dibrugarh and would hence quickly suffer and probably die.

In its bare form, as used in the Sadiya Road District, these objections are almost certainly (especially No. 2) well founded, and I could not in any way be a party to recommending its adoption in Cachar and Sylhet. But I do suggest that on a small scale experiments should be carried out as to its applicability on those gardens capable of making high medium quality, with such modifications as would be necessary to suit the different conditions. These modifications would be—

- (a) Instead of plucking all leaf two leaves and a bud old and under at as early a date as the end of May, this could on no account be done till the end of June.
- (b) Instead of plucking the secondary shoots down to two leaves and thereafter taking everything, it would be wise to leave one or even two leaves on the third and perhaps fourth flushes, and only after this adopt the method which is characteristic of the system.

With such modifications I would much like to see this method tried in Cachar and Sylhet, it being understood that it ought in the first instance to be considered merely in the light of an experiment, and hence only carried out on a very limited area, and further that it can only be possibly applicable where the soil passes a certain standard. It will be seen that this method differs from ordinary plucking late in the season, by not merely taking every shoot which has two leaves and a bud on it when the leaf is plucked, but also every shoot younger than this at the same time.

EXCEPTIONAL GARDENS.

Another point which has led to a good deal of anxiety during the progress of this investigation is the existence in one or two places in special situations close under the Khasia or Naga hills in which the characters of the tea are not what one would expect from an examination of the soil. I have already alluded to one of these previously in speaking of Kalline upland soil. Another equally striking is shown by the Lackatoorah garden in North Sylhet. These gardens,—and especially the latter,—are in the samples studied, poor in Nitrogen and Organic matter, but rich in Phosphoric Acid,

and moderately so in Potash. It undoubtedly needs Organic manures, such as cattle manure and oil cake, and these have already been applied with great effect. But why does it not give better tea than is actually the case? I must own that to the present I have been unable to answer the question. In Kalline, it is probably the case that the upland tea is mixed with a much larger amount of tea from low flats, and hence its quality is never detected among the mass of tea with which it is mixed, but this cause can hardly be operative in the other case cited. The excessive rainfall in North Sylhet may be the cause of a non-mature growth, but until one can make a close examination on the spot of these apparently exceptional soils, one cannot know quite to what cause the results may be attributed.

COFFEE NOTES.

**Brazil 1902-03 Coffee Crop.**—The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a despatch from H.M. Minister at Rio de Janeiro to the effect that, according to the latest available returns, the export coffee up to date (despatch dated June 17) from Brazil of this season's crop, which, beginning in July, ends in June, is given at 11,753,441 sacks, of the value of 17,607,975l., as against 13,693,602 sacks, of the value of 22,889,683l., showing a decrease in value of 5,281,708l., or over 100,000 contos of réis. There is a diminution in value of coffee in Brazil per arroba of 25 lbs. of about one (milréis 2s. 3d.) as compared with the month of June, 1902, whilst the price in the London market has diminished by about 3s. per cwt. in the same period.

\* \* \*

**Bickford's Coffee Circular.**—The market is apathetic. During and since the July holidays business has been very quiet, and little improvement in this respect may be expected for the remainder of the month. Price changes have been few and unimportant, but naturally tending lower where changes have been made at all. Receipts at the ports of Brazil for the crop year ending June 30th were 12,324,000 bags, as against 1901-02, 15,439,000 bags and 1900-01, 10,927,000 bags. The receipts for the first few days of July exceed those of the two preceding years; the period of comparison is too short to really be indicative one way or the other. It is said, however, that the receipts are mainly new crop, comparatively little of the old remaining in the interior. To-day's first hand stock consists of 12,837 bags Costa Rica, 2,482 Nicaragua, 29 Honduras, 18,679 Salvador, 49,429 Guatemala, 3,148 Mexican, and 6,921 various; in all, 93,525 bags.—*Weekly Commercial News* (S. Francisco, 16th July).

\* \* \*

**Coffee in Ceylon.**—Poor old Coffee has once again shrunk in Ceylon, the difference being

		Arabian.	Liberian.
June 1902 (acres) ...	...	4,304	758
July 1903 " ...	...	3,686	615
Reduction--acres ..		618	143

\* \* \*

**Brazil Coffee Popular.**—Although the production of what are called "mild" coffees seems to be shrinking while that of Rio and Santos grades is expanding from year to year, the supply of the former in our market seems to be sufficient for all requirements, says the *Merchants' Review* of 17th ultimo, and instead of improving in tone as the crops grow com-



paratively smaller, as would seem to be natural for the mild coffees to do, they have gradually lost strength in sympathy with the declining tendency of Brazil coffees.

The fact is, no doubt, that the Brazilian supply is not only ample as regards its magnitude; but also as regards its variety, being sufficient, or very nearly so, for the gratification of all of the varied tastes of the coffee consumers of the world. Hence, if the supply of mild coffees should actually decrease almost to the vanishing point, the consuming public might not be the wiser. This fact, if fact it is, would partly explain why coffee-raising continues to be fairly profitable in Brazil at the low prices ruling in recent years. According to this view great quantities of Brazil coffee grade as East Indian or Central American, and sell at corresponding prices. It is a feather in the cap of the Brazilians, their turning out of coffee which vies with some of the finest in the world, but we could wish that they were equally skilful in turning out crop estimates in advance of the crop.

About a year ago the trade here were gravely assured by Brazilian coffee men that the Rio and Santos crops then being marketed would aggregate only from about 8,000,000 to 9,000,000 bags. Actually the crops reached a total of 12,250,000 bags. Those Brazilian statisticians would delight American taxpayers if they were put in charge of real estate assessments, for one could be always certain that their assessments would be low, even though inaccurate.

During the fiscal year 1903 the total production of coffee, as measured by the world's receipts, was about 16,500,000 bags, or about 500,000 bags in excess of the total deliveries of coffee. Deliveries are the only guide to the consumptive capacity, but these figures represent a consumption so extraordinary, as compared with the quantities of coffee annually consumed only a very few years ago, that we may be pardoned for suspecting that speculative purchases have had considerable to do in producing the total of 16,000,000 bags.

The following table shows the world's production and apparent consumption of coffee during the past four years:—

	Production			Consumption.
	Rio and Santos.	All other Countres.	Total.	
1899-1900	8,959,000	5,654,247	14,613,247	14,972,699
1900-1901	10,927,000	4,429,991	15,356,991	14,329,925
1901-1902	15,439,000	4,471,367	19,910,367	15,516,663
1902-1903	12,324,000	4,282,746	16,606,746	15,967,904
	*	*	*	

**Market and Prospects.**—In their report dated 31st ultimo Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon say:—The market continues in the same lethargic state. The weight of supplies has been light, whereas nothing has occurred to make buyers emerge from the policy of caution adopted hitherto.

First hand dealings were very moderate, chiefly consisting of Java Plantation, husked in Holland; several parcels, being of an attractive quality, realized full values. Supplies will be on a more liberal scale during the next months. Previous values of Liberian were freely maintained; this year's crop promising to be smaller.

Little doing privately. With regard to Santos, it is to be noticed that there is a wider range of values than previously between desirable and indifferent descriptions; good qualities are attracting attention, whilst with unattractive and poor grades, progress has been more difficult than ever. The trade is much looking forward to new crop Coffee, which ought to command better prices, although the bean is reported smaller.

Arrivals with us were on a moderate scale, only 31,600 bags from Java and 72,900 bags from Santos. Deliveries of the latter amounting to 66,000 bags, our stock has slightly increased by 6,900 bags Santos Coffee.

Afloat from Santos to Rotterdam:

16,500 bags per ss. <i>Orefeld</i>	...	...	sailed July 16th.
24,000 " " " <i>Petropolis</i>	...	...	" " 30th.

40,500 bags,

against 95,000 " in 1902.

" 51,000 " " 1901.

" 63,500 " " 1900.

Loading ss. *Borkum*.

Afloat from Java to Holland:

<i>Essen</i>	...	sailed June 20th.	<i>Chemnitz</i>	...	sailed July 18th.
<i>Polyphemus</i>	...	July 1st.	<i>Solo</i>	...	" 21st.
<i>Koningin Regentes</i>	...	" 1st.	<i>Ixion</i>	...	" 21st.
<i>Besoeki</i>	...	" 4th.	<i>Prins Hendrik</i>	...	" 22nd.
<i>Koning Willem III</i>	...	" 8th.	<i>Offenbach</i>	...	" 24th.
<i>Oengaran</i>	...	" 15th.			

Loading ss. *Bali, Flores, Sindoro, Oranje, Timor, Salak* and *Bogor*.

Terme dull and featureless, business restricted to 40,000 bags or 497,500 bags since 1st January. Quotations  $\frac{1}{2}$ ct. down for the month, viz. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ cts. per September, 14 $\frac{3}{8}$ cts. per December, 15cts. per March and 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ cts. per May. July contracts 20,500 bags, tenders 13,500 bags. The September liquidation, which is rather heavy, is now going to play a prominent part and under circumstances may have a depressing influence.

The Santos crop is an early one this year; this accounts for the liberal range of receipts, almost identical with those of 1901 (crop about 10,100,000 bags). It is almost impossible to make any deductions as to the volume of the crop, receipts being the only tangible fact to go by. Last year about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  million bags were carried over from the previous bumper crop, such is not the case this time and if production should be on the same scale (8,350,000 bags Santos), export figures would be less by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  million bags, which is another feature worth noticing. The heavy receipts in Santos had no adverse influence upon values, shipments holding the balance, although the market in Santos is held above European parity.

The position of fazendeiros in Brazil is getting most critical; it seems no longer possible to grow Coffee without losing money. Exchange continues firm at present rates and the labour question is quite to the front. Immigration of Italians is almost suspended; the following figures speak for themselves:

	First three months	1903.	1902.
Immigrants	...	6,869	24,344
Emigrants	...	9,147	9,583

European stocks at the end of June were 2,350 tons more, a revision of stocks in Hamburg giving an excess of 6,880 tons. It is hard to understand how the biggest Coffee market in Europe, with all modern installations is unable or unwilling to control its stock, stored in bonded warehouses. The trade in Hamburg is evidently satisfied with private returns, which are beyond control. The visible supply was 2,000 tons less.

**Java Coffee.**—The Government *Java* crop is estimated at 209,000 Peculs.

**The Year's Coffee Movement in the U. S.**—On June 30 the most phenomenal year in coffee came to a close, says the *American Grocer*. It was notable for the heaviest deliveries on record, the largest visible supply July 1, ever held at that



date, showing an increase in two years of 5,032,546 bags; the lowest price on record, 3.55c. for No. 7 Rio; prospective supply for 1903-04 ahead of any previous record.

The total receipts at Rio during the year 1902-03 were 3,974,000 bags; at Santos, 8,350,000 bags; at both ports, 12,324,000 bags, against 15,439,000 bags, 1901-02; 10,927,000 bags, 1900-01; total three years, 38,690,000 bags; annual average, 12,896,666 bags.

The total receipts of all kinds of coffee in the United States was 6,871,027 bags; against 7,905,815 bags in 1901-02; in Europe, 10,018,813 bags, against 11,107,552 bags, 1901-02; total both countries, 16,889,840, in 1902-03, against 19,013,367 bags in 1901-02.

The total deliveries in the United States of all kinds of coffee in 1902-03 were 6,847,877 bags; in Europe, 9,118,621 bags; total United States and Europe, 15,966,498 bags, against 15,516,663 bags, 1901-02; 14,329,925 bags in 1900-01; total three years, 45,813,086 bags; yearly average, 15,271,028 bags.

The total sales on the New York Coffee Exchange for the year ending June 30, 1903, were 9,956,250 bags, against 9,707,000 bags during 1901-02. The sales during June were 510,500 bags; highest price, 4.80c. for May; lowest, 3.55c., July. Spot No. 7 Rio ranged between 5  $\frac{1}{16}$  @ 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ c.

Prices fluctuated between 8c., the highest for No. 7 Rio, and the lowest, 3.55c. The highest price since July, 1889, was 9.20c., March, 1901, delivery. June prices were the lowest on record.

The following statement shows the June movement in detail:

	Bags.	Bags.
Stocks, June 1, 1903 —		
United States ..	2,585,938	
Europe ..	7,163,405—	9,749,343
Receipts during June—		
United States ..	416,383	
Europe ..	637,881—	1,054,264
Total supply, July 1, 1903	...	10,803,607
Less stocks, July 1, 1903 —		
United States ..	2,461,664	
Europe ..	7,209,009—	9,670,673
Deliveries, June, 1903—		
United States ..	540,657	
Europe ..	592,277—	1,132,934
Deliveries, June, 1902	...	1,318,517
Decrease as compared with June, 1902	...	185,583
Deliveries, July, 1902	...	1,211,088
Deliveries, August, 1902	...	1,302,949
Deliveries, September, 1902	...	1,396,975
Deliveries, October, 1902	...	1,545,611
Deliveries, November, 1902	...	1,240,213
Deliveries, December, 1902	...	1,183,298
Deliveries, January, 1903	...	1,407,123
Deliveries, February, 1903	...	1,320,514
Deliveries, March, 1903	...	1,474,143
Deliveries, April, 1903	...	1,330,723
Deliveries, May, 1903	...	1,420,927
Deliveries, June, 1903	...	1,132,934
Total deliveries, twelve months, 1902-03	...	15,966,498
Total deliveries, twelve months, 1902	...	15,516,663
Total deliveries, twelve months, 1901	...	14,329,925
Average deliveries monthly, year 1902-03	...	1,330,541

Of the total deliveries in the United States, 5,695,970 bags were Brazil and 1,151,207 bags of all other sorts; total, 6,847,877. About 83.2 per cent. of the total deliveries were of Brazil sorts and 16.8 per cent. of all other kinds.

The above indicates the tremendous growth of the coffee industry in Brazil, made more apparent when we recall that

during the nine years 1881-88, the average yearly deliveries were 658,066 tons, of which Brazil furnished about one-half. The latest Government report of the imports of coffee to May 31 shows that about 80 per cent. of the imports came from Brazil; 8 per cent. from other South American countries; 8.3 per cent. from Central America and Mexico; less than 2 per cent. from the East Indies. It is evident that Brazil must be supplying most of the Java and Mocha coffee sold.

The outlook for 1903-04 is for a supply far ahead of any previous year. The Brazil crop will be larger than last year, so that with a carry over of nearly 12,000,000 bags in first hands and the largest invisible stock ever known, prices must rule low.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Coffee prices are weakening, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 21st ultimo, under stress of the rapidly-growing additions to the world's supplies, already immense; the market itself is quiet. In options July has again fallen to 3.50 bid, the low-record mark, but while actual coffee is fractionally weaker the very low quotations of last month have not been reached. The cry continues for good roasting coffee and these are relatively difficult to obtain, commanding always a premium from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

The receipts in Brazil are exceptionally heavy, indeed so heavy as to inspire some with the belief that a 15,000,000-bag world's visible supply will be reached by October, bringing coffee prices down to a mark that must make its effect felt on the prolific Brazil growers, and invite purchase and holding coffee for speculation against a possible and even probable upward coffee movement to follow. In this probably the rumour that the Lewisohns are organizing another 1,000,000-bag syndicate has its foundation.

Brazil firm offers are easier and ragged. Locally spot invoice is easier and but little active, quotations closing at 4  $\frac{7}{8}$ c. for No. 8 Rio, 5  $\frac{1}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 7, 5  $\frac{5}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and 5  $\frac{7}{8}$  to 6c. for Santos No. 4. A sale at Rio was 2,500 bags of Rio No. 7 at 5  $\frac{1}{4}$ c., store terms, for shipment to New York. Jobbing business has been light.

In milds there is a dull market and prices are easier. Supplies continue arriving in large quantity, but not buyers. Stocks are much heavier than one year ago. Good Cucuta is now 7  $\frac{3}{4}$ c. East Indies are quiet.

\* \* \*

Arrivals of mild coffee at New York since July 1st, to July 18, have been 62,219 bags, including invoices from Savanalla of 10,887, 2,774, 5,047, 5,628 bags, 7,805, and 12,103 bags Maracaibo and 1,315 and 95, bags La Guayra and exports to same date have been 10,197 bags.

\* \* \*

Chicago imported during June last 24,000 lbs. of coffee from Aden, according to Customs report.

\* \* \*

Now is the time, says the *American Grocer*, to work up fine blends, introduce and advertise them. There is more money in coffee, if properly handled, than in any other staple the grocer handles.

## TEA NOTES.

**New Season's China Teas.**—The *China Express* of 24th ultimo says:—The reception that has been accorded to the first arrivals of the New Season's China Teas is quite encouraging to those who are still interested in that once great trade. "The trade make the China Teas very fine this year, especially the Kintucks," is a fair sample of the expressions that have been made to us in response to enquiries. It is evi-



dence of the belief in them that some of the earlier purchases of the fine and finest kinds which originally fetched good prices have been resold at higher rates.

**The Importation of Inferior Tea.**—The London correspondent of a Colombo paper writes:—The Secretary of the Ceylon Association has now heard from the Treasury (to where the matter had gone from the Board of Trade) regarding the tea rejected in America which it was stated had been shipped to this country. They report that, as the tea is not mixed with other substances or exhausted tea, it is not considered unfit for human consumption, though of inferior quality. The letter adds that my lords have no power to prohibit its importation. This is a matter which requires looking into, and it has been suggested to Mr. Leake that he should send the letter to the *Times*. It is not generally known, though of interest in connection with this subject, that Ceylon and other teas are often exposed for sale in Mincing Lane “for exportation only;” that is to say, the Customs will not allow them to go into consumption in this country, but they may be exported for drinking purposes under bond. Only a few weeks ago 20 chests of Ceylon tea with the mark “Asna” were put up in this way and taken out at twopence a lb. It would almost appear as if there were three kinds of tea. First, teas which are fit for the citizens of the United States; second, teas which are not good enough for them, but which are suitable for the inhabitants of the United Kingdom; third, teas which will not do for Britishers, but are good enough for “foreign devils,” as the Chinese have it.

**Selling to an Eighth.**—I mentioned recently, says the London correspondent of a Colombo paper, that some of the benevolent buyers, who are always looking about for an excuse to give planters a better price for their tea, were agitating to get the farthing bids done away with and bids of an eighth substituted. Since then the matter has run a very curious course. It has not been brought officially before the Associations, and, with an exception to be referred to, the catalogues continue to be printed with the words on them “to advance a farthing.” One firm of brokers, however, now omits these words and takes bids of an eighth. This may seem a small matter, and one affecting only that firm and their clients, but it is very far from being so in reality. The farthing advance is part and parcel of the “conditions of sale,” and they are the magna charta of the producer in the London market. Besides, this inconsistency of practice leads to all sorts of rowdyism and disputes in the room as to whether the new bids shall be received or not. The innovation may be a good one for the seller, or it may not; but before the conditions of sale are tampered with the question ought to be thoroughly threshed out by the various Associations, and not decided in this back-door fashion at the caprice of individual brokers.

**Ceylon and Indian Tea.**—The *Ceylon Observer* gives the aggregate area under Tea in Ceylon as follows:—

Total of Tea Area,	Acres.
June 1902 =	382,334
Do. do. July 1903 =	382,917
Increase...	acres 574

and remarks, against this we may place the extent of tea in India at the end of 1902, which was 525,252 acres or an

increase of only 485 acres on the previous year! The grand total for India and Ceylon is, therefore, 908,169 acres of our staple—an extent which includes very little young tea, nothing worth speaking of.

**Ceylon Tea: Monthly Shipments to United Kingdom and Estimate—**

Estimate for	July 1903	— 10 to 10½ million. lbs.
Total Shipments	1903	9,500,000 „
Do.	1902	10,724,781 „
Do.	1901	8,488,409 „
[Estimate for August 1903—7 to 7½ million lbs.]		

**Coarse Plucking.**—The *Englishman* has received the following note of warning by this mail from London from a very influential correspondent:—

From recent telegrams there appears now to be a certainty of a largely increased crop of common tea from India this season. This is due, to a great extent, to free plucking done mainly from choice, although with a few a too short labour force to take off the leaf in time may be the reason. It seems hopeless to expect many growers to restrain their desire to obtain a small advantage, even though it is done at the cost of great ultimate loss to the tea industry, themselves included.

No lesson, however severe, appears to be able to cure this mania for coarse plucking immediately a paying level of prices is reached. The result of this is that common tea must fall in quality and commonest may go very low in price in the course of the next few months, as there will be more of it than the trade can take. Coarse plucking in a season after there has been a shortage of common tea with a rise in price does little harm, provided only a few do so, and may even be considered smart, but when the few begin the many follow as appears to be the case this year and then it becomes the extreme of folly and is disastrous to everyone connected with tea. It will be of undoubted advantage here, as in America, to purchaser, dealer and consumer alike, that a stop be put to the importation into this market of the poorest kinds of tea, which are the worst bargain of all to the consumer. Allowing their importation without restriction seems to be rather less than fair to the British tea-drinker. Some 60,000 packages of the worst class of China tea have been shipped back to London from New York this year. A considerable proportion of this large quantity was condemned by the American Customs as unfit for use in America. Is there any good reason why the Britisher should be made to drink tea considered too bad for the American Consumer, whether it be China tea or the too coarse kinds from India and Ceylon? Does it not seem unwise for Indian Tea-Growers to be sending forward tea to compete with this rubbish, and so injure the reputation of Indian tea?

**Java Teas via Siberia.**—A correspondent writing to the *Straits Times* from “Netherlands India” says:—Tea-planters in Java look forward to the proposed Java-Japan steamer line doing them a profitable turn. The boats call at Shanghai, where Java tea can be transhipped for despatch to Russia by the Siberian railway, on which that article is carried free. Ceylon planters have already taken advantage of the railway for despatching their teas to Odessa, instead of by the Suez Canal route (*sic*) which means payment of import duty at that port.



**Calcutta Tea Market.**—At the tea sale on 14th instant 26,534 packages were offered and 24,410 sold. The market was steady for all descriptions, the quality of a fair average, and the bidding brisk for outside markets.

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The Government of Bengal, in the Municipal Department, has addressed a circular letter to the managers of tea gardens round about Darjeeling inquiring if they would be willing to substitute electrical power for working their machinery if Government could supply the same, says the Darjeeling correspondent of the *Englishman*.

\* \* \*

**London Tea Market.**—Weekly special telegram dated 13th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally shows a fractional advance and that the market for medium liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoe is also steady. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last report) and the average 7d. (½d. up). The average for the same period last year was 6¼. Reuter reports that common and fine qualities of Ceylon tea is rather dearer. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6d. (½d. up) and the average for the week is 7d. (same as last report). 31,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 30,000 disposed of. Indian tea:—Packages offered 26,000 and sold 24,000. Average price of Indian tea 8½d. (⅔ of a penny higher than last report).

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**Japan Tea.**—In his report for 1902 the British Consul remarks thus on the Yokohama Tea Market, 1902:—In consequence of the exceptionally cold weather prevailing in April arrivals of new crops tea were considerably retarded, and it was not until the first week in May that any quantity was received in Yokohama, supplies continuing to be scant throughout that month. An active demand immediately set in, at prices averaging about 7 per cent., over the previous year. Reports that have been circulated to the effect that the leaf had been considerably damaged by late frosts proved to be correct, and an increasing inquiry speedily resulted in a strong advance over opening prices, so that, by the end of May, rates ruled fully 20 per cent. over values for similar teas in the previous season. The damage by frost proved very serious, the quantity of the first packings falling short by 25 per cent. of the average crop, whilst the quality of the leaf was very disappointing, owing as much, perhaps, to hasty preparation as to the unfavourable climatic conditions.

The United States Government having notified the removal of the existing duty of 10c. per lb. on teas, to take effect from January 1, 1903, the season throughout was marked by speculation to a large extent and considerable quantities of tea were held in Japan until late in the year, in order to time its arrival in the United States subsequent to the time fixed for the removal of the duty. The later crop teas therefore continued to maintain the high level of values, and by the end of October stocks of raw leaf in the country were practically exhausted. The abnormally high value of Japan teas during the year has been the opportunity of the Ceylon and Indian tea-planters, and a large increase in shipments of their growths to the United States and Canada has taken place in consequence. Experiments have also been made in both India and Ceylon in imitation of the Japan green leaf which have met with considerable success, particularly in Canada.

In fact, as far as the Canadian market is concerned, the Ceylon leaf has practically monopolised the trade to the exclusion of Japan teas, and there is little doubt that, unless the latter can be produced and sold at considerably lower prices than have ruled during 1902, Canada is a lost market for Japan; while in the United States also the lower grades of Ceylon are steadily and increasingly forcing their way into districts in which Japan teas had formerly no competitor. Exports from Yokohama in 1902 totalled 24,507,966 lbs., against 24,687,170 lbs. in 1901.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—In tea the market is moderate, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 21st ultimo. This is an improvement, and is conditioned by inquiry for the new teas, which are now arriving in no inconsiderable quantity. Sales naturally follow, although up to the present time no large ones are reported. The expectation is that from now on a larger business will be done.

Locally, Japans are easier, as might be expected from the heavy exports to this country. Market circulars from Japan report that it is proposed to stop picking tea after August 1, but inasmuch as the third crop is picked during that month, it is probable that September is meant. In fact this is as good as certain. In former years tea has been picked as late even as November, and the trees naturally have been deprived of the resuscitating power needed to prevent deterioration of the quality of the leaf.

Congous are firmer, and London inquiry continues for this tea, but recent offers have not been accepted. They were at 9¼c., but the shipper was to pay freight charges. North China is hard to get, even there, at 9½c. Formosas are steadier, as also Foochows, another small quantity of which has been rejected. It is astonishing how much chance has been taken in bringing tea of this kind under standard into this country. The temptation no doubt is alluring, but the losses in the end must act to dissuade from such enterprise. Country Greens and Pingsueys are very strong. India and Ceylons are firm, which is also true of Ceylon greens. From Calcutta the news is that the market in Indias is strong for good teas, and the competition keen for all grades. Outside interests, including Russian, are operating freely, taking large quantities. Few greens are offered on slack demand and unsettled market. More attention is expected as soon as the prospects in China and Japan are clearer. Advices from London say that in China teas common grades are again being asked for for home use, while exporters quietly absorb a parcel now and again. New York thin liquoring Oolongs looked cheap at auction at 2½ to 3d. per lb. A small green tea sale passed quietly, but prices were steady. In Indian tea there has been more desire on the part of holders to quit stocks of the old teas, and prices have frequently receded ½d. per lb. on bids recently refused. New season's offered a better selection. Darjeelings were in request at steady rates, most grades showing fair average quality. In Ceylon teas the market has a weak tone, which is due principally to disappointing quality. At this period of the year fine teas are generally scarce, but tea with point and flavour has been in very short supply. Young Hyson was sold at 6d., also Hyson and No. 1 at 5½d.

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**Formosa Tea.**—From Amoy, June 15, Tait & Company say:

"During the period under review demand has not been strong except for fine and up grades, these grades meet with a good



reception, and anything really 'Choice' commands an extreme price. The general character of the crop just to market is not altogether approved of, not being true crop teas, natives holding back a good lot of the Spring teas with good leaf, and are now mixing with present crop, but choice grades are good style having very desirable cup flavour but are in small supply, and competition amongst buyers for the few lots on offer, has forced prices up out of all reason. Low grades have not received much attention, and holders show some anxiety to sell, but the same desirable character is not to be had now, as was the case earlier in the season."

There is more tannic acid, or tannin, in China green tea than in black, the quantity ranging from 13 to 20 per cent. in green and 8 to 12 per cent. in black, and there is from 15 to 20 per cent. in India teas.

Chicago importations of tea during June last were 128,016 lbs., which the Collector values at \$22,391. During May the imports were 810,000 lbs.

### NOTES.

#### Cinchona in Ceylon.

Cinchona is slowly increasing from additional plantings in some of the higher districts, the return standing at 3,469 acres representing perhaps 7 millions of growing trees or plants.

#### Cardamoms in Ceylon.

Cardamom planting between June 1902 and July 1903 is represented by an increase of 1,125 acres, the total now being 9,746 acres; but, we may be sure, very little if any more will be planted in the face of the risk of over-production, until there is evidence of new markets or an increased demand becoming available.

#### Insect Pests in Ceylon.

It is notified by the Ceylon Government, under the Insect Pest Ordinance, that the importation of pepper plants into Ceylon from any part of India is prohibited. The Customs authorities will destroy all pepper plants landed in Ceylon from India after the 16th August, and will give no compensation for them. The dried seed of the pepper plant imported for commercial use is exempt from this prohibition.

#### New Cinchona-derivatives.

Messrs. F. Bayer & Co. have obtained a patent (D.R.P. 137,207) for the preparation of salicylic derivatives of the alkaloids of cinchona. The alkaloids are heated with salicylide in chloroform under pressure at 150° C. By this means salicyl-derivatives of the bases result. Salicyl-quinine melts at 140° C., salicyl-cinchonidine at 65°-70° C.

#### Java Quinine.

The result of the tender held on Wednesday, July 22nd, at Batavia is as follows: Of 5,978 kilos. Ed. II. offered, 96 kilos. were sold at an average of 18fl. per kilo. (equal to 10½d. per oz. net in Java, or a unit of 6¾c. Amsterdam), against 15fl. per kilo. at the previous tender. The exports of quinine from Java from January 1 to May 31 amounted to—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Cases...	519	414	821	657	755

#### Cacao in Ceylon.

Last year Cacao showed a total area on plantations of 24,136 acres apart from 7,000 to 8,000 acres in native gardens; while

for last month we got 24,867 acres on regular plantations—an increase of 731 acres—apart from native gardens which some persons now estimate at from 9,000 to 10,000 acres. Say that we count 35,000 acres as an outside estimate for Cacao in Ceylon; and even if 70,000 cwts. are shipped this year, that would only give an average of two cwts. per acre. Surely, says the *Ceylon Observer*, as canker gets checked and eradicated and cultivation is more carefully attended to, we may look forward to the day when Ceylon's export of this product will not be less than 100,000 cwts. and to a remunerative market, considering the growing popularity of of "cocoa" and chocolate.

#### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 25 (mis en vente à Paris le 31 juillet 1903):*  
19 contributions inédites de Mme.

d'Argollo Verrao, MM. des Grottes, Ledebor, Neuville, Hecht frères & Cie., Hamel Smith, Roux, Breschin, E. Poisson, Mosséri, Main, Dulieu, Koschny, Tabel, de Sornay, A. Pedroso, Boeken, Dr. Loir. Destruction des termites par le gaz Clayton (av. 2 fig.).—La vanille à Nossi-Bé.—L'Hevea en Malaisie.—Le café au Tonkin.—Fleurs de thé pour l'exportation.—Sélection de la canne.—Serpes à cacao (av. 2 fig.).—Les bananiers stériles.—Pulpe d'Elæis.—Articles et notes sur le Castilloa, le Céará, l'Ananas, le cotonnier, le riz, les herbes fourragères, le café, le poivre, la noix de coco, le henequen et l'aloës, la coca, le manioc, l'arachide.—Etudes commerciales sur le caoutchouc, la vanille, le cacao, le chanvre de Manille.—19 analyses bibliographiques (Etats-Unis, Californie, Floride, Jamaïque, Chili, Brésil, Erythrée, Tonkin.—Canne, riz, caoutchouc, indigo, quinquinas, palmiers américains, cocotier, Citrus, figuier, arbres fruitiers divers. Le potager à Tahiti.—Mal de Caderas.)

#### Coffee in Sweden.

The British Consular report for 1902 says:—The year 1902 has proved of little advantage to all interested in the coffee trade. This market has not escaped the general adverse tendencies that have prevailed, especially as during the latter part of 1901 and commencement of 1902 absolute top prices prevailed, and an excessive import took place in anticipation of a possible raising of the duty. Polished Santos continues to form the greater part imported. The expense of manipulating the article, the taste of which is in no way improved thereby, is equivalent to so much money being thrown away. The worst, however, is that on certain hands mischief is done, inasmuch as with the ignorant public the article is represented to be superior to what it really is, and is sold at prices for which far better qualities are to be obtained. Imports into Gothenburg totalled 7,132 tons, as against 8,738 tons in 1901; Warberg imported 170 tons, as against 196 tons; Halmsted 800 tons, against 854; Malmö 2,225 tons, against 1,972; and Ystad 375 tons, against 327. Sweden may thus be regarded as importing full 10,000 tons of Coffee in the year.

#### Standard Pepper in the U. S.

The Pure Food Committee on Definitions and Standards suggests the following in reference to Pepper:—  
"Standard black pepper is black pepper containing not less than 6 per cent. of non-volatile ether extract; not less than 22 per cent. of starch by the diastase method; not less than 28 per cent. of starch by direct inversion (copper-reducing matters by direct inversion, calculated as starch); not more



than 6·5 per cent. of total ash; not more than 2 per cent. of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid, and not more than 15 per cent. of crude fibre. One hundred parts of the non-volatile ether extract contain not less than 3·25 parts of nitrogen. The admixture of pepper shells, pepper dust, and other pepper by-products with pepper is an adulteration. Standard white pepper is pepper containing not less than 6 per cent. of non-volatile ether extract; not less than 53 per cent. of starch by the diastase method; not less than 40 per cent. of starch by direct inversion (copper-reducing matters by direct inversion, calculated as starch); not more than 3 per cent. of total ash; not more than 0·5 per cent. of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid, and not more than 5 per cent. of crude fibre. One hundred parts of the non-volatile ether extract contain not less than 4 parts of nitrogen.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

There is one point with reference to the great fiscal controversy which planters will be glad to note. In all the arguments for and against Mr. Chamberlain's proposals no one defends the tea duty. Indeed, both sides abuse it with pleasant impartiality. A writer in the *Daily Telegraph* advocating Imperial reciprocity, and anxious to prove that Codlin is the friend of everyone, especially the consumer of produce now unduly taxed, launches some sarcasm at the "free breakfast table" politicians, and asks what they have really done for the consumer. He says: "If you are to give a preference to the colonies you must put a tax on food." But have the Cobdenites conducted national finance hitherto without a tax on food? If they are to balance the Budget they must put a tax on food, and they do it. If they are to maintain the Fleet they must put a tax on food, and they do it. If they are to pay the Civil List or preserve free education they must put a tax on food, and for years they have been doing it. Mr. Chamberlain has never been at the Treasury. It is not he who set the precedent. But what is true is that every one of the three Chancellors of the Exchequer understood to be opposed to fiscal revision has maintained taxes on food as one of the main sources of national revenue. Lord Goschen taxed it. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach found himself forced to tax it. Mr. Ritchie taxes it, and soundly. At the present moment, even after the disappearance of the registration duty has enabled the Liverpool bakers to raise the price of bread, your tea and coffee, your cocoa, your sugar, your figs and raisins, your currants, and your prunes are compelled to contribute to the Treasury at the rate of £13,000,000 a year, or more than six shillings per head. Take from the national accounts for 1901-02 the following interesting statement of what may be called the 'Free Trade taxes' on food:—

Article of Food.	Rate of Duty.	Total tax.
		£
Tea .. .. .	6 d. per lb.	5,800,000
Sugar ... ..	3d. " nearly	6,400,000
Coffee ... ..	1½d. "	170,000
Chicory ... ..	2 d. "	50,000
Cocoa ... ..	1 d. "	250,000
Figs, Plums, Raisins	1½d. "	280,000
Currants ... ..	4d. "	100,000
		13,050,000

"The 'Free Trade taxes on food,' it will be seen, are heavier than any Mr. Chamberlain would need to impose for the purposes of a trade-extension policy. They are, besides, antiquated in principle, wasteful to collect, and useless for any indirect purpose; while there is no more astounding vagary of our fiscal system than that we should levy nearly £6,000,000 of annual taxation against a product of the Empire like tea. But the point for the working-man to remember is that those who tell him that preference would mean 'taxed food,' and that Free Trade means

untaxed food, are practising upon his intelligence. When workmen sit down to their breakfast they are taxed. They are taxed when they come home to their tea. When their wives buy a pound of that article at 1s. 4d. they receive only tenpence-worth of tea, and they must pay sixpence—that is to say, 60 per cent.—to Mr. Ritchie. And not only every spoonful of leaf in the teapot is taxed. Every lump of sugar in the bowl is taxed. When the baby begs for a lump of sugar it becomes a taxable consumer, and the Treasury takes toll on the baby. Every pot of jam on the table is taxed; every currant in the fruit-loaf is taxed; and whenever the working-man in the evening takes out his taxed tobacco after his taxed tea and lights his pipe he pays more than any other man in any other country who attempts the same soothing operation. Where are the Radical leaders who have ever made a serious effort to mitigate these imposts? And where are the Unionist 'free-fooders' who have ever thought hitherto of proving that they have the slightest title to that name by proposing to remove the existing food taxes, which take 8d. or 9d. a week out of the wages of every man in fair employment who has to pay the grocer's bill for an ordinary household. The truth is that under Free Trade there is no party which would dare, if definitely challenged by Mr. Chamberlain upon the point, to give an official pledge to remove the £13,000,000 of annual taxation now levied upon food. Irresponsible enthusiasts may be encouraged for electoral purposes to talk about 'a free breakfast-table,' but the talk would be a form of amiable futility in the future, precisely as it has been up to now." He goes on to say: "Whichever way we turn the question, whether we reckon in gross for the nation or in detail for separate households, it is clear that the people cannot be injured even to the extent of one farthing upon the weekly grocer's bill by adopting Mr. Chamberlain's plan of taxing food for trade extension purposes, instead of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's plan of taxing food to waste. Where is the household in the land in which bread is used, but in which tea and sugar are not used in proportion? Everyone who has ever penetrated a modern slum, and made a personal attempt to investigate at first hand the condition of the people, knows that where the submerged third are underfed it is because they cannot afford meat. But they drink more tea in proportion than any other class. The poorest of the poor would gain most of all by no longer being taxed on every cup of tea and every lump of sugar. Half the sixpenny duty on a pound of the cheapest tea would pay the extra halfpenny on six quarter loaves, and the other threepence would be available for meat. So much for the cry of 'dear food,' for the shrieks about 'terror, horror, famine,' and for the electoral chances of the most flagrant episode of demagogic imposture in the whole of our modern politics."

A "Revenue Officer," writing to the *Times*, endeavours to throw some light on the ideas in the mind of the Colonial Secretary. He finds that Mr. Chamberlain expressly discards the notion of taxing raw materials. Then he finds that Mr. Chamberlain expressly pledges himself not to increase the cost of living for the working men, unless they should be pleased to pay something upon food by way of premium for old-age pensions. This correspondent thinks they will not make any sacrifice of that kind for the sake of old-age pensions, and, if not, there is an end of that part of the business. Then, if there is to be no tax on raw materials, no taxation for pensions, and no increase in the cost of living, what has Mr. Chamberlain to work with? Two things, the correspondent points out, one of them not raising the Free Trade question at all, because it only varies the form of restrictive taxes already existing, and the other offering a form of protection which is not unlikely to attract the working man rather forcibly. We raise at present £13,600,000 on articles of general consumption—tea, coffee, sugar, cocoa, and dried fruits. Suppose we remit that taxation and put 5 per cent. upon other articles of general consumption, such as corn and mutton. We could raise in that way £7,500,000, or more than half what we have taken off. If the matter stopped there the revenue would lose £6,100,000 and the food of the people would be cheapened by that amount. But as the revenue cannot afford that loss Mr. Chamberlain might raise the money by a 7 per cent. *ad valorem* tax upon manufactured articles coming from abroad. The working man would find his cost of living somewhat reduced, and at the same time he would find his employment increased, because the 7 per cent. would enable us to bargain for markets now closed, and taxing one part of his diet instead of another would give him still more employment from the colonies."



In Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's last week's tea report a table was given setting forth the approximate duty on tea levied in different countries per English pound. While tea is duty free in Australia, Belgium, the Straits Settlements, Tasmania, and the United States, and in Canada is free from the country of production and from the United Kingdom, but is otherwise subject to 10 per cent., the duties enforced by other countries range up to between 9d. and 11½d. in France, 1s. 0½d. in Greece, and from 8d. to 1s. 10½d. in Russia. With the use of Indian and Ceylon tea continually expanding in foreign and colonial markets, the subject of the duties levied in different countries increases in importance, and, as the circular says, anything that can be done to widen the area of consumption will be of advantage to the industry.

It is sometimes suggested that Indian coffee-planters might follow to their own advantage the example of tea-planters by endeavouring to push their coffee as a specialty on the market here. While it may be doubted if the result would have justified the considerable outlay necessary to do this on a large scale, there is a middle course, and that is to form some Indian Coffee Association in London with a view to the watching of the interests of the grower and pushing the sale of Indian coffee with the trade and the consumer. Discussing the coffee position generally, we notice that the *London Commercial Record* refers to the necessity for finding new outlets for Indian coffee. It says: "If there is one trade more than another which baffles those connected with it, it is the coffee trade. The enormous supplies of Brazil sorts have been the surprise of bears and the alarm of bulls for a long time, and although the planter vowed some years ago the production of his coffees was carried on at a great loss, yet the shipments from Brazil have been larger year after year. No frost, storm, or vermin have been able to ensure a diminution of those gigantic supplies. Most extraordinary resolutions have at various times been passed calculated to establish a falling off in receipts, or even in the total yield of the crops, but all to no purpose. It would seem that the planters of Rio and Santos descriptions are anxious to make up in quantity what they cannot attain in quality. Ruinous as the decline in the value of Brazils must be to their producers, the sorry part is that coffees of less magnitude and importance have to suffer in sympathy. They are unable to make up their losses by doubling or trebling their outputs, and they will have to go to the wall unless some means can be devised to save them from such a calamity. We have all followed with regret the low values which East Indian sorts—which, perhaps, more than other coffees, suffer from the over-production of Brazils—have fetched this season, feeling, as we must do, that to many planters such prices as London paid, or rather had to pay, could not possibly compensate the Indian planter for his trouble and expense. We all saw that a crisis in India would undoubtedly be the outcome of the depression in the coffee trade, and we are seriously afraid that such a crisis is near at hand, for, according to reports just received from the coffee-growing districts, the monsoon has so far been very unfavourable to the new crop, and small yields are likely to ensue at a time when big ones are most urgently wanted. No wonder that great depression prevails among the planters generally, and that the coming season is looked forward to with considerable misgiving, and even alarm. We hear that European managers and superintendents are dismissed from many plantations, manure is sparsely used, or not at all, and some estates are allowed to grow wild, as their owners no longer possess the means of maintaining them. This must be regarded as a very serious matter, not to India alone, but to London as well, and support should be given to the struggling planter where consistent with fair competition. We understand some planters are desirous of sending a delegation to London to study the coffee question here, and to find if possible some way or other of pushing their products, or find new outlets for them. There is no doubt that some wholesale coffee-dealers are responsible for the little appreciation in which the fine East Indian coffees are held in some parts of our country. As a matter of fact they are not known to the average man, to the ordinary consumer, and hence they are not asked for at the grocers by those fond of a good cup of coffee. The preparation of a really good cup of coffee is an almost unknown art in England. The introduction of East Indian sorts to the public would perhaps insure the saving of the East Indian coffee culture, and the obtaining of a really good cup of coffee in England.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## STREET SCENES WHERE RIO SHIPS COFFEE.

The Special Correspondent of the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* writes:—

RIO JANEIRO, June 1, 1903.

### COFFEE WHARVES AND COFFEE THIEVES.

Most of the coffee is shipped from what are known as the coffee wharves. The scene about is most interesting. Come with me and look. We jump upon a car containing about three tons of coffee. It is hauled by two mules, which drag it over the street railroad through one narrow street after another down to the bay. We stop at the wharves, where a gang of negroes stands ready to take in the bags. The men back themselves up against the cars and balance the great sacks on their heads. They carry them in on the trot, and we hear the thud! thud! thud! of their bare feet as they go over the floor. They run, for they are paid by the piece. Each man receives 1½ cents for every bag he brings in, and the best of the workers make from \$35 to \$40 a month, which are high wages here.

What a lot of policemen there are everywhere! At the ends of the wharves there are soliders in uniform to keep order. A custom-house officer is always on hand to see that nothing goes on or off the ship without paying duty, and there are many private detectives. A close watch has to be kept to guard against stealing, for the wharves are great places for thieves.

### CLEVER BOAT THIEVERY.

The detectives have to look out for stealing below the wharves as well as above them, for sometimes thieves come in boats under the wooden floors and stop just below one of the big piles of bags. With an auger they make a hole through the floor, then a piercer or pipe is stuck up through the hole and into a bag so that the coffee pours down through the pipe in a stream to the boat. In a short time a half dozen bags can be emptied, and if this is taken from a large pile no one will be the wiser unless the detectives spy the men under the wharves.

Stealing is also done by the negroes who load and unload the coffee. They come to their work with piercers in their sleeves. By a dexterous thrust, they drive the piercer into a bag as they are carrying it in on their heads and allow some of the coffee to roll down their sleeves to their waists. This they do with one bag after another, going off for a drink now and then to secrete their stealings. Such thefts, however, are well known, and the men are carefully watched. Some of the men in consequence work half naked and others have their sleeves rolled up to their shoulders. Thieves are at once arrested. The factors pay large sums, I am told, for detectives to watch such rogues.

## THE MADRAS CINCHONA DEPARTMENT IN 1902-03.

The review by the Government of the Annual Report on the Government Cinchona Plantations for the year 1902-03, discloses a state of affairs highly creditable to all concerned and has elicited an order in the following terms:—"The results recorded in the Report testify to the energy and efficiency with which Mr. Standon and Mr. G. Romilly who acted as his *locum tenens* for seven months have managed the plantations and the factory. The Government are pleased to notice, also the good work done by their subordinates."

The main points dealt with by Government are the changes introduced under the orders of the Government of India assimilating these Reports with those of the Government of Bengal, when dealing with the Darjeeling and Sikkim plantations: the valuing of the stock of Quinine and Febrifuge as the amount at which it is proposed to sell these drugs; and omitting to take into account depreciation of machinery in use and sums spent on the purchase of new machinery, which tends to exhibit stock at an enhanced value and so much as to increase the amount shown as profit on the year's working. The development and improvement of the plantation received due attention in the year, and propagation from selected seed and heavy manuring promised beneficial results. The year's crop of Rs.144,292 though of an inferior quality, Government observe, was distinctly above the average demand from purchased bark.

The factory results are such as establish a record in several respects. The quantity of bark worked up, *viz.*, 528,000 lbs. exceeded



that so used in any previous year, while the cost of manufacture per pound of bark was considerably less than that of any other previous year. These satisfactory results are attributed to the improved machinery recently introduced and to the great care taken by Mr. Standon to get it into successful working order. Another important fact is that the saving in the cost of manufacture effected by the introduction of the new machinery will more than cover the cost of the improved appliances in the end of the current official year.

The cost of manufacture per pound of Quinine is said to be Rs.11-11-3 per lb. which compares favourably with those of the past two years which were Rs.14-13-2 and Rs.16-7-0, respectively.

The quantity of Quinine issued by the department in the year was 13,179 lbs. and this is higher than that of any previous year. The sales of Quinine at Post Offices in the shape of the pice packets system also show an improvement, as 15,914 packets were sold, this being 4,522 packets more than in the previous year.

The sales of Febrifuge are said to be increased and this is probably an article not so much sought after as the more highly valued quinine, in a therapeutic sense, as Government note this as satisfactory.

Turning to cultural operations, the system of field nurseries as practised at Dodabetta ought to produce beneficial results and give valuable advice to planters. Under this system, trenches are dug between rows of Cinchona, filled in the surface soil, and then planted with seedlings six inches apart. The shade afforded by the Cinchona presents undue moisture from the soil and admits of the young plants being left to themselves, and obviates thus the necessity for watering them. This has many advantages, it costs less, the plants are ready for use when required, and if the mortality is large, the trenches serve as cultivation for the trees.

Another important matter is the raising of seedlings from seed of selected trees known to possess a high percentage of Quinine. Those selected being over 10 and 11 per cent. By this system, the worthless kinds can be eliminated, and in course of time, the plantations will be composed of trees containing a high percentage of Quinine, which will be invaluable for use in the factory, for while it costs just as much to harvest and work up poor as well as rich bark, the larger output of Quinine in the case of rich bark is an admitted advantage in its care, when used in the factory. Financially the department has done well in the year. The receipts by sale of Quinine, etc., were Rs.2,43,150, the highest realized for the past twenty years, while the expenditure was Rs.187,024, an outlay covered to the good by some Rs.50,000 by the money received in the year, while the net result of the year's working show a profit on the enterprise since its commencement of Rs.1,645,621 to say nothing of the valuable Cinchona estates owned by Government, an improved factory for outturn of Quinine, and a large stock of Quinine and Febrifuge in store at the end of the year, a result which cannot but be regarded as creditable to Messrs. Standon and Romilly as exhibiting indefatigable energy and attention to all points connected with the plantations and factory during the year and which have deservedly won praise from Government.

## COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

**Costa Rica.**—Half-tone pictures from recent photographs are published in the *Spice Mill* and tell even more plainly than mere words could do of the great superiority of the American, English and German plantation methods over those of the native Costa Rican peons. These methods are now obtaining in most of the South American countries and are demonstrating that it is possible to increase the crop yield nearly 300 per cent.

The conditions in most tropical countries cannot be said to be very favorable to the taking of photographs and the developing and printing of the plates, and they are even less favorable in Costa Rica, situated as it is so much nearer to the Equator than the Mexican or Brazilian countries. After experiencing many difficulties and surmounting most of them, Mr. Wilhelm has been fortunate enough to secure over a hundred exceptionally fine pictures, all of which are remarkable for their faithful portraiture of the scenes represented.

One picture shows a native coffee plantation with the coffee trees in full bloom. This is a rare picture of the beautiful blossoms. They only last about three days, and Mr. Wilhelm was fortunate in

having the weather conditions favorable to his taking the views at that time. The fragrance of these blooms is so rich and powerful that it is noticed by incoming sea captains miles out at sea. Coffee trees, like fig trees, bear fruit, leaf, and blossom all at the same time. This picture shows the irregular way in which the natives plant. They make no effort to prune the trees, and never think of weeding. Even the pineapples are permitted to grow among the coffee trees, and are to be seen in the picture. The natives average one pound two ounces to the tree, as against three pounds to the tree on the Americans' plantations. This lack of attention is in the main responsible for the poor yields obtained from the native crops. The native trees are permitted to run up from 20 to 23 feet, while the others are kept down to 8 feet.

The contrast between the two methods of growing is very strikingly shown in the second picture, which gives a view of a model American plantation at Agua Caliente, near Catargo, Costa Rica. Here the bananas and plantains are used for shade, the grounds are clean, the grass is lined up in the centre of the rows, where it fertilizes the soil, no branches are permitted to trail on the ground, and the trees are not allowed to exceed 8 feet in height. This picture also illustrates the method of planting fourteen feet apart, and two years later planting the young trees down the centre. These trees from the Almásago (trees from the nursery, ten months old) are to be seen growing in the centre of the picture.

The other pictures show the method of picking by hand and a coffee drying ground. The coffee patio or drying ground picture was taken on a plantation 5,000 feet above the sea. It is a natural drying ground and belongs to one of eighteen estates within an area of thirty to forty miles. Upward of 200 hands are employed on this particular plantation. After the coffee is picked—this work being done mostly by the women and children—it is brought in the fruit and dried in the sun on the cement floor of the drying ground. This process usually takes from four to six weeks, the native Costa Rica peons turning it over and over in the sun by means of wooden shovels, several times each day. The tarpaulins are used for coverings in case of rain. Into the trough shown water is turned for washing off the slime on the fruit. After drying, the coffee is piled up in heaps and then removed to the buildings in the background, where it is run through the hullers to remove the hull and parchment, and next through the milling machines to remove the silver skin and give the bean its polish.

The native women in the other picture pick out the imperfections from the perfect coffee. There are two round holes in the table before each picker. The good beans are dropped in one, the bad beans in the other, bags being placed under the tables to receive them. A skilled girl can pick two bags a day, for which she receives seventy-five cents—about thirty cents in United States money.

**Mexico.**—Reporting on the trade of Vera Cruz and District Mr. Consul Leay says:—The coffee crop just over, 1902-03, was only about 40 per cent. of the normal—I cannot give the actual figures—this having been occasioned by the long drought during the Summer months, and, to a certain extent, by the fact that the previous crop was a very large one, for, when such is the case, the trees in the year following do not bear so well but seem to need a slack year in which to recuperate. The indications are favourable to a fair crop for next season unless drought, hail or frost, interfere before the coffee is gathered. The percentage of natural or unwashed coffee becomes less each year by reason of the premium on washed coffee over the unwashed grade. All growers that can do so are washing their berries, and either selling in the parchment or preparing it for sale in the finished state.

There have been many extensive installations of machinery in the various towns where coffee enters, and while in years past coffee was only sold when ready for market, it is now frequently sold on the tree, the buyer naturally assuming all risks of the fluctuations in exchange, market price, etc. These installations have not been made by the producers but by those who buy for export principally, and it even frequently happens that while a haciendado has machinery on his branch he prefers to sell his coffee in parchment at a better profit than he can make on it cleaned. Conditions have altered very greatly and the grower is the one who makes the money, though perhaps not very much, by reason of the very active competition of the buyers for the comparatively little coffee that is produced.



The great fall in the price of coffee in the last ten years has resulted in a much greater local consumption.

The consumption of coffee throughout Mexico is put at about 6,000 tons.

Total exports of coffee from Mexico are shown in the following table :—

1897-98	...	...	...	20,000 tons.
1898-99	...	...	...	17,400 "
1899-00	...	...	...	22,519 "
1900-01	...	...	...	15,180 "
1901-02	...	...	...	22,000 "

Of this quantity something over three-quarters appears to pass through Vera Cruz.

### A NASCENT INDUSTRY FOR INDIA.

The London correspondent of the *Pioneer* writes :—

The oft-debated question whether planters in India in search of profitable forms of cultivation can grow rhea fibre for manufacturing purposes of a quality enabling them to compete with the China grass grown in the Far East has, you recently informed your readers, been put to practical test by the Bengal Rhea Syndicate, who already have some 5,000 acres under cultivation, and have been exhibiting in Calcutta sample underclothing, velvets, tray cloths, incandescent gas mantles and other articles made therefrom. These goods were manufactured, I believe, on the Continent, but at a time when the problem of developing inter-Imperial trade is uppermost in the public mind it is a matter for gratification that the pioneers of what is, I believe, destined to be a great industry are to be found in this country as well as on the Continent. The Ramie Fibre Spinning Syndicate, Ltd., of 50, Lime Street, E.C., have for the last two or three years been quietly, but steadily, been feeling their way, patenting processes, learning trade secrets and gaining experience by experiments on a comparatively small scale, and therefore at much smaller cost than would have been the case had great things been attempted too soon. I have no sort or kind of personal interest in the concern, and it was from the standpoint of a detached observer, desirous of obtaining information for your readers, that I paid a visit to the factory of the Syndicate the other day. The works are situated on the outskirts of the developing town of Romford, which is within very easy reach of London and is well served by the Great Eastern Railway.

I was conducted over the factory by Mr. Frank Birdwood, who as Secretary to the concern has given a great deal of time and thought to its interests, and has made himself as much at home in discussing the intricacies of textile manufacture and the relative advantages of this or that machine as he is amongst his law books and briefs. The Syndicate have hitherto mainly relied on the China market for raw material, but the directors, not only from a business point of view, but also because they have in most cases had long connection with India, official or mercantile, are very desirous of bringing the Indian planter into the benefits of co-operation in their enterprise. As Mr. Birdwood pointed out recently in the *Anglo-Indian Review*, the cultivation of ramie is not a task upon which the planter can profitably enter haphazard and without due enquiry. Inadequate preliminary investigation has been the cause of failure of various experimental efforts in the past, and these have resulted in widespread scepticism as to possibility of profitable cultivation. The planter should master the facts as to the climatic conditions and soil best suited for ramie-growing, and as to the best methods of cultivation, given in the *Agricultural Ledger*, No. 15, by Sir George Watt. He should make sure, by sending home samples, that the fibre he can produce is of the right class; and in preparing the raw material for export to the mills he must be abreast of the times.

Many planters are fully aware of the need for careful study and well thought-out methods on the lines indicated, but they are doubtful of the capacity of the market to take large additional supplies of the fibre. The sceptic should visit the Romford factory, where he would see the beginnings of a great industry, steadily feeling its way to the expansion that lies before it. In any case, rapid advance in the first instance would have been impossible, owing to the uncertainty of supply of raw material and the great fluctuations in price consequent upon manufacturers being mainly dependent upon the Chinese grower. Last year the price of the fibre was about £24 per ton, this year, owing to drought and the

increasing demand in Europe, £40 per ton has been paid. In some respects this dependence upon a country so politically unstable as China, whose cultivators and dealers are not the most trustworthy of men, has not been disadvantageous, for it has deterred the Syndicate from experimenting on a large scale. While output has been restricted for want of raw material, the concern has felt its way, and, under the skilled advice of a most capable and experienced manager, a cool-headed Yorkshireman, it has now arrived at a stage where the expansion all along kept in view can safely be undertaken. Its manufactures have gained a footing in the English markets from which wealthy spinning combinations have tried in vain to dislodge them. This attempt has been especially pronounced in respect to the large trade in boot thread that has been built up by the Syndicate. A well-known combine tried the cutting game until it was selling below cost, but the Ramie Company was able to go one better right through without loss. For it is to be remembered that, although the supply of raw material of the right kind is so scant and fluctuating that prices are comparatively high, ramie threads are not only much stronger than linen, but can also be produced much more cheaply, even on the present comparatively limited scale of manufacture. When larger quantities of the fibre are available and the outturn is correspondingly increased, the ratio of the cost of production will be lessened. The boot and saddlery thread were, in the first instance, only introduced into the London market, but a demand is now growing up in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, the centres of the boot trade, and there can be no doubt that the combination of strength and cheapness will ensure the growth and stability of this trade against the competition of the most powerful combines manufacturing linen thread.

In pursuance of the wise policy, in the initial stages of a new industry, of *festina lente*, the Syndicate have not as yet undertaken their own spinning. The processes I saw at the mills were those of degumming, cleaning, drying, separating, equalising lengths, weaving and dyeing, and thread manufacture. The machinery is of the most modern type, and so far as a casual visitor could judge, the methods of working, no less than the general supervision, are most efficient. I had previously been shown, at the offices of the Syndicate, samples of the spun goods manufactured from the woven fibre turned out at Romford by the Bunbeg Mills Company. There can be no doubt that ramie-made cloths and other goods are not only far superior to linen but will, ere long, compete with silk, by reason of their being very much cheaper, and with cotton, by reason of their greater strength and durability. There are very few articles, if any, among manufactured textiles with which ramie-made goods cannot and will not enter into competition, from khaki and sail cloth to dainty dresses and tapestries and curtains. The principal demand thus far has been for vestings and underclothing, but other departments of manufacture are opening out as merchants come to recognise that among the advantages of ramie-goods are that they are rot-proof, that they bleach a pure lustrous white and that they are unshrinkable. If the claim that ramie "even survives the attentions of the Oriental *dhoby* no matter how much it is beaten on stone" can be substantiated (and it can soon be put to the test), we may anticipate that this, with other advantages mentioned, will, in course of time, lead to great demand in India. Already there has been some manufacture of white washing poplins for the Tropics. Sportsmen in the East should note that the manufactures include "extremely durable unions for riding and hard wear," while the general public may bear in mind the claim, and put it to the test, that ramie-goods are "lustrous as silk, more durable than linen, inexpensive and handsome." My tour of the Romford factory convinced me that there is a great future before this industry, and that Mr. Birdwood had solid ground to rest upon in expressing the conviction that the Indian planter need not be apprehensive of flooding the market with raw material, inasmuch as the demand is bound to keep fully abreast of the supply. "When they know that they may look beyond China for their supplies," wrote Mr. Birdwood in the February *Anglo-Indian Review*, "manufacturers will be prepared to increase their outturn very considerably. It would, therefore, appear that the Indian planter, if he will attack the problem soberly and with sufficient capital, could not only capture the markets hitherto dominated by China, but could find fresh outlets for his production. One thing, however, he must clearly bear in mind: the manufacturer knows what he wants and can get what he wants from existing sources."



He will run no risks in his raw material. Indian planters must not imagine that knowledge will leap fully armed from their heads or that fortune will stop with them at the holding up of a little finger."

The question whether India is or is not to participate as a producer of the raw material in this nascent industry, has a wider bearing on her industrial future than that which relates to the initiation of new avenues for the employment of planting capital, at a time when, in some directions, it has been hard hit by currency changes and excess of production. There can be no doubt whatever that if the raw material is extensively grown in India for utilisation by the English and Continental manufacturers, ramie spinning and weaving mills will in course of time spring up in the great commercial centres of the country, and thus India will participate in ramie manufacture, as she participates to-day in the production of cotton goods made from her own raw material. Thus a great step forward will be taken in the industrial development so essential to adequately relieving the pressure on the soil which, though temporarily retarded of late by an unusual succession of famines, must become more and more acute with the growth of population and the rise in the standard of comfort now being witnessed. Even in the early years of ramie cultivation we may expect to see some of the preliminary processes of manufacture, particularly that of degumming, carried out on the plantations before shipment to Western factories, in order to reduce the cost of freight. On economic grounds, therefore, every encouragement should be given the Indian planters to grow ramie of the right kind and in the right way. There is reason to believe that the plant can be cultivated successfully in other countries besides China and India, and it behoves the captains of the planting industry in the latter Empire to establish her share in this promising industry before the ground is occupied elsewhere and India is put of the running. At the very least, to quote the formula in such general use just now in connection with inter-Imperial fiscal relations, the case is one for full and careful inquiry—for the policy of the open eye and open mind.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on 4th instant.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904.—In the proceedings of the last Meeting reference was made to a letter dated the 24th June from the Indian Tea Cess Executive Committee offering to allot a sum of Rs.50,000 to the exhibition of Indian tea at St. Louis in 1904 on the understanding that a sum of £10,000 were raised for this purpose.

The matter was now brought up for further consideration, and it was agreed to apply the available balance at credit of the American and Foreign Market Fund, approximately Rs.21,000, towards the proposed exhibit.

A telegram from the Hon. Mr. G. L. Acworth which had been received just before the Meeting was placed on the table. Mr. Acworth stated that the Southern India Planters' Association would subscribe Rs.10,000, and that the various local Governments were being approached with a view to their contributing donations to augment this amount.

It was decided to accept the Tea Cess Committee's offer of Rs.50,000, and to inform them that the General Committee were able to see their way to collecting from various sources, the minimum of £10,000 stipulated for. The Secretary was instructed to prepare a circular regarding samples of tea for exhibition as had been done on previous occasions. Particular attention was to be drawn to the desirability of having an effective exhibit of green teas.

National Tea Association of the United States.—The General Committee were in receipt of a notice regarding the formation of the above Association which was to be composed of the leading Importers and wholesale Grocers of all the large cities of the Union. The primary objects of the Association, it appeared, were to promote the sale of tea as a leading article of merchandise; to preserve tea from adulteration and spurious imitation so that the

American public would not be imposed upon either by an impure article or by one of such inferior quality as to render the beverage worthless and unpalatable, and to disseminate information in regard to its quality and particularly in regard to its preparation. A large number of members had already been secured.

The General Committee noted the information with much interest. While the efforts of the Association would be directed to encouraging the tea trade as a whole, it appeared to them that Indian teas must of necessity share in any revival or increase of trade brought about by its means.

MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated July 31st, 1903, says :—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904	134,102	215,305	15,782
1902-1903	150,003	251,457	17,091
12,117 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 45,472 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
32,247 " CEYLON			
1,108 " JAVA			

The last Public Sales of Indian and Java teas before Bank Holiday were held on the 27th instant, and of Ceylon tea on the 28th instant. Auctions will probably recommence on the 10th proximo for Indian, the 11th for Ceylon, and the 13th for Java teas.

INDIAN GREEN TEA.—The manufacture of Indian Green Tea for the North American market appears likely to make better progress now that the Tea Cess Act has been passed, so that the output of Black Tea will probably be reduced by this means and the North American market further exploited.

Exports of Tea direct from Ceylon to places outside the United Kingdom to the end of June show a slight increase over the same period last year, chiefly consisting of Green Tea for North America, as well as Black Tea for China, which probably finds its ultimate destination either in Russia or North America.

Distribution of Tea Exports from Ceylon from 1st January to end of June.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Austria .. ..	18,309	11,478	25,110	5,902
Belgium .. ..	60,233	34,853	8,666	2,115
France .. .. { Black 180,369	104,790	148,927	108,409	
Germany .. .. { Green 4,430				
Holland .. ..	315,767	191,112	193,021	188,596
Italy .. ..	160	3,190	15,469	2,000
Russia .. .. { Black 10,994	5,619	7,711	5,007	
Spain .. .. { Green 3,568,086	4,736,502	4,769,103	4,296,699	
Sweden .. .. { Black 10,411	106,435			
Turkey .. .. { Green 1,900	3,281		15,130	
India .. .. { Black 53,003	39,173	26,474	43,218	
Australia .. .. { Green 600				
America .. .. { Black 14,305	16,423	24,822	11,203	
Africa .. .. { Green 239,503	316,695	665,108	342,150	
China .. .. { Black 955	14,031	15,092		
Singapore .. .. { Green 9,027,904	8,820,816	10,225,870	7,849,386	
Mauritius .. .. { Black 2,829,487	2,182,048	1,175,172	2,517,826	
Malta .. .. { Green 2,717,501	372,595	314,703		
Outside .. .. { Black 253,348	274,163	152,386	82,578	
U. K. .. .. { Green 1,200				
U. K. .. .. { Black 3,208,731	1,662,871	1,506,530	766,592	
U. K. .. .. { Green 3,920		4,450		
U. K. .. .. { Black 68,858	75,896	73,923	50,932	
U. K. .. .. { Green 31,699	44,900	15,330	700	
U. K. .. .. { Black 150,914	181,881	161,433	209,553	
U. K. .. .. { Green				
U. K. .. .. { Black 20,033,570	18,705,191	19,195,065	16,497,996	
U. K. .. .. { Green 2,737,817	494,261	334,246		
U. K. .. .. { Black 49,375,743	52,312,316	55,819,101	56,419,370	
U. K. .. .. { Green 529,125	253,571	93,449		
Total lbs. ..	72,676,255	71,765,339	75,441,861	72,917,366

INDIAN.—The auction was again small, comprising 12,117 packages, and with a good general demand prices were very firm, any Teas with quality attracting attention, while a few good liquoring parcels from Assam and Darjeeling were well competed for and sold at fairly high prices. The following averages from Assam may be mentioned, viz.:—Ass. Fron. Co. "Hapjan," 1/2½; "Khobong," 1/1; "Mokalbari," 1/0½; "Jokai T Co. Dikom," 1/0¼;



and from Darjeeling:—"British Darjeeling Co. Thurbo," 1/3½; and "Darjeeling Con. Co. Ting Ling," 1/1¼.

Week's av. of New Season's tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 6,470 pkgs., av. 7·67d. 1902, 10,332 pkgs., av. 6·74d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 31,578 pkgs., av. 7·30d. 1902, 43,114 pkgs., av. 6·30d.

CEYLON.—Although the auction was heavy, consisting of 32,247 packages, competition was well distributed and prices were firm, probably owing to there being no further auction until after Bank Holiday. The quality still continues poor, although there are indications of an improvement likely to be seen before very long.

Average for week 6·89d., against 6·25d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 602,695 pkgs., av. 7·52d. 1902, 686,461 pkgs., av. 6·73d.

JAVA.—With a comparatively light auction, prices in sympathy with other grades were very steady, the Teas mostly selling at full valuations. The next auction is advertised for 13th August for which date 3,117 packages are at present catalogued.

### QUININE.

The market has been quiet throughout, small sales of the usual German brands of sulphate in bulk being effected from second hands at 11½d. to 11¾d. per oz. spot, and December at the same figures. To-day, however, a "bear" sale of 5,000 oz. has been made at 10¾d. per oz., spot, and 11¾d. for December, being lower.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·70d., JULY 31st.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	217	6·74												
New Hope	128 p	6½	42 p	6¾ 7¼	45	6½	..	...	29	6¼	...	...	12½c	6¼
Pillay Mulla	41	7	41	6½ 7¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vellingherry	48	7	...	...	25	6½	23	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore	357	6·36												
Elangy	81 p	5½	...	...	31	5¾	20	6	27	5½	...	...	3½c	5½
Glenmore	100½c	6¼	...	...	66½c	6 6¼	30½c	6½	...	...	2½c	5½	2½c	5¼
Ladrum	116	6¾	20	6½	56	6¾	30	7¾	10	5¾	...	...	...	...
MD	60½c	6¼	30½c	6¼	23½c	6¼	...	...	5½c	5¾	...	...	2½c	5¼

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1903.

[No. 34.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 4th proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*August 25th.—Weather—*Monsoon moderating, bright sun appearing occasionally; fires have to be kept going to keep the bungalows dry. *Supplies—*are a source of anxiety through so much rain, and so little sun, the late planters will be in the best condition this year. *Health—*Poor—much fever. *Labour—*Short—owing to Gouri feast. *Coffee prospects—*Moderate. *Interesting item—*The district has been without an amildar of full powers for two months.

### COFFEE AND THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

IN URGING planters in South India to exhibit at the St. Louis Exhibition next year, we addressed ourselves more particularly to Coffee-planters, because it was well understood that the interests of Tea-planters would be adequately cared for by the Indian Tea Association. Remarks made by Mr. H. B. HODGSON at the recent Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. remind us that there was one point to which we did not give attention. It seemed to us to "go without saying;" but Mr. HODGSON's reference to the Paris Exhibition has shown that this is not so. Our first point is this: Exhibit! Exhibit of your best; but always exhibit qualities that you can supply on a commercial scale, however small that scale may be in proportion to the Brazilian scale. A market for inferior coffees need not be sought in the United States. The expenses of transport and sale are very heavy, and the finer qualities can better bear than the lower this heavy burden. Our second point is, though it has escaped reference

until now, be not satisfied with exhibits, they are but the means whereby to create a permanent demand. It is of this second point that Mr. HODGSON's words have reminded us; and we would impress it most earnestly upon all our readers. Gold medals are very nice things in their way; we by no means despise them. But they are less valuable intrinsically than as adjuncts to advertisement; and if the influence of Exhibitions is regarded as ending with themselves the money spent in respect to exhibits is likely to be wasted.

The St. Louis Exhibition may serve as a medium for effecting a few sales—mostly "in the cup." If it be rightly used, it should help Coffee-planters in this country to make an entry into the great market of the United States, and if their plans are well laid and carried out with enterprise and vigour they should find the opening of the door a very great benefit to them. First, through the means of the Exhibition they have to *create* a demand; but if that demand is to live it must be fed. The Paris Exhibition has taught this lesson, let it not be lost sight of. Planters have to arrange to keep supplies going so as to meet demand. They ought not even to await the news that a demand has been established. Our own feeling is that planters should regard as part of the expenditure incidental to the Exhibition the provision of at least small supplies of Indian coffee, available for immediate purchase by consumers in America. If the demand that is desired is actually created, further supplies can be sent forward on cable or mail requisition; but the very first sign of demand should be encouraged and stimulated by the offer of supplies from stock. If the demand does not arise, should Indian coffees not at once find favour in the sight of American dealers and consumers, there will be a loss on this stock. That is one of the risks that have to be run; it is a risk similar to that which is run when exhibits and "coffee in the cup" are provided. It is a risk that *ought* to be run, for he who only gets to the middle of the bridge, then timidly stops, has no chance against the man who steadily works his way to the other side. When the exhibits are forwarded, a certain quantity of stock ought to be forwarded, not only for the provision of what is likely to be wanted for sale in the cup, but in order to meet trade demand. Planters, knowing the excellence of their coffee, should *back it* from the outset. According to the confidence they display, the estimate of consumers is likely to be affected.



Another point has been raised. The wisdom of working through the Indian Tea Association has been questioned. It has been said that Coffee may not be afforded a fair chance. We think nothing of these remarks. In the first place, we believe in the integrity and good faith of the I. T. A. Commissioner and his staff. Secondly, it is so simple a matter for "Coffee" to make its own arrangements to lighten the labours of these gentlemen, and to send out a special representative whose duty it shall be to *push Coffee*. This would not be a very costly matter, and if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well. For that matter, there is no good reason why the selection of permanent agents or connections for Indian Coffee should be left to the Commissioner to the I. T. A. There are a number of well-known dealers in America who would probably be glad to take the business in hand, and follow up any success achieved at St. Louis. They would have experience to assist them, self-interest to urge them forward; and we cannot but think that it would be a comparatively easy matter to induce such dealers to put Indian Coffee on their lists and give it a little special attention. We would remark that even for the purposes of the St. Louis Exhibition the aid of a firm of roasters and grinders will have to be obtained, if Indian Coffee is to be successfully sold *in the cup*. From such help to a permanent arrangement is but a step, and it is a step that ought to be provided for with due foresight and caution. It has been said that the United Kingdom affords a sufficient market for India's finest Coffees. Possibly it does. What we want to see, however, is keen competition. Two buyers bidding against each other are preferable to one who has, and knows that he has, a monopoly. It is with our finest Coffee that we are most likely to open out the American market on terms satisfactory to ourselves, and it is to them, therefore, that the chief efforts should be directed in connection with the Exhibition at St. Louis. If medium qualities can also be sold, so much the better; but that can be seen to later, when the finer sorts have made their way.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### CINCHONA CULTURE IN INDIA AND JAVA.

Professor Verne, who was sent by the French Minister of Instruction to investigate the cinchona culture, mentions the following interesting facts in his report: The Indian plantations are found about 27° north latitude, 3,600 feet high, in a territory having temperature ranging between 28° and 85° F. The mechanical labour is performed by the natives, who receive from \$1 to \$1.70 per month, without food according to age and sex. The favourite species of cinchona is the *C. ledgeriana*. The plants are raised on mossy ground, sheltered from the winds one side by a hill and on the other side by thickets of bamboo, the young shoots being particularly susceptible to sudden changes of temperature. By the third year after planting, the tree is sufficiently grown to permit the removal of the bark, which grown on again three years without recourse to mossing operations. The same system is in vogue in Java, where, however, the variety of cinchona is not the English *C. ledgeriana* (Howard's) but

the *C. ledgeriana* of Moen, the latter being found to yield 9 per cent. of quinine; or, if only the trunk bark about a metre above the ground is chosen, it yields 14 per cent. of quinine. On the other hand, the English *C. ledgeriana* assays on an average 4 per cent. In Java the cultivation of the latter variety is abandoned; while *C. succirubra* planting is diminishing. In both the English and Javanese plantation a very large source of profit is the manufacture of quinine on the spot of small and defective pieces of bark, unfit for shipment. Particularly striking is the method of quinine extraction as practised in Java, it simply consisting of treating the powdered bark with a 5 per cent. solution of caustic soda, heated to 50° C. throwing this mechanically agitated mass into a reservoir containing Java petroleum of specific gravity .999, removing the petrolic solution of alkaloids by mechanical devices into a warm reservoir, into which is poured water acidulated with sulphuric acid. This watery layer is removed, evaporated and from the concentrated solution the quinine sulphate separates by crystallization, which it is not necessary to recrystallize, since it contains only one-half of 1 per cent. of cinchonine. Of such quinine 50,000 kilogrammes are exported annually to the United States. The special reason of the success of this quinine manufacture is due to the exceedingly clever mechanical devices used in the extraction.

#### THE COST PRICE OF SANTOS COFFEE.

[Specially translated from *De Indische Mercur*, 23-6-03.]

We have received the *Brazilian Review* issued at Rio de Janeiro and *Le Café*, a fortnightly periodical, the publication of which was commenced at Havre last month; both containing an estimate of the cost price of Santos Coffee.

As a rule, one can only attach value to a calculation of the cost price of such articles as coffee, sugar, tobacco, etc., which are grown under very variable conditions if the calculations are based on full and reliable data obtained from a large number of concerns. In our issues of 22nd July, 1902, and 26th May, 1903, we gave figures showing the cost of Java sugar and German beet sugar, and to these we can attach some value because the calculations were based on figures given by a comparatively large number of factories.

In the case of Santos coffee, however, such data are not available, neither in the *Brazilian Review* nor in *Le Café* are the sources from which the figures are obtained given, so that as regards the reliability of the data we are in the hands of the writers.

Mr. Lazerda, from whose pen several articles on coffee production have appeared, gives the following estimate in the *Brazilian Review* of the cost of production of Santos Coffee for a plantation of 100,000 trees:—

	Milréis.
Weeding ... ..	8,000
Crop ... ..	6,000
Transport, drying, and sorting ... ..	6 000
Carriage to railway station ... ..	600
Upkeep of machinery, carts, cattle, etc. ... ..	2,500
Management ... ..	4,000
Local taxes ... ..	0,240
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,000
	<hr/>
Milréis ... ..	28,340



An average estimated yield of 60 arrobas (of 14.68 kilos. each) gives 4,723 milréis as the cost of production per arroba.

Further charges are—		Milréis.
Freight on empty bags from Santos	...	00,125
Average freight per bag of coffee	...	15,200
Transit dues	...	00,375
Transport to Warehouse at Santos	...	00,100
Commission	...	00,200
Local tax at Santos	...	00,150
Classification of the coffee	...	03,400
Tax on jute packing	...	00,850
Export duty at 11 % on 4,200 milréis	...	06,930
Dock charges	...	00,750
Transport to Dock	...	01,000
		2,908
Add cost of production per arroba	...	4,723

Total cost price per arroba ... 7,631 Milréis,  
or per ½ kilo. f0.1625 (= 3.25 pence).

Even for "superior" Santos Coffee, which is worth about 10 per cent. more than "good average," a cost price of 16½ cents appears to us rather high. The present spot price for exporters at Santos would be 20 per cent. below cost of production.

The calculations given in *Le Café* are nearer the mark. Instead of reckoning the cost from the plantation the writer takes as his starting point the market price of good average Santos at Havre and works backwards.

The quotations of the following month for "good average" at Havre are—

Frs.	30	35	40	45	50
Corresponding to the following prices for "superior."					
Frs.	33	38	43	48	53
Which are equivalent to the following prices at Santos:—					
Milréis	3,525	4,150	4,800	5,425	6,075.

To arrive at the sum which the planter receives, the following deductions must be made:—Sale commission at Santos, 3 per cent. Transport to warehouse at Santos, milréis 100. Rail freight from the plantation 1 milréi per 10 kilos. These amount to—

Milréis	1,205	1,225	1,245	1,265	1,280.
So that the planter receives for coffee delivered at Santos—					
Milréis	2,320	2,925	3,555	4,160	4,795.

*Le Café* calculates the cost price per 10 kilos. on the plantation itself, taking an average yield of 67 arrobas (of 14.68 kilos. cash) per 1,000 sq. feet, as follows:—

		Milréis.
Upkeep	...	800 to 1,000
Crop	...	500 to 700
Transport to station	...	200
Drying, sorting, etc.	...	400
Management	...	400
Miscellaneous	...	500
Total Milréis		2,800 to 3,200
Average		3,000 milréis.

This calculation shows that a quotation of frs.35 at Havre for the following month will not cover the cost of production. Indeed frs.35 for good average at Havre is equal to 4.150 milréis for superior at Santos and to 2.925 on the plantation while the average cost to the planter is 3.000 milréis.

In comparison with the estimate of the *Brazilian Review*, the following shows the cost price, F.O.B., Santos according to *Le Café*.

		Milréis.
Cost of production, including carriage to rail per 10 kilo.	2,800	to 3,000
Transport to and expenses at Santos	...	1,200
Total		4,000 to 4,400

Taking the lower figure the cost per ½ kilo. is .125 guilder (= 2.5 pence); even this low cost price is not covered by the present sale price. In most cases the plantations in Brazil are worked with borrowed capital and the interest on crop advances is very high, amounting to from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., so that the cost price is actually higher than .125 guilder.

In neither periodical is any figure given for the cost of opening and of new extensions. Our readers are aware that a peculiar custom obtains in Brazil. The planters allow the settlers to open fresh ground each year. They charge them with the cost of cultivation and the planting of the young trees and in return the settlers have the privilege of growing maize and other crops among the young coffee trees for their exclusive benefit. In this way the proprietor can make new extensions at little cost and at the present time the laying out of new plantations is in progress.

*Le Café* takes as a basis a yield of 67 arrobas per 1,000 feet. On an average there is 1 tree per sq. foot (?), so that the yield per tree is 1 kilo. This estimate is surely not too high. In 1901-02 there were 530 million trees in the state of San Paulo over 4 years old. A yield of 1 kilo. per tree would be equal to a crop of 9 million bags while the actual yield was 10,175,000 bags.

According to the official estimate of the Department of Agriculture of San Paulo there were 15,828 coffee-planters employing about 300,000 labourers.

The capital invested in coffee in 1901-02 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture as follows:—

		Milréis.
Coffee over 4 years	...	1,050,000,000
Do. under 4 "	...	135,000,000
Machinery, etc.	...	240,000,000
Roads, etc.	...	300,000,000
Total		1,725,000,000
or 1,073,125,000 guilders,		£89,427,083.

It seems to us that this capital cost is over rather than under estimated. It is difficult to make out from these figures the amount of Capital introduced for the cultivation of coffee. However that may be the welfare of coffee cultivation must be considered one of the first conditions of the prosperity of Brazil, while it is of vital importance to San Paulo.

## INDIAN AND CHRISTMAS ISLAND PHOSPHATES.

The following circular has been issued by the Indian Tea Association (Calcutta):—

MEMO.—The subjoined correspondence is published for the information of members.

No. 1208 of 1903, dated Nagpur, C. P., the 16th July, 1903.  
From

J. W. MOLLISON, Esq., M.R.A.C., *Inspector-General of Agriculture in India.*

To  
THE SECRETARY, *Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.*

I have the honour to send herewith a copy of a letter from the Managing Director, Christmas Island Phosphate Company, Limited, which he addressed to the Director, Geological Survey of India, Calcutta. I also send a statement which compares the analyses of certain Indian Phosphatic Minerals with that of the Christmas Island Phosphate. These analyses of Indian Phosphates were recently made by the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India. The Trichinopoly



Phosphate nodules are obtainable in very large quantity, but are not very suitable for treatment with sulphuric acid owing to the high percentages of iron and alumina. These nodules can be collected at or near the surface in immense quantities and at trifling cost. Freight charges by road are at present heavy. The Hazirabag appatite is not available in large commercial quantities. It would appear that Christmas Island Phosphates can be landed in India at a moderate price and for the manufacture of Superphosphate are probably less costly than the indigenous minerals.

Copy of a letter dated London, 5th June, 1903, from the Managing Director, Christmas Island Phosphate Company, Limited, to the Director, Geological Survey of India, Calcutta.

I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 12th May last. With regard to Christmas Island Phosphate for India, I shall be glad to give you any details which may be of interest to you in this matter, and beg to give you herewith a full analyses of this article. The Phosphate of Lime varies from 80 to 85 per cent. It is shipped from Christmas Island as a raw material, and in an unground state. It is used principally by artificial fertilizer manufacturers, and is shipped largely to Japan, Australia, Germany, and Great Britain. The price c.i.f. Calcutta would be £2-10-0 per ton on the basis of 80 per cent., and for Bombay £2-12-6 per ton on the basis of 80 per cent. Phosphate of Lime.

Any further particulars which you may desire I shall be very pleased to afford.

*Statement comparing the results of analyses of the phosphates of different sources.*

CONSTITUENTS.	PERCENTAGE OF DIFFERENT CONSTITUENTS IN THE SAMPLES.			
	Appatite Ha- zirabag Mica Mine.	Trichinopoly Phosphate.	Christmas Island Phosphate.	
Moisture ...	0.37	1.62	0.74	
Organic Matter ...	...	2.71	2.80	
Lime ...	36.42	37.22	...	
Iron and Alumina ..	1.89	11.90	2.01	
Alkalies, etc. ...	3.00	7.76	...	
Phosphoric Acid ...	28.39	22.83	38.89	
Carbonic Acid ...	0.03	5.56	1.95	
Silica ...	29.90	10.40	0.10	
÷: Calcium Phosphate ...	61.98	49.84	84.90	
∴ Calcium Carbonate ...	...	12.62	4.43	

## THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

A deputation from the United Planters' Association of Southern India, Incorporated, recently waited upon His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and upon the Dewan, requesting the aid of the Mysore Government in efforts to get the coffee industry of Southern India and Mysore adequately represented at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, to be held at St. Louis next year. On a consideration of the present circumstances of the coffee industry in Mysore, and of the fact that the above Exhibition will afford a favourable opportunity for bringing the excellence of the Mysore product to the notice of the public in all parts of the world, the Government of His Highness have sanctioned the liberal donation of Rs.5,000, in response to the appeal made by the deputation.

Exhibits are to be arranged for through the medium of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, which is also to make special efforts in respect to Indian Tea. The U. P. A. S. I. is working in conjunction with the Indian Tea Association, and intends to provide exhibits of coffee, cardamoms, and pepper. It has also in special view the making of arrangements for pushing sales of these products in the United States, not only at the Exhibition or while this is in progress, but more particularly afterwards. It is hoped that the Exhibition will facilitate the creation of a demand, and that subsequent efforts will assure the permanency of American taste for Indian coffees. At its recent Annual Meeting, the Association voted Rs.10,000, out of its funds, for employment in connection with the above Exhibition, and with the help of the Madras Government and private subscriptions, it is hoped that at least Rs.25,000 will be made available.

## COFFEE NOTES.

**The Coffee Market.**—Coffee is languid all around except in the receipts thereof, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 28th ultimo. The speculative market has been almost stagnant excepting for yesterday, Monday, when considerable trading developed. There was extensive switching from August to the distant months, but the activity induced no improvement in prices worthy of note. March sold at 4.40 and September at 3.75. It will be seen rock-bottom prices prevail. The transactions are pitifully small but look large in these dull days.

In actual coffee there is no feature except the size of the Brazil receipts which promise all that predictions threatened. July will probably finish with receipts of nearly 1,500,000 bags, the 1,000,000 mark having been passed last week. It seems certain that the world's visible supply will have increased 750,000 bags on August 1. Brazil markets are reported firm and not below New York. It has been said for a long time that spot was cheaper in New York. Still, Brazil has sold its coffee at its own rates, which seems indicative that the Brazilians are shrewd enough to get the better of the buyers or that there is some falsification somewhere. Probably there is no hypnotism, and probably the Brazil coffee-planters manage still to find profit in coffee-growing. Prices in invocies at New York are unchanged at 4½c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5½ to 5¾c. for Rio No. 4, and 5½ to 6c. for Santos No. 4. Jobbing is likewise dull.

In mild coffee receipts continue full and there is some pressure to sell, consequently prices tend to weaken, but a steady undertone is noticed. Good Cucuta is 7½c.; three months ago it was 2 cents higher. East India coffees are unchanged.

\* \* \*

The hope of the Brazilian coffee-growers is, says the *Merchants' Review*, that the consumers will take the present big coffee crop off their hands before the price slumps materially. After the crop is out of their hands they won't care what happens. If in the meantime surprisingly firm advices come from Brazil, the grocery trade will do well to attach no importance to them. Coffee-growing has come to resemble "promoting" in one important respect, namely, the ever-present desire to unload a "good thing" on the public.



Messrs. Zerrenner, Bulow & Co., Santos, cable, "quality of the new crop promises well, only smaller bean." The bean of the new Rio crop is also small.

\* \* \*

Mail advices from Porto Rico bespeak a shortage there as probable in coffee. A drouth is prevalent, now several weeks in duration and working much damage to the coffee plantations. The extent of the injury remains to be seen.

\* \* \*

An estimate in certain coffee circles makes the yield of Brazil coffee by October 1, as 7,000,000 bags, and puts the entire world's visible supply on that date at 15,000,000 bags.

\* \* \*

**Coffee Legislation in Brazil.**—A despatch to the New York *Herald* from Rio de Janeiro says that Senator Alfredo Ellio has proposed the free transportation of coffee on railroads and suggested other projects for improving the situation of the planters. The representative of the Belgian syndicate has presented to the Government a scheme to increase the value of coffee, and he announces that the capital necessary to carry it into effect is available. He says the value of the crop is twenty million pounds. This sum, he proposes, shall be employed in buying the coffee stock in hand and in advancing eighty per cent. of the value of their crops to producers. In return the Syndicate asks the Government to suspend the tariff upon its importations

\* \* \*

**Various Import Taxes on Coffee.**—The following is a statement showing the import tax of different countries on coffee and their respective consumption *per capita*.

		Duty. U. S. Cur- rency, per lb. Cts.	Consump- tion per Capita. Lbs.
France:	From foreign countries ..	12 to 26	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
	From her own colonies ..	5	...
Italy	... ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Spain	... ..	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Portugal	... ..	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Austria	... ..	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Russia	... ..	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{8}$
Germany	... ..	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{3}{8}$
Norway	... ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
Great Britain	... ..	3	5 $\frac{5}{8}$
Denmark	... ..	2 $\frac{7}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sweden	... ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
Belgium	... ..	7 $\frac{7}{8}$	11
Switzerland...	... ..	5-16	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Holland	... ..	Free.	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
United States	... ..	Free.	11

\* \* \*

### Visible Supply of Coffee,

on August 1st

	1903. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1901. Tons.	1900. Tons.	1899. Tons.
Stocks eight European markets	434,600	378,550	244,700	223,350	227,900
to { afloat — Brazil ...	34,780	30,700	34,200	15,690	17,590
{ loading — do. ...	2,180	2,000	1,530	...	...
Europe { afloat — the East...	1,740	3,530	1,710	2,260	4,360
{ do. — U. S. A. ...	180	760	760	880	290
	473,480	415,540	282,900	242,180	250,140
Stocks U. S. of North-America	141,180	151,410	70,120	49,820	76,590
to { afloat — Brazil ...	32,000	24,410	29,820	10,120	22,060
{ loading — do. ...	2,000	5,060	3,880	...	...
U. S. A. { afloat — the East...	1,290	760	1,120	...	530
	649,950	597,180	387,840	302,120	349,320
Stocks in Rio ...	35,060	36,820	24,820	9,700	15,120
Do. Santos ...	51,530	48,240	38,940	28,650	34,700
Do. Bahia ...	2,530	2,760	2,760	650	820
Total	739,070	685,000	454,360	341,120	399,960
On July 1st	707,700	673,150	406,870	343,550	368,870

**"Plantation Roasted."**—The Milwaukee-Mexican Coffee Company, Milwaukee, Wis., has been granted an exemption of taxes for five years from the Republic of Mexico, and has effected an arrangement whereby all the coffee roasted by the company at its \$10,000 plant, on its Vera Cruz plantation, will be sealed and stamped by the Governor of the State of Vera Cruz.

The Milwaukee-Mexican Coffee Company proposes to grow coffee upon its plantations in the counties of Jalapa and Misantla, State of Vera Cruz, roast it on the plantation where grown, and then sell it direct to the consumer in the original Mexican package. The company will pack its product in fancy Mexican baskets. The housewife, by this new arrangement, will simply call for a package containing the number of pounds wanted, and it will be handed to her without the grocer weighing it out from a hundred-pound sack.

The plantations are under the management of Edward A. Sims, formerly assistant treasurer of Milwaukee County, Wis. Others interested in the company are Albert von Hoffman, H. S. Green, E. A. Conway, F. C. Bunde, J. W. Suetterle, L. J. Conway and A. V. Klefisch.

\* \* \*

**Coffee.**—Messrs. Branson & Co. (Limited), of Clapham, write to the *Grocer*:—A great outcry has been made about the falling-off of the consumption of coffee in this country! We herewith enclose circular we received this morning, thinking you might like to comment upon it in your paper. If such stuff as is suggested is retailed to the public under the name of coffee, it is no wonder the consumption of the genuine article diminishes!

[ENCLOSURE.]

Prospectus relating to the sale of British patent—(subject, A New Substitute for Coffee; inventor, Dr. A. Grünfeld).—Dr. Grünfeld, a well-known physician, has, after careful study, invented an exact and harmless substitute for coffee in the form of a liquid extract. The ingredients of the manufacture are extremely cheap, so that a very large percentage of profit should be made. Shortly described, the method of preparing the substitute is as follows:—"The ingredients are horse-chestnuts, sodium chloride, potash, sugar, and water. The horse-chestnuts are first roasted and then pulverised, water is added, and the mixture, after standing, is boiled, precipitated, and skimmed; the liquid is evaporated, and salt and sugar added in the prescribed manner and quantities. A small amount of potash is next mixed with result, after which a rectifying solution may be used. When prepared, the resulting mixture is kept hermetically sealed for some time, and is then ready for sale. This description is not sufficient instruction for making the substitute, and is only intended to give any prospective purchaser a good idea of the cost and ingredients. Small samples will be submitted, and if these are considered satisfactory, fuller particulars will gladly be given to any prospective buyer of the rights of manufacture and sale in Great Britain. It is submitted that this substitute is more wholesome, and has a finer aroma than the so-called coffee extracts now on the market, while its extreme cheapness should allow of a ready sale at a fair profit. Enquiries as to sale of this patent should be addressed to—," etc.

\* \* \*

**"Good Eating"** furnishes an antidote to the maudlin gibberish about the harmfulness of coffee, spread broadcast over the United States by the makers of a cereal mixture costing two to three cents per pound and foisted on a humbugged public at 20 to 25 cents.

This antidote is in the following statement:—

There is a wonderful amount of invigoration in a cup of good coffee. Taken at breakfast it keeps the energies to the right pitch for successful accomplishment. Taken after dinner it has a restful influence more soothing than anything else in the world.

Two things are essential, however, to secure a cup of good coffee. These are good cooking and good coffee. The first cannot fail, it



the directions given below are followed. The second depends upon the care with which the bean has been selected, the skill which blends the different varieties and the scientific knowledge that measures to the minute the time for roasting each kind requires.

The experts who have made our "Stuart Blend" famous have thoroughly mastered these points, and it is our proud boast that no other coffee can even approach it in flavour, fragrance and strength.

The finishing touch of a good dinner is good coffee; the appetizing part of a breakfast is good coffee. More comments emanate from the guests, as to its quality, than of anything else that is served.

### TEA NOTES.

**London Tea Market.**—Weekly special telegram dated 20th instant from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton to Colombo reports that the market generally is steady and that the market for good liquoring Pekoes are in improving demand, while the market for common Pekoes and Broken Pekoe shows a fractional advance. The price of fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6½d. (same as last week) and the average 7½d. (½d. up). The average for the same period last year was 6½. Renter reports that fine qualities of Ceylon tea command full rates. Fair Pekoe Souchong is quoted at 6d. (the same as last week) and the average for the week is 7½d. (½d. higher than last week). 24,000 packages of Ceylon tea were offered for sale and 23,000 disposed of. Indian tea:—Packages offered 26,000 and sold 24,000. Average price of Indian tea 8¼d. (½ of a penny higher than last week).

\* \* \*

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the tea auction at Calcutta on the 21st instant 22,458 packages were offered and 21,825 sold. The sale was a satisfactory one, finding buyers at better rates even than those ruling last week. This was especially noticeable in the case of all teas suitable for Russia, which were keenly competed for, and helped to stimulate the sale throughout. Lower classes of leaf teas were dearer, and medium and good grades firm at last week's rates. Darjeelings with quality and flavour were distinctly dearer, selling annas above valuations.

\* \* \*

**Tea in Australia.**—With light supplies business is somewhat restricted, but the demand, and especially for teas with quality, has been strong. Leaf Ceylon teas of all descriptions are in small supply, flavoury kinds being conspicuous by their absence. Fine Broken Pekoes have sold well. Private sales of Panyongs at 5d. to 6d. have been fair; and S.O.P. at 9d. to 14d. Buds particularly dull, and the demand has practically reached vanishing point.—Melbourne *Leader*, August 1.

\* \* \*

**Shipments from Calcutta.**—At a Meeting of the Calcutta Port Commissioners on the 10th August, 1903, it was resolved that a Special Committee be appointed to consider and report on the provisions of special facilities for direct shipment per steamers loading in the docks of teas brought by the Inland Vessel Companies.

\* \* \*

**Indian Exports.**—The Indian Tea Association publish the following figures:—Sailings to Great Britain from Calcutta in July, 1,611,835 lbs.; to Great Britain from Chittagong in July, 4,117,796 lbs.; to Great Britain from 1st April to 31st July including (Chittagong), 28,125,156 lbs.; to Australia and New Zealand in July, 91,631 lbs.;

to Australia and New Zealand from 1st April to 31st July, 121,116 lbs.; to America in July, 776,456 lbs.; to America from 1st April to 31st July, 1,047,325 lbs.; to other places in July, 1,491,012 lbs.; to other places from 1st April to 31st July, 2,545,859 lbs.; total sailing from 1st April to 31st July, 31,839,456 lbs.

\* \* \*

**Colombo Tea Sales.**—A good selection was offered on 19th instant, and the few invoices of finest teas met with the keenest competition and realised extreme prices. Common teas were steady and in demand, but otherwise the market was irregular, though prices were fairly good, particularly early in the sale—a dragging tendency being noticeable towards the end. Green teas were unchanged.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The market in tea may be said to be slow, and yet considerable is doing in a small way, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 28th ultimo. All this is quite in accordance with what might be expected at this time of the season. Inquiry is reported brisk in not a few instances, showing that stocks in the country are not so replete as some bears say. Diminishing canisters are beginning to give expression to their needs.

Abroad and at home the markets hold their own in prices. They are firm therefore. The expectations in general are for easier quotations in Japans, but there may be a disappointment. No weakening can hardly be expected in first crops, and it is said that a revision will have to be made in the estimate of the second crop, which it is now thought will prove less because of the large pickings induced by the high price first picking brought, so that growers sacrificed their plants, naturally. Canada so far has not been getting much of Japan tea, but expects in the next few weeks some large consignments ranging from 16 to 18c. and upwards, a price equal to the old level, and close to India and Ceylon greens.

New York has been a buyer in London of Congou teas of the better grades according to a report. Thus do we exchange our low-grade Congous, 50,000 packages of which London has bought from us since January 1. There is here as good Congou tea as London has got, but probably some importers failed in their purchases in the east, owing to the very large Russian purchases and so they have had recourse to London. Latest inside figures give London to June 26, 3,800,152 lbs. of black tea from Shanghai and the United States 1,887,775 lbs., against 2,573,000 lbs. in 1902. The tea in Hankow was said to be coming in slowly, with a demand for all grades up to good medium; only finest Ningchow was easier. Pingsueys on that date were reported falling off in style, and to the degree that many lines would not pass U. S. inspection. In Country Greens many Shanghai packs are reported as too common to pass in America.

\* \* \*

**Indian Tea in Persia.**—Though Major P. Sykes, H. M's Consul in the Kerman District of Persia, classes Indian tea among "necessities in Persian transitists," and says the new tariff was likely to affect the commodity less than would at first sign appear, he observes that most of the transit trade of both Kerman and Persian Baluchistan with Central Asia has been killed by opening Batum for the conveyance of tea to Bokhara. Tea was imported at Batum from the U. K. more than 25 years ago, and it would be interesting to know what changes in the places of distribution have occurred at Batum (and Poti) during that period.



**Japan Tea.**—Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., writing from Yokohama, July 2, say :

"Like first crop teas, second crop teas are a little earlier than usual in coming upon the market. Owing to dry weather during the flush, the leaf is short and the cup character a little earthy, but the prices paid by the interior merchants are long and from the point of view of the grower are heavenly. The country merchant has seen the avidity with which first crop teas were taken this year and remembers the extraordinary demand for second teas at advancing values last year, but forgets they were needed then to make good the deficiency of a very short first crop. Sales of his consignments on the Yokohama market have only been possible at a smart loss, which he regards as the result of artificial combinations on the part of buyers instead of natural causes, and on the slightest signs of any active business promptly puts prohibitory limits on his teas.

"An effort is being made by influential tea-men to effect an agreement among growers to cease picking August 1st, just after the best of third crop has been gathered. This is not for the purpose of maintaining prices, but for the ultimate good of the gardens. The steady deterioration in the quality of Japan teas noticed in the past five years is forcing the conviction that the gardens have been cropped too close. With the low prices following the period of commercial depression in 1893 and the advent of the U. S. duty a few years later, the acreage under tea cultivation rapidly diminished and when prices revived, close cropping began and quality has since then been worse every year. It will be two or three years before new gardens now being prepared will become producers. Faith in the success of an agreement to cease picking August 1st, is not very strong and fluctuates with the prices of low-grade teas."

From Kobe, July 1, the Japan Tea Exporting Co., Ltd., says :

"High-grade teas of the first crop leaf have nearly been exhausted, the stock now in the market consisting largely of finest and downward grades. Prices since our last report have declined by Y3 to Y4 per picul, the fall in value being particularly great for goods of medium and downward descriptions, which have now reached the level of prices ruling at the corresponding period last year. Such descriptions being not only cheaper here as compared with Yokohama, but low-grade teas being almost monopolised by the Kobe market, buyers seem to prefer the Kobe market to that of Yokohama for buying these descriptions.

"Transactions for the second crop leaf have been opened in Yokohama, but prices were very high; and though there has been a gradual decline, prices are still Y4 to Y5 higher as compared with last year. The quality, owing to the continued dry weather that has prevailed during the 'rainy season,' is not satisfactory. It is also reported that in some districts there has been damage—though to a small extent—by insects, and it is to be regretted that for the reasons already given the crop has not been as satisfactory as it was expected would be the case.

"Arrivals of the second crop leaf in Kobe have so far been small, but judging from what has already arrived, the quality does not appear very unsatisfactory. Purchases by one or two firms have been made at Y33 to Y40 per picul, which is Y2 to Y3 higher than last year. According to investigations made in various districts, the second crop this year is said to be an average one. The price of low-grade goods equal to the United States standard is expected to be about 16½ to 17 cents delivered in the United States."

The Central Tea Trades Association has issued a warning advising the general suspension of the picking of the tea leaf on and after July 31st. Whether this will actually be adopted or not, we cannot say; we will advise when we obtain definite information on the matter.

**China Tea.**—From Shanghai, June 26, Wisner & Company say :

"Black Teas:—Advices from Hankow dated the 22nd ultimo report a continued firm market, especially for lower grades. Total arrivals for 44 days are 565,587 half-chests against 581,694 half-chests in the same time last season. Only a few teas have so far been offered here; they include two 2nd crop Ningchows both of which point to these teas proving inferior to last season's. It is expected the 2nd crop will be of ample size.

"Green Teas:—Country teas.—One chop each of Soey Oan and Fychow has been offered, the price paid for the former and refused for the latter seems very high. No quantity of Country Teas is expected for some days. Pingsueys.—A considerable business has passed in these but the market has been a falling one since the 9th ultimo, on which date prices showing an advance of 5 taels over opening rates were recorded; this advance has all been lost and the market closes weak at slightly below opening prices. The quality of a good portion of these teas shows a small improvement on earliest offerings. Lines of Country Tea Hyson, Foong Mee and Chun Mee are selling at fancy prices viewed from the standpoint of former seasons."

Exports from Shanghai and Jangtsze ports this season are 1,966,340 lbs. black and 10,481,509 green for the U. S. and 231,865 lbs. black for Canada. Figures for the (U. S.) one year ago were 2,303,811 black and 906,508 green.

**Gloomy View held in Yokohama.**—Since its first appearance on the Yokohama market up to the 31st ultimo, the new tea of the season changed hands to the large amount of 8,130,800 catties, the quotation averaging 47.38 yen. This activity in the tea trade is said to be almost unprecedented on that market. The eager purchases made by many foreign firms may have been the causes of all this activity. But a gloomy prospect appears to be now before the tea trade in Yokohama for the remaining part of the year, for the advices from America continue, according to the *Nichi Nichi*, to say that the American tea market is dull and that Japanese tea is quoted there lower than in the Japanese markets.

On the other hand our tea-planters are now asking rather a high price for their produce, being probably encouraged by their recent success in their sales. At any rate, tea of the second season, which will shortly be brought to the market, will, it is expected, never sell so well as the tea of the present time has done thus far.—*Japan Times*.

**American Tea Market as Viewed in Yokohama.**—The New York representative of the Central Chamber of tea guilds reports under date of May 23, that the first consignment of Japanese new tea arrived at the city on May 18, and that transactions were immediately opened, though for small quantities of the goods. The high opening quotations for the new tea in Japan was quite unexpected in America. The tea of the first consignment was excellent in quality, so that it was all disposed of at tolerably good prices. The tea from Yokohama, the purchase price of which was 57 yen per picul, changed hands at 26.5 cents per pound, while that from Kobe purchased for 55 yen per picul, realized 34.5 cent. per pound. The quantity of the first consignment being, however, rather small, the good prices fetched by Japanese tea can by no means be held to foretell a good market in future. And yet it seems certain that good Japanese tea will be able to find a ready sale on the American market where tea of a better quality is now scarce. Reports from China and other countries join in telling of high quotations prevailing in these countries, so that it is expected that tea will this year command a rather high market price in America.—*Japan Times*.

A ruling by the U. S. Treasury Department of July 14 affects tea in passengers' baggage to the extent that hereafter collectors of customs are authorized to permit delivery of small packages of tea not exceeding 5 pounds, brought by passengers, without examination for purity, if the tea is for personal use and not merchandise nor for sale. Quantities in excess of this amount are to be reported for special instructions.

## NOTES.

**Oolong? Sir Thomas.**

The *Merchants' Review* cracks a quiet joke over the America Cup :—"If Sir Thomas Lipton lifts the cup he's sure to fill it full of tea. Oolong do you think you could keep the cup, Tommy?"

**Consumption.**

Says the *Merchants' Review* of New York :—Some Japanese are coming



here to find out, if they can, why we don't drink more Japan tea. And the Brazilian coffee-planters think it is mighty funny that we don't use a great deal more coffee.

#### Vanilla in Reunion.

Exports of Vanilla from Réunion during the last three years were as follows :—

1900	...	...	95 tons.
1901	...	...	50 "
1902	...	...	111 "

It is remarked that these supplies are exported through France, and that the export trade is almost entirely in German hands.

#### Necessaries.

Messrs. Clifton & Co., of Coimbatore, have favoured us with a copy of a comprehensive price-list of boots, shoes, harness, etc. The rapid way in which this business has developed from very modest beginnings, is the best testimony to the excellent work turned out by the firm. To planters good boots are necessities, and many of our readers have doubtless availed themselves of the opportunity of getting from Messrs. Clifton & Co. easy-fitting and good-wearing footgear at very reasonable prices. More will do so, as the firm's reputation becomes still more widely known.

#### Venezuelan Cocoa.

The following statistics of exports in 1902 and 1901 have been published :—

	1901.	1902.
La Guaira ... ..	70,085	111,627 bags.

Maracaibo exports are put at 193,562 kilos. last year against 114,061 in 1901; and Puerto Cabello exported 891 metric tons as against 456. Thus there was a large increase in exports. Moreover, the price of the article was sustained at a favourable figure in the European markets; in France 84 to 88 frs. (£3 6s. to £3 9s. 8d.) was obtained for the ordinary class of cocoa. The quality of the Rio Chico cocoa has lately commanded better prices owing to more careful methods of preparation for the market.

#### Tea and Coffee at Trieste.

The following are statistics of imports from the British Empire at this Port :—

		COFFEE.	
		1901.	1902.
From the U. K.	...	4,430	2,400 net tons.
" British India	...	94	114 "
		TEA.	
		1901.	1902.
From the U. K.	...	96	93 net tons.
" British India	...	42	33 "

These figures, it will be seen, related solely to imports from British India. In his report for 1902 Mr. Consul Churchill gives no clue to the extent of importation from Brazil and other foreign countries.

#### The Gardener's Highest Degree.

In the *World's Work* for July there is an interesting article on Kew Gardens, which deals with a side of its work little dreamt of by most visitors—viz., the training of young gardeners. Morning after morning small batches of young men are taken through the Museum. To the average visitor the Kew Museum is merely a dull collection of common-place looking objects. To the young gardener, who listens to the demonstrations of Mr. Hillier, the keeper

of the Museum, it shows the goal of the planter who plants a seed. For here he sees and handles the things that can be made out of the plants which he has been tending and bringing to maturity. What is the best broom for sweeping? He has seen the seed, tended the plant, and here is the broom. Does he aim at tea-planting? Here in the tea case he will find all manner of teas in balls or bricks as they come from China or Burmah. He sees the results of the back-bending labour of his profession, and realises that in the end the gardener is the purveyor to the human race. He, of course, learns much more besides before he gets the so-dearly-prized certificate, but most of those who read this will appreciate what the Museum work means to the tiller of the soil.

#### Fibres.

How many persons in India know that within the last few years there has been growing up with remarkable rapidity an export trade from Nepal in fibrous products to India? Four years ago this trade had already reached a value of over four lakhs; in 1902-03 it increased to over eleven lakhs. One of the articles comprised in the heading is jute, and the accounts of the Frontier Trade of India show that jute, the produce of Nepal, is being sent into Bengal in increasing quantities each year. In 1899-1900 the receipts amounted to 70,389 maunds, valued at Rs.2,80,341; in 1902-03 they had reached 149,518 maunds, valued at Rs.5,08,898. The remaining six lakhs (out of the eleven stated above), was the value of what are said to be "fibrous products raw (excluding jute)", and consist mostly of sabai grass sent into the United Provinces and Bengal for the manufacture of paper. Doubtless the railway lines now running into the Nepal terai at four points, give facilities for the jute and sabai trade. But might not the same advantages be turned to account for trade from this side? The total trade of Nepal with India amounts to a value of well over four crores of rupees, and the imports from that country into India have a recorded value about double that of the exports from India to Nepal.

#### Tea and Pensions.

Nelson & Co., the "Tea Pensioners," having now made a fine business for themselves by means of their unsound insurance scheme, have, says the *Financial Times*, at last taken fright at the Frankenstein which they had created, and they are beginning to modify certain features of the plan. No existing widow will now be allowed to earn £26 a year for life by the simple process of drinking her usual supply of tea for ten years. No longer may a young girl marry an aged man and be made rich for life by purchasing three stones of tea before the old fellow dies, for henceforth the wife must not be more than 15 years younger than the husband; but these alterations, although in the right direction, are only like pasting a piece of blotting paper over a leak, and will not appreciably delay the impending shipwreck. A useful summary of the whole position has just been published by Mr. A. T. Wilmot, in which he sets down in full detail the views which we had ourselves expressed on the subject, our article indeed being reproduced in the pamphlet, and the little book should be useful in opening the eyes of the public to the real position. Like too many others who have written on the subject, however, he lays undue weight on the "actuarial" deficiency which he claims to exceed £34,000,000, but as there are no binding contracts to pay the 10s. weekly, that sum cannot be held as being an actual "obligation."



## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

In Canada tea importers are advocating the necessity for a Canadian Tea Association. One of the leading Montreal men recently said: "What we need in this country is an Association such as has been formed in the United States, which would have something to say about the quality of tea allowed to come into Canada. At present this is the dumping ground for teas that are refused in other countries. What is not good enough for the United States, for instance, should not be good enough for Canada. But the standard here is low, and prices are kept down. Here there is no duty, and a great deal of cheap tea can come in."

The Central Tea Association of Japan has sent a special commission to the United States for the purpose of increasing the sale of Japan teas there.

The *Times* last week published a letter from a leading firm on the Anglo-Persian Tariff. In it the writer said: "It is not without surprise that we learn from the Commercial Convention between Great Britain and Persia, just issued by the Foreign Office, that in the same month in which the Russo-Persian Tariff was promulgated (February) a Convention was signed between our Minister in Teheran and the Persian Government which affixes the seal of our Government to the Russo-Persian Tariff. We have compared the schedules of the tariff affixed to the British Convention with the similar schedules in the Russian Convention; and we find that, with the exception of a considerable increase in the duty on tea imported into Persia from India, the two tariffs are word for word the same. It would seem to the lay observer that the obviously better course would have been to protest against the Russo-Persian Tariff, and to wait for a favourable opportunity of negotiating a commercial treaty with Persia, which would be fair to British trade. What need was there for us to place our sign manual upon a transaction concluded between two foreign Powers, the effect of which is to penalise our trade?" With reference to the increased duties payable under the new tariff the writer says: "In conclusion, permit us to call your attention to the increases on tea and opium, both of which articles are principally exported from or imported to India and other British possessions."

There has just been published a budget of facsimiles which begins with the Roll of Battle Abbey and ends with a reprint of the *Times* of June 22, 1815. Amongst these reprints is an issue of the *Commonwealth Gazette*, which records the death of the Lord Protector. It boasted five advertisements, including one of "That Excellent, and by all Physicians approved, China Drink, called by the Chineans 'Toha, by other Nations 'Tay, alias Tee, is sold at the Sultanness Head, a cophee house in Sweetings Rents by the Royal Exchange, London."

A correspondent of the *Grocer*, referring to the falling-off in the consumption of coffee, expresses the view that coffee substitutes may have something to do with the diminution. He calls attention to the following circular: "Prospectus relating to the sale of British patent—(subject, A New Substitute for Coffee; inventor, Dr. A. Grünfeld).—Dr. Grünfeld, a well-known physician, has, after careful study, invented an exact and harmless substitute for coffee in the form of a liquid extract. The ingredients of the manufacture are extremely cheap, so that a very large percentage of profit should be made. Shortly described, the method of preparing the substitute is as follows: "The ingredients are horse-chestnuts, sodium chloride, potash, sugar, and water. The horse-chestnuts are first roasted and then pulverised, water is added, and the mixture, after standing, is boiled, precipitated, and skimmed; the liquid is evaporated, and salt and sugar added in the prescribed manner and quantities. A small amount of potash is next mixed with result, after which a rectifying solution may be used. When prepared, the resulting mixture is kept hermetically sealed for some time, and is then ready for sale. This description is not sufficient instruction for making the substitute, and is only intended to give any prospective purchaser a good idea of the cost and ingredients. Small samples will be submitted, and if these are considered satisfactory, fuller particulars will

gladly be given to any prospective buyer of the rights of manufacture and sale in Great Britain. It is submitted that this substitute is more wholesome and has a finer aroma than the so-called coffee extracts now on the market, while its extreme cheapness should allow of a ready sale at a fair profit. Enquiries as to sale of this patent should be addressed to—" etc.

Referring to the coffee trade of the United States the correspondent of a contemporary says: "The United States Government report on May 30 shows that about 80 per cent. of the imports came from Brazil, 8 per cent. from other South American countries, 8.3 per cent. from Central America and Mexico, and less than 2 per cent. from the East Indies. And yet Java coffee and Mocha is sold in nearly all stores as the leading coffee. If Brazil could have the credit for the really fine coffee it sends from the Santos district, the planters would get more for their product. It is possible to buy for 6d. or 8d. coffee grown in Central America, Venezuela, or Brazil that will roast as well and make as fine a beverage as East India coffee, costing 10½d. or 1s."

At the Meeting of the Dumont Coffee Company held last week, Mr. H. K. Rutherford, the Chairman of the Company, stated that the results recorded in the last report were the worst the Company had experienced. Referring to the position of the Brazilian coffee industry, Mr. Rutherford said: "At no time I believe in the history of coffee have there been such vast interests at stake, the fate of which, I do not think it is an exaggeration to say, hang this year trembling in the balance. As naturally there must be many shareholders who do not follow the movements in what is known as the coffee crisis in Brazil, I cannot perhaps do better than begin by quoting the words of President Rodrigues Alves in his message to the country. He said in that Message, 'The fall of prices of our staple product is disheartening to producers whose labours are almost fruitless. . . . The various classes of farmers and planters who have so honourably and with such sacrifices faced the gravest and most terrible difficulties must find an echo, each and all of them, in my administration, whose chief aim it is to attenuate the effects of a situation so precarious'; and in the month of May last at the opening of Congress he said, 'The economical situation, though unsatisfactory, is not hopeless. It is due mainly to the helplessness of the coffee producers in face of over-production. Their concerted efforts to counteract some of the evil effects of the crisis deserve aid from the public powers.' These utterances, by the head of the State, will serve to show you the gravity of the situation arising from the over-production of coffee in Brazil. After the enormous crop of 1901 of 15½ million bags, leaving the world's visible supply at June 30, 1902, at 673,150 tons, came the unexpected crop of last year of 12½ million bags, against an estimated crop of 7 to 8 millions, and this left the world's visible supply at 707,700 tons, or an increase of 34,550 tons. Under such a weight it was impossible for markets to improve. So much now depends on the output of the current crop that it is being studied with the utmost anxiety by all who have interests in coffee. In many quarters it is predicted it will fall considerably short of the previous year, for the following reason. Over a large area severe frosts last August are said to have destroyed either temporarily or permanently many millions of trees. Further, the low price to which coffee has fallen, the difficulty of obtaining the means, not only to carry on the cultivation, but the harvesting of the crop, the handing over the growing crops to the colonists in lieu of arrears of wages, the exodus of labourers from the country, and the prohibition of the Italian Government to allow further emigration to the coffee districts, unless under special conditions, and the failure of many local district banks, must all tend to diminish production. The State Congress at San Paulo passed a measure providing for the destruction of 20 per cent. of the lower grades of coffee, but, the other States not agreeing, it has not been put into force. A tax, however, has been placed on the opening out of any new coffee lands, sufficiently heavy to make it prohibitory to do so, and the latest information we have is that the San Paulo Government are seriously considering making advances to planters to the extent of £1,200,000, if they can find means of raising the money. I mention these things to bring home to you the difficulties of the situation in Brazil. I do not, however, believe any of these artificial means of bolstering the industry will succeed in remedying the evils of over-production, and the future position



will have to be fought out by the law of the survival of the fittest." Mr. Rutherford went on to say, referring to the position of the Company: "I think there can be no reasonable doubt, if this Company can keep afloat during these trying times, and it comes about that considerable areas of coffee have to be abandoned in Brazil during this crisis, the Dumont Company, with its plantations, buildings, railway and machinery, all well cared for and up-to-date, may yet reap the fruit of its long patient waiting for the turn of the tide."

At the same Meeting Mr. Rucker, the broker of the Company, gave the following particulars about the supply and demand. He said in the course of his remarks: "Last year there was not any very great adverse divergency between the amount of coffee ground and the amount of coffee consumed. About 17,200,000 bags of coffee came into the United States and into Europe, and about 16,300,000 bags were delivered to the consumers. At the end of the season just over we found our visible supply only 575,000 bags bigger than at the commencement of the season. That is nothing, because if you calculate the percentage out on 16,300,000 bags, it is a mere adverse *plus* of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Neither do I think that this season—of course, that is more uncertain, but from what I hear and know I do not myself think there will be any very great adverse divergency between the amount of coffee grown and the amount of coffee consumed. But then, you will ask me why are things so bad? Why are prices at the lowest point ever known? Well, I can embody the answer in two phrases—visible supply and fear. 1895-6 was an epoch-making year in the history of coffee. Previously to that we had had ten years of unexampled prosperity. Coffee, which is worth to-day 24s., and which averaged last season some 26s. 8d., was worth then and was considered to be low at 50s. It had been up in the seventies; it had been as high as 84s. Now, what was our visible supply in 1895-6? It was 2,500,000 bags. The visible supply is our barometer; it is the weather gauge of the coffee market, and what do you think it is to-day? This shows the over-production. It is 11,800,000 bags. Every day 11,800,000 bags of coffee have to be carried, to be warehoused and to be financed, and that is a great weight round the throat of the coffee trade. But even that fact does not explain the present low prices. In order to explain that thoroughly you have to look at the word 'fear.' Two years ago the Brazils produced the huge crop of 15,500,000 bags, and possibly as much as 17,000,000 bags, on the trees, and the trade fears that what the Brazils have done once they may do again. Now, a great deal has happened since that bumper crop. As you have heard from your Chairman, there has been a drought and there has been frost, and my experience of life is that those things which are foreseen and generally expected very rarely happen in their entirety. It does not alarm me tremendously this fear of another huge crop. I doubt very much whether we will ever get it; but, of course, we may." Referring to the question of consumption he said: "Last year we delivered to the trade 16,300,000 bags of coffee. What do you think we delivered in 1895-6? 11,000,000 bags only. Just fancy what a tremendous increase in consumption; that is at the compound rate of 6 per cent. per annum; and if you carry that ordinary calculation on for another five years, in that time, unless prices advance enormously—because, after all, this increased consumption is not owing only to low prices, but greatly owing to the increase in population in coffee-consuming countries—I say that if you carry that calculation on you will find that we shall require 22,000,000 bags of coffee in five years' time, against 11,000,000 bags in 1895-6 —H. & C. Mail.

### CONGO INDIA-RUBBER.

Some facts regarding this subject are given in *Engineering à propos* of the indictment of the Congo State authorities in the House of Commons, as the gathering of the india-rubber is stated to have been attended with such dire forms of coercion. It is now some years since Sir H. M. Stanley prophesied the future greatness of the Congo lands as a source of rubber; but as regards competition, the rubber of Brazil and Bolivia is the product of altogether different trees from those which yield the rubber of Equatorial Africa, and

#### THE AFRICAN PRODUCT IS INFERIOR

in tensile strength, and quite unfitted to replace the Brazilian for many of the purposes to which this useful, and now well-nigh

indispensable, commodity is put. In East and West Africa the general rule is that the natives collect when, where, and how they like, and take their rubber to the merchant, receiving from him payment generally in kind. The native is a free agent; but this system does not seem to have commended itself to the owners of concessions in the Congo State, and the adoption of severe measures in order to enforce the collection of rubber by the natives was resorted to. No doubt, as a business speculation, the idea was in the happiest vein; a very large amount of rubber was collected and the ensuing regular shipments to Antwerp succeeded in making that port a very formidable rival to Liverpool and London as a distributing centre for this quality of rubber. The trees from which the bulk of the African rubber is obtained are various species of *Zandolphia*, which genus belongs to the order *Apocynaceae*. In order to obtain the rubber, a good deal of climbing is often necessitated on the part of the collectors. There is no doubt that, speaking generally of the various brands of rubber which come into the market from the Congo State,

#### A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IS NOTICEABLE

compared with the African qualities of twenty years ago. Not only is the open sophistication of the rubber with sand, dirt, and water almost unknown, but the coagulation of the rubber milk is now being carried out on lines which give a much less resinous product than used to be the case. Twenty years ago, continues *Engineering*, Congo ball-rubber from the lower reaches of the river used to contain 18 to 25 per cent. of resinous matter, while to-day from 4 to 8 per cent. is nearer the figure found. These figures, it should be said, refer to the washed and dried rubber, and not to the crude rubber as imported; this latter, according to contents of dirt and water, losing anything from 10 to 35 per cent. in going through the cleansing process in the factory. At the present time African rubber, such as is produced in the Congo State, finds much wider application than was the case some years ago. The incentive to its increased use may be traced in the high price to which Para rubber attained some four or five years ago, and the consequent necessity which entailed upon rubber manufacturers to cast about for means to tide over

#### THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY THE SITUATION.

It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the Congo authorities and concessionnaires have displayed a feeling akin to anxiety with regard to future profits, and have taken definite steps to insure a satisfactory situation in this respect. It has been enacted by the State that for every ton of rubber collected 150 new plants shall be set out. With regard to the business conducted in raw rubber at Antwerp, *Engineering* adds, that, while in 1890 it amounted to only 30 tons, this figure rose in 1895 to 531 tons, while successive years showed rapid increases to the neighbourhood of 6,000 tons in 1900.

### RUBBER IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

#### DR. YERSIN AS A PLANTER.

Dr. Yersin, the famous bacteriologist and plague expert, has started a rubber plantation at a place called Nha-Trang in French Indo-China. A description of the venture is given in a recent number of the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*. The facts stated shew that, about some five years ago, Dr. Yersin, the then Director of the Pasteur Institute at Nha-Trang, established a plantation of Heveas there, about 10 hectares or 25 acres in area. He as yet can form no opinion on the rubber returns from these trees, as he cannot tell with any accuracy for another two years what the returns will be, but certain bits of available information show the plantation to be fairly satisfactory. One of the objections that is raised against planting Heveas outside the basin of the Amazon river, is the periodical dry season which prevents the gathering of the latex and hinders the good growth of the tree. However, in the Nha-Trang region there is a very marked dry season for four months, but it agrees perfectly with the same season observed in Amazonia at Rio Beni. Three years' observations in these two places give an average of 125 days of rain per annum at Nha-Trang, and 121 days of rain per annum at Rio Beni; the mean annual temperature being 26 degrees C. at Nha-Trang, and 25.7 degrees C. at Rio Beni. Dr. Yersin finds that his trees with an average growth in circumference of 10 millimetres (a millimetre is .039 inch) per annum, appear to be behind those of



Ceylon plantations by a year, and two years behind those of Malaya. But the most important factor is the soil; it should be low-lying, even swampy, and rich in alluvials; the sub-soil should be clay to retain moisture round the roots. These conditions are found more or less in the Nha-Trang Valley. It is Dr. Yersin's experience that the planting of Hevea in French Indo-China will be a success provided there is judicious choice in soil and climate, and attentive selection of individual trees. Ficus can be worked more quickly, it is true, but the product is undoubtedly inferior to that of Hevea in quality. Gutta is met within the forests of the country, so it is reported, and rubber vines abound, but all is left to native enterprise with its wasteful methods.—*Straits Times*, August 12th.

### RUBBER PLANTING IN ASSAM.

Considerable interest is at present being shown in the planting of rubber on Estates in Assam, though it appears as if planters had not fully realised the enormous profitableness of the undertaking. To say that the venture is very much more paying than tea-growing or coffee-growing would perhaps be saying too much at once, but that it compares more than favourably with either of these two occupations cannot be doubted for a moment. For example in one particular only it will be realised how favourably is the comparison and that is that the rubber industry can never suffer from over-production when one comes to consider the enormous and still daily growing demand for his material. To every manufacture of the present day rubber in one form and another seems to be necessary. The commonest West African rubber fetches £200 per ton at home while the Pará Rubber of South America reaches the ruling price of £400 a ton. About two years ago the Government of India, obviously foreseeing the advantages accruing from the plantation and production of rubber, started the cultivation of Pará rubber in the Southern extremity of Lower Burma known as Mergui and also on the adjacent King Island. A year prior to the action of Government, however, private enterprise had also launched into the trade. In 1899 a Yorkshireman (Mr. W. S. Todd) living at Amherst, near Moulmein, started a plantation of Pará rubber and has now fifty acres fully planted with 14,009 trees which even at this early stage have developed splendidly and give great promise of bringing Mr. Todd, in another five years, a very ample return. So that it is estimated that when all the plants in Burma begin to yield Europe will receive a good supply of nearly pure rubber which will only lose about one per cent. in the washing. This has been proved by samples recently sent home of cultivated rubber both from Ceylon and the Straits Settlements.

The *Hevea Brasiliensis*, however, is not the only variety of rubber that has been introduced into Burma. The seeds of the *Castilloa Elastica*, the variety now planted on a large scale in Mexico have been successfully introduced into Burma by Mr. Todd who imported the seed direct from San Salvador and Mexico. Some

of these seeds were afterwards forwarded by this gentleman to Samoa in the South Seas and are reported to have arrived there in good condition. This latter fact is all the more important considering that this seed loses its vitality very quickly. Its transmission, therefore, from one place to another must be accomplished as rapidly as possible, though if carefully packed it is possible for it to travel in good condition for a period of three months. This year there is a considerable demand for this seed in Ceylon as it has been found that it thrives on a wider range of country and climate than the Pará plant. These latter considerations naturally make for the popularity of this seed in India where conditions and country are so varying. That there is money in rubber planting there can be no doubt and we are so far informed that the country in North Bengal appears to be specially adapted for rubber cultivation so that private enterprise if not Government interest should at least be aroused and that the results will be satisfactory will be the hope of India's wellwishers since India as a country and not merely private enterprise will benefit by this industry.—*Englishman*.

### THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

#### ADVERTISING WANTED.

For years past it has been the cry of the China exporter that what was once the staple trade of the country is in a state of decline. In other directions, the export trade of China has been increasing by leaps and bounds, but when it comes to the tea trade nothing but retrogression is apparent. For this state of affairs the Chinese themselves are to blame. Their teas cannot, absolutely, be surpassed by those of any country under the sun. But the Chinese in their conservatism, will not conform to the modern ideas as regards advertisement. Whereas the tea-planters of Ceylon and India literally flood Europe and America with advertisement leaflets, setting forth the excellencies of the teas grown by them, the Chinese do not advertise at all. Indeed, they work under this disadvantage, that not only do their rivals of the nearer East advertise their own wares, but they lose no opportunity that offers to decry their neighbours' goods. Everybody, no doubt, has at one time or another seen the handbills which are so freely distributed in European countries purporting to show the vast difference in the methods of tea-preparing as followed by the Chinese and the Hindus and Singhalese. Of course, the Chinese always suffer in comparison. But when one looks into the matter and sees how actually the Chinese tea-preparers do their work, one cannot have a feeling of chagrin that they lack in the matter of advertisement; the writer has seen the making of tea carried on in other countries, and nowhere has he seen more care used in the preparation of the leaf than in China. The great argument used by the people who make their prosperity by decrying China tea is that the preparation of the tea is characterised by methods of operation that are dirty. There never was a greater fallacy propounded. The methods

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followed by the Chinese are absolutely as clean as the most fastidious could desire. The Chinese are naturally a fastidious race themselves, and in nothing are they more particular than in the way in which their tea is prepared. There has been lately started here a society which aims at the publishing abroad of the qualities of the China plant, and this is an encouraging sign of the times; but the matter will require to be even more widely published before the old trade of China comes back to the position that it formerly held, and which it is quite able to hold yet if only the China merchant and grower were more cognisant of modern methods of making known to the world at large the qualities of the stuff in which they are ready to trade.—*Singapore Free Press.*

### A TRUE STORY.

England is a long way off and fifty-three years is rather far in the past; still there are a few people among us able to recall what the old country was like in 1850, the year of the incident to be related.

At that time there lived in a detached-cottage near an English cathedral city a very eccentric bachelor. He had formerly been wealthy; but having dissipated the greater part of his fortune, he went to the other extreme, and not only became a teetotaller but almost denied himself the necessities of life. For years he kept himself a prisoner in his cottage, his only companions being two ferocious bull dogs named Beer and Whisky.


Two tramps, who chanced to hear that this singular recluse was very well off, and that he was never without beer and whisky, resolved to rob him. Accordingly they one night broke into the lonely man's cottage, and immediately discovered that the Beer and Whisky therein were of quite different brands than they had expected to find. One of the tramps, fleeing in mad terror from the dogs, fell into a mill stream and was drowned. His companion, badly bitten, just managed to climb a tall fence; but fell over it and fractured his skull, so that he died the next day.

The incident caused much excitement at the time, and it had scarcely subsided when the local shopkeeper reported that the only

answer he could obtain to his knocking was the growls of Beer and Whisky; whereupon the police broke into the cottage and discovered the old man—dead. The inquest was remarkable for a dispute which it occasioned between two doctors. One maintained that death was the result of fright at the recent attempted robbery; the other, that deceased died from chronic indigestion brought about by improper diet and want of exercise, he not having been outside his cottage for eighteen years. The discussion was taken up by the giants of the medical profession, and ably debated, the conclusion reached being that indigestion is a disease arising from infinitely numerous causes, and itself productive of complaints hardly less numerous. But it was not then known (as it has been now for thirty-five years) that indigestion has one sure cure, *viz.*, Seigel's Syrup.

Mr. H. C. Blackie, of Post Office Chambers, Auckland, N. Z., has not kept within his house for eighteen years. On the contrary, he is a traveller and knows the world well. Writing on 16th March, 1903, Mr. Blackie observes: "For years I was a martyr to indigestion and flatulence. Wind used to press on the valve of my heart to such an alarming degree that on two occasions I fainted on the platform when publicly speaking. Dietary and medicinal treatment failed utterly until, on the recommendation of a Professor at the Working Men's College, Melbourne, I tried Mother Seigel's Syrup. By taking it regularly after each meal I very soon found relief, and have ever since been able to enjoy all foods without inconvenience. My cure was effected about four years ago, when I had consumed from six to eight bottles; but one bottle was sufficient to afford me relief. I have never ceased to praise the virtues of Seigel's Syrup in the Colonies I visit as commercial traveller, merely in gratitude for the great benefit derived from it—for I have no business connection whatever with its proprietors. What I now say is quite unsolicited. Certainly there is no other such potent and easy remedy for all forms of indigestion." Such is the testimony of an intelligent and experienced man. Of indigestion it may be said, as was said of fame, some inherit it, some achieve it, and some have it thrust upon them (as in the case of persons compelled to lead a sedentary life); but *all* may eradicate it by following the example of Mr. Blackie.

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

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Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1903.

[No. 35.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 11th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

September 2nd.—Weather—The weather is clearing a bit now, and sun appears at intervals. Works—Planting is generally finished. Weeding and getting estates clean. Crop prospects—Moderate. Health—round Saklaspur very poor. Labour—Plenty. Interesting item—3rd class powers have been given to the present temporary amildar for one month.

#### DISEASED PEPPER.

WE GIVE elsewhere the full text of the official report of Mr. C. A. BARBER, M.A., F.L.S., Government Botanist, Madras, on his investigations in respect to disease among pepper plants in the Wynaad. In his covering letter to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Mr. BARBER says:—"It would appear that the pepper plantations generally are not in at all a satisfactory state. They are thoroughly diseased both in the Wynaad and in the low country of Malabar. The only suggestion at this stage of the investigation, besides the more careful selection of cuttings, is to introduce vitality into the cultivated race by a series of seminal crosses. This is a difficult piece of work and will require much time and care in selection both of parents and offspring." The difficulty referred to is greatly enhanced by the fact that there is so much so-called cultivation of pepper by Natives of India. The simple fact appears to be, that, under the charge of Europeans and Indians alike, Pepper

has "grewed" as TOPSY did, and the result has been an alarming spread of disease. Mr. BARBER states that it is proposed to continue the study of the pepper vine in his office as time permits, and he thinks that a short visit to North Mysore plantations is likely to lead to useful results. He then makes the following significant remarks:—"The pepper vines appear to differ materially in this tract" (he writes from Madras but evidently refers to Wynaad and Malabar). "from those I have hitherto examined; in that they are purely jungle kinds. Elsewhere the jungle kinds have been found to be worthless, but the very high price obtained for the North Mysore pepper points to there being a different species of the plant growing there. This is a fact of considerable importance in view of any possible crossing operations." Permission has been given to Mr. BARBER to arrange a visit to North Mysore at such a time as will not interfere with the ordinary work of his office.

Quite apart from the definite subject with which they deal these remarks are of very great importance. The European planter in India should adopt as his motto "Thorough." In regard to quality his cry should ever be "Excelsior." During the last few years lamentable proofs have been forthcoming that there has been neglect in regard to the maintenance of a high standard of quality in regard to Tea, Coffee, Pepper, and Cinchona. During still more recent years an improvement has been noticeable in respect to three of these products, and Pepper has at last begun to receive a fuller share of appreciation. In every instance, however, this appreciation has been the result of what the planter will probably term, "misfortune." One thing or another has caused him, through the medium of a strong appeal to his purse, to realise that his staple product has been losing ground in the race with rivals. The lesson thus taught should not have to be taught to him again and again. It is a bitter lesson of the kind that leaves an unpleasant taste behind, and should keep the strings of memory vibrant. When once the planter descends to the level of sowing and then waiting until he can gather in his crops, he reaches a plane upon which he cannot compete with the Indian cultivator, whose wants are less, his



patience greater, his indifference quite as great, so long as there is a livelihood to be had. A livelihood for the Indian is not one for the European; and it is only by superiority of culture that the latter can hold his own if he enters into direct competition with the former. In pepper cultivation he must do so, to a very large extent, though he has, of course, other rivals as well. What is obviously needed is, not that he should grow pepper, but that he should lay himself out to produce the very best pepper he can, and to conduct his cultivation according to scientific principles.

Mr. BARBER's report is far from being conclusive as to the causes of diseases among pepper vines. Enough is said, however, to show that these diseases are widespread. Either they are contagious or the same causes have been at work throughout large areas. It is quite evident that he is of opinion that the stage when mere cultural operations will bring relief has been passed. Well, when it comes to infusing new vigour into the stock by seminal reproduction the European should always have the advantage; but his progress will, in many cases, be hampered by the proximity of Pepper that receives no special care, that suffers from disease, and that is likely to convey this disease to neighbouring plantations. These are points that must be fully considered, if any real good is to result from investigation and experiments. Here and there a planter may be so favourably situated as to be able to regard with unconcern the condition of his neighbours' crops, but the general rule is that where disease is widespread the remedies applied must be applied widely, not simply within narrow areas. To all growers of pepper we commend a study of Mr. BARBER's report. It is one that demands more than simple perusal. It is one that calls for a united effort at improved methods of cultivation and improved methods of selecting seeds and seedlings, and efforts to improve the strain of the product cultivated. Mr. BARBER's suggestion as to cross-fertilization will certainly involve trouble if it be put into application with any approach to thoroughness, but there can be no question that it is one that bids fair to provide, in time, a remedy for much of the evil from which pepper cultivation in the Wynaad is now suffering.

#### FORMOSA TEA.

There was a large increase in the export of tea during the year 1902 as compared with that of the year 1901. Oolongs reached a total of £652,241 or an increase of £268,830 on the export of the preceding year. Pouchongs decreased by some £2,500 and there was a small export of tea dust to Japan amounting to £1,308 in value.

The following notes of the tea season of 1902-03, the figures for which necessarily do not tally with the export returns closing on December 31, were kindly furnished to the British Consul by one of the local firms.

The total export of Oolong tea for the season 1902-03 amounted to about 474,000 half-chests, against 403,000 half-chests for the previous season, thus showing an increase of 71,000 half-chests. Of this total, 428,700 half-chests were shipped *via* Amoy, 13,600 half-chests *via* Kobe for transshipment to the United States, and 31,500 half-chests direct to

the United States from Kelung *via* Suez. This is the first time that teas have been shipped direct to the United States from Kelung, and accounts for the falling off of the shipments to Kobe in Japan.

The crop, taken all through, must be described as inferior to that of the previous year, with the exception, perhaps, of the Spring arrivals, which showed good character, especially "in cup." Owing, however, to the strong demand from the United States coupled with the lowness of exchange, teas sold readily.

Buying commenced in Daitotei (Twatutia) at the beginning of May, *i.e.* nearly a month earlier than in the previous season, and with the certain knowledge of the removal of the tea duty in the United States of America on January 1, 1903, it was difficult to predict what would be the result of the market.

This, however, was never in doubt after buying commenced, as, owing to heavy purchases by some houses, the market advanced by leaps and bounds, and finally touched prices which have not been seen for years, and the market may be said to have never shown the slightest weakness. In fact, it is doubtful whether, "quality for price" it was not higher at the end of the season than at any other period.

With the expectation of the small direct shipment of 31,600 half-chests from Kelung to the United States, already mentioned, and the small lot which went *via* Japan, the whole export went *via* Amoy to the United States and London, the latter taking the usual requirement of about 10,000 half-chests.

Pouchong teas showed a decrease of 12,600 half-chests, as against the export of the previous season, which is probably due, in a large degree, to the high prices paid for Oolongs forcing Pouchongs out of the market.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### PEPPER-VINE DISEASE.

##### GOVERNMENT BOTANIST'S REPORT.

The latest report by Mr. C. A. Barber, Government Botanist, Madras, on the Pepper-Vine Disease that he has investigated in Wynaad, is in the form of a letter to the Honorary Secretary, South Wynaad Planters' Association, South Wynaad, dated Camp, Tellicherry, 9th June, 1903, No. 432.

Mr. Barber remarks:—

I have the honour to forward the following remarks in continuation of my letter of 22nd January last.

I have just concluded a second short visit to the pepper-growing districts, having this time spent some days in examining the gardens in the Kottayam taluk of the Malabar district, the chief pepper-producing area of the Presidency. I have thus been able to compare the Wynaad plantations with those of the plains, and I trust that the conclusions I have arrived at will be of greater value on that account. Before making a full examination of the specimens collected, I have decided, as before, to report progress, trusting that those interested in the cultivation will continue the investigation, while I am engaged on other matters. I do not at



all wish it to be understood that the present letter closes my share in the work of resuscitating the industry, and I shall be glad to correspond with any who wish to do so on the subject.

The vines in the Wynaad are suffering from a number of diseases rather than from one alone. I have at present examined three of these, but I have no doubt that if my search had extended further afield, fresh forms would have been met with. I do not here allude to the many minor insect and other attacks upon the leaves, stems and fruits, since the majority of these merely indicate an unhealthy condition, while others are the natural concomitant of ordinary decay.

The three diseases to which I refer may be called, "Canker" for want of a better name, "Eelworm" and "Fungus hyphae in the vessels."

(1) **Canker**.—I have already alluded to this disease. Since my last letter, I have examined a large series of specimens under the microscope and have not met with any organism which could cause this condition. The development of cankerous growths is a marked character of the pepper vine. The tissues are soft and easily injured. The slightest scratch will produce a small "sore" on the plant's surface. This is the case in both the wild and cultivated plants, whether healthy or not. But they differ in the following respect. Whereas the wild vine quickly and surely cuts off the dead cells by cork formation and thereby stops the wound; the cultivated plants which I have had under observation produce masses of corky tissues which in their turn become diseased, so that from a comparatively inconspicuous cause great cankerous growths are formed.

This readiness to form cankers in all its parts appears to me to indicate an unnatural condition in the pepper plant, possibly a lack of vitality in the cells. As would be expected, the place where the cankers are most frequently and injuriously formed is at the collar, and allusion to this fact has been made before.

A particular case of cankerous growths has been met with in my recent tour in the Wynaad. In this, the whole plant above ground was found to be bursting out in corky eruptions. I have not met with this disease in many places, but should recommend its being carefully watched. I have not yet had the opportunity of properly examining the tissues, but in the few sections I cut, mites were found to be present, and they may possibly be the cause of the out growths.

(2) A serious disease is caused by *Heterodera radiculicola*, the **root eelworm**. These are usually more or less local in their distribution, but they have the power in congenial surroundings of such enormous increase, that the holes in which they are found should be at least temporarily abandoned. Eelworms attack a great number of plants, in many cases without any very great harm being done. But the perfectly enormous wounds and gall-like swellings produced by them in the pepper plant are a strong argument in favour of the view of effeteness advanced above. I may say that I have never seen such a remarkable series of tumours in plant tissues as those lately met with in the infected plants in the Wynaad. When the old tissues have decayed for a sufficient time it is no longer easy to detect the eelworm remains, but some at least of the cankers referred to above have been proved to be the result of eelworm attack in the first instance. In my former letter I reported having met with these parasites on the way from Pudupadi to Calicut. In one of these plains' gardens there had been 20

vines. Five died last year, five are moribund, while the remaining ten are attacked. I have met with the same disease in Tellicherry, but was not able to do much digging about the roots because of the grudging attitude of the owners of the small gardens.

It would be wise, when an attack of this sort is met with, to carefully collect all the nodules formed on the roots and underground stems and to burn them. The hole should on no account be planted again for several years. As will be seen from the accompanying pamphlet on this pest, there is very little to be done to get rid of it, once it has got a firm hold of any particular tract of land. It might be worth while, after all the pepper roots have been destroyed, to try the "trapping" experiments which have sometimes proved successful elsewhere. I have noted the "goat-weed," *Ageratum conyzoides*, as a particular favourite of this pest. All that will have to be done is to plant the goat-weed in the abandoned hole. After a while it is probable that the great bulk of the eelworms will be collected in its roots when it may be pulled up and destroyed. This experiment, repeated once or twice, would probably clear the eelworms out, and at any rate indicate their relative abundance. It is obvious that a perennial, like the pepper plant, will have little chance, once the pest has obtained a firm footing, and cuttings should on no account be taken from near the ground in such cases.

(3) **Hyphae in the vessels**.—This disease is of a very puzzling nature. In the first place, there seems to be little connection between the presence of the hyphae and visible "sickness" on the part of the plant. Secondly, no fructification has been found which can be attributed to it. Lastly, it is present in every part of the affected plant from the youngest root to the smallest shoot, always being confined to the vessels of the fibrovascular bundles.

I have examined about 100 vines for it under the microscope. My experience has been that, if I did not meet with the hyphae in the first section cut, repeated sections from other parts did not reveal it. On the other hand, once found, no section taken from any part of the plant was without it.

Such are the characters of this fungus. I have not been able to form an opinion as to its point of entrance, but rather incline to the view that it has been handed on from parent to daughter for many generations. I have traced it from one standard to the next, through the "mound" and across the intervening space, no part of the "runner" being without it.

About 50 vines were examined for it in the Wynaad and it was found in about 15. The case was different in the plains. Plants collected at intervals over 15 miles inland from Tellicherry almost always showed it at once. The exact figures are as follows:—Fifty plants were examined. One of these was remarkably healthy-looking plant: another was an old plant on its last legs, but unfortunately only a very little bit of it was available. I did not find the hyphae in these two plants, but it was abundant in every other case. I have no hesitation in affirming that the fungus is the same in both localities, and it is at once evident that we have to do with a disease introduced from the plains to the Wynaad. I regard this parasite as a serious fungus disease which accounts for many deaths in plants of all ages, while in those that survive for a number of years the crops are seriously diminished.

The presence of a hostile organism inside the plant cannot be looked upon with equanimity. As I noted above the hyphae are entirely confined to the vessels of the fibrovascular



bundles probably obtaining their food by haustoria or suckers, through the pits in the walls from the neighbouring starch-filled parenchyma. When the tissues die, they become permeated in all directions by the hyphae, which probably also hasten destruction.

It is unwise to run the risk of planting cuttings from vines infested by this fungus. It is at once observable under the low power of the microscope and the shoots of a vine ought to be examined for the hyphae before planting cuttings from it.

The exudation of gum into the vessels near diseased or injured parts is another marked character of the pepper plant. While I was examining the cankerous growths in the stems at the collar, I was struck by the frequent presence of coloured "gum" in the vessels, and it occurred to me that we might have to do with a case of "gummosis" of the tissues, possibly caused by bacteria. On further study, however, I think it more probable that it is the means adopted by the pepper vine, just as thylosis in the sandalwood and other plants, to close the avenues whereby parasites might enter the tissues where they had been laid bare. The gumming of the vessels occurs in all the vines I have examined, both cultivated and "jungle," in full health or in the last stages of disease.

The readiness with which the cultivated pepper vines form cankerous growths from what seem to be insufficient causes as compared with their wild relatives, the case with which they succumb to various forms of disease, and the frequent dying out of even young vines for no apparent reason have led me to regard the vines under cultivation, on a whole, as lacking in vitality. They are not in robust condition, as is almost always the case with cultivated plants at some portion of their career. Owing to the complete lack of knowledge both in the plains and on the hills as to the needs of the pepper plant, it is difficult to assign any definite reason for this.

I make some suggestions as to the possible causes, but as this part of the subject is based on such observations as the planters can make much better than I, I do so with some diffidence. The pepper cultivation has been extended very largely to "worn-out coffee lands", and such I take are practically bare of humus, presumably one of the pepper plant's greatest needs.

A low country species of pepper has been introduced to a hilly region where the climate is very different to what it was accustomed to. And here we must remember that there are many species of pepper in Southern India, and these, like other plants, require different conditions of climate and locality. It is not then admissible to argue from the presence of "jungle pepper" around the lotes that the cultivated pepper is in its normal conditions. I have a photograph of a most excellent pepper vine from Ootacamund at an elevation of 7,400 feet, but no one would, I take it, recommend the planting of pepper at that elevation on this account.

Connected doubtless with this change of climate, the pepper vines of the Wynaad are very different from their ancestors in the plains. The vines in the Wynaad are, as a rule, far bigger and more luxuriant, and the yield of pepper is probably much greater per vine although I have no definite data to go upon. This of itself is exhausting, and likely, with insufficient food material, to work the plants out. But there is yet another aspect which indeed strikes me still more forcibly.

The pepper vine in the plains is a deciduous plant while that on the hills is evergreen. This is a strong way of putting it. There are all stages between these two extremes,

especially in the plains. It is none the less the habit of the vines in the low country to cast a very much larger proportion of their leaves in the dry weather than do those in the Wynaad. I have seen a very large vine without a single old leaf left, and the young leaves of the succeeding flush were very small and inconspicuous. I have, it is true, been led to connect these extreme cases with the attacks of the fungus hyphae already alluded to. None the less, the vines all over the plains are far more deciduous, and it may well be that this absence of a period of rest, so essential to many species of plants, may have something to do with the present enfeebled condition of the vines.

I have been again and again told that "the vines in the plains don't die out like this," "there is no disease in the plains' gardens," and so on. This is a very erroneous way of putting things. Deaths occur by hundreds in the plains. And not only in old vines, but often a whole set of young plants go out. This does not, however, concern the natives. In the case of the older plants, the death is certainly less dramatic than the sudden collapse of a fine healthy plant. But the plant appears to become more and more deciduous, the flushing less and less marked, so that for several years before death the tree is scored off the roll of active producers. As regards the younger plants it is universally recognised that their arrival at the age of bearing is always a matter of some doubt. The owners of gardens in the plains, then, are quite accustomed to the death of their vines and are satisfied with a much more precarious crop than the more exacting European planter.

Another point to be considered with regard to the young vines is that it is unfair to compare those taken as cuttings from moribund parents with those from healthy ones. And it may well be that much of the "infant mortality" is due to the attempt to prolong the life of a worn out vine. The struggle is continued for a short period and the final collapse merely postponed for a few years.

The treatment of the vines is radically different in some respects in the plains from that in the hills. For instance, the vines are ruthlessly exposed to the sun for the whole of the hot weather in the plains, while the surface of the ground is as carefully protected by cut leafy branches from the effect of the sun "on the roots" which they know to be so injurious. There is no trace of a "mound" at the base of the standard in the country I have examined around Tellicherry, and I cannot help thinking that it would be better to encourage a free spreading of the roots than their collection in a mound of earth which may become a hotbed of disease. I have already adverted to the importance of keeping this mound in good mechanical condition and protected from the sun. Of course absolute drainage is necessary for the pepper plant, but, if to obtain this it is necessary to build the mound, I should seriously question the suitability of such a place for pepper at all.

A more careful study of the plains' methods would doubtless bring other points to notice which might seriously engage the attention of those interested in the pepper cultivation.

The conclusions arrived at, then, at this stage of the investigation are that the pepper-vines, both in the plains and in the hills, are suffering from a number of diseases. The diseases in the plains are probably of long standing, so that no great and sudden diminution in the crops need be feared. On the other hand with more care there might be a large increase.



The diseases in the Wynaad will probably be on the increase for some time to come. It has been suggested that the recent abnormal seasons have been responsible for the great increase in the death-rate, and I should be happy to be able to agree in this view. The locality is evidently well adapted to reaping heavy crops for a number of years, and it is for the planters themselves to say whether it is worthwhile to make a strong effort to save the industry from what appears to be its "evil day." Every cultivation has its pests and hours of weakness, and these usually come after periods of phenomenal success. There should be no cause for surprise then in the present condition of affairs.

If we have passed the stage when merely cultural operations will bring relief, and by these I mean the various lines of experiment which have been suggested from time to time, there remains nothing but to infuse new vigour into the stock by seminal reproduction. It is not a question of getting new varieties of pepper, although that would be a legitimate and interesting field of work, but the plants have been long propagated vegetatively, and this mode of reproduction nearly always sooner or later renders the race liable to disease. This work will, however, have to be done by the planters on the spot as I have no garden under my charge where the experiments can be carried out. The arrangement of the male and female organs in the pepper raceme are, I think extremely favourable for experiments in cross-fertilization, since the plant seems to be markedly proterogynous, the stigmas being ready and receptive before the stamens are protruded. As many will doubtless know the superior bearing of the cultivated plant depends on the fact that there are two stamens at the base of each ovary, whereas hermaphrodite plants (with male and female organs on the same raceme) are extremely rare in wild plants. The males and females in "jungle" plants are usually on different vines altogether, which accounts for the fact that so many of these vines are "barren."

[The permission asked for in paragraph 4 of this letter has been granted.]

### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in Bahrein Islands.**—The trade in coffee shows, says a consular report for the year 1902, a decided increase notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions prevailing in the Al Hassa district during the past year. The improvement is due to the cheap Brazilian coffee imported, which has brought the article within the reach of the poorer classes. With the fall in price, a larger consumption on the Arabian side of the Persian Gulf may be anticipated, and British firms are recommended to turn their attention to the possibilities of the commodity.

The Santos crop is said to be two months in advance of the one that was marketed one year ago.

**Guatemala Coffee Crop.**—E. J. Berg, of Cobau, was recently quoted in the New Orleans *Picayune* as follows:—

"The Guatemala coffee crop has been curtailed about one-third by the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions on the Pacific side. The loss falls heavily upon the planters in that part of the country, as many of them had drawn ahead on

the crop and will be unable to produce any coffee for five years. We produce the finest coffee in the world, but ship very little of it to the States because we get a better price for it in Europe."

**America's Offtake.**—Coffee importations of the United States in 1902-03 and comparisons:—

Imported from (pounds)	Twelve months ending June.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.
United Kingdom	4,340,855	2,582,512	2,727,170
France	16,250	265,232	26,950
Germany	3,559,858	936,540	310,541
Netherlands	1,545,177	2,218,742	1,148,331
Other Europe	497,678	9,995	81,738
Central America	60,530,913	46,514,654	56,249,399
Mexico	20,432,539	30,846,236	22,207,086
West Indies	7,324,116	11,001,197	8,192,316
Brazil	666,470,673	898,012,026	726,095,474
Other South America	72,272,403	76,497,316	72,526,318
East Indies	14,576,640	16,033,332	16,713,260
Other Asia and Oceania	3,112,175	5,905,306	8,380,758
Africa	64,028	22,150	350,542
Other countries	38,996	159,104	61,452

Total ... 854,871,310 1,091,094,252 915,066,380

The value of the 1903 importations were \$59,200,749, in 1902 \$70,982,155, and in 1901 \$62,861,399. The coffee has been imported cheaper than in any year heretofore, having been procured at the rate of .064c. per pound; in 1902 the rate was .065c. a pound.

A growing business in export of coffee is noted. Pounds exported in the twelve months under review were 47,701,306 in 1902, 34,462,615.

The net imports for the year were 867,365,094 lbs., and represent about 10½ pounds of coffee to each inhabitant of the nation proper. It is not stated whether or not coffees brought from Porto Rico and Hawaii were included in the tables.

In spot invoice trading is slow with prices steady and as follows: 4½c. for Rio No. 8; 5¼c. for Rio No. 7; 5½ to 5¾c. for Rio No. 4; and 6c. for Santos No. 4. Lack of animation continues in jobbing. In the option market while interest is developing in the September liquidation, lassitude sits heavily.

The firm offers from Brazil received Monday included Rio No. 7 at 5c., c. & f.; Rio No. 6, 5¼c. do.; Rio No. 5 at 5½c. do.; and Santos No. 3 and 4 at 5.75c. do.

In mild coffee the market has become steady and demand fairly active. Prices continue, however, on a low basis of value, but buyers are at last fairly confident and disposed to come out. This branch of the market is receiving speculative attention. Good Cucuta continues low at 7½c. East India coffees are quiet.

Brazil coffee in New York, July 27, 1,881,051 bags. Stock in other coffees, July 27, 329,977; in San Francisco, 94,618 bags and in New Orleans, 9,404 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, July 1, 11,900,173 bags.

Warehouse deliveries since August 1st, 1903, New York, 13,163; Baltimore, 98; New Orleans, 157. Total, 415,658.

Receipts at	1903-04	1902-03
Rio, July 1 to August 1	531,000	413,000
Santos, July 1 to August 1	951,000	724,000

Total ... 1,482,000 1,137,000

Santos receipts week ending August 1, 231,000 bags, against 235,000 bags one year ago. Rio receipts 123,000 bags, against 113,000 bags a year ago. Total, 354,000 bags, against 348,000 bags one year ago.



If wishes were horses, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, coffee would quickly ride into unprecedented use and prosperity, and it is too bad, therefore, that the following from the Minneapolis Tribune is nothing more substantial than an expression of opinion: "It is not a bad sign that coffee-drinking increases *per capita*. The stimulation which coffee gives, taken in moderation, is, except in special cases—often conservative to the best powers of the worker. Most men can think better and faster on the morning coffee than without it. Coffee is a great loosener of the social instincts also. A man likes his friends a great deal better after a cup or two of *café noir* in the evening. A nation of coffee-drinkers solely we shall probably never be, but with Porto Rico needing our help in this way, even more than a pound of coffee per month to each one of us might not be bad for the health of the nation." We thank the commentator for its benevolence of heart and words. An increase in the consumption of coffee in the United States of 12 pounds *per capita*, making a total in excess of 20 pounds per annum, would affect the present excessive coffee supply in the world as does a July sun a snow pile, and as for the needy Porto Ricans, whose crop would be included in the grand melting, they would become rich even to indulgences of automobiles, if not also of airships, which is form of vanity wealthy coffee-planters are proud to flaunt.

**The Coffee Market.**—Although the coffee market is slow and low as to values, the feature is, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 4th ultimo, that it retains firmly whatever strength it has, which to-day in the matter of price is where it was one month ago, and all this in the face of the enormous receipts of the new crop. A slump even from the latest was predicted, but the failure of new low records to arrive demonstrates that the market is not so weak as it has been thought. The fact is encouraging for better things in the near future, and especially should anything occur to start a bull movement, in which event speculative money might be expected to try coffee as something worth attention.

The receipts at Brazil at Rio and Santos, while in excess of the receipts in July of the bumper crop two years ago, did not come up to expectations climbing only to 1,423,000 bags whereas at least one million and a-half bags were expected. Karl Krische & Co. estimate the August receipts at the two ports at 1,800,000 bags, and should this prove true the receipts, while in excess of those of August last year, would fall short by 100,000 bags of the total received in August two years ago. The shipments from Santos and Rio during July have been heavy, approximating 1,000,000 bags of the total of 1,423,000 received. And yet the market has scarcely felt a tremor, and Brazil goes on doing business at what are practically firm terms! Now and then easier quotations are reported, but, as a rule, prices rule on a higher basis than that locally. Sales at the end of the week were 5,000 bags Rio No. 2 at 6.50c. store terms for September shipment, and 3,000 bags Rio No. 3 5.60c., c. & f.

**Coffee.**—July deliveries of Java Coffee in Holland by the Dutch Trading Company reached 19,340 bags, as opposed to 12,400 bags in July last year, and 16,710 bags in 1901; thus giving a total of 95,700 bags for the first seven months of 1903, against 69,650 bags in 1902, and 82,240 bags in the preceding year.

Arrivals of Brazil coffee in the United States in July were 451,341 bags and deliveries 504,186 bags.

## TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Tea rules quiet to slowness, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 4th ultimo, and the lack of demand is not a little disappointing, to say the least. Considerable inquiry is reported but nothing further in a large way follows, and may be this is the fault of the importers and brokers themselves, a complaint being that as soon as a bid approximates to a purchase, a jump is made for more value and the intending buyer retires. If tea is actually needed, buying consequently is hand to mouth. The markets abroad are becoming more and more the wonder of the market here. They are stronger and, what is more, show the greatest confidence, as if they had something up their sleeves. So long as this situation prevails easier conditions can scarcely be hoped for here. A cable message yesterday from Shanghai reported an advance of three taels in the market there.

In the face of conditions the market here remains steady to firm, especially for the higher grades of tea. So little is reported doing in Japans that in some quarters it is said there is no market for the tea at all, not even in Chicago. It is certain that there will be no plucking of the third crop after September 1 and so Canada may find herself in a hole. The Dominion, so far as latest reports go, has taken only one million pounds of the tea, and the presumption is that they are waiting there for the third crop, which is hardly a good way to recover the market for the tea. Ceylon greens are viewed with greater favour and a sale recently of 13,000 half-chests to arrive is reported for that market. Some large sales were previously announced. All kinds of India and Ceylon teas are locally firm. A few fairly large sales were made during the week in Pingsueys at full values. The better grades of Formosas continue scarce and very firm; for the lower grades conditions incline to weakness.

The report last week by the tea examiner at New York was as follows for acceptances:—

PASSED.			Packages.	Pounds.
Japan ...	...	...	1,798	140,430
Formosa ...	...	...	2,777	80,613
Congou ...	...	...	570	37,152
Pingsuey ...	...	...	720	25,300
Ceylon Green ...	...	...	281	20,092
Japan Dust ...	...	...	77	6,160
India and Ceylon ...	...	...	22	1,980
Total ...			6,245	311,837

There were no rejections.

Tea Acceptances at New York from July 1, 1903, to August 1, 1903:—

			Packages.	Pounds.
Japan ...	...	...	13,987	1,082,404
Ceylon Green...	...	...	3,683	305,244
Congou ...	...	...	4,785	293,010
India and Ceylon ...	...	...	4,057	236,864
Formosa ...	...	...	4,339	147,141
Pingsuey ...	...	...	3,483	121,595
Foochow ...	...	...	820	36,400
Japan Dust ...	...	...	196	16,061
Country Green ...	...	...	206	14,514
Canton ...	...	...	339	14,407
Scented Pekoe ...	...	...	73	1,501
Total ..			35,968	2,269,140

			Packages.	Pounds.
Rejections —	...	...		
Foochow ..	...	...	605	26,100

The Tea Merchants' Association, of Australia, is not yet in evidence, says a New York Paper. One of the three



gentlemen employed in the delicate work of getting teamen together has gone West for a month or two, so that the work of consolidating interests has remained at a standstill.

\* \* \*

**The Indian Budget and the Tea Duty Question.**—During the debate on the Indian Budget last night Earl Percy, in opposing a Resolution asking the House to declare that in view of the satisfactory Indian Budgets of recent years the duties imposed on manufactured goods imported into India should be abolished, made an important reference to the tea duty. He said the suggestion that India should cease to impose duties against the mother-country was only legitimate on two hypotheses. The first was that, if India was to consider the mother-country in her fiscal relations, the mother-country should also consider India in her fiscal relations. (Cheers.) At the present moment we did nothing of the kind. For example, we taxed tea, of which India, with Ceylon, was almost the sole exporter, having driven Chinese tea almost out of the market to the extent of 80 per cent. of its value. And the second hypothesis was that, if India was to sacrifice a large revenue, those who suggested it should be prepared to suggest some alternative source from which she could derive a revenue as large, and one which inflicted as little burden on the population.

\* \* \*

The Japanese have assimilated one American trait, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 4th ultimo, to wit, being interviewed in the public Press in as many places and as many times as opportunity permits. The value of advertising under such auspices is well understood here and the knowledge has spread even across the Pacific. Thus it has come about that our western land has been told something of Japan tea by the special Commissioners journeying in America in the interest of that leaf. Their progress eastward was traceable by this ingenious manifestation. A year ago a Ceylon commissioner shrewdly employed a bureau of publicity, but greased the way by a sprinkling of paid advertising in local journals, in consequence of which more extensive results were realized. The Japanese should acquaint themselves with this fact, for it is important. It is a general impression that they do things in a Lilliputian way, and there certainly was nothing very mammoth in the appropriation last year by their National Tea Association of \$1,500 for advertising Japan tea in the United States and Canada. It all looked so comic as to suggest opera bouffe, though Anglo-Saxon traders in Japan tea were moved to tears and remonstrance. Even the expenditure of the entire Government grant of \$35,000 in mere advertising would still be picayunish in the light of the dimensions of the United States and Canada, and the sooner the Japanese understand that the only effective way with us is the large way the sooner will their position in defence of their market here become less vulnerable, to say nothing of extending their market. The Japan tea commission has learned something of the art of publicity, and plain duty requires that they learn it all; else there are breakers ahead.

\* \* \*

In his report on the Trade of the Consular District of Kobe for the year 1902, Mr. Consular-Assistant E. F. Crowe says anent Tea:—The new leaf was damaged by frost early in April, and the picking of first crop tea was considerably below the average. The total yield for the season, however,

was larger than for the past three years. The market ruled high throughout the season, owing to a speculative demand caused by the announcement that the duty of 10 C per lb. in the United States of America would be removed on January 1, 1903. Prices opened 10 per cent., higher than in 1901 and later on advanced almost another 10 per cent. Owing to unseasonable weather in the Spring the quality and preparation of the leaf was rather inferior; and there is danger of the trade being gradually lost unless the producers display more care to preserve the reputation of Japan teas in the American markets.

\* \* \*

**Colombo Tea Sale.**—On the 26th ultimo buying was less general, and prices were very irregular, with an easier tendency for common and medium kinds. Fine teas were again in demand at full rates, particularly the best invoices from the Uva side of the country. Green teas were dull and easier.

\* \* \*

**Strange Misapprehension about St. Louis.**—Our special telegram elsewhere, says the *Times of Ceylon*, gives a summary of the latest proceedings of the Indian Tea Association General Committee in Calcutta. The first subject is described in a remarkable way. Under the heading of "St. Louis Exposition" we are told that both Mr. Larkin and the Hon. Mr. Stanley Bois, Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, have suggested that India and Ceylon should combine. Although the inclusion of Mr. Bois' name has been obviously made under some strange misapprehension, it may be stated—after special reference to Mr. Bois—that, before the subject of Ceylon's participation in the St. Louis Exposition was taken in hand, and when India was making progress towards obtaining a tea cess, Mr. Bois wrote privately to Sir Montagu Turner relative to the two Cess Committees working in accord; but the enquiry had no more reference to America than to Europe or elsewhere, and an exchange of views was all, apparently, that was contemplated at the time. On the representation of Ceylon at St. Louis taking shape, Sir M. Turner wrote to Mr. Bois for some details of what Ceylon was doing; and these were supplied. That is all the foundation for the statement telegraphed to-day. Possibly some remark by Sir Montagu Turner, who is now in England, was misunderstood and has misled the Indian Committee—if it be possible that the fact that the Chairman of our Chamber of Commerce is also Ceylon's Commissioner for St. Louis did not, combined with other circumstances, cause some of the Calcutta Committee men to doubt their ears! The proposal, whether correctly telegraphed or not, cannot be entertained on this side; but Ceylon will wish its neighbours all success in their application to the Indian Government for funds, and will work cordially side by side with India—but with the enterprise of healthy rivalry—at St. Louis and elsewhere.

\* \* \*

**The Tea Market.**—"Anon" writes to the Editor of the *Home and Colonial Mail*.

"Allow me to draw attention to some news received by mail which has not obtained the notice it deserves.

"Messrs. Cresswell & Co., of Calcutta, writing on June 25, say that four gardens, usually selling their crops, amounting to 1½ million lbs., in Calcutta auctions, have sold them forward for London. *Indian Planting and Gardening* on July 4 announced that another, a large Sylhet estate



making about 2 million lbs. annually, has done the same, and on July 18 this journal reported that it is estimated that between 15 and 20 million lbs. of Ceylon and Indian tea have been sold in advance to London buyers.

"Those who are familiar with the traditions of the tea trade, and know the extraordinary difficulty of persuading anyone engaged in it to substitute modern methods for the antiquated machinery of their grandfathers, will appreciate the significance of this new departure.

"It means, among other things, (1) That a certain number of growers and their agents have found out how to protect themselves against the vagaries of the market, the whims of buyers, and hostile combinations in the sale-rooms abroad or at home. (2) That there are substantial buyers, true merchant-adventurers, who have such confidence in the future and in their own judgment that they will engage in business of a highly speculative nature. (3) That the prevalence of these conditions has at length enabled growers of tea to do what growers of other kinds of produce have done for a generation, *viz.*, to ensure beforehand, as far as it is possible to do so, a profit on their year's work.

"This is indeed news. Someone is awake and moving, progress is being made. So far so good. But how is it that we only hear of it casually from abroad, and that no mention has been made of it in the London brokers' circulars that you are so good as to publish? Is nothing of the kind being done here? Is business being taken out of the hands of London merchants? Is this the upshot of last season's struggle between the sellers and the buyers, and the outcome of the dissatisfaction felt at the action taken on the one side or the other during the course of it? Are merchants here so perfectly satisfied with the way in which business is conducted here that they neither desire nor aim at something better?

"If they be, it is no secret, I believe, that many shareholders are by no means satisfied with the results of last season; that they have lost confidence in the methods and measures adopted here, and do not consider the explanations given of failure to be adequate. For publicly or privately one authority after another has told us for months past that the position of tea is entirely altered; that demand has outstripped supply; that growers have the control of the market, and so on. But what good is it to us, and where is the result? You recorded that the average value of Ceylon tea at the end of July was less than 7d. per lb. On the merits of the position it should be at least 9d. per lb. Why is it not so? Is it possible that there has been mismanagement at home, and that the market has been spoilt by the attempts made to manipulate or regulate it?

"It has fallen to my lot to read a great many annual reports and some excellent speeches at the Meetings; they show a firm grasp of the problems which beset us abroad, but a failure to realise needs and difficulties at home, with general ignoring of the fact that the conditions of the home trade are entirely different to what they were twenty years ago.

"The frequent reference in these reports and speeches to the endeavour of buyers to buy cheaply—as though it were a grievance—seems to be perfectly childish; and the complacency with which some refer to regulation of sales, as though it were a factor of value instead of a mere administrative detail—part of the daily routine of a merchant's life in all produce markets—makes one uncommonly anxious about the future.

"For the coming season is going to be a very difficult one from a market point of view. The supplies from India in front of us are heavier than they were last year; we have taught the trade during the last six months that they can carry on their business without holding large stocks; we have seen what "old hands" knew was certain to happen, *viz.*, that a stiff quotation for common tea checks our re-exports of Indian and attracts supplies from other markets; and we have looming ahead of us the prospect of a serious disturbance to business next Spring, if not sooner, by the uncertainty of the political and fiscal position.

"These things being so, I do not think I am singular in envying those progressive proprietors who, we hear, have secured themselves against chance and change when they had the opportunity.

"Sell and repent" is a maxim that has helped to fortune many a doubtful merchant or broker."

\* \* \*

K. Aizawa and S. Katow, of Tokio, Japan, and I. Kapuchi, of Kobe, Japan, are the members of the Commission appointed by the Japanese Government with a view to developing the tea trade of Japan in the United States. The members of the Commission are all wealthy tea-merchants.

\* \* \*

**The Japan Tea Crop.**—The tea of the third season produced in Suruga and Totomi has, says the *Japan Times*, been putting in its appearance at Yokohama. Being the first goods of the kind on the market, it is necessarily quoted at a high figure, generally at 45 or 46 *yen*. By the way, the Central Chamber of Tea Guilds has issued instructions for the provincial tea guilds to the effect that the picking of tea leaves should be stopped by the end of July. But these instructions will hardly be practicable.

\* \* \*

**America's Offtake.**—Importation of tea into the United States in 1902-03 and comparisons:—

Imported from (pounds)	Twelve months ending June.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.
United Kingdom ...	2,891,720	3,740,100	6,151,822
British North America ...	1,256,543	1,852,319	2,135,065
Chinese Empire ...	46,962,264	35,998,219	55,064,296
East Indies ...	3,093,864	2,807,870	6,714,224
Japan ...	34,867,018	30,753,505	37,987,227
Other Asia and Oceania ...	703,687	328,152	508,138
Other countries ...	31,357	7,960	14,133

Total ... 85,806,453    75,579,125    108,574,905

The exports in 1903 were 3,942,645 pounds, leaving net imports at 104,632,260 pounds. The June, 1903 exports were 307,591 pounds, and imports 4,308,489 pounds. Value of the 1903 importations is placed at \$15,659,229 pounds, and that of 1902, \$9,390,128. The increase per pound from 1902 to 1903 is from 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

\* \* \*

**Japan Tea Welfare.**—The Japan Tea Commission, now in the U. S. on a tour of inspection with a view to increasing the demand for Japan tea in this country, is composed, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 4th ultimo, of Comir Kihei Aizawa, Tokyo, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Tea Association, who is also President of the Tokyo City Council and President of one of the principal banks in the City; Mr. Kawaguchi of Kobe, Mr. Katsow of Tokyo, and N. Shinode and T. Mitzatany of Chicago.

The party's progress eastward from Seattle has been marked by interviews with the members in the public Press, in



which some plans of the group are revealed. Japan tea has been most popular in this country in the West, and the opening of the great North-west has therefore most interested the visitors who have scrutinized with customary Japanese minuteness all things that were to be seen. They express themselves as pleased and determined that the soil shall become tributary to Japan tea.

The members have also been pleased to tell about the Japan Tea Central Association, which the American newspapers call the Japan Tea Trust, and, because sanctioned by Government, and consequently novel, worthy of respectful consideration. Concerning this Association Commissioiner Aizawa is quoted as having said :

"The Association numbers 1,200,000 members and controls not only the tea for export, but also the tea kept for home consumption, and there are practically no tea plantations outside the Association, which was formed under permission from the Government.

"A salient feature of the administration of the Association are the Committees which are constantly travelling over the country inspecting the plantations. The tea has to be of a certain grade and condition, or it is refused. In the factories also there are inspectors, and every shipment of tea is examined before it is put on the market, and if it does not come up to standard it is rejected. All exported teas go through this examination, as well as nearly all that sold for domestic use, so the mark of the Association is a guarantee that the grade and quality of any particular tea are what they are represented to be.

"The Association has already an Agency in Chicago and one in New York, and there is also a branch in Montreal, Canada, but we do not think we are doing the business in this country that we should. We consider that tea is a healthier drink than coffee, and that when Japanese teas are well known here a very large quantity will be consumed in the United States. The trade between the two countries is growing every year, and we intend to see that the tea trade shares in the general advance.

"My particular mission here is to examine into the market and to endeavour to ascertain the best steps to take to push the sale of Japanese teas. I shall visit nearly all the principal cities in the country before returning to Japan."

Mr. Aizawa was this week in Montreal. Mr. Kawaguchi has arrived in New York and is making the office of the Central Tea Association, 96, Front Street, his headquarters.

\* \* \*

British deliveries of Tea for July last were the largest on record for the month of July.

\* \* \*

Fifty chests of Java Green Tea recently realised an average of 5¾d. in London. The highest bid for Hyson No. 1 was 6¼d.

Java (Black) Tea has in one or two cases commanded unusual prices of late, as much as 12½d. per lb. having been realised in one instance, with an average of 11d. on 216 chests. Generally speaking, however, averages range between 5¾d. and 7d.

\* \* \*

**British Imports.**—Revised Customs Imports of Indian and Ceylon Tea from 1st June to end of May :—

Bengal Presidency (including Calcutta and Chittagong) ...	144,148,371	1902-03.	151,634,167	1901-02.
Madras Presidency (including Travancore)	4,854,866	lbs.	4,252,528	lbs.
Bombay Presidency	1,302,543		777,869	
Ceylon Tea		100,371,732		102,149,690

\* \* \*

**The China Market.**—Advices dated 7th ultimo point to a steady demand. Of Green Teas it is remarked that prices have been fully maintained and Teas are sold as soon as the

samples are put on the market. Some crack chops show a great increase over last year's rates. They are bright and fragrant and show an appreciable improvement on those of recent years in appearance. Exports to the United States up to 7th ultimo show 4,413,000 lbs. Black and 5,776,000 Green ; to Russia 10,354,000 lbs. Black, 2,500,000 lbs. Green.

\* \* \*

**Indian Tea for Russia.**—At the Calcutta tea sale of 28th ultimo 18,650 packages were sold. The market was very firm for all kinds. Common teas were dearer, several invoices realising prices over valuations. Buying for outside markets, especially Russia, was an important feature of the sale. To the above date 3¼ million lbs. had been shipped to Russia, being 1¾ million lbs. increase over 1902. Two steamers leave Calcutta direct for Odessa during September and October.

*Apropos of this, the Times of Ceylon writes :—*

A total of three-and-a-quarter million pounds shipped to Russia to date is significant. It is an increase of one and three-quarter million pounds over the total for a similar period last year; and should exports continue in the same proportion to the end of the present season India should increase 40 per cent. approximately on last year's sales to Russia. A few figures are interesting :—

	lbs.
1900 ... Indian tea exports to Russia ...	700,000
1901 ... Do do ...	1,600,000
1902 ... Do do ...	5,000,000
1903 ... Do do (rough estimate) ..	7,000,000

The fact that Ceylon tea exports to Russia show a decrease of 3,155,366 lbs., on last year's total to August 24th of 8,154,653 lbs., has caused some apprehension that Indian tea is being taken by Russia in preference to that of Ceylon. We understand that this is far from being the opinion of Russian buyers in Colombo, who are emphatic that Ceylon is not losing ground. They say the decrease is apparent only, and is capable of a simple explanation. It is contended that that explanation is to be found in the difference of 2,160,449 lbs. in the exports of tea from Ceylon to China to August 24th on a total of 4,845,683. Exports of tea by Russian firms to Russia *via* Dalny and the Siberian railway are becoming frequent, and the impression is that these exports, which generally have to be transhipped at Shanghai, Hongkong or Chefoo, are credited in the Chamber of Commerce returns and the Customs as exports to China, whereas, in reality, they are exports to Russia. Where there is direct communication between Colombo and Dalny the shipments are undoubtedly credited as exports to Russia; but transshipment frequently has to take place and through bills of lading are not given under such circumstances. We confess that the Ceylon figures in the aggregate are not so satisfactory to our minds as they are to our Russian friends.

Our telegram speaks of two steamers leaving Calcutta direct for Odessa during September and October. This is a new and important departure. We understand that the two steamers referred to belong to the Russian East Asiatic S. S. Company. The rapid strides forward made by India in the tea trade with Russia and the high freightage charge at present ruling between Calcutta and Odessa offer prospects of a profitable shipping trade; and, indeed, we must be prepared for the Russian Volunteer Fleet itself arranging that next season two of its ships shall call at Calcutta. The present freightage from Calcutta to Odessa, with transshipment into Russian bottoms at Port Said, is 37s. 6d. per 50 cubic feet, compared with 17s. 6d. from Colombo. It is likely, of course, that with competition the freightage charge from Calcutta will be reduced, although as the Volunteer Fleet boats will have to make a long detour from Singapore to Calcutta calling at Colombo on the way to Odessa, there must always be a difference between the charges from Calcutta and those from Colombo. We are informed, on the authority of a prominent Russian buyer, that the Indian tea exports to Russia are increasing at the expense of China and practically of China only; and that this has been foreseen for some time. The field for India and, of course, Ceylon is practically unlimited, considering the huge output of China tea for Russia, and the comparatively small place hitherto held by India and Ceylon teas.



When previously commenting upon Ceylon's market in Russia, we have laid considerable stress upon the opinions of expert Russian buyers that Ceylon planters are not paying sufficient attention to the requirements of the Russian market. The complaint is, and has been, that Ceylon, instead of providing Russia with strong-liquoring, good-fermented teas, insists upon catering for what it imagines to be the Russian taste. Whatever may have been the case years ago, the Russian taste has now gone beyond the stage of being catered for in a special way, and for Ceylon to sacrifice fermentation to flavour is a mistake. So well-known an authority as Mr. Isgareschoff, with an experience of well over twenty seasons of the China tea trade, and who knows what Russia wants probably better than anyone else, urged the planters through our columns eighteen months ago to give the Russian the strong-liquoring teas he required. The alternative stated was that Russians would be compelled to go elsewhere, where they could get what they wanted. Mr. Isgareschoff is again in Colombo and makes the same statement now. This refers to teas from 35 up to 38 and even 40 cents per lb. and we are assured that at this price it is quite the exception to get a good, well-fermented tea suitable for Russia. Formerly Russia could depend upon China for these teas; but now, when it is apparent that China cheap teas are growing weaker and weaker, and the price is higher than formerly, the Russians are inclined to buy more largely in India. This is what Mr. Isgareschoff told us that they would do. Indian teas, the Russians admit, have not the flavour of Ceylon teas, and they prefer Ceylon higher grades at 50 or 55 cents to high-priced Darjeelings at 75 cents. These are not the teas which the majority of the Russians drink, however, and the general demand is for teas at for 35 to 38 or 40 cents. In making tea for the Russian market the Ceylon planter lays too much emphasis on flavour, which is of little importance, and forgets the strength which is everything. It is satisfactory to know that the headway India is making is principally, if not wholly, at the expense of China, but exceptionally placed, in point of freight charges, as Ceylon certainly is, most people think we ought to show equal progress.

A Seattle news item says that the steamer *Shinano*, which arrived there July 15, had on board her 4,000,000 lbs. of Japan tea, the largest consignment that has ever reached that part.

#### A Cup of Tea.—

Naught else refreshes like a cup of tea!  
This is the drink for you, the drink for me.  
The most refreshing, grateful pick-me-up,  
No better drink e'er filled the fragrant cup.  
A cup of tea is every worker's boon.  
He waits the passing of the afternoon  
In summer; he may feel a little queer,  
Yet knows full well his tea will give him cheer.  
He likes a full ripe flavour, clear and strong;  
But not left brewing in the pot too long.  
An all-round flavour, pungent, pure and sweet—  
Such tea he ever estimates a treat.  
Then study to give value at the price.  
Let all your tea be tasty, pure and nice.  
Naught so refreshing known, on land or sea,  
As the delightful, fragrant cup of tea.—H. W. in the *Grocer*.

#### Tea Characteristics.—

The Amoy teas are "nutty,"  
But do not cut much ice;  
The Ceylon teas are "toasty,"  
And Capers smell quite nice;  
The Foochow teas are "mellow,"  
And "pungent" are the Green,  
How grateful to the "smeller"  
Formosa is, I ween;  
The India teas are "malty,"  
The Java teas are "sour,"  
Pingsuey oft is faulty,  
The Moyune's like a flower;  
Quite "piquant" are the Pekoes,  
And "tarry" the Souchongs,  
While "fruity" are the Congous,  
And "silky" the Panyongs.

#### NOTES.

##### Java Cinchona.

The shipments from Java for the half-month amount to 416,000 Amsterdam lbs., being small compared with the corresponding period of last year.

##### Tea and Coffee in Norway.

Imports (estimated) into Norway in 1902 were as follows:—Tea, 124 tons, as against 114 tons in 1901; Coffee, 12,523 tons, as against 12,190 tons in 1901.

##### Cocoa in Spain.

The importation of cocoa from Fernando Po to Barcelona increases every year, having increased from 752 tons in 1897 to 1,512 tons in 1902; the importation from Cuba reached 72 tons as compared to 34 tons in the year 1901.

##### Pepper in the U. S.

Peppers are especially strong, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 4th ultimo, and the very short supply, but little helped by the scant arrivals and the increasing consumption, tend to make bears nervous and bulls jubilant.

##### Chicory in the U. S.

The scarcity of domestic Chicory during 1902-03 has greatly assisted the bringing in of the imported article. There were imported during the twelve months ending June 30, of raw 1,411,202 pounds against 238,272 pounds in the same period one year ago, and 511,693 pounds two years ago. Of roasted chicory 442,311 pounds were imported, against 298,671 pounds one year ago and 348,597 two years ago.

##### Blends Coffee or Tea.

Mr. C. R. Cotton, the well known coffee merchant at Nashua, N. H., has perfected a device for the blending of teas and coffees. The invention is a box, an exact cube, and when tea or coffee is placed inside and the box made to revolve, its contents are moved carefully and a perfect blend is said to be obtained without injury to the tea leaves or beans. Every test which ingenuity could bring to bear has been tried and it has been found that the machine does the work in the best possible manner, report says. The machines have been placed on the market. They are sold in two sizes. The smaller one is for retail grocers, and each edge of the cube measures 12 inches. The larger one for wholesale grocers and coffee roasters, has a capacity of 50 pounds. A patent has been applied for.

##### Determination of Caffeine.

E. Léger describes in the *Journal de Pharm. et de Chim.* his process of assaying tea, coffee, kola, etc., for alkaloid. The method differs but slightly from that of Warin, the powdered sample being mixed with magnesia and a small quantity of water, and then boiled with chloroform; the latter is shaken with HCl to remove the bases (fats, etc., being thus eliminated), then re-extracted by fresh chloroform after alkalising with ammonia. The figures he obtained for mixed alkaloids were as follows (percentages on dry powder):—

Tea	...	...	...	...	2.24
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1.23
Guarana	...	...	...	...	4.19
Kola	...	...	...	...	1.35 to 1.48



**Louisiana Purchase  
Exposition.**

Interviewed the other day by a representative of the *Times of Ceylon*, the Hon. Mr. W. H. Figg remarked that the Ceylon Court at St. Louis will stand in the centre of the most interesting portion of the Exposition and added :—  
“Ceylon tea should obtain an excellent advertisement at St. Louis, for, as it happens, it is Japan tea which has hold of the market in the Southern States at present, although Ceylon tea is making satisfactory headway. That was one of the reasons why we wanted to make Ceylon tea known in that part of the States. Of course, in Canada, we are easily holding our own, and that,” said Mr. Figg, “I think is entirely due to the Thirty Committee. In the last few months we have made considerable headway.”

**America's Offtake of  
Cocoa.**

Cocoa importations into the United States in 1902-03 and comparisons:—

Crude, and Leaves and Shells (pounds)	Twelve months ending June.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.
United Kingdom ...	2 022,268	2,383,070	2,705,475
Netherlands ...	1,126,114	1,006 206	895,928
Other Europe ...	1,625,048	4,084 467	3 967,015
Central America ...	34,735	27,468	384,641
British West Indies ...	14,278,188	15,159,274	21,277,647
Other West Indies ...	5,518,624	4,567,618	7,103,588
Brazil ...	5,734,952	8,005,359	13,875,477
Other South America ...	15,299,844	16,984,855	13,011,348
East Indies ...	271,130	151,137	45,184
Other countries ...	13,450	9,942	84,991
Total ...	45,924,353	51,379,396	63,351,284
Prepared or manufactured	977,003	973,970	1,004,766

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**WHITE TABLE LINEN AND TEA TABLE CLOTHS WITH NAPKINS TO  
MATCH (WITH KNITTED OR HEMMED FRINGES ACCORDING  
TO ORDER), TABLE CLOTHS IN DIFFERENT COLORED  
DESIGNS, BED AND TOILET  
LINEN, FACE AND BATH  
TOWELS.**

**TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT**

*For making up Suits according to measurements, or  
Pattern Suit sent.*

**For Price List, apply to**

**BASEL MISSION WEAVING ESTABLISHMENT.**

The value of the 1903 importation was \$7,820,087. There were exported 3,208,554 pounds, making net exports 60,142,640 pounds.

**Capers.**

Capers are the buds of a plant growing in certain parts of France. The smallest buds fetch the highest price. After the capers have been picked, they are placed in trays under a shed, where they are left until they evaporate a certain amount of water which they contain, in order that fermentation may not set in. They are then placed in barrels of vinegar for preservation. Occasionally the brine is flavoured with sprigs of tarragon, elder flowers, cloves, and pepper in grains. The capers, having been thus preserved, are next classified, during the Winter, by being passed through sieves of different sizes. There are seven classifications, as follows : “Nonpareil” (smallest size), “surfine,” “capucine,” “capote,” “fine,” “mi-fine,” “commune” (largest size). Having thus been separated, the capers are replaced in barrels filled with vinegar and preserved until sold. When prepared for shipment, the capers are washed in vinegar of a standard of 12 deg., which renders them quite firm, and they are then placed in barrels without vinegar.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.**

**PRODUCE AND PLANTING.**

Discussion, both written and verbal, on what is now styled “Mr. Chamberlain's policy” continues to grow in volume. Several special organisations have been founded, either to promote or oppose the new policy. Existing organisations have also actively engaged in the debate, while the leading Chambers of Commerce have given more or less attention to the subject. Tea-growers will be interested to learn the attitude of the disputants towards the tea duty. As we have previously pointed out there is a disposition on both sides to point to the duty on tea as an object-lesson in unfair taxation, and we hope there is to be no “wobbling” on either side for the sake of strengthening any of the main issues of the argument. Free traders for the most part have declared their belief in a “free breakfast table,” and cannot well go back on it. The supporters of Mr. Chamberlain's policy wish to promote trade with the colonies, and presumably India, by means of preferential tariffs, and we shall learn shortly how far they are prepared to go. Anyway, the supporters of the policy are either against the tea duty as a whole, or would remove the greater portion of the present burden, so that between these rival fiscal policies the duty on tea is abolished or lowered in theory, although when it will be so in fact remains to be seen.

Some of the arguments on the Free Trade side are a little difficult to follow. A correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, for instance, writes the following, in which, after pointing out that “Protectionists pretend that the effect of a tax on tea, etc., limits the cheapening of the production of those articles,” he gives his own view. He says: “No sensible Free Trader contemplates this, except that a smaller production produced by a less demand may be more costly. But that point may be neglected here. A sixpenny tax, in spite of the advantage of bonding, will raise the price of a pound of tea by about sixpence-halfpenny at the most as long as the tax continues. But some improvements in production must help the market always. Expert growing, the opening up of wider areas of land, so that monopoly is checked, and the diminution of freights by improved navigation and shipping are three factors of cheapening. May I mention three instances? In 1871 a youngish Chinaman was going about in Upper India who had been imported to teach our planters to grow tea there. Now they have undersold the Chinese. A greater area



of land to grow tea on was secured by the Looshai expedition. I saw Colonel Roberts starting to join the column which punished the Looshais who had attacked our planters in 1871. The year before I saw the crew of the Deerfoot, one of the last batch of tea-clippers. The Suez Canal used by tea steamers cheapened freight and insurance. All these improvements cheapen tea, whether it was 1s. 4d. with a tax or 9½d. without it—or 1s. 10d. with and 1s. 3½d. without."

A correspondent of the *Times*, who is perplexed by the argument of "A Revenue Official," whose first letter we quoted last week, asks the latter to deal with his difficulty. "This correspondent," "Questioner," says: "'A Revenue Official' in his most interesting letters to you on this matter suggests that the cost of living will not be raised because 'the existing taxes on food—on tea, sugar, cocoa, coffee, and dried fruit . . . goods which cannot be produced in this country, will be abolished, and we shall get the same amount of revenue from small taxes on the goods which compete with our own productions or with the productions of our colonies.' The implication clearly is that the tea, sugar, cocoa, coffee, and dried fruit which come to us from abroad do not compete with similar products from our colonies. But that is not a fact. Our imports of these articles in 1901 appear to have been £26,756,511 from foreign countries and £11,033,507 from our colonies. Is it not, therefore, quite inconsistent with the principle of colonial preference simply to abolish these taxes? If we are to give the colonies a preference on corn, mutton, and bacon, why not on tea, cocoa, and sugar? But if these taxes are remitted only on colonial goods, and retained upon goods from abroad, a very large part of the £13,600,000 now levied on food will still be levied, in addition to the new taxes. The account will then read something like this: Taxes on food, old system, £13,600,000; taxes on food, new system (at least), £20,000,000; and it will be impossible to tell the working classes that their cost of living is not increased."

The idea that food in the form of bread will be taxed naturally gives the opponents of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals a rallying cry which they are able to make the most of. They do not pause for explanations or await details. The bare idea is enough for them, and already we are told members of the House of Commons who represent Labour interests have issued an appeal to the workmen in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to help in defeating the fiscal proposals of the Colonial Secretary. In the course of a long letter they point out that we in the old country have experience to prove that a tax upon food produces an amount of misery, pressing more particularly upon the poorest, to which the colonists, with their vast natural resources and sparse population cannot be subjected.

In view of the agitation against food taxes it is interesting to note the remarks of a "Revenue Officer," who writes a second letter to the *Times*, which answers the correspondent "Questioner," and at the same time presents the point of view of those who would relieve the consumers of tea of the greater portion of their burden, even if other articles of food are taxed to do it. He says: "For the sake of argument, let us suppose that prices would rise, as they do in the case of heavily-taxed wheat in France, to the extent of 70 per cent. of the duty. Then, with a duty of 5 per cent., prices would rise 3½ per cent. Let us take the case of a family of the poorest class which spends 10s. a week on food. Out of that small sum at least half-a-pound of tea and four pounds of sugar are purchased, and on these alone this family pays in taxation at the present time 4½d. a week. How will this family be affected if we reduce the taxes on tea and sugar to 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, and put similar duties on all the other articles of food not now taxed? On the one hand, there will be a certain gain of 4½d., and, on the other hand, there will be a loss of 4½d., and the food of this family will not be dearer by the smallest fraction of a penny, even if we assume a larger increase of prices than there is any reason to anticipate. But this is not all. With even a small preference in our markets, the population of our colonies will increase by leaps and bounds, and there will be a corresponding increase in the amount of their purchases from us; and our toiling masses will have the regular employment which they need most of all, and probably a substantial increase of wages as well."

With reference to the arrival in the United States of two Japanese tea commissioners to report on the chance of extending the field for Japanese tea, the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, of New York, says: "The view held by Mr. Otani, a well-known tea merchant of Yokohama, as to what course our tea manufacturers ought to take in view of the overwhelming competition of the cheap Ceylon green tea in the United States and Canada may be worthy of reproduction here. Mr. Otani says, according to the Tokyo 'Asahi,' that even those of our people who are interested in the tea trade are constrained to admit the fact that our tea can by no means withstand the competition of the Ceylon tea in point of price, and wishes to suggest a plan which may relieve the situation. Let our manufacturers, he suggests, make use only of the tea leaves of the first-period picking in the manufacture of green tea, and use the leaves of the latter picking for the production of black tea. Mr. Otani thinks that the future before the latter kind of tea is great and expects that England and other countries in Europe may in time become our customers."

"The Japs may well feel concern for the market here," says our New York contemporary. "Apart from their home demand, they have no other country where there is any extensive demand for Japan tea. To lose the United States, therefore, means to them very much. The India and Ceylon men are determined to capture this entire market, and they will make a fight for it with brains and resources that are very compelling, as proved by their capture of the rich British tea market from the Chinese. Indeed, that the Japs are faced by a proposition that has a way of driving the enemy *en masse* before it has been shown them by what has happened in Canada. The Dominion heretofore has used large quantities of Japan tea, but last year used much less, and this year, so far as export figures up to date go, scarcely any, the sentiment seeming to be exclusively for the Indias and Ceylons. The Britons have have not been permitted to gain the field without return blows from the Japanese, but somehow the mastery has not lain with the Asiatics. Will the same results follow here?"

"In practical effect the Japanese, too, have their tea cess, but the money available for propaganda is like cents to dollars compared with the money at the disposal of the Indian and Ceylon men, and we have seen it stated in plain print, by way of complaint, that the Japs' yens have not been efficaciously placed. The Japanese tea-men are shrewd fellows. The management of their tea dealings has called forth commendation, but managing the market at home and extending it in the white man's country is quite a different thing, and so far, it is evident, they have not the advantage the Britons have. The white man is likely to understand better how to deal with Caucasian minds than the Asiatic, who, therefore, has much to learn at the cost of experience and resources. They give and take in Canada shows that the Japs have not quite caught the British methods. They do not comprehend enough, and therefore do not understand thoroughly. Where, for instance, is that direct appeal to the consumer, extensively conducted, and Japan package teas? This strategy counts tremendously. Then, moreover, the Ceylon and India men have a way of enlisting for their teas the enterprise of wide-awake American wholesalers, who embrace and use in a very pushing and sweeping way the ideas of the Englishmen."

"Further, at present the Japanese labour is under the disadvantage of offering a very dear tea. Price always is a considerable factor, and when India and Ceylon greens are accessible much less in cost, and in the opinion of many fully as good in quality, something must give way, and the victory usually alights on the banners of least price. The India and Ceylon greens this season are striving for an outturn of at least 11,000,000 pounds, an increase of several hundred per cent. in excess over the quantity turned out last season, and the probable consequences are too obvious to need enumeration."

"The Japanese must meet price with price, that, however, is something to think about for the next season, as the present one has practically passed for such a purpose, although in this respect the Japanese will not have anything to grieve about, for they have already garnered their 'heavenly' profits; but the future has to be



reckoned with. Fortunately for them they recognise the possibilities that threaten in the small Ceylon cloud now down on the horizon. A plan is to manufacture black tea, and thus make the Ceylon and India men fight for their own particular markets. The Japs did once make black tea, imitating Congou, but did not make a success of the venture and abandoned the effort. All in all, how they will comport themselves in the coming battle will be interesting to watch."

The *Grocer* of August 8 has the following about green tea:—"Those of our readers who are not already acquainted with the fact may be interested to know that new Indian green teas are beginning to find their way to this market in larger quantities, and judging from samples which have lately been seen they compare favourably with China teas that are not of the highest class. The prices at which they are introduced are also in their favour by being below those obtainable for China green teas of second rate qualities, and for purity, strength, and flavour they require to be only more widely known to be appreciated at their true worth by grocers at large. At present, of course, the disposal of Indian or Ceylon green teas in London is merely in its experimental stage; and whilst the sale is in its infancy no very definite opinion can be formed as to the preference likely to be given them by the body of British consumers at home." The same journal also says:—"We have received from Messrs. Geo. Payne & Co., Limited, 31, Minories, London, samples of the new pan-fired Indian green teas, of which they have made very large purchases. Grocers should not fail to sample these Indian Hysons and Young Hysons, as they compare most favourably both in price and quality with the ordinary grades of China green teas, their liquor being exceptionally purer with a delicate flavour, and as a novelty they should be of utility for advertising purposes."

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co., in their weekly report on the coffee market, state that Rio receipts show a moderate, but natural, increase but those at Santos are distinctly smaller than the previous week, although an increase was expected from the 1st instant, in consequence of reduced railway freights on the Paulista Line. Although it is altogether too early to attempt to estimate this season's Santos crop, the absence of any increase in the movement to the port during the past fortnight is certainly remarkable, and gives rise to the reflection that after all there may be more foundation for the talk of a crop of not more than seven million bags in Santos than coffee operators, after the deceptions of previous years, can at present bring themselves to believe. Mr. Karl Krische estimates the receipts for current month at Rio 550,000 bags and Santos 1,250,000 bags, but according to last week's movement his estimate for Santos looks improbable.—*H. & C. Mail*.

### TEA CORPORATION (LIMITED).

On August 7 a petition, presented by the liquidator and the Company, asking the Court to sanction a scheme of reconstruction, came before Mr. Justice Buckley. The Company was formed in 1897 with a nominal capital of 200,000*l.*, divided into 5*l.* shares, and to acquire and take over certain estates in the island of Ceylon, and to cultivate such estates, and to carry on the business of planters, merchants, traders, and dealers in tea, cocoa, coffee, and merchandise in general. In 1897 the Company issued debentures to the amount of 65,000*l.*, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and there was now fifteen months' interest in arrear. In consequence of the depression in the tea trade some two years ago the Company got into difficulties, and the trustees for the debenture-holders appointed a receiver, who was now in possession of the estates, and was carrying on the business. In March, 1903, Resolutions were passed for voluntary liquidation, and a scheme had been prepared by which it was proposed to pay the debenture-holders 20*l.* in cash, leaving all debt of 80*l.* in respect of each 100*l.*, and to reduce the rate of interest from 5 to 4½ per cent.; to pay the unsecured creditors in full, and to issue to each preference shareholder four shares of 1*l.* each in the new Company in place of the 5*l.* share, and shares to the ordinary shareholders upon which 10*s.* only was paid up. By this means it was sought to obtain further capital, the want of which alone had brought the Company to grief. Mr. Eve, K.C., and Mr. Clausen appeared for the petitioners. Mr. Levett, K.C., who

appeared for a Committee of ordinary shareholders, opposed, and read affidavits, the object of which was to show that the property was more valuable than the petitioners stated, there being a considerable deposit of plumbago on the estate, which, if properly worked would produce good profits. He submitted that the effect of the scheme was to sell the equity of redemption of the whole estates for 258*l.*, whereas the real value was about 20,000*l.* His Lordship, without calling for a reply, gave his sanction to the scheme, being of opinion, on the evidence, that the deferred shareholders had no real interest in the Company, and that the option which was offered them of taking shares with a liability of 10*s.* was really a gratuitous concession. He directed that a sufficient, but not too long, time should be allowed the ordinary shareholders within which the option should be exercised.

### AMERICAN IMPORTS, 1902-03.

The compilations of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce for the fiscal year of twelve months closed June 30 last are being distributed, and included as usual are the tables bearing on the importations in the period into the United States of coffee, tea, cocoa, and chicory.

Despite the lower cost of coffee, the imports reveal less call in the United States for the bean in the last year, and to the considerable extent of 150,000,000 pounds, the figures refuting the often-reported large increase in consumption of coffee in the United States. The decline has been mostly at the expense of Brazil, and all countries have received, apparently, one-tenth of a cent less for their coffee than one year ago. But the coffee habit has in fact proceeded in this country by great leaps and bounds, and if there are reactions these are only temporary and mainly caused by stimulated supply. The average and trend is to expand rather than to contract. In effect the United States remains a one-billion-pound country.

Tea, under the stimulus of free entry and a general barrenness of supply caused by the assurance of the lifting of the late duty, shows an increase in importations of 33 per cent. compared with one year ago, the total reaching a figure high among the records. The increase in price on the average has been two cents a pound.

Cocoa is now imported to the extent of fifty million pounds and the year's increase has been most satisfactorily large. In pounds this commodity is beginning to run close to tea, but very much of it is used in confectionery and in the baking of cake and comparatively rarely as a drink.

The year has been very short in chicory. This was especially true of the domestic crop, and the foreign article was thus freely drawn upon. It has been expensive, but, notwithstanding, the increase in the importation was 600 per cent. Coffee is too cheap at present to make it worth while to use chicory as an adulterant, but seemingly chicory continues to be used largely for its own sake and is moreover in special demand by the manufacturers of cereal coffee who without it would be quite unable to simulate a coffee flavour.

### THE PRESENT TEA SITUATION.

BY C. R. BANKS.

As the earliest teas of the season to arrive are Japans, the writer will give them the first comment, by saying that the cup quality of the present season is decidedly better than it has been for several years past, on the general average. The prices are decidedly higher than last season, which has, in a measure, limited the sale, because the merchant will not make other than necessary purchases on a sharply-advanced market. The same condition exists with Basket-Fired Japans. The Japanese Government has endeavoured to aid the growers of teas by subsidizing that industry. An Association was formed by the growers, which is ably represented in the United States, to further their interests. For reasons unknown to the writer the market materially advanced, so much so that the merchant could not profitably sell Japan teas to the consumer at prices at which the buyer would take them, and they are substituting green Ceylons and Young Hysons. The former have been taken by the public very favourably in the sections where they want light liquor Japan teas, because the infusion of the green Ceylon, at a low cost tea, makes as fine a coloured liquor as many



of the choice Japans. It is a well-known fact that when the public get accustomed to drinking a kind of tea it takes a great deal of influence to cause them to change and we think the alert Japanese will see at too late a day their error, unless they market their teas on the basis of other kinds that are their equal, if not their superior, in cup quality.

The foreign Formosa market opened on a basis of 3 to 4c. higher than last year for early teas, which are thin and undesirable. The later pickings have gradually declined to a basis which seems reasonable to consider a fair business risk in dealing in them. The season is yet too early to give statistics of special value to the average grocer. The loss of the steamship *Heathford* by fire with 32,000 hc. Formosa and about 375 hc. Congou, is likely to have the same effect upon the market as did the loss of the *Satsuma* last season, and the smaller export to date is bound to be felt, owing to the unusually small stock now in warehouses.

The Congou market at Kui Kiang and Han Kow, the latter being a district where the finest cup teas come from, open at from 3 to 5c. per pound higher for the same grade, over last year, and maintained this basis for all first crop shipments to the finish because the Russian and English merchants were very large buyers, and practically swept their markets. The low grades are costing at least 2c. over our present market rates. The official reports show: 22nd July, 1902, export of Congou to the United States from Shanghai and Han Kow, \$3,600,000; 7th July, 1903, \$2,700,000; export to 7th July below last season, 900,000 pounds, or 25 per cent.

Owing to the advanced prices in Shanghai and Han Kow this year the American merchants, from careful figures, bought four million pounds less than last year up to the present time, which included purchases made for future shipments. As the above 900,000 pounds show, the shipments and the balance were for future shipments.

The indications are such that the United States buyers will not be able to make the heavy shipments this year of 52,000 hc. of

Congou and Foo Chow to England, because the English merchant has bought more freely than a year ago, and shippers will be more guarded in shipping only what will pass easily our Government standard. The standard law for quality has been maintained by our tea inspector, Mr. McGay, with as careful judgment as the writer believes it could be, although he considered it necessary to criticise some of the low-grade Formosas which have been on the market. I was informed by him that he was careful to admit nothing below the standard selected. The writer is free to express his opinion that the Commissioners appointed to make the standard must have selected a tea that deteriorated in cup quality to a great extent, more so than it seems would be good judgment to have for a Formosa standard. The unfortunate shippers and consignees of 20,000 Foo Chow, Oolong and Congou, which were rejected, have suffered a severe loss because of their ill-advised selections, but were very fortunate in having the English market, which was short of Congous, take the same at a slight advance over cost, and all the rejected teas now have been as the law requires them to be shipped out of the country.

The writer takes pleasure in expressing his praiseworthy opinion of the careful examination the Board of Appraisers gave the appeal on the rejected teas, and at the suggestion of the National Tea Association and others submitted the case to the Secretary of the Treasury, received the opinion of the Attorney-General that the request for having the rejected teas sifted, and that portion that was admissible admitted, was, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, impossible to be granted.

The Pingsuey foreign market opened on a basis of our own, which was about 20 per cent. higher than last year, and has gradually declined to about 10 per cent. advance of our present market.

The Moyune green market has opened at a sharp advance and the indications are that it will be in a measure sustained, because this market is almost entirely bare of desirable green teas. Some are unattainable at any price.

## "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

USE

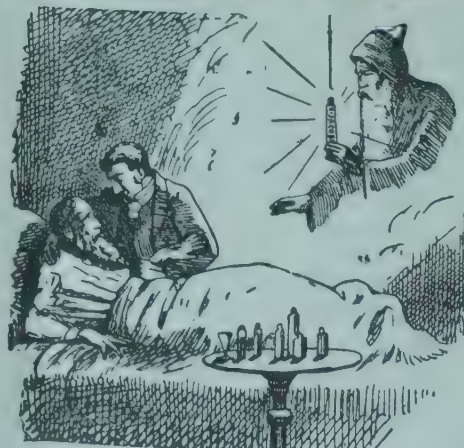
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# CONQUERS PAIN





The Ceylon and Assam market here is decidedly lower than it is in London, which seem to many an impossibility.

The native Ceylon and India market shows a shortage of two to three million pounds for the month of June against the corresponding month of last year. The finest grades are higher, the medium and low grades remain at their high standard of price recently attained.

Our present tea market has been quiet, although there has been a steady demand for good cup grades. This proves that trashy teas are not wanted, and the merchant who buys other than good average stock lessens the general use of teas, and loses desirable customers, together with carrying dead stock. It is easy to assume that pure edible merchandise of any kind drives good trade to the merchant who with care selects choice drinking teas which only can be had by buying an article which has been selected with care at the proper season, fired in the proper way, and cared for as it should be, because we all know very well that tea is a delicate article. If care and judgment are use in the purchase of good teas we are confident the tea trade will increase and dealers will receive the benefit. During the writer's late visit to London and Paris he noticed a great many tea shops where tea is served by the cup, and learned that the tea trade is gradually increasing in many sections where he visited.—*American Grocer.*

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING.

The following are extracts from the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 18th August:—

There were present: Messrs. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Trail, and W. Warrington.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, LONDON.

Letters dated 24th and 30th July from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, having been previously circulated, were brought up for final disposal. The principal subjects dealt with, were—

*The Louisiana Purchase Exposition.*—The letter of 30th July contained a summary of an interview with Mr. P. C. Larkin, of Toronto, regarding the above matter. Mr. Larkin strongly recommended co-operating, if possible, with Ceylon, and the London Committee suggested that the proposal might be considered.

After some discussion it was decided to communicate with the Thirty Committee in Ceylon with reference to Mr. Larkin's suggestion. It was also to be mentioned that a suggestion that India might co-operate with Ceylon had been made by Mr. Bois, Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, in a letter addressed to Sir Montagu Turner some time ago.

In the meantime the Secretary was instructed to prepare a memorandum for submission to the Government of India with reference to the question of the financial assistance to be granted from public funds.

*Manufacture of "Oolong" Teas.*—Mr. Larkin had also drawn the attention of the London Committee to the desirability of manufacturing teas resembling the Formosa Oolongs. From 16 to 20 million pounds of really fine Formosa Oolongs, he said, were sent to the United States last year, and people were willing to pay a higher price for these than for any "black" tea.

Mr. Larkin urged that a planter of some experience should be sent to Formosa by the Indian Tea Cess Committee to gain information as to how the peculiar flavour of these teas is acquired. Mr. Larkin felt certain that if India could make fine Oolongs a profitable business would be opened up.

It was decided to pass on to the Tea Cess Committee a copy of Mr. Larkin's remarks.

*Germany as a Market for Indian Teas.*—Reference was made in the letter of 30th July to a letter which the London Committee had received from Mr. J. S. M. Harrington regarding the possible effect which might be produced in Germany by the reduction of the duty from about 5½d. to about 1½d. per pound under the new German Tariff, which was expected to come into force at the beginning of 1904. In Belgium, Mr. Harrington pointed out, the total remission

of the tax on tea had raised the consumption from 143,686 lbs. to 519,446 lbs., an increase of 377 per cent. If the reduction of the duty in Germany, with its population of 57 millions had a like effect and raised the consumption to approximately that of Belgium, Germany would become the largest Tea Market on the Continent, except Russia, and a field well worth the attention of Indian planters. Mr. Harrington suggested that assistance should be given to a Tea House in Berlin.

It was decided to pass on the Tea Cess Committee a copy of Mr. Harrington's letter for such action as that body might deem advisable. The intimation of the reduction of the tea duty in Germany was noted with much satisfaction.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated August 14th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	160,544	246,605	19,919
1902-1903 ... ..	182,516	282,132	19,943
26,442 pkgs. INDIAN 31,300 " CEYLON 4,137 " JAVA	Total 61,879 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

The stock of all tea in London was less at the end of July than at any time since June, 1900. The telegrams below show that exports from India and Ceylon both continue on a moderate scale, the latter being considerably below last year. Hence the industry is now in a sound position, and if coarse plucking can be avoided, prices may be on a more remunerative scale.

INDIAN.—The market opened with good general competition, firm to rather dearer rates ruling for all whole leaf grades, broken alone showing any indications of weakness. Teas for price were unchanged. Some Assam Teas made high prices. Exports to U. K. second half of July lbs. 11,120,000, against lbs. 9,310,000 last year. Total from 1st April lbs. 30,592,000, against lbs. 29,900,000.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 21,879 pkgs., av. 8·02d. 1902, 26,365 pkgs., av. 7·34d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 53,457 pkgs., av. 7·66d. 1902, 69,479 pkgs., av. 6·71d.

CEYLON.—The fortnight's cessation of auctions tended to a better all-round demand, prices of medium and good teas being very firm and occasionally showing a slight advance, while there was a better market for anything with fine quality. Exports to U. K. during July lbs. 9,500,000, against 10,750,000 lbs. last year. From 1st January lbs. 62,500,000, against lbs. 68,250,000 in 1902.

Average for week 7·00d., against 6·31d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 633,153 pkgs., av. 7·49d. 1902, 716,264 pkgs., av. 6·71d.

JAVA.—In spite of rather heavy supplies, bidding was animated and prices very firm with slight advances, teas of good quality attracting attention and bringing full prices. Since 1st June 18,803 packages Java Tea sold on Garden Account realised an average of 6·60d. per lb.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—  
Calcutta 1/4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>32</sub>. Colombo 1/4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.

## CINCHONA.

At the periodical auctions on Tuesday, seven brokers brought forward catalogues aggregating 1,439 packages, against 715 packages offered at the previous auction in July. There was a fair demand, and about half the offerings were sold at fully the last London sales rates; the average unit being 1½d., and the parity of the last Amsterdam sales 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d.

The following table shows the amount of bark offered and sold:—

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
East Indian cinchona ... ..	862	651
South American cinchona ... ..	333	..
Java cinchona ... ..	130	14
Ceylon cinchona ... ..	114	21
	1,439	686



The following are the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the various buyers:—

	Lbs.
The American factories	63,490
The Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories	39,188
Messrs. Howards & Sons	28,166
The Brunswick factory	17,185
The Imperial Quinine factory	15,267
The Mannheim and Amsterdam factories	1,726
Druggists, Brokers, etc.	17,850

Total quantity sold	182,872
Bought in or withdrawn	154,666

Total quantity offered ... 337,538

The following prices were paid:—

CEYLON.—Ledgeriana, good stem chips, 4½d.; ditto renewed, 5d. per lb.

JAVA.—Hybrid branch, 4½d. per lb.

SOUTH AMERICAN—Sixty-four bales Bolivian cultivated Calisaya were bought in, and a parcel of 266 bales soft Columbian (Z O), imported in 1883 and 1885, was also bought in, from 2¾d. to 3d. per lb. being wanted.

EAST INDIAN.—Succirubra chips, 2¾d. to 3¼d.; root, 2½d.; renewed, 3d. to 3½d.; chiefly crown siftings, 3½d. to 3¾d.; branch and small chips, 1¾d. to 4d.; fair to good stem chips and shavings, 4¼d. to 4¾d., fine rich, 5½d. to 5¾d.; root, common dull, 4½d. to 4¾d., medium 5½d. to 5¾d., rich, 5¾d. to 6¼d.; renewed, medium, 3½d., fair 4½d., good 5¾d. Ledgeriana siftings, 1¾d.; branch, 1½d. to 4d.; root, 4½d. to 4¾d.; rich, 6d. to 6¼d. per lb.

The exports from Holland during the five months ending May amounted to

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Tons ..	2,343	2,859	1,941

### QUININE.

The small bark shipments for the first half of the month have given a rather firmer tone to the second hand market to-day, and a small business has been done at 11d. per oz. on the spot, and 11½d. to 11¾d. for October delivery. September delivery had been sold on Wednesday at 10¾d., and spot at 10¾d.

The exports of quinine, quinine preparations, etc., from Germany during the five months ending May were as follows:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Kilos. ...	88,700	84,400	61,600

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING JULY FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

				IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
				1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	...	5,119,399	6,671,980	4,707,846	12,551,288	11,546,242	8,292,164
	{ Green	...	...	46,928	...	...	4,180	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	...	10,879,792	12,263,067	10,506,744	9,248,628	9,634,299	8,761,913
	{ Green	...	...	111,828	...	...	98,976	...	...
Java..	...	...	...	716,240	546,630	524,580	750,330	603,960	472,570
China, etc.	...	...	...	5,077,078	5,683,339	3,241,469	2,183,579	1,820,771	1,343,965
Total lbs.				21,951,265	25,165,016	18,980,639	24,836,981	23,605,272	18,870,612

### FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF JULY.

				IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.	
				1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.
Indian	{ Black	...	...	6,829,615	8,396,829	5,873,605	24,320,734	20,818,047	15,786,855	24,324,527	31,735,852
	{ Green	...	...	65,144	...	...	4,180	...	...	71,127	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	...	20,229,684	21,612,231	19,305,240	16,046,004	17,290,497	16,037,697	24,757,424	26,626,038
	{ Green	...	...	203,124	...	...	122,772	...	...	304,976	...
Java	...	...	...	1,188,670	945,770	846,790	1,434,480	1,166,200	822,570	1,094,660	1,100,190
China, etc.	...	...	...	5,594,101	6,069,794	3,355,623	4,229,351	3,712,376	2,627,568	12,444,675	16,610,659
Total lbs.				34,110,338	37,024,624	29,381,258	46,157,521	42,987,120	35,274,690	62,997,389	76,072,739

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8'02d., AUGUST 14TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	1625	6.83												
Kan D H T Co G	4½c	6½	1½c	6¾	1½c	6½	1½c	6¾	1½c	6½	...	...	...	...
" Kanniamallay..	138 p	6½	28	6½	19	6½	68½c	6¾	17	6¾	...	...	6½c	5½
" Munaar	363 p	7¼	124 p	7 7¼	72	7¼	88	7¼	23	7	...	...	56 p	5½ 6½
" Sevenmally	556 p	7	158 p	6¾ 8¾	170	6¾ 7	87	7	114½c	6½	...	...	27½c	5½ 6½
" Yellapathy	194	6¾	51	6¾	41	6¾	62	7	35	6½	...	...	5	5½ 6½
T T E Co Bon Ami..	95 p	6¼	20	6¾	30	6¾	22	6¾	...	...	14	5½	9½c	5½
" Mount	174 p	6¼	11	7¼	48	6¼	48	6¾	9	6	5	6¼	53	5½ 6¼
" Pambaner	101 p	6¼	52	6½	25	6¼	...	...	9	6	...	...	15 p	5½ 6¼
Wynaad	168	6.38												
Askern	84 p	6¼	50½c	6½	8	6¼	...	...	6	6	20	6	...	...
Erramaculla	84 p	6½	22½c	6½	17	6½	30½c	6¾	5	6½	...	...	10½c	6¼

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1903.

[No. 36.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 18th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*September 9th.—Weather—*The sun has given us his welcome presence the last four days, but the sky is now again overcast, and rain falling. *Supplies—*There has been too much gloomy weather for these; the early supplies are very poor, and even the late ones are suffering from want of sun. *Works—*Handling, weeding, shade, digging. *Health—*This year is remarkable for its unhealthiness. *Labour—*Sufficient.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 9th September.—*  
*Weather—*From the 31st ultimo till the 7th instant inclusive there was a complete cessation of rain. On the 8th a fresh mild burst set in. *Plant diseases—*The break in the weather has been most beneficial to coffee. There are no signs of leaf-disease and little or no borer has shown up since what of it there was in June was removed. Works in hand are weeding and handling, mostly the former. Plague has now broken out at Gonicipal which brings it near the Estates.

#### Kotagiri.

*10th September.—Weather—*We have been having a particularly good monsoon, as we generally get practically no S.W. here. In 83 consecutive days ending 31st August there were only 22 days without rain. The only bad part of it is that there has been too little sunshine between the showers, and this, as is usual here, has brought on a very bad attack of leaf-disease on a number of Estates. *Crop* is approaching maturity, a few berries ripening up here and there, but not quite enough for fly-picking to commence just yet. *Health—*on the whole—very fair, but plague is creeping on steadily, and now seems to be getting hold of Coonoor. *Labour—*is a bit scarce, as locals are at work on their grain fields.

### THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

THE fact that the U. P. A. S. I. has Rs.20,000 at command for employment in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition has been made known in the chief trade centres of India. The Association made a grant of Rs.10,000, the Mysore Government promptly sanctioned Rs.5,000, and the Government of Madras followed with another Rs.5,000. Then confident hopes have been expressed that the Governments of Travancore and Cochin will give substantial assistance. It does not seem to us, however, that there are good grounds for this hope. Hitherto these two Governments have not manifested any very liberal tendency in respect to grants-in-aid of planters. Then it must be remembered that the Madras and Mysore authorities were approached *personally*. No arrangements appear to have been made for deputations to wait upon the Travancore and Cochin rulers. It is perhaps safer to assume that if these Governments make grants at all, the total will be small. The sum required to assure proper representation through the medium of the Indian Tea Association is Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000. Even taking the smaller sum as a basis, there is nothing at present available, and there is no immediate prospect of a substantial surplus, which can be utilised so as to provide for the most important work in connection with the Exhibition. That work is not the sending forward of exhibits, but the organization of a definite scheme for pushing sales of Indian Coffee, Tea, etc., in the United States. We take it that the District Planting Associations will arrange to subscribe, at least, all supplies required as exhibits and for the production of coffee "in the cup" for sale during the Exhibition. If they stop here, however, there may be a repetition of that occurred at the Paris Exhibition. A demand may be created, and no supplies immediately forthcoming to meet that demand. This is what planters have to try to avoid. It is to be hoped, therefore, that every District Association will bear in mind the necessity of subscribing, either in money or in "kind,"



in such a way that ample supplies may be available, during and after the Exhibition, for the purpose of pushing trade.

Certainly the time is not propitious for appeals to District Associations to supply money for the purchase of stocks to be offered for sale in the United States. Every planter who realises the necessity for push and the expediency of combination can, however, do one thing: he can set aside a small portion of his crop for Exhibition purposes. This portion may be sub-divided. One lot can be given outright for use as an exhibit or for the purposes of the coffee-room where coffee will be sold in the cup. The second part may be regarded as a consignment. In respect to the first part the planter will expect and will receive no return whatever: it will be his subscription. The second parts, put together, might be offered for sale through any agent or agents who may be selected, and the nett proceeds would be ultimately divided *pro rata* among the contributors. By some such co-operative procedure as this, a sufficiency might be made available for all the purposes of the Exposition itself and the campaign in the American markets. The burden on each planter would be light, yet the total supply would suffice for practical purposes. If the campaign failed, the individual outlay would be small, for the coffee sold would at least yield *something* for each contributor. If the campaign succeeded, each contributor would get back something very like the full value of his coffee, and would have a share in the improved prospects opened up by the introduction of Indian Coffee into markets where it has hitherto been practically unknown. So far as planters are concerned, some such method as this appears to be the most likely to bring about good results, but much will depend upon the manifestation of unanimity of purpose, and determination to give the new experiment a fair trial on what may be termed a commercial scale.

There is yet one other source of supplies that should not be overlooked. Every coffee curer in India, every Coast Agent who is interested in coffee estates or in the export of coffee, should be convinced of the advantages that will accrue to all concerned if the American markets are successfully opened up to Indian Coffee. They, as well as planters, have much to lose should present depression become intensified, and much to gain if it can be lightened. To them, therefore, as well as the District Associations and individual planters, should an earnest appeal be addressed. They could contribute in "kind" or in money. Among them they ought to be able to make up a very fair amount, and with assistance from them the U. P. A. S. I. should be placed in a position to make a really good fight for the victory it seeks. Those who are sceptical as to results will hesitate to subscribe; let them, however, do something, however small, to help to put the new experiment on a business footing. Those who believe, as we do, that there is a large market which only needs to be properly attacked in order to assure a permanent demand for Indian Coffee, may contribute more freely. Coffee is an expensive commodity. A very few tons run to a great deal of money; but we believe that representations made in the right quarters would cause the requisite supplies to be forthcoming and would also bring about a very desirable reduction of freight and perhaps of railway carriage and curing expenses in respect to every hundredweight of coffee sent forward in connection with the above exposition, whether for exhibition, for sale at the Exposition, or for sale with a view to the opening

out of a direct trade with American dealers and roasters. If the experiment succeeds, steamship owners and curers of coffee should benefit as well as planters. The object from the very first should, therefore, be to enlist the active co-operation of all interested in the welfare of the coffee industry. Our remarks deal chiefly with this, because it is the staple industry that the U. P. A. S. I. has in view in all the arrangements it proposes or desires to make in connection with the great show at St. Louis next year.

### BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS. JULY 1903.

**Cocoa** (*raw*) arrived in the United Kingdom to only a limited extent during July, and the stock in bond was considerably narrowed down.

In the first seven months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	lbs.	35,423,062	37,849,826	35,836,763
Home consumption	"	25,870,753	30,583,365	26,636,009
Exports	"	7,175,589	8,206,683	6,713,001
Stocks in bond	"	12,842,000	11,383,000	19,122,000
Value of imports	...	£998,416	£1,095,483	£1,075,576
Do. exports	...	212,116	228,387	209,110

**Cocoa** (*prepared*).—Statistics here were again favourable.

In the first seven months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	lbs.	6,130,432	4,836,524	4,889,420
Home consumption	"	5,750,288	4,493,522	4,563,558
Exports	"	247,185	415,109	512,424
Stocks in bond	"	197,000	145,000	146,000
Value of imports	...	£593,385	£491,227	£502,629
Do. exports	...	28,990	43,842	55,354

**Coffee** continued in liberal supply, and although the clearances, particularly for exportation, were much heavier than in the previous July, the stock on the 31st ultimo remained very excessive.

In the first seven months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	cwts.	896,046	661,174	772,328
Home consumption	"	165,358	189,951	206,252
Exports	"	390,181	202,934	403,029
Stocks in bond	"	861,000	509,000	439,000
Value of imports	...	£2,564,319	£1,986,074	£2,527,983
Do. exports	...	989,413	604,963	1,192,122

**Chicory**.—Here only light quantities shifted from one side to the other, and the bonded stock was barely one-third of that in the year 1901.

In the first seven months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	cwts.	51,002	58,550	65,020
Home consumption	"	44,658	50,478	49,737
Exports	"	159	349	450
Stocks in bond	"	7,000	9,000	23,000
Value of imports	...	£23,361	£26,372	£29,563
Do. exports	...	167	357	461



**Tea.**—Moderate importations, combined with swollen deliveries for home use, caused the discrepancy in the stock (before noticed) to again widen, and at the end of July it extended to 14,134,000 lbs.

In the first seven months.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China ... lbs	9,401,579	9,740,991	6,304,547
Do. British East India ,,	43,657,732	52,597,847	51,524,553
Do. Ceylon ... ,,	60,042,822	68,330,152	67,994,920
Do. Other countries... ,,	12,996,327	8,631,372	5,647,046
Total imports ... ,,	126,098,460	139,300,362	131,471,066
Home consumption—China. lbs.	8,907,780	7,324,516	5,559,376
Do. do. B. E. I. ,,	86,224,662	88,138,470	91,005,204
Do. do. Ceylon ,,	44,946,995	49,201,250	54,124,737
Do. do. O. C. ,,	6,589,084	5,467,960	3,540,831
Total ... ,,	146,668,521	150,132,196	154,230,148
Exports—China ... lbs.	6,182,577	6,291,227	6,403,465
Do. British East India ,,	5,590,516	7,330,303	7,583,510
Do. Ceylon ... ,,	9,201,945	9,920,822	10,310,813
Do. Other countries .. ,,	656,557	780,270	814,312
Total ... ,,	21,631,595	24,322,622	25,112,100
Stocks in bond ... lbs.	65,002,000	79,136,000	73,117,000
Value of imports ...	£4,012,475	£4,353,054	£4,149,130
Of which British Indian ...	1,383,679	1,732,578	1,651,107
Do. Ceylon ...	1,891,840	2,080,439	2,119,205
Value of exports ...	939,289	985,364	967,913

RUSSIA'S TEA DUTIES.

An announcement was lately made that, with reference to the decision of the Sugar Convention, Russia intended to institute a course of reprisals against Great Britain, and that Tea would receive attention in the first place. This statement was scoffed at in various quarters. Russian merchants in Colombo asserted that there could be no foundation for it, as they had no advice from their houses in Russia that any such course was contemplated. However, Reuter has now announced that Russia has raised the import duty on Ceylon and Indian Teas imported across the European frontier or through the Black Sea from 31½ to 33 roubles per pood (40 lbs.). The duty on Chinese Tea has not been raised. The increase is not a very serious one, but it may check the development of trade to some extent. At any rate, Russia's action furnishes Indian and Ceylon tea-planters with a fresh claim for consideration of their interests on the part of the various Governments concerned. Rightly employed, it may also provide Mr. Chamberlain with some useful arguments in support of a preferential system of tariff.

COFFEE NOTES.

**Mocha Coffee Crop.**—The coffee crop at Yemen this year is said to leave a good deal to be desired, owing to the scarcity of rain during the past few months. This state of things naturally makes itself felt on the value of the products, and the result is a rise in the price of the article. The exports from Abyssinia, *via* Djibouti, are less than was the case last year.

It is said that the civil war in the United States caused a reduction in coffee consumption of fully 200,000 tons, partly

counterbalanced perhaps by the great increase in the use of adulterated blends or substitutes.

Messrs. Karl Krische & Co. have estimated the August receipts at Rio and Santos combined at 1,800,000 bags, and the fact that their estimate for July came within 2,000 bags of the actual number tends to inspire confidence in their latest figures. This represents a very heavy movement, and with stocks slowly accumulating the trade is looking forward for some sign of weakness in the primary markets.

The visible supply statement of the New York Coffee Exchange for August 1st shows a gain of 470,000 bags during July. Here is the visible supply of the world on the 1st ultimo :—

Stocks in Europe ...	...	Bags.
Rio ...	...	7,245,426
Santos ...	...	585,000
Bahia ...	...	868,000
United States ...	Brazil, 1,994,920	43,000
" ... other kinds,	405,120	
		2,400,040
Afloat for U. S. from Brazil ...	544,000	
Europe ...	Nil.	
Java and East ...	22,000	
Afloat for Europe from Java and East ...	29,000	
Brazil... ..	560,000	
U. S. ... ..	3,000	
Embarques (coffee deducted from stock but not yet cleared) ...	Rio ... 48,000 Santos, 23,000	
		1,229,000
Grand total ... ..	12,370,466	
Against July 1, 1903 ... ..	11,900,173	
Against August 1, 1902 ... ..	11,590,007	

Although the importation of coffee into the United States in the 12 months ending in June fell 1,360,000 bags according to Government statistics, an examination of more trustworthy data, is of the most encouraging character, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of August 11. In the first place a decline in the imports was quite natural, arrivals in previous years having more than exceeded consumption, and a reaction, expressed in diminishing importations, was a consequent procedure. If, on the average, the years' advances exceed recessions general progress has occurred, and that is found to be the fact for coffee importations into the United States. The arrivals of coffee were in 1902-03 6,871,027 bags, whereas in 1901-02 they were 7,905,815 bags—a diminution of 1,034,000 bags according to the trustworthy figures found in the Coffee exchange Supplement. In 1900-01 the arrivals were 6,116,290 bags, so that the importations of this year are ahead of that year, and in fact they exceed all previous years expecting 1901-02. Meantime, deliveries, which approximate consumption, show an increase rather than a decrease. They were for 1902-03, 6,847,877 bags, within 25,000 bags of the entire arrivals, and are an increase of 284,000 bags over the arrivals of the year 1901-02 of 6,663,569 bags. Indeed, the deliveries in 1902-03 are the largest on record, and represent a consumption of 887 million pounds. The increase is 37,500,000 bags or about ½ pound for each inhabitant. To remark in other words, never before has there been so much coffee used in the United States.

A survey of the figures back to 1882 offers still more encouragement, showing the vastness of the expansion of



coffee usage in this country in 20 years. In 1882-83 the deliveries were only 2,416,107 bags against Europe's 7,042,080 bags. We consumed less than 25 per cent. of the coffee grown, whereas in 1902-03 we consumed more than 42 per cent. Europe's increase has been from 7 to 9 million bags, whereas ours has been from 2,400,000 to 6,850,000 bags, the world's crops in the interim having increased from 11,161,279 bags in 1883 to 16,889,840 bags in 1903. It would appear that the coffee industry in the United States has little to complain about, and if all the world had done as well, a coffee surplus would not now exist worth the while.

The world's own figures justify roseate views. The deliveries or consumption in 1902-03 were 15,966,498 bags, the largest on record, and an increase of 450,000 bags over 1901-02. A year ago the increase was 800,000 bags, but this was abnormal, and so this year's figures should prove gratifying enough, especially in the light of a shrinkage of total arrivals in the United States and Europe from 19,013,367 bags in 1901-02 to 16,889,840 bags in 1902-03, a decrease of 2,123,927 bags, leaving an addition to the world's supply over consumption of only 923,242 bags against that of 1901-02 of 3,496,704 bags.

**Option Coffee Prices.**—Surprise is often expressed, says the *Spice Mill*, that there seems to be so little harmony between the option coffee market and the prices at which the ordinary merchant is able to purchase his supply, and the impression often prevails that some one is getting an immense profit, while quite the contrary is often the case. Take, for instance, a quotation of five cents or less for option coffee when the larger merchant pays about ten cents for his lowest grade.

It is really surprising on what very small margins these goods are sold among the coffee men, who often turn over large invoices of coffee that show a margin of only 1 or 2 per cent., while perhaps 3 per cent. would be considered a very large profit, although less than a quarter of a cent. per pound. The feature about the option market not always understood is that any kind of coffee may be delivered on an option at its corresponding trade value as listed on the exchange, and the exchange standard takes no account of roasting merit or cup quality. For instance, a man may have an option on No. 7 (low ordinary) coffee at 5 cents and he may receive on it No. 3 (fair coffee) at 2 cents per pound more, and as his expense of the exchange will be about one quarter of a cent, the coffee will cost him  $7\frac{1}{4}$  cents then he will probably receive a coffee that looks well green but makes a bad roast, and after standing shrinks, amounting to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cents in roasting. He would find it hard to get  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cents for the roasted coffee. Much of this coffee delivered on options is mere trading stock, and lies in warehouses for years, changing hands hundreds of times.

In view of this condition, the legitimate trader does not go to the option market, but will buy where he can get a fair selection of coffee, based on the roasting merits of the goods and the cup quality, and for such goods he pays much more than options are quoted.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The downward tendency to prices continues, says the *Spice Mill*, the tone of the market being weak, and values for both contracts and invoices were lowered slightly. Liquidation of the speculative interest in September contracts continues to be reported, and as there

was only indifferent buying to absorb the offerings, prices were gradually yielding. Adding to the depression was an increasing desire on the part of Brazil to market coffee, Rio selling on August 5 Rio No. 6 at the lowest prices for this grade of coffee ever recorded in the history of the trade; the transaction was 3,000 bags Rio No. 6 at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  c. c. & f.; other firm offers received included Rio Nos. 6 to 8, averaging No. 7, at 4.80c. c. & f.; Rio No. 2 at 6c. do.; Santos Nos. 3 and 4 at 7.50c., and described Bourbon Santos No. 4 at 5.70c. The world's visible supply of coffee increased during July 470,000 bags, but this was about as expected, and consequently had no especial influence. The spot market for invoices was weak. The jobbing business continued without spirit, and of a hand-to-mouth character.

Speculation in the market for contracts continues on a very moderate scale only.

The position of fazendeiros in Brazil is getting most critical, a report says; it seems no longer possible to grow coffee without losing money. Exchange continues firm at present rates and the labour question is quite to the front. Immigration of Italians is almost suspended.

**"Essence" of Coffee.**—The report of the public analyst at Liverpool for the past quarter refers to a certain so-called "coffee essence," which, on being analysed, was found to contain not more than 10 per cent. of coffee, not less than 55 per cent. of chicory, and 35 per cent. of water.

**The U. S. Coffee World's Market.**—The situation in coffee has very much improved, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 11th ultimo. The world's stocks to be sure are larger than ever, but at last interest so long dormant is aroused sufficiently to begin buying coffee for investment's sake, and despite all tales to the contrary, the consuming market is more than doing its share in taking care of the great stocks. The deliveries during the month of July in the United States were in excess of any monthly delivery in the last twelve months, and if traders are inclined to complain of a lack of business, they ought to see that somehow they are not on the ground floor. Someone is doing business. To be sure prices are low, very low, but at the same time and at last they are attractive to buyers, and be the profits what they may, at any rate, the market is more than merely stirring, and this should give satisfaction.

A new interest entered the market last week on the Exchange and purchased 100,000 bags of coffee, evidently confident that coffee now is remarkably cheap and offers a fine promise for profit. The interest, it is said, has been successful in the past in such investments and sees ahead a rise in the market. It is not of the metal ring which has to a great extent liquidated its coffee. On this sudden purchase, which the Lehmans handled, the market advanced fifteen points and more, and while since there has been a reaction, even to twenty points yesterday, it is believed there will be a counter demonstration from this on forays by the new interest. It must protect its purchases. In the irregularity the market will be found to gain steadily. An enduring improvement is scarcely ever on the sky rocket order and the present ups and downs therefore are wholly natural for a good future. At least the market is no longer stagnant, there is something stirring, and the air is tonic for a brace. Europe duly felt the influence.



An improved speculative market will have its effect on the active market. There has been much active coffee sold as is evidenced by the large July deliveries. To be sure some of the Brazil prices reached last week low record prices, such as a sale of 3,000 bags Rio No. 6 at 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. c. & f., the lowest price at which Brazil has ever sold this grade of coffee, yet the market is firmer than might have been expected. Some sales were : 2,000 bags Rio No. 7 at 4 $\frac{8}{16}$ c. c. & f., 2,000 bags Rio No. 7 described as good roasters at 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. do., 1,000 Rio No. 6 do. at 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. do., and Bourbon Santos No. 2 at 6 $\frac{1}{16}$ c. c. & f., and Bourbon Santos No. 3 at 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. do. The spot market for invoices closed firmer at 5c. for Rio No. 8, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. for Rio. No. 7, 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. for Santos No. 4. Jobbing is reported as being done in larger proportions.

In milds there is a steadier undertone, partly the influence of the stronger turn in Brazil coffees. Supplies are plentiful enough but are not coming in the large quantities as heretofore. Good Cucuta is 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. East India coffees are quiet.

Total stock in United States August 1, 2,400,040 bags against 2,574,631 bags August 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States August 8, in store and afloat, 2,495,744 bags against 2,723,995 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 405,120 bags, against 315,391 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York August 8, 1,799,054 bags. Stock in other coffees August 1, 302,222; in San Francisco, 92,116 bags; and in New Orleans, 10,782 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, August 1, 12,370,566 bags.

Warehouse deliveries since August 1, 1903, New York, 95,186; Baltimore, 5,542; New Orleans, 10,874. Total 415,658.

## TEA NOTES.

**Brick Tea as Current Coin.**—It is one of the peculiarities of Mongolia, says a Chinese official in the course of his "Recollections" now appearing in the *North China Herald*, that the ordinary medium of currency does not find acceptance there. "Payments not made in kind," such as a sheep, which was the daily wage of Shen, the banished Taotai of Shanghai, when at Kalgan, "are usually made in the form of brick tea, the required quantity being broken off the brick."

**Ceylon Tea Shipments to the United Kingdom.**—The following is the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce official tea telegram to London on the 1st instant :—

August shipments 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  millions.  
September estimate 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 millions.

The August estimate was 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  millions. The shipments for July and August last year were 10,765,355 lbs. and 7,467,514 lbs. respectively ; and for September were six and three-quarter millions.

It is, says the *Merchants' Review*, a reflection on the good judgment of American tea-men when authorities on Ceylon tea culture recommend the packing of teas of certain tints for American trade. Tea ought to be judged by its drinking qualities.

**Exports from Wenchow, 1902.**—Mr. Consul Mortimore reports :—The total value of the export trade was 644,370 Haikuan taels (83,672 lbs.), nearly double that of 1901, and due to the increased export of tea, brought about by the reduction of the duty to an effective 5 per cent., and a very satisfactory season. Much of the commoner teas, however,

are still unable to bear the duty and are consumed locally. Owing to the season having proved so successful to the growers, I am informed that much new ground, as well as ground previously used for other crops, is to be utilised for tea planting. The green teas, which mostly go to the United States, were a very satisfactory crop, and good profits were realised by the merchants. The export of unfired tea, which is sent to Shanghai for firing and then exported to the United Kingdom, Russia, and the United States, more than doubled that of any previous year.

**Excess of China Green Teas.**—Messrs. Reid, Evans & Co., of Shanghai, venture to estimate that there will be this season an excess of 30,000 half-chests of Pingsuey tea, 30,000 half-chests of country teas proper and 20,000 half-chests of Wenchows, S. Packs and new Districts, a total excess of 80,000 half-chests. This would give available for export, say they, to Europe and America some 5,000,000 lbs. of Green Tea. Allowing that Europe takes 1 million lbs., there remain for America 4 million pounds more than 1902. This quantity, provided prices were moderate, would not be excessive when the small stocks in many parts of that country and the removal of the 10 per cent. duty is taken into account. It remains to be seen whether America can take this extra quantity at present prices with profit to importers.

**In Coffee and Tea.**—Japan has decided, a despatch says, to continue the subsidy to the Central Tea Guild for the purpose of extending the tea market in the United States. The subsidy has been paid six years. When the question of renewal came up early in the year, six American, English, and German firms engaged in Yokohama tea trade urged its discountenance.

The Germans are not great tea-drinkers, and this is not surprising. According to the report of His Majesty's Consul at Hamburg, the tea duties at the present time are no less than £4 18s. per 220 lbs. avoirdupois, and to show the great margin there is in this excessive duty it has only to be mentioned that under the new tariff the amount will only be £1 4s. 6d. To compare these sums is to see how heavily the consumption of tea has been hitherto handicapped among the poorer classes of the population.

**A Japanese Tea Trust.**—TACOMA, Wash., July 17.—The Japan Central Tea Association, of Japan, has sent Kihe Aizawa as a Special Commissioner to the United States to look after and increase American sales. This Association is practically a tea trust, but differs from trusts in this country. The Association numbers more than a million growers, and controls not only tea for export, but also tea kept for home consumption. There are practically no tea plantations outside of the Association, which was formed with the consent of the Government.

According to Commissioner Aizawa, the salient features of the administration of the Association are Committees which are constantly travelling over the country inspecting plantations. Tea has to be up to standard or it is refused. In factories as well there are inspectors, who examine every shipment of tea before it is put upon the market, and if it does not come up to standard it is rejected. The Association has established agencies in New York and Chicago, and in



Montreal, Canada, and through these it is intended to push the sale of tea, which is considered in Japan a more healthful drink than coffee.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Mr. A. R. Robertson writes in the *Spice Mill*:—

The market on all kinds of tea continues quiet, buyers looking critically at offerings, but being slow to respond. The general opinion is that in the near future some active purchasing will begin, and prices will harden.

It is reported that nearly every jobbing house and wholesale grocery firm find themselves more or less short in a general assortment of stock, and it is a question of holding off to see "how the cat jumps." The markets abroad show little, if any, change, although better grade teas are quoted dearer.

**Formosas.**—For spot stock, quotations are lower in price, and good values are to be had in last season's tea. In new, invoices from 16 to 17 cents. have been inquired for, but holders are firm.

**Congous.**—Quoted steady, with light demand. It begins to be an interesting question as to whether this growth of tea may not be entirely supplanted by Ceylons and Indias.

**Oolongs.**—Demand slow, with prices a shade lower than last month.

**Pingsuey and China Greens.**—Firm.

**Japans.**—Steady, with only moderate business doing. Lower and medium grades show no alteration in prices, while finer teas are quietly being picked up, so that an advance is not unlikely.

**Indians and Ceylons.**—No changes to report; foreign markets are cabled strong, and spot greens are receiving much more attention.

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**Report on Japan Tea.**—The Japan Tea Exporting Co., writing from Kobe, July 22, says:—

"The demand is chiefly for good medium and downward descriptions, suitable qualities of which are being taken up under favourable consideration. Good common grade being particularly in demand at Yokohama, no small quantity is being shipped to that port. Owing to the falling-off in quality of recent arrivals, prices have gradually been declining, the quotations for certain descriptions being from Y2 to Y3 lower since the date of our last report, though still Y1 to Y2 higher as compared with the corresponding period last year. There has latterly, however, been indications of a stronger feeling prevailing for low-grade teas, while prices are tending upwards.

"In consequence of this year's demand having chiefly been directed to high grades, very little attention has been given since the opening of the season to low-grade teas, the result being a smaller crop than in any average year. The consequent scarcity of supplies has induced buyers to take up the goods eagerly. Besides, goods of desirable descriptions being chiefly required for home consumption, arrivals have for the moment greatly decreased. The production of the second crop teas appears to be below that of an average year, instead of above as was anticipated; this may be attributed to the fact that prices declined just at the time the crop was being gathered. Judging from the foregoing circumstances, it may be expected that the low-grade teas

will continue in demand, with more or less hardening in prices, and that active business is likely to take place."

Shipments from Kobe and Yokohama to July 17 have been 6,910,935 pounds against 5,621,174 pounds same period 1902; to Chicago and the West 9,584,857 pounds, 6,083,836 pounds in 1902 same period; to Canada 580,009 pounds against 671,886 pounds 1902; to Pacific Coast 2,452,875 pounds against 1,208,933 pounds 1902; total, 19,528,676 pounds against 13,585,829 pounds in 1902.

\* \* \*

**Colombo Tea Sales.**—At the public sale of tea at the Chamber of Commerce room, Colombo, on 2nd instant, 11,869 packages = 900,251 lbs. were offered, of which 9,108 packages = 787,058 lbs. were sold. The selection of tea offered was hardly as good as last week, but prices were about steady. Good medium to fine Broken Pekoes again met with competition at full rates. Green teas were lower.

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**Liquid Fuel on Tea Estates.**—The *Times of Ceylon* says:—Following the successful use of liquid fuel for tea-driers at St. Clair, Talawakele, a good many tea estates in various parts of the island are now having tea-driers fitted up for burning liquid fuel. We learn from Messrs. Delmege, Forsyth & Co. that the use of liquid fuel on estates continues to make headway, and that the firm are erecting tank installations at stations where a great demand is shown for the fuel. Such installations have already been erected at Peradeniya and Hatton, and it is proposed to erect one at Kandy and another at Talawakele. At other stations, where there is only a small demand for the fuel, it is sent up in the railway tank wagons.

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There is to be an establishment for the preparation of soluble tea in India. Mr. J. Roger informed a *Times of Ceylon* interviewer on his return to the island:—"At present all the soluble tea is prepared in Ceylon. Now, Mr. Roger thinks, it will be necessary to provide a separate establishment in India, just as is done in Ceylon, because it would be absurd to manufacture the tea in Ceylon for a place like India."

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**Tea in Russia.**—In his report on the Foreign Commerce of Russia and Trade of the Consular District of St. Petersburg for the year 1902, Mr. Consul General J. Michell remarks:—It is satisfactory to note the growing importation into this country of Ceylon and Indian teas, the impetus to which was given by judicious advertisements made by a special agent in the Russian press.

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**London Tea Market.**—According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Ewart and McCaughey's Tea Report, dated the 7th instant, says that 30,975 packages were offered for sale in a fairly steady market. Except for bad teas, which were easier, Assams with any character were again well taken, and bidding for Darjeelings was rather tame, and a good many parcels were taken out. Clean Pekoe Souchongs were quoted at 6d.

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**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the tea sale on the 4th instant 22,465 packages were sold to a brisk market. Common teas were slightly dearer. Flavory Assams and Darjeelings were in strong demand, several invoices realising over a rupee per lb. A large quantity was taken by Russian buyers and for other outside markets.



# NOTES.

## Chinde Rubber.

The Export Duty on Chinde Rubber is 6 per cent. *ad valorem* if shipments are made to Portuguese ports; 8 per cent. if to foreign ports.

## A Small Market.

Madeira takes annually about 6 tons of Tea, which reaches the island either from the Azores or the United Kingdom. Coffee is not specially referred to in import statistics.

## Damascus.

In 1902 Damascus imported Tea from India to the value of £4,000; and Coffee, from Brazil and Mocha, to the value of £22,500. Nine-tenths of this was Brazilian.

## Japan Coffee!

Among entries of imports into Oregon in 1902 appears one curious item, *viz.* coffee (from Japan!) £2,644. Tea from the same country amounted to £98,061 in value. From the United Kingdom tea to the value of only £925 was received.

## Coffee in Bahia.

The returns show an export from Bahia of coffee to the value of £129,514 (44 per cent.) less than in 1901. There was no improvement in the quality of the crop, and, with the exception of a brief spurt in July, prices ruled so low that absolutely no margin was left to the planter. The gloomy anticipations of last year's report being thus justified, it may be safely assumed, says Mr. Consul Medhurst, that unless a rapid improvement occurs the cultivation of coffee in this State is doomed in the near future. Prices varied from 17s. to £1 10s. per cwt. for the best quality.

## India-rubber in Bahia.

It is pleasing, says the British Consul, to have to report an improvement in india-rubber, which two years ago appeared likely to disappear entirely from the Bahia export list. More attention was given to Manicoba, and large numbers of trees were, within the last few years, planted in San Francisco district. These recent plantations are now producing good rubber, which is finding its way to market, and, despite the heavy charges incurred for transport, the rubber collectors manage to secure a fair profit. Manicoba fetched from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 4d. per lb., and the inferior quality, Mangabeira, from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. per lb., cost and freight.

## Entomology.

The Trustees of the Indian Museum have begun the issue of a series of circulars on Agricultural Economic Entomology. The first three deal with the Bengal Rice Hispa (*Hispa Aenescens*), the Rice Sapper (*Leptocoris Acutta*), and the Sugarcane Borer (*Chilo Simplex*). The circulars have been prepared by Mr. E. P. Stebbing, of the Natural History Department, Indian Museum. They are written in simple language, are clearly illustrated with woodcuts, and are so cheap as to be within the reach of all. They should be of widespread benefit to agriculturists of every class, and it is hoped that they will help to popularise the study of economic entomology. The undertaking is cordially to be commended, and the issue of the leaflets ought to be made widely known.

## Canada and the United States.

"It has been said, with some suspicion of truth, that the chief difference between Canada and the

United States is that you can't get a decent cup of coffee on this side of the line, nor decent tea on the other," says the *Canadian Grocer*. "What is the cause of this state of affairs? Anyone who has travelled at all knows the wretched concoction that passes for coffee at most Canadian hotels and lunch counters, while at even the most unpretentious house of entertainment across the line one is reasonably sure of a good cup of coffee. Coffee is very much like the little girl with the curl right down her forehead, 'When it is good it is very good, and when it is bad it is horrid.' Very little coffee, comparatively speaking, is used in Canada. Whether our bad coffee is due to the small amount we use, or use so little because it is so bad, is a conundrum. The answer very probably lies in the coffee pot. Very few people know how to manipulate it, and the best coffee is often made to yield indifferent results."

## Ceylon Produce.

In their report on trade for the first half of the current year the Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce say:—COCOA.—The market opened firm at the beginning of the year and has kept fairly level with an occasional slight rise and fall, and may be said to have compared favourably with the London market. Export again shew a considerable increase compared with the corresponding period last year, as the following figures show:—

1903	...	...	...	34,546	cwts.
1902	...	...	...	26,090	"

CARDAMOMS.—This product shews a steady fall in prices from the commencement of the year, due to the continued over-production and decided falling-off in quality, and in view of the increased acreage being opened up, the staple can hardly be considered to be in a healthy state.

## Exports are—

1903	...	...	...	431,974	lbs.
1902	...	...	...	314,188	"

## Vanilla in the Society Islands.

Except in a few instances, where great care has been exercised in the selection of the vine before planting, in its subsequent cultivation and in the preparation of its bean, vanilla is no longer a lucrative production in Tahiti, owing to the inefficient and unskilled manner in which the bean has oftentimes been cured and prepared for shipment, to large stocks on hand at Bordeaux, San Francisco and other places, and to indifferent quality compared with that from Mexico, Bourbon, Seychelles, Fiji, etc. In 1893 the price of Tahiti vanilla averaged 2s. 7½d. per lb., and its export was practically insignificant. In 1896 its market value had increased to prices ranging between 4s. 6½d. and 9s. 1d. per lb., and advanced in January, 1897, to 16s. 4d. per lb., dropping in April of that year to 7s. 3d. per lb. From that date its price has gradually declined until, during the year 1902, it realised but an average of 2s. 11d. per lb. The following table may be of use to those interested in the matter:—

Export of Vanilla from Tahiti during the years 1893 and 1897 to 1902.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average price
	lbs.	£	per lb.
1893	29,858	3,938	2 7½
1897	75,740	35,862	9 5½
1898	92,137	20,468	4 5½
1899	130,113	33,701	5 2
1900	162,636	32,132	3 11½
1901	203,737	43,912	4 4
1902	324,340	47,417	2 11



**Cocoa at Bahia.**

The 1902 crop of cocoa was the largest known in Bahia. Heavy rains either destroyed a considerable portion of the new fruit or prevented it from ripening, otherwise even still larger parcels would have reached market. The new plantations in the district of Ilheos, Una and neighbouring districts are coming into bearing and supplied 50 per cent. of the total crop. From April, 1902, to March, 1903, 300,000 bags were shipped to Europe and the United States. The 1901-02 crop only furnished 232,000 bags, so that the season's increase consisted of 68,000 bags (29 per cent.). The quality was certainly below the average, having deteriorated owing to the rains, and claims arose in Europe respecting many of the parcels shipped, nearly all of them being settled in favour of the buyer. Exporters are said to be very dissatisfied at these decisions. Their contention is that as sales are usually made on this side as being on "the average of the season's crop," they are free from liability, once it is proved that the average of the year's crop is of inferior quality. Prices opened at from £2 12s. to £2 16s. per cwt. (cost and freight), but later fell to £2 9s. per cwt., large crops here and in other countries and the poor quality of the cocoa being accountable for the drop in prices. It is presumed that the 1903-04 crop will amount to some 300,000 bags, but no improvement is noticeable in the method of gathering or the preparation of the bean. If planters could only be persuaded that it is their own interest to give more care and attention to these important operations the quality would certainly improve. At present in proportion to the increase in the area of production there is a falling-off in the care shown to the bean, and the same primitive methods continue to be employed when the crop is gathered.

**Adulteration.**

The report of Professor Thorpe, the principal chemist of the British Government Laboratory, upon the work of the laboratory for the year ending March 31, states that the bulk of the coffee sampled is intended for ships' stores, and when so used is entitled to drawback, if pure. The number of samples of coffee submitted has decreased from 1,721 in 1901-02 to 1,328 in 1902-03, the fall being no doubt due to the smaller quantity exported on drawback since the termination of the war. Coffee substitutes other than chicory are not dutiable *per se*, but as a matter of fact frequently consist of dutiable substances, as caramel (burnt sugar), roasted cereals (as wheat and barley), and roasted figs. The extensive use of these substitutes is no doubt prejudicial to the revenue from coffee, but importations are reported to the Inland Revenue with a view to the Excise duty being imposed. Chicory is charged at the same rate of duty as coffee, *viz.*, 2d. per lb. when roasted or ground, but pays only 13s. 3d. per cwt. when kiln-dried. Questions have arisen as to whether the cylinder-dried chicory from the Continent was not liable to the higher rate as *roasted* chicory, but the result of the laboratory tests showed that in the samples submitted there was no essential difference between the kiln-dried and the cylinder-dried chicory, and the latter was accordingly admitted at the lower rate of duty. Comparatively few samples of cocoa or dutiable fruits are sent for test as these have fixed rates of duty, and are readily assessed by the landing officers. Tea is examined by tea inspectors, appointed under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, at certain of the principal places of importation, and consignments

suspected to be of doubtful purity are sampled and sent to the Customs Laboratory for further test. During the past year these samples have increased from 998 to 1,521, but the proportion of those rejected as unsuitable for home consumption was almost exactly equal to the average for the last ten years, *viz.*, a little over 11 per cent. One of the most frequent causes of rejection is excess of sand, which often exceeds 10 per cent., and in one instance was as high as 16 per cent. The rejected tea is allowed either to be exported or to be used duty-free in the manufacture of caffeine. More than 90 per cent. of the tea imported comes from India and Ceylon, India sending by far the larger portion; and less than 10 per cent. comes from China and all other countries. The importation of extract of tea (as well as extracts of coffee, chicory, and tobacco) is prohibited, but occasionally samples suspected to be of this nature are submitted for test.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.**

**Reunion.**—This colony is of no great account as a coffee-producer, but has increased its exports. In 1900 it shipped 10 tons; in 1901 the quantity had risen to 69 tons, and in 1902 to 84 tons, all exported to France.

**Philippine Islands.**—Exports of coffee in 1902 were only 110 piculs (7 tons), the crop, owing to the plants having died some years ago in many districts, being now scarcely sufficient to supply the local demand.

**Brazil.**—Coffee movements in Brazil for the first nine months of the year 1901 and 1902 show a decrease in the export of coffee of 326,596 bags valued at £490,917.

The following table gives the coffee values for the last four years:—

Return showing Extreme Prices in Cents per lb. for Coffee Grade No. 7, in New York, during the years 1902—1899.

Month.	1902.		1901.		1900.		1899.	
	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
January	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{3}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
February	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{3}{8}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
March	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	7	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
April	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	7	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
May	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
June	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	6	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
July	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	6	8	9 $\frac{7}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
August	5	5	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
September	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	8 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$
October	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	7	8 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
November	5	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	7
December	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	7
Extremes	5	7	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{8}$	5	7

On May 16, 1903, the price was 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. The fall in the price of coffee is due to over-production. Coffee represents some 50 to 60 per cent. of the export trade and the amount of capital invested in coffee is very great. The principal revenue of the States of Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Minas Geraes, and Espirito Santo is derived from the export tax on coffee, many of the railways exist on coffee freights and sea freights are affected by these exports. Plantations are heavily mortgaged, wages are in arrears, money is scarce, and the effects of this crisis is felt throughout the population.

A new law of the State of San Paulo comes into force on July 1st and imposes a prohibitive export tax on low grades of coffee. In Minas Geraes a project for a similar law is being discussed by the State, and Rio de Janeiro will probably follow the lead of that State. In Rio de Janeiro and Minas Geraes low grades represent



some 40 to 50 per cent. of the coffee produced, and these States cannot afford to kill the industry, whilst San Paulo is in a better position financially. It is hoped that by restricting the export of low grades prices would rise. This would probably be the result for a short time, but the large stocks abroad would, under these conditions, commence to unload and prices again fall. Planters in San Paulo evidently expect to be benefited by this law, for coffee planting still continues in that State; but, in all probability, the uneconomical result of such legislation will become so apparent that the law will eventually become a dead letter.

The coffee crop for 1901-02 was the largest on record, that for 1902-03 (from July 1 to June 30) will probably be a minimum of 12,000,000 bags.

## THE STUDY OF INSECT LIFE IN INDIA.

LECTURE BY MR. E. P. STEBBING.

The following very instructive lecture was read by Mr. E. P. Stebbing to an interested audience in the hall of the Royal Asiatic Society building at Calcutta on September 2:—

I wish to draw your attention this evening to a division of the Animal Kingdom which has been, until within the last few years, much neglected in India. I allude to that portion of it comprising the Insect Life of this great continent. When once taken up its study exerts a peculiar fascination over its devotees, and when I tell you that the larger part of the animal matter existing on the earth is probably locked up in the forms of Insects it will become apparent that their study is likely to prove of some importance to man in addition to the interest that attaches to it.

It is a curious fact that many of the great men of the world have commenced their introduction to Science by a study of this Class of animals and have started on the road to fame through the portals of the Insect World. He who revolutionized scientific thought, but little over half a century ago, I mean Charles Darwin, tells us in the pages of his life that no pursuit was followed by him at Cambridge with so much eagerness or gave him so much pleasure as collecting beetles. He says that at first he was possessed by the mere passion for collecting, for he did not dissect his specimens and rarely compared their external characters, but got them named anyhow. The eminent scientist always considered, however, in after days that this passion for collecting beetles was the beginning upon which his after life's work was built up, and who can say what bearing this taste had upon that master mind. "I am surprised," he says "at the indelible impression many of the beetles which I caught at Cambridge have left on my mind. I can remember the appearance of certain posts, old trees and banks where I made a good capture" a quickening of the powers of observation which renders the study of nature, so desirable an occupation. Darwin draws attention to the fact that, although a man may so to speak graduate through this portal, it being one which certainly sharpens the senses and develops the powers for minute observation it need not necessarily follow that he will remain within the precincts of this particular temple of Science. He mentions that of two of his contemporaries at Cambridge, both keen insect collectors, and his companions on many an eager hunt the one became eventually a distinguished Archaeologist, the other a leading Agriculturist, Chairman of a great Railway and a Member of Parliament. "It seems therefore" he quaintly adds "that a taste for collecting beetles is some indication of future success in life."

**Aspects of Study.**—The study of any form of Animal or Plant life may be considered from several points of view. We have the mere collector whose only wish is to amass a number of specimens without regard to their classification, their distribution—in itself a most fascinating study—or the scientific importance they may have. We next have the collector who collects with a view to getting together a large number of specimens of all the different groups which he names or endeavours to get named. These he keeps in cabinets for his own personal delectation. Or we may have the collector who is concerned with the scientific classification of the Insect World. He will in all probability confine himself to one or two groups as was the case with that distinguished Entomologist, the late Mr. de Niceville who, devoting his life to the

collection and study of the Indian Butterflies (*Lepidoptera*), amassed before his death a perfectly unique and exceedingly valuable collection. This collection, which is without a rival in the world has been secured by the Trustees of the Indian Museum and now forms not the least valuable of the many interesting and valuable collections existing in that Institution. Or we may have the collector who concerns himself with variation, mimicry and protective resemblance and who collects and classifies more with reference to these particular phases of Insect Life than to any accepted system. Next we come to the collector who busies himself with the distribution of Insects. This is a question of great importance and one which we will consider briefly at a later stage. Finally we have the collector who, in addition to wishing to collect Insects wishes also to know something more about them than their mere names or positions in a classificatory system. He wants to find out where they live, how long they take to pass through the various stages of their life—for it will be known to you all that the mature Insect does not develop as such, from the egg but passes through intermediate stages known as the grub or caterpillar stage and, in some cases, a chrysalis or pupal stage. He wishes to know what they feed upon, what relation they bear to one another and finally, and this is perhaps not the least important point in a great agricultural country like India, what is their relation to man? What is their position in the economy of nature? Are they a factor to be taken into account in the world's progress?

**The First Stages.**—These are some of the aspects which the study of Insect Life presents, and which I would briefly consider to-night, and more especially with reference to their bearing upon India. We have then first the mere collector to consider, he who collects without especially wishing to learn anything about what he collects. Probably there are few of us who are not, or at any rate during some period of our lives have not been, possessed by this passion for collecting in some form or another and all such will remember moments during which they have been within an ace of acquiring some coveted treasure which through bad luck they have just missed. Darwin tells a good story against himself on this subject and many a collector must have been placed in dilemmas as tantalizing as that in which the great Naturalist found himself one day. He was out collecting in the Cambridge fens and "tearing off some bark I saw two rare beetles, and seized one in each hand, then I saw a third and new kind, which I could not bear to lose, so that I popped the one that I held in my right hand into my mouth. Alas! it ejected some intensely acrid fluid which burnt my tongue so that I was forced to spit the beetle out—it was lost as was the third one." The intense disgust of the keen collector as such a fiasco can be readily pictured. The mere collection then of specimens may be said to be the first stage in the study of Insect Life and if the collector makes no further use of his specimens he will at least have increased to some extent his powers of observation and reasoning while at the same time he will have spent many pleasant hours with nature and have obtained a knowledge of places and scenes which an inspection of his cabinets in after days will ever recall to his memory. But a day may come when our collector takes something out of the common and that day comes to him very rapidly in India. He then has recourse to books to endeavour to find out what his specimen is, or sends it away to some one who will be able to tell him or, if he has the opportunity, he consults other collections. From the mere collecting enthusiast he is, if he continues to act in this way with all the unknown specimens he takes, now beginning to give help in the scientific world. If he is collecting in India and goes no further than this he will nevertheless be rendering the most valuable assistance to the study of the Insect Life of this great continent, provided he always records the locality, with, if possible, elevation and date of taking, for each of his captures. I would wish to dwell upon this aspect of the study for a brief space. I have often heard men say that they wished they had something to employ their leisure moments on in camp, and to such a camping community as we Europeans in India form the wish comes to many. The lines upon which this desire will take shape depends upon the individual characteristics and temperament of each. Many have a natural bent for Natural History and would gladly devote their time to a branch if they knew how to begin. My brief to-night is one for the study of Insect Life and to all who wish to turn profitless wearisome hours in camp into agreeable interesting ones—ones fraught with bright memories and recollections which the study of the cabinets in after days will ever conjure up—to such I would recommend the study



of that class of the Animal Kingdom whose body structure exhibits a perfection that, from a mechanical point of view, is unsurpassed, while the external beauty of some of its members makes them fit associates of the most delicate flowers and no mean rivals of the most gorgeous of the feathered world. While thus profitably employing his time he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he is enriching his own knowledge of Nature and her handiwork and at the same time his labours will also be adding valuable additions to the collections of the Great Museums of the World. To all whose leisure or inclination will not permit them to go further I would say that this help alone will be of the greatest value.

**The Third Stage.**—We have now reached the third stage—that of the collector who has the inclination and leisure to go further and takes up the study of the subject with the object of learning how to correctly name and classify his specimens. To enable him to do this he will first secure some elementary work on Entomology and make himself acquainted with the technical terms of the science. And at this point we may pause to consider how the Insect World is broadly classified. Probably most of us have heard the old question asked. When is the difference between a butterfly and a moth! or, more subtle conundrum, between a beetle and a bug! Roughly speaking the nature of the wings and mouth parts present will enable us to classify insects into their main divisions or Orders, as they are called. Thus in the Order Orthoptera to which belong the cockroach and the earwig, the praying mantis and the stick insect, the locust, grasshopper and cricket, the insects are provided with a biting mouth and four wings, the upper ones of which are straight and horny while the lower ones are membraneous and fold up like a fan. A beautiful example of this orthopterous under wing is to be found in the earwig of which I will later show you a slide. The cockroaches, or I should say the commoner ones, are known to all and here in Calcutta one of the family by name *Periplaneta americana* chums uninvited with most of us. Perhaps it would interest many housewives to know of a recipe which has often been found most effective for reducing the numbers of this undesirable intruder. Prepare a mixture of equal parts of finely-powdered chocolate and borax and dust it into the crevices where the insects hide. The mixture must be well made in order that with each particle of chocolate, of which the cockroaches are very fond, they will get a particle of borax which is poisonous to them. The mixture is cheap and non-poisonous to man. The best known, as they are the most dangerous insects economically in the group are the locusts and grasshoppers. These appear to have been plagues to man from the very earliest times and reference to their operations are to be found both in the classics and in the Bible. What made some of the species such a scourge is their habit, only put in force at varying intervals of time, of extensive migrations. When on those incursions they invade large tracts of country and clean off everything green in their path, leaving ruin in their wake. In the case of our Indian migratory locust, the dreaded so-called N.-W. locust, *Acridium peregrinum*, the first swarms to leave their own country advance a certain distance and then lay eggs. These eggs give rise to fresh swarms which, on maturing and acquiring their wings, carry on the invasion into fresh tracts and so the process goes on till the whole of this great continent is completely invaded by an insect whose real home is up in the sandy deserts of Rajputana and the North-West frontier. The last successful invasion of this insect may be remembered by many of you. It commenced in 1889 and was not finally over until 1893. In 1901 the pest spread as far south as Ganjam in the north of Madras and east to the Brahmaputra, but the enormous masses of eggs which must have been laid by the numerous swarms of that year have not as yet developed. A very curious point of this migratory instinct that is, when the period is over the existing swarms return to the northern homes although they themselves were hatched far south and neither the nor, in all probability, several generations before them have ever seen their headquarters.

**The Neuroptera.**—The next Order in the class is the Neuroptera of which the common so-called "white-ant" or termite and dragon flies, whose grub stage is passed in water, are the best known representatives. These are insects furnished with biting mouths and four membraneous net-veined wings of equal size, the lower ones of which are not folded up. The white ants are known to all dwellers in tropical countries and are often the cause of serious vexation and loss. They are interesting from their habit of living

in communities which are run on lines not unlike those which civilized man follows. Thus they have their citizen workers, who build the nest and look after the young, their soldiers to guard the nest and mete out justice to intruders. There are also the leisured classes consisting of the winged males and females. These are the forms which are to be seen at the beginning of the rains leaving the nest in large swarms on their honey-moon trip, one fraught with considerable peril as the numbers of kites, crows, mainas et hoc genus omne, who collect to the welcome feast indicate.

The third Order is that of the Hymenoptera or the wood wasps, saw-flies, ichneumon-flies, bees, ants, and wasps. These may be distinguished by having 4 membraneous wings the upper of which are larger than the lower. The upper and lower wing on a side are usually joined together by a hook attachment. The mouth parts may be adapted for both biting and sucking. This Order of insects also contains species which live in communities having a system of organisation similar to, if it does not outvie, that of man. Lord Avebury, better known as Sir John Lubbock, who has made such close and important researches into the internal economy of the ants, considers them to be the highest developed forms of insect life. The marvellous ingenuity with which the bee constructs its waxen comb and stores it with provender for its young is doubtless known to you all. Equally ingenious are those interesting wasps, *Polistes*, who build their inverted cone-shaped paper-walled nests on our verandah ceilings. Another form of wasp constructs the small mud cells we find on our venetians and walls. If we open one of these mud cells we shall find a living green caterpillar inside. This grub, after having been paralysed by the wasp, has had an egg laid in it. From this egg will hatch out a young wasp grub, which thus finds a fresh store of meat ready for its sustenance long after its mother is dead and gone. The instinct which thus enables insects to provide for offspring which they will never see is not one of the least marvellous things in Nature.

**Beetles.**—The next Order on our list is that of the Coleoptera or beetles. You all know what a beetle is like, the hard horny upper wings fitting close together so as to completely cover the folded up lower membraneous ones beneath. The mouth parts are for biting. Look where you will you will find beetles. Their food is very varied and every vegetable and animal product is attacked and eaten by some member or members of the order. There are two beetles in Calcutta the result of whose work is known to many of us. The one is the bamboo-borer (*Dinoderus pili-rons*), which bores into bamboo furniture and lays its eggs inside. The grubs hatching out from these eggs live in and feed on the bamboo reducing it to powder. Another pest is known to all smokers, the so-called cheroot-weevil (*Lasioderma testaceum*). It is not a weevil but a Ptinid beetle and closely related to the bamboo borer. It lays its eggs in cheroots and the grubs bore inside and riddle the cigars.

**Butterflies.**—The fifth Order is the well-known one of the Lepidoptera or butterflies and moths, insects furnished with four wings covered with coloured scales and a suctional mouth in the form of a long tube with which they suck up honey and at times other much less delectable substances. Except when in use this tube is kept coiled up under the head. One of the distinguishing features between the butterfly and moth is to be found in the difference in the structure of the antennæ or feelers on the head. In the butterfly these are simple and end in a knob while in the moth they may often be feathered and rarely end in a knob. Probably some of Nature's most beautiful objects are to be found among the gaudy butterflies and it is for this reason perhaps that they are so much collected. So great in fact is the attraction which their charms exercise that cases are extant when even the fairer portion of our community have been known to have become so captivated and fascinated by these lovely creatures that they have been led thereby to desert these higher walks of life, which are devoted to considerations of dress and other social amenities, to pursue with enthusiasm the bye-paths of the naturalist and bug-hunter! Beautiful, however, as is this order of insects from an æsthetic point of view it has, like most things beautiful, its darker side. For, whilst some of the most glorious among the butterflies sip with evident relish the filth in slimy pools or hover lingeringly over putrifying substances, the grub stage to many is one of gross gluttony and pilfering in the succulent domains of the botanist, and the agriculturist. It thus becomes difficult in many cases



to remain convinced that their proverbial beauty is really worth the sacrifices it has cost to produce it. The next Order is that of the Diptera or flies, insects furnished with two wings only and a sucking padlike mouth. The common house fly is known to all. It is ubiquitous and when I tell you that the progeny of one female fly would, if they all survived to reproduce their species number at the end of the year 200,000,000 individuals you will understand the reason for their excessive numbers. Another well-known family of this Order are the Mosquitoes. It has lately become quite unnecessary for any Entomologist to discourse on these insects. In fact very often he finds himself in a minority of one when the subject is discussed and a girl in her teens will tell him all about *Anopheles* and *Culex*. A near relation of the Diptera is the flea B, of worldwide fame and distribution, a polar variety of which has recently been valued at £1,600.

Our last Order is known as the Rhynchota or bugs, blights and scale insects. This group is easy to distinguish since all its members are furnished with a mouth in the form of a straight, short and hard beak or sucking tube. With this apparatus the insects pierce the tissues of plants or animals and suck up the sap or blood. I shall have a few words to say about these insects later on.

Having thus touched upon the general classification of the Insect World it will be unnecessary here to follow our collector further into the more minute stages of this subject.

**Mimicry.**—But there are other bye-paths for him for whom minute classification possesses no charms. His attention during his numerous collecting operations may have been attracted to the curious likenesses which one insect possesses to another belonging to quite a different family or even order. His attention once riveted upon this feature of insect life he will soon find that it opens out a wide field of research into the subject of mimicry and protective resemblance, instances of which are numerous amongst insects, for reason both protective and aggressive. We have remarkable cases of these curious forms of mimicry and protective resemblance among the stick and leaf insects (*Phasmidae*). These insects are unprovided with weapons of defence or offence and in order both to ensure some degree of protection and also with the object of obtaining their food they have come to simulate twigs or grass stems, leaves, flowers, etc., the resemblance being often so perfect as to render their detection difficult even to the trained eye of the Entomologist on the look out for such vagaries. One of the best known of these insects is one of the leaf-insects of Eastern Bengal known as *Phyllium scythe*. Natives down Chittagong may have themselves assured me that this insect started life as a leaf which subsequently took to walking. Another interesting insect from the same locality (*Gongylus gonglyoides*) simulates the corolla of a papilionaceous flower so closely that insects fly up to and settle upon it when they are promptly seized and devoured. Among the butterflies mimicry for protective purposes is common. A well-known instance of protective resemblance is that of the butterfly *Kallima* in which the under surface of the wings are marked and veined to closely imitate dead leaves. The upper wings are brightly coloured and so this insect invariably settles with wings closed and is then extremely difficult to see. A few examples of these mimetic groups will be shown upon the screen.

There is yet another bye-path into which the feet of the collector may stray and that is the one which concerns itself with the distribution of insects. I regret that considerations of time will prevent me from telling you this evening anything about this branch which is one, not only of exceeding interest but at the same time of the greatest importance. For research in this field may not only lead the worker to great discoveries in his own domain, but these discoveries may have a direct bearing upon branches other than his own and the Botanist and Geologist may both derive benefit from such researches. We have now reached the last point for consideration that of the collector who wishes to learn something about the life histories of the particular insects he is acquainted with.

**Economic Entomology.**—This side of the study of Insect Life has come to be known by the name of Economic Entomology. Briefly it deals with the study of the life histories of insects with the object of finding out what portions of their lives are passed respectively in the egg, grub, chrysalis (if there is one), and adult stages of their existence. This subject is rendered a difficult one owing to the fact that, whereas some insects pass through their life cycle of egg, grub, chrysalis and adult in a year, others may take several

years to pass through this cycle, while others again, and more especially is the case in tropical countries, may run through several of these cycles in a year. Is this latter case the adults of one cycle may differ from those of a succeeding one. It will soon be discovered also that a considerable proportion of insect life is predacious and preys upon its fellows, either directly, or indirectly as parasites.

Among perhaps the most useful of the insects of this kind known to man are the little lady-bird beetles. These prey to a large extent upon the blights (*Aphidæ*) and scales (*Coccidæ*) and thus are of almost incalculable service. The aphids and coccids are, owing to their enormously rapid multiplying powers, among the worst pests on the face of the earth. Their food is chiefly confined to the vegetable kingdom and it is not too much to say that man exists upon the globe solely owing to the presence of the predacious and parasitic foes which keep in check these blights and scales. Were there checks to be removed it has been calculated that in the course of two or three years the blights would leave no plant nutriment available for other animals save that which they might derive from plants they did not attack. In other words Man himself would become as extinct as the Mammoth and the Dodo and other Palæontological relics. Startling though this statement may appear it will, I think, be better understood when I tell you that Huxley calculated that the progeny of a single aphid (blight) would in the course of ten generations, supposing all the individuals to survive, contain more ponderable substance than 500 millions of stout men, that is, more than the population of China. With these facts before us it can be readily understood that man owes a great deal to his insect friends and that the parts they and his insect foes play in the economy of the world is one of no mean kind. Various poisonous solutions, emulsions, etc., have been invented for combating insect pests, but it is unnecessary to consider them here. It is interesting, however, to note that, after all, the modern attempts at checking these attacks of insect pests are no new idea. History contains many references to destruction wrought by insects and some most interesting accounts of the means taken by our forefathers to check their depredations. There are two records by Plisy, about A.D. 77, one of which suggested the use of white hellebore for the destruction of flies, "the poison being put into milk, so that all the flies eating of it die." The other relates to the destruction of locusts, which in those early days was carried out with great success, the law making it a penal offence not to turn out and give aid in exterminating the swarms when they settled. Biblical references to insect plagues are, of course, numerous and I have on my travels often thought the lamentations of Joel were at times curiously applicable to India:—"That which the palmer worm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the canker worm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten. . . . The field is wasted, the land mourneth . . . howl, O ye windressers, for the wheat and for the barley, because the harvest of the field is perished."

## U. S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The preliminary commercial statement of the Bureau of Statistics of the Commerce Department (O. P. Austin, Chief) for the closing month of the fiscal year 1903, contains statistics showing the commerce of the country for the entire twelve months, and also furnishes opportunities for a comparison with the import and export movement during the preceding fiscal year.

### TEA.

Following is a table showing the imports of tea into this country for two years, also the average value of the article per pound in the places of exportation:—

	1903.	1902.
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Imports ...	108,574,905	75,579,125
Exports ...	3,942,645	1,205,084
Net imports ...	104,632,260	74,374,041
Average value, per lb. ...	14'42c.	12'42c.

In 1901 the net imports of tea were 88,502,554 lbs., of an average value of 12'18c. per lb.; in 1900 they were 83,303,622 lbs., of an average value of 12'45c. per lbs. The *per capita* consumption of tea averages 1½ lbs.



The principal countries supplying us with tea last year ranked as follows: China, 55,064,296 lbs.; Japan, 37,987,227 lbs.; East Indies, 6,714,224 lbs.; United Kingdom, 6,151,822 lbs.; British North America, 2,135,065 lbs.

Compared with the preceding year the imports of tea from Japan in 1903 increased over 7,000,000 lbs., and the 1902 imports from Japan decreased 3,000,000 lbs. compared with 1901. There was an increase in the imports from China of over 19,000,000 lbs. in 1903, compared with 1902. East Indian and British imports increased considerably in 1903.

#### CHICORY.

Prepared chicory to the amount of 442,311 lbs., of the average value of 3·95c. per lb., was imported last year, as compared with 298,671 lbs., of the average value of 3·50c., in the fiscal year 1902.

Raw chicory root was imported in the following quantities during the fiscal year:—

	1903. Lbs.	1902. Lbs.
Net imports ...	1,411,202	238,272
Average value, per lb. ...	1·98c.	1·92c.

In 1901 the imports of raw chicory were 511,693 lbs., of the average value of 1·92c. per lb.

#### COFFEE.

The net imports of coffee in the fiscal year 1902 were the largest ever recorded between July and July in the history of the coffee trade. In 1903 the coffee imports continued liberal, but fell behind the total for the preceding year.

The following table shows the gross imports and the exports for the two latest fiscal years, also the average value per pound at places of shipment:—

	1903. Lbs.	1902. Lbs.
Imports ...	915,066,380	1,091,004,252
Exports ...	47,701,306	34,462,615
Net imports ...	867,365,074	1,056,541,637
Average value, per lb. ...	6·47c.	6·41c.

In 1901 the net imports of coffee were 809,871,310 lbs., of an average value of 7·35c.; in 1900, 749,792,471 lbs., of an average value of 6·66c.

The principal sources of our supply of coffee in the fiscal year 1903 were as follows: Brazil, 726,095,474 lbs.; Central America, 56,249,399 lbs.; South America, exclusive of Brazil, 72,526,000 lbs.; Mexico, 22,207,000 lbs.; West Indies, 8,129,316 lbs.; East Indies, 16,713,000 lbs.; United Kingdom, 2,722,170 lbs.; Netherlands, 1,148,331 lbs.

The *per capita* consumption of coffee is about 13 lbs. The tremendous predominance of the Brazilian imports should not be taken by our readers as signifying that three-fourths of our supply of coffee comprise inferior grades. The truth is that the finer grades of Rio and Santos are often graded and sold under other names, their quality being all that buyers could ask, and there is really no deception practiced.

#### COCOA.

The United States imported the following quantity of crude cocoa during the fiscal year:—

	1903. Lbs.	1902. Lbs.
Imports ...	63,351,294	51,379,396
Exports ...	3,208,554	2,593,708
Net imports ...	60,142,740	48,785,688
Average value, per lb. ...	12·34c.	12·95c.

In 1901 the net imports of crude cocoa were 43,876,628 lbs., of an average value of 14·08c. per lb. In 1900 the net imports of crude cocoa were 38,619,187 lbs., of an average value of 13·55c. The rapid increase of the importations speaks well for the healthy state of the consumptive demand for chocolate, breakfast cocoa and chocolate confectionery.

Prepared cocoa to the following amount was imported:

	1903. Lbs.	1902. Lbs.
Imports ...	1,004,766	973,970
Exports ...	2,433	200
Net imports ...	1,001,333	973,770
Average value, per lb. ...	29·11c.	30·40c.

Net imports of prepared cocoa in 1901 were 975,585 lbs., of an average value of 29·56c.

Importations of prepared chocolate, exclusive of confectionery, were—

	1903. Lbs.	1902. Lbs.
Imports ...	690,824	525,221
Exports ...	3,146	3,887
Net imports ...	687,678	521,334
Average value, per lb. ...	20·96c.	19·33c.

The net imports of chocolate in 1901 were 695,225 lbs., of an average value of 19·73c.

#### COMPARATIVE PRICES.

In the following table we give the yearly average value of certain groceries during the past five years:—

	1899. P lb	1900. P lb	1901. P lb	1902. P lb	1903. P lb
Coffee ...	6·64	6·66	7·35	6·41	6·47
Tea ...	13·05	12·45	12·18	12·42	14·42
Raw sugar ...	2·38	2·48	2·26	1·46	1·70
Rice ...	2·06	2·03	2·13	2·13	2·21
Cocoa ...	14·26	13·55	14·08	12·95	12·34
Chicory ...	1·47	1·46	1·92	1·92	1·98
Pepper ...	8·78	9·80	11·23	10·81	10·51
Nutmegs ...	24·10	22·08	19·65	18·45	18·71

In 1902 the following articles: Pepper, coffee, cocoa, sugar, and nutmegs averaged lower in value than in 1901, tea alone showing an advance, while rice and chicory were unchanged.

#### PEPPER.

Mr. R. E. Doolittle, State Analyst, Michigan Dairy and Food Department, reports:—

Pepper is the fruit of the *Piper nigrum* L., a perennial climbing shrub native to the forests of western and southern India but long cultivated in Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Ceylon, Malay Peninsula, Siam and various other tropical countries. The fruit is a small, round berry which grows in loosely packed clusters, each cluster consisting of from twenty to thirty of these berries closely attached to a common pendulous fruit stalk. Pieces of this fruit stalk may often be found in samples of whole black pepper, and when examined will show the depression formed where the berries were attached. The pepper vine grows to a height of eight to twelve feet and is usually supported by poles or by trees planted for that purpose.

Black pepper is the dried immature berries of the *Piper nigrum* L. To obtain black pepper, the berries are gathered as soon as one or two on the cluster commences to turn red. After removing them from the stem they are dried in the sun or near a mild fire. By this treatment the outer fleshy portion of the berry shrivels, turns to a brown or black colour and becomes quite hard and brittle and adherent to the stony, inner portion, thus forming a hardened wrinkled cortex. The manner of drying the pepper berry is of considerable importance. We are informed that many varieties of black pepper are dried on the ground. "A piece of ground is carefully smoothed and pounded and made as hard as possible, and the berries are piled up on this piece of ground to dry. When the goods are dry they are taken up and bagged. In the process of taking up from the ground, there is a little earth taken up with the berries; some of the berries also become coated with earth from the mere fact of lying on the ground." This may be observed by an examination of sample of whole sun-dried black pepper; it has also been said that a good deal of the sand and clay found in some peppers is due to the creeping habit of the vine which brings the penetrated clusters in close proximity to the ground. From what information we have been able to obtain, however, it seems that the lumps of dirt and the greater part of the earth on the berries themselves comes not from the trailing habit of the vines, but from the fact that the goods themselves are dried on the ground. No pepper should, however, contain an excessive amount of dirt.

The commercial varieties of black pepper are Singapore, Tellicherry, Alleppey, Trang, Acheen, etc., named probably from the province in which they are grown or port from which shipped. We also obtained in this investigation two other varieties of black



pepper prepared by some process that improves their appearance. They are known as Shot Pepper and Mangalore Pepper.

Shot Black Pepper, it is said, is sometimes prepared by floating in water, that going to the bottom forming the shot pepper, while the lighter portions are skimmed from the surface. This process has, however, proved to be injurious to the berry, and the pepper is now generally separated in a column of air. It is oiled to give it a better appearance.

Mangalore Pepper.—The corns of this variety are very large, twice the size of ordinary pepper, of a deep, black color, very clean and of uniform size. When ground they give a powder of characteristic greenish-black appearance.

Singapore Pepper is grown in the Malay Peninsula, principally in the southern extremity known as State of Johore. It constitutes a considerable portion of all the pepper raised, and by reason of its dark color and fairly uniform quality, is a good looking pepper, for which it is esteemed, but for grinding purposes it has not been heretofore so highly regarded because of its smoky odor. Singapore pepper is dried over smoke. The pepper plantations and gambier plantations of Johore are usually under one management, and in boiling down the gambier to make the vegetable extract there is suspended over the kettle mats on which are placed quantities of the Singapore pepper. The smoke from the furnace dries, and at the same time blackens and gives the unmistakable smoky smell which is characteristic of Singapore pepper. This smoky odor is retained to a considerable degree even after the pepper is ground. It is one of the tests by which the pepper merchant determines whether a given sample is Singapore or not.

Tellicherry and Alleppey peppers are from British India. They are very similar in appearance, being of light brown colour. They are sun-dried. Malabar pepper also comes from India.

Trang Pepper is shipped from Penang, and is grown in either Java or Sumatra.

Lamong Pepper is grown on the east end of the island of Sumatra near the Straits of Sunda. The pepper corns are less uniform in size than the varieties above described, also of a lighter color and surface shows considerable dirt. It is also sun-dried.

Acheen, Sumatra or West Coast are names applied to the pepper obtained from Acheen, the pattern extremity of the island of Sumatra. "The designation 'East' and 'West' coast, which were formerly used, have been lost track of, and the pepper is now designated according to its specific gravity, as 'A,' 'B,' 'C,' or 'D' grade."

"A" grade weighs at least 4 lbs. 13 oz. to the imperial gallon (481 grams per liter).

"B" grade weighs at least 4 lbs. 5 oz. to the imperial gallon (431 grams per liter).

"C" grade weighs at least 3 lbs. 13 oz. to the imperial gallon (381 grams per liter).

"D" grade weighs at least 3 lbs. 5 oz. to the imperial gallon (356 grams per liter).

There probably has not been any of the "A" grade of Acheen black pepper in this country for several years, for the reason that it is this grade of pepper that is preferred by the manufacturers of Penang white pepper, and being used up this way does not reach our markets except as white pepper.

The samples of Acheen pepper obtained by us in this investigation are of much poorer quality than any of the other varieties. They contain many "shelly" and broken berries, pieces of stems, dirt, etc.

White pepper is the berries of the *Piper nigrum* L., from which the outer shell or pericarp has been removed to a greater or less extent. The manufacture of white pepper is a separate and distinct business of itself. It is not always done at the plantations, but may be done at a distance from them by manufacturers who buy the pepper in open market, merely selecting a lot which they

## Dyspeptics,

nervous, debilitated, weak, languid, half-dead people will find fresh life, energy and strength in Mother Seigel's Syrup, because it does the only thing which can give permanent relief—helps you to digest your food. Food is a strength-maker and health-maker, but it must be digested. Discomfort after meals, pains in the chest and shoulders, headaches, palpitation, flatulence, loss of appetite, these are sure signs of indigestion and are cured by

**SEIGEL'S  
SYRUP**

"For many years I suffered greatly from obstinate indigestion and constipation, accompanied with giddiness and pains in the head. A friend strongly advised me to try Seigel's Syrup, and perseverance in its use restored me to health and strength." So says Mr. T. J. Hastings, of Bombowlie, Tumut, N.S.W., in a solemn Declaration recently made before a Justice of Peace. Such testimony leaves no room for doubt.

**will cure you.**



deem suitable for the purpose. It is generally understood that berries that have been allowed to ripen before picking are used for making white pepper, as they are more easily decorticated, but not all white pepper is made from fully ripened berries. The shells are removed by friction after soaking the berries in water. The white peppercorns are often bleached and otherwise treated to improve their appearance.

There are several varieties of white pepper on the markets corresponding in a general way with the black peppers. Thus we have Singapore, Penang, Tellicherry, Siam, etc. All the samples of Penang white pepper analyzed during this investigation were coated with a brown-coloured preparation of carbonate of lime as was also a sample of Java white pepper.

Decorticated white pepper is the term applied to a variety which, for the most part, has the seed coats entirely removed, thus forming smooth, hard kernels. There are various qualities of decorticated white pepper, depending upon the extent to which the decortication or pearling process has been carried. Thus we may have decorticated pepper from which all three of the seed coats are removed, or only one or two of them. Other varieties of white pepper have only the first or dark shell part removed.

Coriander white pepper is made in imitation of coriander by cutting off from the end of each corn a piece of the outer hull so that the dark coloured inner portion shows.

Ground pepper should be nothing but the peppercorns of either the black or white pepper reduced to a proper fineness by passing through a suitable spice mill and over sieves.

The Adulteration of Pepper.—As pepper usually reaches the consumer in the ground form, the addition of adulterants is not easily detected. Various materials have been used to adulterate ground pepper, those most commonly used being pepper shells, middlings and other by-products of wheat, corn and rice; ground olive pits; cocoanut shells, and almond shells, mustard husks, long pepper, cayenne, etc. These are usually sold by spice grinders under the name of "P. D. Pepper," "Pepper Adulterant" and "Pepper Mixture," and consist of such products as the grinder has at hand or can obtain at the lowest price, the mixer requiring only that the colour shall be such as is suitable for his trade. These

adulterants are usually mixtures of some dark-coloured material (probably roasted cocoanut or other shells) with some light-coloured starchy matter. Cayenne is used to give a pungency to the mixture.

Long Pepper is, for the most part, derived from wild plants of the genus *Chavica* Miq., formerly included under the genus *Piper* L. It consists of long cylindrical spikes, covered with closely packed, small, round berries. It is picked when green, and as found on the market is composed of the small berries with the husks and all hardened together and to the woody stem. It always carries with it large amounts of dirt and other extraneous matter. It does not possess the fine flavour of true pepper, and its addition to the same is regarded as an adulteration.

Pepper shells is the term applied to the shells, dirt, etc., obtained as a by-product in the manufacture of white pepper.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

The following are the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 1st instant, when there were present: Mr. H. C. Begg (*Chairman*); Messrs. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*); Lockhart Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

Letters dated 7th and 14th August from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, having been previously circulated, were brought up for final disposal. The principal subject dealt with was—

#### THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

In their letter of 14th August, the London Committee approved of the proposal of the General Committee to utilise the balance at credit of the American and Foreign Markets Fund for the purposes of the proposed exhibit at St. Louis. At the same time, the London Committee drew special attention to the importance of

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



continuing the advertisement of Indian teas in America, and requested that the Tea Cess Committee should be asked to reserve a sum of £2,000 from the Cess Funds as a separate allocation from the money to be spent at St. Louis in connection with the Exhibition. The London Committee again referred to the advisability of India and Ceylon uniting in the matter of their respective exhibits. In regard to the latter proposal the General Committee had addressed the Thirty Committee of Ceylon, and were awaiting their reply. Pending receipt of this no definite action was being taken in regard to general arrangements. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Tea Cess Committee regarding the request of the London Committee for the allocation of funds for advertising in America.

SUPPLIES TO THE LONDON MARKET.

On the 28th August a telegram was received from the London Committee, stating that at an important Meeting of producers it had been unanimously resolved to regulate supplies. The co-operation of producers on this side was requested in the direction of not unduly hastening tea forward. The details of the scheme, it appeared, had not been finally settled, but it was expected that everything would be arranged by the 10th September when the details would be telegraphed. The General Committee noted the proposal pending receipt of the details promised.

MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated August 21st, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	186,904	271,363	23,487
1902-1903 ...	213,782	311,094	21,038
26,360 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 54,686 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
24,758 „ CEYLON			
3,568 „ JAVA			

Duty payments for Home consumption continue to show an increase over those of last year. Producers should carefully watch the increase, and bear in mind that the duty payments on Indian Tea for the first two months of the season, viz., June and July, were 4 millions in excess of those of last year. It is scarcely likely that such a rapid rate of increase will continue, but the fact should give sellers confidence, as in the event of there being a little more Indian Tea to deal with this season, it is likely to be all required sooner or later.

The following table shows that the exports of tea from India to places otherwise than the United Kingdom are increasing in a steady and fairly satisfactory manner.

Direct Exports of Tea from India (in lbs.) to places outside U. K. for half-year ending 30th June.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Australasia ...	1,325,636	869,631	1,595,073	1,105,635
Indian Ports ...	1,553,304	1,317,290	1,695,968	687,441
North America ...	773,215	646,075	749,831	570,588
Turkey ...	482,378	538,075	911,177	459,743
China ...	301,142	246,426	230,009	166,096
Germany ...	141,013	209,877	193,023	203,693
Persia and Arabia ...	233,545	142,121	231,009	78,756
Russia ..	907,483	533,172	83,096	Nil
Egypt ...	28,145	57,437	7,820	25,657
Straits Settlements ...	28,584	23,194	18,638	13,376
Africa ...	59,433	49,537	29,117	21,785
France ...	9,394	7,144	6,236	7,309
Norway ...	Nil.	Nil.	250	Nil.
South America ...	200	1,200	300	Nil.
Austria ...	1,083	1,023	17,016	425
Other Places ...	40,707	5,624	6,054	3,696
Total Lbs. ...	5,885,262	4,647,826	5,774,617	3,344,200

INDIAN.—Supplies have again been moderate and not in excess of requirements, and there has been a continuance of the good general competition noticed last week. Some of the Assam Teas are showing promise of good quality to come in the near future. On the other hand, some third invoices of Dooars Teas are showing a light set-back as regards flavour and quality.

The official wire gives exports from Calcutta and Chittagong to U. K. for the first half of August as 12,830,000 lbs., against 9,690,000 lbs. same period last year; making the total from 1st April to 15th August 43,422,000 lbs., against 39,590,000 lbs. in 1902.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 20,820 pkgs., av. 8.18d. 1902, 25,842 pkgs., av. 7.25d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 74,277 pkgs., av. 7.80d. 1902, 95,321 pkgs., av. 6.96d.

CEYLON.—Judging from the samples representing this week's offerings, it would appear that the bulk of the teas made in the less satisfactory weather prevailing in the island some two or three months back have now passed through the market; the Trade are therefore anticipating improved quality, especially from the Districts situated at a high altitude. Samples to hand by mail showing most recent manufacture help to confirm this opinion.

The teas met with good demand and prices ruled steady; where invoices showed an improvement, a corresponding advance in price was made.

A private telegram from Colombo gives shipments to U. K. for first half of the month as 4,000,000 lbs., against 3,500,000 lbs. in same period of 1902.

Average for week 7.11d., against 6.53d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 657,169 pkgs., av. 7.50d. 1902, 743,904 pkgs., av. 6.70d.

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

CROSSE

& BLACKWELL'S LTD.

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to



His Majesty  
The King.

CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.



JAVA.—Javas sold with a steady demand. 22,371 packages sold on Garden Account from 1st June to date realised an average of 6·61d. per lb.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—  
Calcutta  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{5}{32}$ . Colombo  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{16}$ .

### COFFEE.

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co., in their weekly report on the coffee market, state that Rio receipts show a moderate, but natural, increase, but those at Santos are distinctly smaller than the previous week, although an increase was expected from the 1st instant in consequence of reduced railway freights on the Paulista Line. Although it is altogether too early to attempt to estimate this season's Santos crop, the absence of any increase in the movement to the port during the past fortnight is certainly remarkable, and gives rise to the reflection that after all there may be more foundation for the talk of a crop of not more than seven million bags in Santos than coffee operators, after the deceptions of previous years can at present bring themselves to believe. Mr. Karl Krische estimates the receipts for current month at Rio 550,000 bags, and Santos 1,250,000 bags, but according to last week's movement his estimate for Santos looks improbable.

### CINCHONA.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on September 3 was to consist of 10,410 bales and 489 cases, weighing altogether 950,856 kilos. The stock in first hands in Amsterdam on August 13 consisted of

2,988 packages Government and 12,798 packages private bark, including the quantity to be offered at the above auction.

### CINCHONA BARK.

Offered 11 packages. Sold 0. *Maracaibo* (2 bales): For these a bid of 3d. per lb. was made and refused. *Calisaya*: Broken quill (9 bales) bought in at 5½d. per lb., a bid of 4¾d. was refused.

### QUININE.

After the slight spurt towards the end of last week, when some 50,000 oz. was sold, the market relapsed again into its former lethargic condition, and no business of importance has been done, there being sellers at 11½d. spot, for second-hand German sulphate in bulk, but on Wednesday 11½d. was accepted for a few thousand ounces.

### CARDAMOMS.

Cardamoms sold at irregular but fairly steady prices, the tendency of *seed* being firmer. There has been a large arrival this week, but the packages are small, and the consignments come to two firms only. The following prices were paid in auction:—Ceylon-Mysore: extra bold pale, well bleached, 2s. to 2s. 2d. per lb.; good bold pale, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.; bold medium pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d.; small and medium pale, 1s. to 1s. 1d.; brown and split, 9d. to 9½d.; small pale, 9d. to 10d.; peas, 9d. per lb. *Decorticated seed* sold at from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. per lb. Tellicherry and Mangalore were bought in.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8·18d., AUGUST 21ST.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ...	198	7.16												
Nonsuch ...	86	7½	45	7¾	41	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prospect ...	44½c	8	22½c	8½ 8¾	11½c	6¼	11½c	8¼	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vellingherry ...	68	6½	...	...	22	6½	24	7	22	6¼	...	...	...	...
Travancore ...	3344	6.68												
Ang. Am Co. Dev... 195½c	7¾	51½c	7½	46½c	6¾	37½c	1/0	40½c	6½	...	...	21½c	6½	
Ashley ...	25	6½	...	...	...	25	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Atchencoil ...	23 p	6¼	...	...	4	6½	12	6½	2	6¼	1	5½	4½c 5½ 5½	
Balamore ...	126½c	6¼	...	...	76½c	6	43½c	6½	...	...	4½c	5½	3½c 5¼	
Carady Goody ...	104 p	6½	31	6¾	22	6½	39	6¾	...	...	...	...	12½c 5½	
Cherian Malay ...	38 p	5¾	...	...	15	6	8	6	10	5½	...	...	5½c 5½	
Corrimony ...	70½c	6½	...	...	32½c	6¼	29½c	6¾	8½c	6	...	...	1½c 5¼	
Glenmary ...	102	6¾	40	6¾	...	25	7¼	25	6¼	...	...	12	6½	
Kan D H T Co K ...	262 p	6¾	35 p	7 7½	85	6¾	52½c	8½	67	6¾	...	...	5	5½
„ Periaurrai ...	425 p	7	152 p	6¾ 7½	100	6¾	35½c	7¼	105	6¾ 7	...	...	33½c 6	
„ Sevenmally ...	336 p	7	122	7 8½	60	6¾	85	7	43 p	6½	...	...	26½c 5½ 6¼	
Lockhart ...	13½c	8	13½c	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merchiston ...	83 p	6½	30	6¾	35	6¼	...	...	...	...	10	6	8½c 5¾	
Malpara ...	32 p	6½	7	6¾	20	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	5½c 6½	
Munja Malai ...	16	7¼	...	...	...	...	16	7¼	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penshurst ...	68	6½	16	6¾	42	6½	10	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poonmudi T Co B... 82 p	6½	38 p	6¾ 7	39	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5½c 5½	
„ Braemore ...	89 p	6½	50 p	6¾ 7	35	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	4½c 5¾	
„ Poonmudi... 160 p	6¼	62 p	6½ 6¾	48	6¾	...	...	40	6	...	...	10 b	5½	
Seafeld ...	118½c	6¼	...	...	57½c	6¼	30½c	7	24½c	6	4½c	5¾	3½c 5¼	
Stagbrook ...	160 p	6¾	80½c	6½ 7	58	7	...	...	...	...	22	6¼	...	...
S I T Co Kud Ka ... 161	6½	42	6¾	...	...	...	83	6¾ 6¾	33	6	...	...	3	5¼
S T T Co Venture... 117 p	6½	...	...	55	6¾	...	37	6¾	...	...	...	...	25½c 5½	
Surianalle ...	136½c	7	56½c	7¼ 8	64½c	6¾	...	...	6½c	6½	...	...	10½c 5½ 6¼	
T T E Co Kolie K... 167 p	6¾	52	6¾ 8¼	48	6½ 6¾	...	...	...	28	6¼	...	...	39 p	5¾ 6½
„ Pambaner ...	123 p	6¼	52	6½	34	6¼	14	6	10	6	...	...	13 p	5½ 6¼
Vembenard ...	103	6¾	42	7	49	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	6½
Woodlands ...	10½c	6¼	...	...	10½c	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynaad ...	459	6.50												
Cherambadi ...	37	6½	...	...	12	6½	10	6½	15	6¼	...	...	...	...
Erramaculla ...	109 p	6½	35½c	6¾	23	6½	32½c	6¾	6	6¼	...	...	...	...
Pootoomulla ...	86	6¼	...	...	27	6¼	27	6½	3	6¼	29	6	13½c 6¼	
Walkers Achoor ...	108 p	6½	...	...	58	6¼ 6½	50½c	6½ 6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynaad T Co Pe ... 119 p	6¾	...	...	...	60	6½ 6¾	59½c	6½ 7	...	...	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1903.

[No. 37.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 25th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

September 16th.—Weather—Still gloomy and overcast, rain falling daily. Wind S. W., temperature 68. Works—Weeding and digging. Coffee—Healthy, but supplies poor. Health—Poor. Labour—Sufficient. Interesting item—The road to Saklaspur from Sukrawarsanté is nearly impassable, as also the road from Balol to K—hokote. The roads across the Coorg boundary are much superior.

#### THE NEW LAND OF PROMISE.

THE Indian agriculturist knows little, and troubles himself still less, about the agricultural capabilities of other countries than India. The planter in this country worries himself considerably about the rivalry of other producing countries. This is one of the many divergencies of interest and of outlook that distinguish the East from the West. In respect particularly to the Coffee-planter in India we may say that Brazil's rivalry has forced itself upon his notice. Threatening his prosperity, his very livelihood, it has demanded his attention and has secured it. Of over-production there has been none in the coffee industry of India. In that of Brazil there has been much, and there is no sign of a change of policy. Brazil may be said to have swamped the coffee-markets of the world, and the low prices that have resulted from the action have entailed great hardships upon planters in India. It is all very well to assert that Brazilian coffee is being largely sold at a loss; there is no indication of a permanent reduction of output. Whatever may be said

about the dearness of labour in the Republic, enormous areas are still under coffee, and the produce continues to be put upon the market and to prevent any good prospect of a rise in prices. Of late years, too, there has been much talk of the capabilities of Mexico as a coffee-producer. The planter in Mysore, already largely at the mercy of Brazilian competition, has been threatened with fresh rivalry, with rivalry that has been stated to require only time to make it as serious as that of Brazil. In regard to Mexico, however, some reassuring statements may be made, though as to Brazil we can only write with extreme reserve, knowing that, despite assurances and predictions to the contrary, Brazil still continues to supply virtually as much coffee as the world needs—perhaps more.

In the case of Mexico, as in that of Brazil, optimistic and pessimistic writings have to be weighed in the balance of common-sense. Predictions and utterances have to be studied in the light of statistics. In Brazil there have been many pessimistic writers, whose remarks have been hardly periodical trade statistics. In regard to Mexico there has been a wealth of optimism in written reports of what was to come, accompanied by a continuance of statistical statements that prove that these predictions came no nearer to fulfilment. Not very long ago the *Economista Mexicano* stated as a fact undeniable among economists, that the territory of the Republic in its present condition is not capable of producing sufficient to sustain its population. The position, it was stated, is daily becoming more serious as the population increases and the agricultural producing powers of the country diminish. The remedy, we are told, would be irrigation; but this is costly, and unless the Government undertake it little will be accomplished. In regard to Coffee we need have little fear, even if Government do undertake irrigation works on a large scale. One-third of Mexico is composed of the hot lands (*tierras calientes*), and these lands, fertile almost everywhere, are extremely so in certain localities. They are, however, generally unhealthy, and almost unproductive for public alimentation. It is here, certainly, that coffee is grown; but the scale of cultivation is not sufficiently large to cause alarm. Yet the fertility of these districts has been turned to account, not in the way of actual cultivation of coffee in such quantity as to threaten the creation of a second



Brazil, but for the purposes of the Company-promoter and the preyer upon the ignorance and the gullibility of the majority of the public.

Not very long ago, it was stated in a British consular report that in recent years an almost incalculable number of companies had been formed for the acquisition and development of agricultural lands in Mexico. The great majority of these companies were of American origin. So much the more significant is the fact that they have been denounced in a report to his Government by the United States Consul-General in the city of Mexico. Commenting on this, the British Consul-General remarked:—"It is a delicate question, and one does not desire to injure *bonâ fide* undertakings which undoubtedly exist, but I consider it my duty to endorse the United States Consul-General's condemnation of these companies for the development of tropical lands. Most of their plantations are in the States of Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Chipas, in Oaxaca on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and in Tamanlipas. Intending investors should always make inquiries of British consular officers in Mexico, as many of these companies which issue beautifully got-up prospectuses are either dangerously speculative if not indeed fraudulent. Their operations are very injurious to general enterprises and damage many excellent commercial undertakings." It is added that one of the great difficulties encountered in developing lands in tropical Mexico is the scarcity of labour. Useful data relating to the agriculture of Mexico are almost impossible of collection. The most recent statistics are five years old. The statistics of exports, however, do not warrant any alarm about the coffee-production of the country, and in this respect Mexico—the new Land of Promise—would appear to be a land of promise only, not fulfilment.

### FRENCH IMPORT DUTY ON COFFEE.

Intimation has been received from Paris that the French Government propose to raise the minimum tariff rate on coffee from 136 francs to 156 francs per 100 kilogrammes with effect from 1st January, 1904. We are not disposed to attach much importance to this, as we doubt if it is correct. The French duty on *Brazilian* coffee is to be increased as above, but this has probably caused a misapprehension in regard to Indian coffee. Still, the matter is one that calls for inquiry.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee in Hamburg.**—The coffee trade in 1902 again suffered from the effects of over-production, such as would indeed hardly have been regarded as possible a few years ago. Prices were highest in January and lowest in December, and many persons during the first month of the year expected an improvement in business, but were again destined to disappointment when the vast quantities of coffee arriving from Rio de Janeiro and Santos flooded the market. Only one slight recovery took place in quotations after this, when reports reached Hamburg regarding the probable failure of the new Santos crop; but these reports turned out in the end to be much exaggerated. The total imports last year, to this port exceeded those of 1901 by about 40 million lbs. and

as will be seen, amounted altogether to 447 million lbs. (thus showing the great importance to which the Hamburg market has attained during the past decade), *viz.* :—

Year.	Imports. lbs.
1893 ...	254,000,000
1894 ...	240,000,000
1895 ...	265,000,000
1896 ...	282,000,000
1897 ...	372,000,000
1898 ...	400,000,000
1899 ...	318,000,000
1900 ...	379,000,000
1901 ...	409,000,000
1902 ...	447,000,000

The different sorts of coffee, and the respective quantities of each sort imported during each of the last two years, were as follows :—

From	IMPORTS.	
	1901. Bags.	1902. Bags.
Santos ...	1,870,125	2,248,958
Rio de Janeiro ...	419,036	343,855
Bahia ...	88,569	41,532
La Guayra ...	62,946	87,219
Domingo ...	13,224	16,178
Maracaibo and Savanilla...	13,224	5,236
Central America ...	599,570	562,208
Porto Rico ...	2,200	6,100
East Indies ...	13,330	11,115
Africa ...	34,572	38,906
Various other countries ..	227,493	293,299
Total ...	3,344,289	3,654,606
Or ...	409,000,000 lbs.	447,000,000 lbs.
* * *		

**New Coffee Tablet.**—R. C. Anderson, a watchmaker of El Paso, Texas, has invented a coffee tablet. He has been experimenting for some months, and claims that he has a perfect tablet made from the pure coffee berry. No foreign substance is used in the tablet, and the inventor says that he has accomplished something which has baffled chemists for years.

He asserts that by the use of his tablet a month's supply of Mocha and Java coffee can be carried in one's vest pocket, and the aroma and strength of the compound is never lost. He claims, also, that he removes the tannic acid of the berry, which causes nervous people much trouble and is one of the objections raised to coffee-drinking.

A trial of a tablet showed that each makes two cups of fairly strong coffee, or one cup of strong coffee. The process of coffee making is simplified by dropping a tablet into a cup of hot water. A patent has been applied for, and Mr. Anderson expects to net a fortune from it. Others who put like compounds on the market also had great expectations; still, Mr. Anderson may have just hit it right.

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**Cuban Tariff on Coffee.**—The following text of the Cuban tariff on coffee has been received from the United States Minister to Cuba, H. Squires :

"Be it by these presents known, That the Congress has enacted, and I, Tomas Estrada Palma, Constitutional President of the Republic of Cuba, have sanctioned the following law :

"Article 1.—Eighteen dollars [\$16.668, United States] is fixed as the import duty on coffee per 100 kilograms [220.46 pounds] without prejudice to the modification it may be necessary to make when the tariff of the Republic is made.



"Article 2.—Collection of the duties established by this law will begin from the publication of said law in the Official Gazette, but such shipments of coffee as it is proven in due form were shipped prior to the said publication will pay the tariff duties now in force."

**Coffee in the U. S.**—The market has been a trifle wobbly, says the *American Grocer* of 12th ultimo, but its general conditions is unchanged. Over-supply is so much out of proportion to increase in deliveries that low prices are inevitable until some crop disaster comes or consumption catches up to production, which is possible in four or five years, provided the industry is not extended in the meantime.

A temporary spurt on last Friday carried options up 20 points, and stiffened the spot market for Brazil, but prices closed with small change from the previous week, and largely nominal for mild sorts. The sales of mild coffee from July 24 to August 7 include 15,804 bags Maracaibo, with good Cucuta, 7½c.; choice, 10@11c.; 15,979 bags Savanilla, 1,641 bags Central American, 1,684 bags Laguayra, 1,273 bags Mexican, 80 bags Coro, 68 bags Jamaica. Blue Mountain Jamaica, 9@11½c.; best washed Bogota, 12@14c.; Bucaramanga, best, 12@14c.; Guatemala, good to choice, 10@14c.

Few people in Great Britain know that the much-praised French or Parisian coffee, as served in France, principally consists of the cheaper kinds of Brazilian coffee—of which enormous quantities are annually imported into that republic—and a good proportion of chicory. Brazil had for a decade or so preferential treatment for her coffee in France, which, by a recent edict of M. Rouvier, the French Minister of Finance, will be stopped from January 1, 1904. The Chamber of Commerce at Havre, the port through which the bulk of Brazilian and other South American coffees enter France, are greatly incensed against M. Rouvier's action, fearing that it may ultimately lead to a customs war with Brazil. Should there be no agreement between the two countries before January 1, 1904, Brazilian coffee will from that date have to pay a duty of 300 francs per 100 kilos., or about 1s. 0½d. per English pound.

**New Orleans as a Centre for Handling Coffee.**—Special correspondence to the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* states:—What is expected to develop the coffee business of New Orleans more than any other one thing is the recently reached determination of the New Orleans Board of Trade to establish here, after September 1, a regular coffee future market. Already the second importing point for coffee in the United States, New Orleans has that in the future which insures for her a continually increasing place of vantage in the handling of that product. The assurance that the isthmian canal will, within a comparatively few years, bring the city into closer connection with the East Indies, the west coast of South America, rendering imperative better transportation facilities to the West Indies and the east coast of South America, and resulting in more rapid and expeditious connection with all parts of the United States, has worked to infuse the local dealers and merchants with confidence in the vast possibilities which lie ahead of the city as a centre for the coffee handling trade of the United States. All this, coupled with the fact that in five years New Orleans has increased her handling of coffee far more in proportion than has New York, has made

the local trade deem it both expedient in view of the future, and advisable with regard to the present, to aid and further the movement to have a future market here established.

Hitherto, while New Orleans has ranked second to New York for a number of years, the Eastern city has been so far in the lead that the southern proportion of the trade has seemed too small to be considered. Now New Orleans seems upon the point of taking a place among the coffee handling ports of the world, that will entitle her word to be taken with some considerable degree of attention.

**Real Coffee and Ylp-Ylp Coffee.**—A Kansas City coffee company with real coffee to sell advertises the fact in the following clever way hitting coffee substitutes:—

"COFF-NUTS—A new substitute for coffee. Made from ground ground-nuts, buttered butter-nuts and selected hips, haws and paw-paws, mixed with crisp, sweet flakes of Takachewa, the modern bran-food. The very latest production of the Insanitarium. Boiled for 2½ hours, it cannot be distinguished from Roastem, Hikahika, Coffeyetta, Ylp-ylp or Library Paste. Makes sick men well, well men sick, and dead men thankful. Why eat real food when there is more money in substitutes? However, if your imagination is inactive and you prefer genuine coffee straight from the tree, drink—coffee!"

**The U. S. Market in Coffee.**—The actual coffee market has shown some movement on the easy terms prevailing, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 18th ultimo, but speculatively prices during the week have had ups and downs with fluctuations of from 10 to 15 points. There has been enough trading to show that the market is stirring. An irregular market is just the thing needed for an improvement in the coffee business. It stimulates buyers and traders are encouraged. An upward tendency should follow, but meantime it is noticed that the option market closed yesterday at prices the same as at the close one week ago, marking no general advance. The bears are still too much in evidence. The Lewisohns re-entered the market last week, and their buying caused advances which were wiped out by the selling of well known bear interests. In the European markets, Havre and Hamburg have maintained advances.

Many firm offers have been received from Brazil, which is receiving and shipping coffee in large quantities. Prices seem too high to attract purchasers here, but inasmuch as large shipments do occur, sellers and buyers evidently have reached an agreement, and probably the buyer did not have the worst of the bargaining. Offers during the week included Rio No. 7 at 41½c., c. & f., Santos Nos. 3 and 4 at 6c., and Rio No. 7 at 4.94c., c. & f. Spot invoice has again declined, and the basis now is 4.78c. for Rio No. 8; 5½c. for Rio No. 7; 5½ to 5½c. for Rio No. 4, and 6c. for Santos No. 4. Good roasting coffees are always at a premium, for they continue scarce, and when found readily command a sale unless the price is too high. Of trash, there is an immense quantity in New York, and it is accumulating, and becoming more and more unsaleable. Invoice trading and jobbing are moderately active.

In mild coffee matters are very slow. Good roasting coffees are always in demand despite the large quantities of milds that are now arriving. Buyers, expecting lower prices are thus held in check. To August 13 from the first of the month 32,731 bags have arrived, including 4,434 bags



Savanilla, 5,401 bags Padang, 452 bags Batavia, and 1,372 bags from Central America. In the course of the week to come some 30,000 bags Savanilla and 17,000 bags Maracaibo are expected to arrive at New York. Good Cucuta is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ c. East India coffees are steady.

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**July Coffee Movement in the U. S.**—The first month of the new coffee year, 1903-04, beginning July 1, is notable for a heavy increase in the world's visible supply; receipts at Rio and Santos the largest for any July on record; heavier deliveries in the United States and Europe than in July, 1902; a very steady spot market.

The following statement shows the July movement in detail:—

Stocks July 1, 1903:	Bags.	Bags.
United States ..	2,461,664	
Europe ..	7,209,009—	9,670,673
Receipts during July:		
United States ..	577,433	
Europe ..	737,035—	1,314,468
Total supply July 1, 1903	...	10,985,141
Less stock August 1, 1903:		
United States ..	2,400,040	
Europe ..	7,245,426—	9,645,466
Deliveries, June, 1903:		
United States ..	639,057	
Europe ..	700,618—	1,339,675
Deliveries, July, 1902	...	1,211,088
Increase over July, 1902	...	128,587

The visible supply of the world, August 1, was 12,370,466 bags, against 11,900,173 bags July 1; 11,590,007 bags August 1, 1902, showing an increase in August of 470,293 bags, and 780,459 bags more than in August, 1902.

Transactions on the Coffee Exchange were 342,750 bags, with 3.60 cents the lowest price for July and August deliveries; highest, 4.70 cents for May.

The spot price of No. 7 Rio fluctuated between  $5\frac{1}{2}$ @ $5\frac{1}{4}$  cents, as the official quotation, but actually the lower grades commanded a premium of  $\frac{1}{4}$ @ $\frac{1}{2}$ c. or more, as to grade, over the official quotation.

The total deliveries in August in the United States were 639,057 bags, of which 54,186 bags were of Brazil sorts, 134,871 bags all other kinds.

The total receipts during July at Rio were 502,000 bags; at Santos, 921,000 bags; both ports, 1,423,000 bags, against 1,091,000 bags same time in 1902; 1,413,000 bags in 1901. During July, 1901 and 1902, 9 per cent. of the total crop was received in July. If the same proportion of the crop was received this year it indicates total receipts of nearly 16,000,000 bags, or the biggest yield on record. Coffee must rule low in price this year.

### TEA NOTES.

**The Russian Tea Duty.**—THE AMOUNT OF THE DUTY. The Russian authorities are, says the *Times of Ceylon* of the 10th instant, raising the tea duty about 5 per cent. at their European ports and land frontier; and, if the announcement had said nothing more, it would be easy to contend that all teas were to be treated alike, and that the object sought to be attained was additional traffic for the Siberian Railway. Besides the blow inflicted on the London trade, however, the local Russian interpretation of Reuter's message is that China tea

will be admitted on the lower tariff—at Odessa, for example—on Consular certificates; and this we cannot in the least reconcile with the most-favoured-nation clause which is still in existence between Russia and Great Britain, their commercial treaty not having been denounced. Mr. Thomas North Christie, as the emissary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, 10 years ago, was able to interest the Colonial and the Foreign Offices in the fact that rates in favour of China tea were in existence at Russia's Asiatic border. With London houses materially affected the question will on the present occasion, be promptly raised; and we look forward to much more transpiring at an early date.

In Ceylon money the existing Russian duty on tea is Rs.47 $\frac{1}{4}$  per pood (36 lbs.), that is Rs.1.31 cents per lb. A rouble is equal to Rs.1.50 of Ceylon money, and, as the duty has been increased  $1\frac{1}{2}$  roubles (three shillings) on 36 lbs., it has been increased by  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents per lb.—exactly a penny.

It may tempt exultation to be assured that the turn-over in the local market will be increased; and the alteration, which is apparently to be imposed at once, may adversely affect London prices for a short time only; but the political consideration that Russia is not justified in what she is doing weighs even more with us that the selling of some additional million lbs. of tea in Colombo; and the same will be the feeling, we trust, in Calcutta.

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A Circular issued by the Indian Tea Cess Committee states that from the 1st to the 31st August the Green Tea Bounty was paid on 525,157 pounds of tea, at the rate of half-an-anna per pound.

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**Calcutta Tea Market.**—Reuter's London telegram reached Calcutta on September 11th quoting the market there easier for common and medium grades. This report coupled with the fact of the offerings at the auctions being the largest brought forward this season, was no doubt responsible for the easiness noticeable in the common grades here, and such teas mark a decline of one to two pie, but operators were keen to purchase at the decline and a very small quantity only was withdrawn. The demand for other grades was good, buyers for all markets appearing satisfied to continue securing their requirements at the same rates as previously, and no alteration can be quoted. Darjeelings were well competed for and two invoices, viz., Mim and Seeyok, realised the very satisfactory averages of 14-9 and 1-2, respectively. Dusts continue to be taken freely for the Russian demand and prices paid for that market are such as to induce many concerns to offer those grades on this market whilst sending the bulk of their produce to London. At the auction 25,763 packages were offered and 24,985 sold.

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**London Tea Sales.**—Wiring to Colombo on the 10th instant Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton reported a generally steady market, pure teas dearer, teas for price easier. Fair-liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong was quoted 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; average for the week 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Reuter reported:—Generally slight advance. The quality of recent arrivals has been better. Offered 29,000 packages; sold 28,000 packages. Pekoe Souchong 6d. Average 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

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**Some Specimens of Russian Tea.**—The *Times of Ceylon* remarks:—Our readers are already familiar with the name



of Mr. K. C. Popoff, the well-known Russian who has for a long time now experimented in the cultivation of tea in the Caucasus. Already he has spent £600,000 and devoted the best years of his life to this work, and it is therefore about time that his labours bore fruit. By perseverance he has produced an excellent Russian tea, and hopes to put about 60,000 lbs. on the Russian market by next year. Although it would not be correct to say that Russian tea is at present an appreciable rival to Ceylon tea in Russia, yet, with the immense advantages which the home-grown tea possesses over that imported, it is not impossible that within the next 25 years conditions may have changed very considerably. For instance, while Ceylon tea has to pay a heavy duty before it can enter Russia, the tea grown in the Caucasus is duty free, and the cost of transport is slight. As an indication of what Mr. Popoff has already achieved, we may mention that by the post yesterday there arrived from his estates specimens of Russian tea which had been grown from Assam and China jât trees. It included brick tea, pill tea, and the ordinary loose tea. Mr. Tchokoff and other tea men who have examined the specimens speak very highly about the tea. It is said to be equal in liquor to the best Ceylon tea, and far superior to a specimen of the very best tea produced in China. It is now three years since Mr. Tchokoff tested in Colombo the last samples of Russian tea submitted to him by Mr. Popoff, and the improvement is most marked, he says. The "pill" tea is of inferior quality, and is composed of dust; but it finds a ready market in Russia, where it can be obtained at about 7½ cents a lb., for it must be remembered that it does not have to pay duty. Mr. Popoff's labels show the Russian colours barred as a background and, in the foreground, an eagle which, be it observed, is fiercely attacking the China dragon—symbolical of China tea.

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**Tea in Hamburg.**—The importation and consumption of Indian and Ceylon teas experienced a further increase in 1902, owing to the growing popularity of these sorts which was due no doubt to their good quality and careful preparation for the market. The reduction in the tea import duties fixed by the new German Tariff, viz., about £1 4s. 6d. instead of £4 18s. per 100 kilos. (or 220 lbs. avoirdupois.) will probably largely contribute towards increasing the consumption of tea in Germany, and, it may be hoped, in particular of Indian and Ceylon teas.

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**Scented Teas.**—HOW THEY ARE FLAVOURED. We have three descriptions of scented teas, says the *American Grocer*. They are known as Scented Caper, Scented Orange Pekoe, and Chulan Powchong. The two former kinds are consumed almost entirely in England, the latter is only used in America. The Scented Caper is round in shape, the same as gunpowder, but in colour is black. It is totally different from Oolong, Green Japan, or Congou, in flavour. The flavour is similar to that of the jessamine flower. This tea is grown near Canton. After the tea is rolled into shape and fired, and before it is allowed to cool, it is put into flat baskets, about three or four inches deep. The flower of the Chulan plant is placed in similar baskets. These baskets are then piled one upon another, each basket containing the tea being between two in which the Chulan flowers are placed. The aroma of the Chulan flower is similar to that of the jessamine. While the tea is cooling it absorbs the aroma of the Chulan flowers to such an extent that the odour remains

for a long time. Scented Caper is not pleasant to the taste; it has a raw, pungent flavour; its only merit is in its odour. In England, where it is chiefly sold, it is never consumed by itself, it is used there by the trade in making their mixtures; one pound to about 15 of the unscented teas is the quantity generally used. A little of the odour of the Chulan flower, like that of the jessamine, is pleasant; too much of it is repulsive.

Scented Orange Pekoe is flavoured with the same Chulan flower in the same way, but in shape it is totally different; it is made into a long, very well twisted leaf, and is black in colour. This tea in taste is like the Scented Caper, and is used in the same way by the English dealers in making up their mixtures. There is a small sale for it in America, where it is used, as it is in England, for mixing purposes. The Scented Orange Pekoe that we get from Foochow is much finer than that which is produced near Canton. The finest Foochow kinds have a very handsome appearance; the leaf is glossy black, exceedingly well twisted, and is even in colour and size. A package of this tea left open will fill a small room with its odour. A little of this tea will go a great way in a mixture, and not more than one pound of it to 15 or 20 pounds of other teas should be used.

Chulan Powchongs were first imported to America about 1838. When first imported they were very much better than those now received. The leaf was of a blackish colour, resembling the Oolong leaf, which, in fact, it was. Later it had a motley brownish colour. The leaf has very little twist in it; on the contrary, it has a ragged appearance. Chulan Powchongs are flavoured with the Chulan flowers, but they are not made with the same care which distinguishes Orange Pekoes or Scented Capers. The bud of the Chulan plant is mixed in with the tea. This bud is about three times the size of a pin's head, and is of a yellowish colour. The proportion used is about one pound of the bud to 20 of the tea. From 1838 to about 1848 the quality of the leaf used in making Chulan Powchong was very good, and great care was taken in its curing. The cup quality was good, having fair strength and flowery flavour. At that period those teas were worth from 50 to 60 cents at wholesale, and were retailed at \$1.00 per pound. These teas have deteriorated very much in quality, so much so that at the present time they rank with the commonest kinds. All teas packed in China in papers are called "Powchongs."

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—A depressed sentiment is, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 11th ultimo, beginning to assert itself in the tea market because of the continuance of the quiet conditions in the trade, when there should be some activity, at least the promise of activity. This exasperatingly is not forthcoming, and study of conditions in the country is bringing out more and more the fact that importers and wholesalers have permitted only too well, over-buying by their customers. In other words, the interior is well supplied with tea and disinclined to come out to buy more in the face of the higher values that have accrued on the new season's teas. There is some inquiry, but no purchasing, except for imperative needs, nor does the circumstance that the market, speaking generally, has declined two cents, induce satisfactory attention, the opinion of buyers being that prices still rule too high in view of the conditions that obtain in the somewhat restricted demand and the expanded supply. A conservative Front street tea-man, prominent



in the trade and usually accurate in his forecasts, said last week :

"The market is going on one leg and that a lame leg, and it is going to proceed that way for the rest of the year. Retailers have been too well stocked, it has been found, and they cannot be induced to come out although tea has recently gone down two cents. So conditions are not prophetic of great activity. For Japan there may be said to be no market at all. There is an excessive supply of green tea in all quarters, and most of it is coming here. Although the net importations into the United States in the last season were about 104,000,000 pounds, the quantity that it has been arranged to import this season will be even larger, and looks like 110,000,000 pounds at least. Congous alone offer a satisfactory outlook. They are not so abundant this year as formerly, and comparatively few will come to this market. The prices for them remain firm, and only they are in this position. In fact it may be said that Congous alone have saved the market from a bad slump, and it may develop that they will have saved the market entirely."

Seemingly the market is turning in the buyers' favour. In the open, quotations are steady, and in some cases, as in Congous, Indias, and Ceylons, firm. The new teas are as yet not very abundant, but such as are here have not met with the welcome they expected, and it remains to be seen how the immense quantity to come will fare. If the holders of the new teas will not become too early discouraged, they may be able to maintain a confident tone in the market and fairly sustain prices. In our opinion the cat has not yet jumped, although there are indications which way she is making up her mind to jump. Primal markets are firm.

**The Tea Trade of Japan for 1902.**—The amount of tea exported last year was 43,242,644 lbs., 738,052 lbs. less than in the year previous. On the other hand, this was valued at £1,070,244, as against £903,876 that of the tea exported in 1901. As, however, the crop was poor, and the duties on tea in the United States were to be taken off from January, 1903, the demand was great, the object of the merchants being to get their supplies across to America before the beginning of this year. This accounts, to a certain extent, for the difference in value between the export in the two years.—*Japan Times*, August 15th.

**Indian Tea.**—Messrs. Caritt Moran & Co.'s Fortnightly Market Report, dated Calcutta, 10th September, says:—Offerings during the fortnight have been moderate, totalling 41,796 packages. The character of supplies has been more or less plainish with the exception of a fair proportion of offerings from Darjeeling. In Assams a marked falling-off has been noticeable. The market has continued good, the sales having passed off with much spirit, and tea generally has met brisk competition; prices can be quoted steady to firm difference in quality alone being responsible for any fluctuation; common grades have moved up a point or so, and fine tea has continued to bring full rates. The Assam Company's offerings have totalled 279 packages of good average quality, they have sold readily at good prices. 1,500 packages of green tea have changed hands; for these kinds the market closes somewhat weaker. Since the season started, the feature of the market, more especially during recent sales, has been the persistently extensive operations on outside market's account, and the buying power in these

interests has never before been so unmistakably evident, or asserted itself so prominently as has lately been seen. The market has dealt with a series of sales in which quality has shown much variation, but it is nevertheless generally admitted that the trade could have comfortably absorbed an appreciably larger quantity without any adverse effect on values resulting from heavier offerings; this strength of demand is, to some extent, shown in a keen auction room, and an unusually close discernment of quality, any slight tendency to improvement, which in many cases goes no further than "preference," being reflected in a quotably appreciated price. With the acquiring of Russia, our latest, strongest and most consistent customer, showing, as she already does this season, a very substantial increase in her purchases on this market, together with a steady addition to our new outlets, it would appear prudent to feed these demands more liberally; the policy of simultaneously encouraging fresh markets and relieving pressure in London is perhaps the soundest and safest measure for further improving and strengthening the industry. Russia is one could probably take 15 to 20 millions off this market if she had a less restricted field of operations. The following details are interesting in connection with the foregoing: up to the sale of 19th June the offerings in Calcutta totalled 31,300 packages, of these only 9,700 packages have so far re-appeared in the Mincing Lane sales up to the 21st August, as follows:—Darjeeling—Offered in Calcutta, 6,380 packages; re-offered in London, 2,020 packages. Dooars and Terai—Offered in Calcutta, 7,500 packages; re-offered in London, 1,400 packages. Assam—Offered in Calcutta, 3,000 packages; re-offered in London, 1,240 packages. Cachar and Sylhet—Offered in Calcutta, 14,400 packages; re-offered in London, 5,000 packages.

**The Threatened Retaliation.**—The information sent from St. Petersburg to the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, as announced on the 31st ultimo, was right in one important particular, and probably in another equally important, says the *Times of Ceylon*. The Russian authorities are raising the tea duty about 5 per cent. at their European ports and land frontier; and, if the announcement had said nothing more, it would be easy to contend that all teas were to be treated alike, and that the object sought to be attained was additional traffic for the Siberian railway. Besides the blow inflicted on the London trade, however, the local Russian interpretation of Reuter's message is that China tea will be admitted on the lower tariff—at Odessa, for example—on Consular certificates; and this we cannot in the least reconcile with the most-favoured-nation clause which is still in existence between Russia and Great Britain, their commercial treaty not having been denounced. Mr. Thomas North Christie, as the emissary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, ten years ago was able to interest the Colonial and the Foreign Offices in the fact that rates in favour of China tea were in existence at Russia's Asiatic border. With London houses materially affected the question will, on the present occasion, be promptly raised; and we look forward to much more transpiring at an early date. Whether the P. A. General Committee will discuss the subject to-morrow, on the larger or on any other side, remains to be seen.

In Ceylon money the existing Russian duty on tea is 47½ rupees per pood (36 lbs.), that is Rs.1·31 cents per lb. A rouble is equal to Rs.1·50 of Ceylon money, and, as the



duty has been increased  $1\frac{1}{2}$  roubles (three shillings) on 36 lbs., it has been increased by  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents per lb.—exactly a penny. . . . It may tempt exultation to be assured that the turn-over in the local market will be increased; and the alteration, which is apparently to be imposed at once, may adversely affect London prices for a short time only; but the political consideration that Russia is not justified in what she is doing weighs even more with us that the selling of some additional million lbs. of tea in Colombo; and the same will be the feeling, we trust, in Calcutta.

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**Japan vs. Ceylon Teas.**—The *Kobé Herald* of June 19, says that since the opening of the tea season this year the market for common grades of tea has been very quiet and buyers have been few. This state of affairs is due to the fact that considerable quantity of green tea in imitation of Japan tea has been shipped from Ceylon to the United States and Canada, and it is being sold at lower rates than the genuine Japan tea, with a view to ousting the latter from the market. The production of green tea in India last year was only 6,000,000 pounds; this year it is estimated at between 12,000,000 and 15,000,000 pounds, while it is intended to increase that quantity to 40,000,000 pounds, if possible. It is impossible for Japan tea to compete with Indian green tea in point of price, so that it is expected, says the *Herald*, that the commoner brands of Japan tea may be entirely deleted from the United States and Canadian markets in the course of three or four years.

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**Ceylon Tea.**—Speaking at the half-yearly meeting of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce on the 1st instant, the Hon'ble Mr. STANLEY BOIS, the Chairman, said:—It is satisfactory to note with regard to our main staple, tea, the increase in our exports to America. With regard to Russia there is no increase, but we are holding our own. Disquieting rumours are now on foot that increased duties may be imposed and this may check the business, but in view of the fact that the absence of any expansion as far as I can gather is, to a great extent, due to better prices we get for our lower grades of tea locally, in which direction Calcutta can underquote, gives us no cause for alarm. You will observe under the head of tea cess we have had the pleasure of registering the success that has attended the policy of the Thirty Committee in continuing to support the green tea industry by means of the payment of a bonus; and I think we are greatly indebted to the Thirty Committee for the consistent way in which they have adhered in this policy, which has resulted in the increased figures quoted in our report; from which it will be seen that for the first half of 1903 we exported  $5\frac{1}{2}$  millions of green tea as against  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions in the first half of 1902. This expansion is due, to a very large extent, to our change of policy, whereby every endeavour has been made to suit our green teas to the markets which we are principally desirous to capture and not to endeavour to force our black upon an unwilling market. A great number of teas have been sent from here in a finished condition, which also marks a change in our policy. I think we may now congratulate ourselves on the green tea industry being well on its legs, and at no distant time able to stand alone. In this connection it would be wrong to withhold from Mr. William Mackenzie some tribute of gratitude for the services he has rendered to us in the past, by the consistent manner in which he has advocated the necessity of making green teas for the American market, such as America required,

rather than that we should continue merely to advertise our black teas. Events have shown, I think, that he was quite right, and that our green tea trade, which was undertaken under the pressure of low prices for black teas bids fair to extend much more than even we now can fully estimate.

Mr. G. B. LEECHMAN dwelt upon the satisfactory condition of the present outlook, and said he looked forward not perhaps to an extraordinary, but yet to a moderately prosperous future as regards the tea industry. The green tea trade, which had commenced in a time of stress, though strongly urged by Mr. William Mackenzie and others, had increased to a large extent, and was destined to have a marked effect upon the future of our staple industry. Mr. Leechman, referring to Mr. Chamberlain's tariff proposals, said that one effect which the question would have would be that the attention of people at home would be drawn to the fact that our tea was taxed 80 or 100 per cent., and it might—he did not say it would—happen that the said tax might not only be reduced to 4d. or 2d., but entirely abolished. On the other hand, there was the unpleasant fact that Russia was likely, in a moment of heated retaliation—perhaps not intentionally—to tax our tea into her country, and this, after we had nursed the industry so assiduously, was not altogether favourable to them.

The Report of the Committee stated:—

**TEA CESS.**—In the Chamber's report at 31st December, 1902, your Committee fully endorsed the policy of the "Thirty Committee" in continuing to support the Green Tea Industry by the payment of a bonus as a means of correspondingly reducing the output of black teas, and they are glad to say this has resulted in an increase of 3,245,474 lbs. green tea manufactured during the first six months of this year, as compared with last, the actual figures being as follows:—

First half of 1902.	First half of 1903.
2,277,357 lbs.	5,522,831 lbs.

This has involved an appropriation of funds far in excess of the revenue of the current year, and it will be remembered that in order to meet the deficit, the proposal made on this side was that the Cess should be temporarily raised to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent a lb. This, however, was not approved of by those interested in London, although the majority were in favour of continued support being extended to the Green Tea Industry, and the difficulty has accordingly been met by Government coming forward and indicating their readiness to advance the necessary funds on the security of next year's Cess Revenue. A sum of Rs.150,000 allowing of a bonus of 3 cents a pound on a further 5,000,000 lbs., or about the amount required up to the end of the year, has accordingly been thus obtained, and the thanks of those interested are due to His Excellency the Governor for this assistance, which prevents the sudden check to the expansion of the Green Tea Industry that otherwise would, in all probability, have resulted from the sudden stoppage of the bonus about the middle of the year.

**ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION OF 1904.**—It was considered probable at the time of the last report, that if the result of Mr. W. H. Figg's enquiries on the spot proved favourable, the Ceylon Government would be prepared to arrange for the representation of Ceylon in a liberal and adequate manner, and this anticipation has now been realized. It has been decided on the strength of Mr. Figg's recommendations that Ceylon should participate on the lines of its representation at Paris, the cost of which to the Colony was some £15,000, and Government, with the cordial concurrence of the planting community, have paid the Chamber the compliment of selecting your Chairman, Mr. Stanley Bois, as Commissioner for Ceylon to St. Louis. They have also appointed two Assistant Commissioners, Mr. R. Huyshe Eliot and Mr. Paul E. Pieris, C.C.S., as representing the planting and the low-country



Sinhalese interests respectively, who, with the addition of certain official visitors, should do much to interest Americans in the island and promote its trade with the United States.

#### TRADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1903.

**TEA EXPORTS.**— . . The total shipment of green tea, according to the returns or Bills of Lading, amounted to 3,675,255 lbs., against 1,414,391 lbs. These figures do not however represent the true position of green tea. The Thirty Committee's figures shew that the bonus has been paid on 5,522,831 lbs., against 2,277,357 lbs. for the same period in 1902, which proves that a large stock is held in Colombo for the purposes of "finishing" and awaiting shipment, in addition to which a certain quantity is lost in the shipping returns, owing to the fact that green teas are not always specified apart from black teas.

**Quality.**—The quality has been about average, except in the month of June, when a considerably less quantity than usual of undesirable tea came forward.

**Prices.**—The average price obtained at the Colombo Sales was :—

1903	...	...	...	37 cents.
1902	...	...	...	33.81 "

Common teas have done well throughout the half-year, and the range of price has been better than previous years. This is the natural result of reduced output of black tea caused not only by shorter crops, but by the large number of low-country estates which have manufactured green tea. Fannings and dust have again risen in price owing to the "brick tea" industry.

GREEN TEA has made steady progress, and is now attaining a permanent position in Canada and America. The greater proportion (probably 75 per cent.) is now shipped in a "faced" or "finished" condition, and this system has undoubtedly been the means of the continued success of Ceylon green tea. Prices have been good throughout and have slowly advanced during the period under review.

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The important commercial changes which have been anticipated, and which are now going on in the Orient, are peculiarly illustrated in the tea operations in Japan, writes the *American Asiatic Journal*. Until the last two years the large importing houses had a monopoly of this business for the United States. To-day it would seem that every wholesale grocery house in the country has its own buyer in Japan. The advantage is questionable, since the price of tea has been stimulated under the extra competition—the difference between, say, 20 and 200 buyers in the market. The regular large importer's profits of 1c. or 2c. advance is comparable against a full 20 per cent. advance to native and shipper under the new conditions, and it is doubtful if the new profit margin of the wholesale grocer is enhanced. The extra competition is assigned as the cause for continued high prices.

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**The U. S. Tea Situation.**—Importers are looking around for a remedy for that tired feeling from which the tea market is suffering, but needless to say, observes the *Merchants' Review* of 14th ultimo, they are not meeting with success. The producers have marked up prices at every opportunity, although the reason has been far to seek, except the familiar reason that they needed the money, and the distributors having been heavily loaded up with supplies when the duty-repeal law went into effect, have not since been compelled to

pay extreme prices, their requirements having been anticipated for some months. The heavy imports during the fiscal year 1903 tell the story pretty clearly.

However, at this season the outlet for tea from importers' hands is expected to be narrow, and a good many holders believe that the replenishment of grocers' stocks will be liberal in the fall.

As a consequence of the plethoric state of the grocer's caddies there seems to be a superabundance of green teas, of which the prices are showing a more reasonable tendency, but Congous, which in recent years have been rather too plentiful for holders' interests, are now working into good shape. They are in only moderate supply and are wanted more often than greens. Their prices are firm, which is more than can be said for greens as a class.

The way the tea market has come around from its activity and buoyancy during the few months preceding the taking effect of the repeal act, reminds students of the history of the trade of the course of the same market in the period immediately preceding and closely following the abolition of the duty in the seventies. Then, however, the changes were more violent and the after damages in the speculative channels more severe. The resemblances could be traced in the early buying movement and advance of values, followed by a long period when repletion caused a dull tone and declining prices. The differences were seen in the milder forms in which the earlier situation was reproduced in the later one.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The market in tea may be described, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 18th ultimo, as under half pressure, with prices remaining steady. Some one describes it as proceeding at present on only one lung in condition, the unclogged one being composed of those dealers who find their stocks low and therefore demanding replenishing, and the other of those who are too well stocked, and who naturally, since prices do not tempt, stay out of the market. Perforce, these must some time or other enter the market, but seemingly they will do so only gradually, and consequently it may be some months before the market in general may be understood as humming with activity. Although some in the trade report slow conditions, not a few speak of experiencing a marked increase of activity, which they ascribe to the rather large arrivals of tea recently, permitting some basis on which to do business on a fairly large scale, and with enthusiasm and confidence.

Speaking generally, teas of good quality and desired are scarce, and command full values, while the lower grades are plentiful and susceptible of concessions. Despite the reported slowness of Japan teas both at New York and Chicago, that tea has advanced another cent in Japan for all grades. Picking is to be stopped September 1, and this, it is thought, will materially influence the final crop, which, however, is estimated as 2,000,000 pounds in excess of the quantity produced and sent out last year. Greens, it is known, will be 5,000,000 pounds more than last year, and in view of this fact, there should follow a decline in the prices of this tea from the unwarranted high figures with which the markets in the East started. Perhaps the huge surplus will not find an exportable demand. London has bought about 2,000 packages of Congous in the New York market, paying therefore 8½ cents. It is not thought that very much more of that grade of tea is remaining in New York. Of course, London's need was



prompted by the firmer prices for the India and Ceylon teas, and because new season Congous are higher. The United States will take 5,000,000 pounds less of this tea this year, and will scarcely feel the pinching, despite the large London purchases hitherto, the importations of the two previous years having been so plentiful. A considerable quantity of Formosas arrived last week, but the better grades, of course, being autumnal pickings, have yet to arrive. All Moyunes that arrived last week have found ready purchasers. India and Ceylon hold firm. Ceylon greens are in good request in Canada, where their cheapness has made them attractive, and almost driven out the Japan teas.

NOTES.

Java Quinine.

The exports of quinine from Java during June amounted to 27 cases, including 20 to Genoa, 6 to Japan, and 1 to Singapore. From January to June the shipments have been :—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Cases ...	546	451	1,037	662	905

Cheap!

Tea is cheap and coffee is cheap now-a-days. Imagine, says the *Merchants' Review* of New York, first-class grocery stores quoting coffee and tea in the window at 14c. for the former (7 lbs. for 90c.) and 30c. for the latter ("good black or mixed")! It is done in this city and the reputation of the dealers is proof that the quality is not to be sneezed at.

In Coffee and Tea.

In case of war in Great Britain it is estimated, says a New York Paper, that the average stocks of teas and coffees in the hands of retailers which are about one month's consumption, and in bond and the hands of wholesalers about five months' consumption, would last much longer than six months in the evident enhanced prices of food generally and consequent reduced purchasing power of the people.

The Marseilles Market.

During 1902 imports into Marseilles included 911 tons Cocoa, as against 1,048 in 1901, and an average of 814 from 1898 to 1901. Coffee imports rose last year to 27,279 tons, as against 21,900 in 1902, and an average of 21,353 tons for the above four years. Pepper, 1,230 tons in 1902; 685 in 1901; 818 average. Tea, 1,497 tons in 1902; 1,278 in 1901; average of the four years 1898—1901, 1,146 tons.

Manures.

A bill to prevent the sale of inferior manures has been drafted by the Minister for Lands for submission to Cabinet. Mr. Taverner informed a deputation at Nhill on Saturday that he hoped the bill would be passed during the coming season. He complained, however, that the farmers had not co-operated with the department as they might have done in trying to secure convictions under the present law.

Shipments of Rubber from Para.

Consul K. K. Kenneday writes from Pará :—The shipments of rubber from the Amazon Valley during the month of May just passed amounted to 2,070 tons, as against 2,083 tons for the same month in 1902. The total export of rubber for this season—July 1, 1902, to May 31, 1903—is 28,110 tons, as against 28,738 tons for the corresponding

period of the previous season. It does not appear likely that the business of this closing month of the season will materially change the relative bearing of these figures. The crop shortage this year, as compared with the year of 1901-02, will therefore be only about 2 per cent., instead of 5 per cent. as estimated January 1.

Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 26 (mis en vente à Paris le 31 août 1903) : 15 contributions inédites de MM. L. & J.*

Paszkiewicz, de Ricci, Cibot, Neuville, Estève, Kobus, Hecht frères, Hamel Smith, Jung, Teissonnier, de Villèle, Rivière, Main. La machine à cueillir le coton, de Zempter. —Le problème de la défibrage mécanique des feuilles de palmiers.—L'aloès d'Algérie, et la décortiqueuse Fasio.—Les stations javanaises pour l'étude de la canne à sucre.—Stérilité des bananiers.—Le thé vert, et le marché marocain. —Etudes sur le maté, le palmier à huile, l'hevea.—Notes diverses, sur le camphre de Bornéo, les fleurs de thé du Tonkin, la canne, le coton, le bananier, le maniocoba, le mangabeira, les arbres à gutta-percha, la gutta de fruits, etc.—Etudes commerciales sur le caoutchouc, le cacao, la noix de coco rapée (en boîtes).—15 analyses bibliographiques (Etats-Unis, Floride, Jamaïque, Sao-Paulo, Japon, Java, Formose.—Tabac, Coton, Cowpea, Canne, Thé, Camphre, Ananas, Gutta-percha, Caoutchouc, Maté, Vigne.—Apiculture).

Cocoa in Hamburg.

The importations of all sorts of cocoa were more extensive in 1902 than in any previous year (except 1899), and were all disposed of for purposes of consumption. In view of this development of the consuming power of continental countries for all kinds of cocoa, the favourable reports of the recent harvest in all cocoa-growing parts of the world were naturally received with satisfaction by persons interested in the cocoa trade of Hamburg.

	From	1901. Bags.	1902. Bags.
Africa (Accra, Cameroon, and Lagos)	...	85,342	94,776
Bahia ...	...	48,061	50,131
Caracas ...	...	12,952	11,053
Ceylon and Java	...	8,117	12,100
Cuba ...	...	1,201	2,500
Domingo ...	...	4,027	3,325
Grenada ...	...	2,375	2,277
Guayaquil...	...	108,050	125,400
Jamaica ...	...	2,500	2,870
Maracaibo...	...	1,573	1,337
Samana ...	...	44,204	53,784
Surinam ...	...	3,843	2,570
Trinidad ...	...	8,309	8,977
Total ...		330,554	371,100

GENERAL ARTICLES.

PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Some remarkable statistics, showing the revenue derived from the importation of dutiable articles into the United Kingdom, are contained in the forty-seventh report which the Commissioners of Customs have just presented to the Treasury. The period covered by the report is the year ending March 31 last, and although the figures are nearly three-quarters of a million below the Budget estimate, the Customs revenue is shown to be nearly 11 per cent. higher than in 1901-02. In no one year has so much been raised by Customs duties, and but for abnormal clearances in anticipation



of fiscal changes the receipts would have swollen to a greater amount. The gross returns reach £35,499,723, or £3,414,125 more than in the preceding year, which, in its turn, showed a very large increase over the previous twelve months. In five years the Customs receipts have increased by nearly thirteen and a-half millions. Tea is responsible for £5,975,483, an increase of £182,516, the quantity paying duty being 254,398,837 lbs. Sugar duties fell 30 per cent., the receipts being £4,478,707 against £6,399,228, but this, as before explained, was due to forestalments or post-ponement of clearances in anticipation of changes of duty. The Commissioners think that the normal yield of these duties will be found to be about £5,900,000, on the basis of the present rates. The average consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom for the past five years is 31,150,000 cwt. per annum.

The risk of loss in crop through inability to manufacture as a result of damage to the Tea House by fire has, we hear, been under the serious consideration of more than one tea company's board. The risk is certainly considerable for single estates, and equally so where the different estates of one proprietary are too far apart to render each other any real assistance in manufacture in case of such a catastrophe occurring. We believe that in some instances this risk has been covered by insurance.

Notwithstanding the fact that when the question of renewal came up early in the year, six American, English, and German firms engaged in Yokohama tea trade urged its discountenance, the subsidy to the Central Tea Guild for the purpose of extending the tea market in the United States has been renewed. The subsidy has been paid for six years.

Messrs. Reid, Evans, & Co., of Shanghai, referring to the supply of China green tea, estimate that there will be this season an excess of 30,000 half-chests of Pingsuey tea, 30,000 half-chests of country teas proper, and 20,000 half-chests of Wenchows, S. Packs, and new districts, a total excess of 80,000 half-chests. This would give available for export, say they, to Europe and America some 5,000,000 lbs. of green tea. Allowing that Europe takes 1,000,000 lbs., there remain for America 4,000,000 lbs. more than 1902. This quantity, provided prices were moderate, would not be excessive when the small stocks in many parts of that country and the removal of the 10 per cent. duty is taken into account.

Under the heading "Paradoxes of Diet," a writer in the *St. James's Gazette* says that the peoples that drink most tea and alcohol are the most dominant Powers. Tea is the essential drink of progress. In a single century Australia has made itself, and the Australian beats the rest of the world by drinking  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of tea in twelve months. The Canadians manage 6 lbs., which is also the quantity that the home-bred John Bull requires to quench his thirst. The American has a preference for coffee which, added to his tea, makes him drink no less than the Britisher. On the other hand, Germany's national depression is distinctly due to her consumption of a mere 2 oz. of tea per head per annum. When the Russian backs up his 1 lb. of tea with more meat he will go ahead, for if tea spells enterprise, beef means strength. Just to test this look at the opposite side. The Spaniard drinks only half-a-pint of tea in a year. No wonder he is depressed and bankrupt.

The position of coffee-growers in Brazil is not unlike that of tea-growers in India and Ceylon. Brazil planters benefit when exchange is low. Foreign office reports show that the appreciation of the currency is undoubtedly one of the chief causes of the impecuniosity of the planter, "who actually receives about half the amount of milréis for his crops as compared with what he was paid three or four years ago, when the milréis was worth from 6d. to 9d."

In the annual reports published by the Colonial Office of the Federated Malay States, it is shown that the rubber industry, which was spoken of so hopefully last year, has justified all that was said of it, and there can be no doubt that the combination of climate and soil in the States pre-eminently adapts them for the cultivation of rubber of the Pará and Rambong kinds. The export of Pará has not yet commenced, and a year or two may elapse

before it does, but in the meantime samples of it realise high prices in England. The scientific name for Rambong is *Ficus elastica*. Cocoanuts continue to flourish in response to an ever-increasing demand, and the success of sugar cultivation has already been proved beyond dispute. A motley crowd of enemies have, however, arisen against the cocoanut palms—to wit, beetles, rats, wild pigs, and porcupines; and a planter of great skill and experience has in consequence been appointed Federal Inspector to deal with these pests. It is predicted that the cocoanut plantations will form one of the safest of the agricultural interests of the States, the most permanent and paying, and the least costly. The area under cocoanuts already exceeds forty thousand acres. The cultivation of Liberian coffee is being gradually abandoned, the ground being planted with Pará instead.

Some time ago some successful attempts were made in Queensland to obtain and prepare rubber, and samples were sent to England and obtained a fair price; but the industry was not energetically worked, says an Australian journal. The sap was obtained by making incisions in the bark of the white mangrove trees, which grow plentifully in the swampy lands along the coast of Central Queensland, and was allowed to run into tins that were fastened on the trees. It was afterwards located in earthenware jars placed in boiling water, and then worked up by hand until the rubber was produced. In this simple crude way very good elastic rubber was made, which brought 4s. per lb. in England, and a guarantee was given by the merchant that any amount of it would be purchased. It is surprising that this trade has not been developed. It requires little capital. A few fossickers with tomahawks and tins, and masks to prevent injury from the sap, an inexpensive boiling apparatus, and cases to export it, and the necessary plant would be provided. There would be no dread of glutting the market. The demand for rubber is ever increasing. England and America now absorb over fifty millions of pounds annually, and fresh uses for it in machinery, roofing, and clothing, and in the arts of life are ever being found. For many years to come this source of indigenous wealth might be worked with advantage.—*H. & C. Mail*.

## INTELLECT IN PLANTS.

I wonder, writes Mr. E. L. Merriman in the *Daily Mail*, whether many people interested in gardening have ever noticed the natural tendency of some weeds to imitate garden flowers, and, like some of the human race, to "ape their betters"?

The many human characteristics of plants are interesting to notice. In weeding a bed of verbenas has any one noticed a little rough green weed, so like them in growth of leaf that he has hesitated to pull it up? This particular weed I do not remember to have found elsewhere. In a bed of carnation cuttings a little tuft of grass will often grow close against them, so like in appearance as easily to deceive a novice, evidently in hopes of being overlooked when weeding time should come by passing itself off as a carnation slip. The red pimpernel will plant itself close to the garden blue pimpernel, no doubt with the same object in view. The wild rose will do the same; and who has not found the wild foxgloves among the noble white garden variety, which they never leave until they have contaminated, and will in time, if permitted to remain near, turn to their own colour, which, beautiful though it may be, still looks better in a field.

**Parvenus of Plant Life.**—"Mares-tail" grass will grow in an asparagus bed, looking at a distance nearly as soft and feathery. Wild Rose-Campion will thrust itself into a clump of the garden kind. "Morning Glory," feeling itself to be quite as beautiful, and infinitely more vigorous, will take the place of and swamp the garden convolvulus, aggravating the gardener; and though being occasionally spared for the sake of its natural beauty when in its first youthful bloom, it is invariably rooted out later on in life. But like a truly vulgar person, it will never take a hint or realise that it is "de trop," and it will return again at the first opportunity. A kind of switch grass will grow in tiny tufts in a spring-onion bed, no doubt for companionship, and will often get itself mistaken for that useful vegetable, hoping to escape the ruthless gardener, who has unwittingly provided it with a soft bed. The wild poppy delights in showing itself in the middle of a bed of Shirley poppies



defying them to outshine its brilliance. Even the modest daisy will quietly plant its compact little round self in a border of garden daisies, with a gentle ambition of trying their companionship for a little while.

Some flowers, however, are so defiantly wild as to refuse to bloom freely among the tamer or more cultivated kinds, such as the heather-bell, the heath, and the "sea-lavender" (if that is its real name), and some others. They may be ranked among the gipsies of flower life.

**Uncongenial Surroundings.**—There are certain plants which will deliberately transplant themselves when disgusted with their surroundings, and creep away for some distance to a more congenial neighbourhood. I once knew a mint bed which flourished until a pigstye was occupied close by, when it soon became blighted and generally illtreated by grubs and flies. It took the remedy into its own hands, and was afterwards found some distance away in a flower bed. The roots will creep long distances, and establish themselves where it best pleases them. We all know how strawberries will tire of their home, always seeking to colonise and to establish the younger branches of their family in fresh quarters, and that they cease to flourish for more than three years in the same place.

There are plants which seem to like living in village communities, and others which will form large colonies of their own, but which nevertheless will not stray near a human town, but will, on the contrary, recede farther and farther away from its atmosphere. Who has ever found the wild lily of the valley close to a town? Primroses and violets and bluebells will venture fairly near, or at least allow a town to creep within a moderate distance of their homes, but most of our prettiest flowers avoid the vicinity of human beings, as also do many of our best ferns.

**The Flattery of Imitation.**—To return to the subject of imitation. I know a lovely wood carpeted with wild lilies of the valley on the borders of which grow patches of wild garlic. So very like are these that the unwary flower hunter will swoop down on them and dig them up eagerly before becoming aware of their vulgar nature. But I have noticed that for some reason they will not venture too near or actually mix with the lily roots, which I have no doubt would in such a case recede from them, they being flowers which prefer a certain amount of privacy, and do not care much for other pretty flowers outside their own family. One seldom sees showy flowers growing among a colony of lilies. It may be that they are jealous of a more brilliant neighbour, but far be it from me to attribute the petty meannesses and sordid motives of our coarser human life to the flowers whose very presence is a rest to human thought.

Trees, again, show their individuality when they deliberately turn their leaves, as many do, when a shower of rain is coming. How often have we been warned of an approaching shower by the sight of the rough underside of the leaves of various trees, which appear anxious to get a bath. We can hear the gentle tapping of the aspen leaves as they congratulate themselves and each other on the prospect of rain. The homely little "shepherd's weather-glass," or red pimpernel, is a true prophet, and will foretell the coming weather. If the day is to be fine it will open wide its eye, even before the sun shines. If dull, it will remain half closed. If wet, it will become tightly closed. It is weatherwise beyond its fellows, perhaps because of the fear that a heavy raindrop would batter its tiny blossom quite of the stem.

**Parasites.**—Again, many creeping plants will use others for support (or even make "stepping-stones of their dead selves"), using any means to gain an end, like those who obtain a position in life through the vigour and knowledge of another, whose life they manage to completely obliterate with their own rank growth and grasping qualities. On seeing a shrub which has succeeded in gaining a substantial growth, after patient years of steady and honest determination, such a creeper will rush at it, make use of its substantial support, and in a short time obliterate it with showy leaves and brilliant, though often poisonous, berries.

There are also harmless parasites which appear to do no injury to their supporters, but these generally live on one which can well afford to nourish them. Such is the oak polypody, which is but an ornament to the oak.

Nettles nearly always appear to denote either the former habitation of man, or of man's work. They will point out where man has built when the fact would otherwise quite escape the observation

of his descendants, perpetuating his memory for many years after he has passed away. Not long ago, when walking through a beautiful lane, with banks formed of rock richly clothed with every variety of shrub, fern, flower and grass, such as grow chiefly in the more distant country parts, away from even a village, I came upon a gap in the hedge which was filled up with rank-growing nettles. On inspection I found the remains of an old crumbled wall, which from the rank appearance of the nettles I had suspected would be there. This is one instance out of many of a similar kind which I have personally noticed.

The above examples, with many others which could be cited, go to show that the plant life has in its own sphere, quite as much character and individuality as has the human life.

## RAMIE (RHEA) CULTIVATION IN CEYLON.

Mr. D. Edwards-Radclyffe, of London, recently sent a circular communication to various Colonial Governors and Agents-General in advocacy of ramie cultivation, in the machinery for treating the fibre of which he is materially interested.

When the letter reached the Ceylon Government it was forwarded on the 26th August to Peradeniya, and the next day Mr. J. C. Willis sent in to the Secretariat the following memorandum:—

There are undoubtedly great possibilities before rhéa, which in many respects is one of the best of all fibres. The difficulties in the way of its expansion are commercial rather than agricultural.

2. Rhea has for many years been grown at Peradeniya in small trial plots, and planters have experimented with it, but, though it grows well, it requires a very regular rainfall and much manure, while the price obtained is unremunerative. It is possible that by the use of degumming machines locally (which has not hitherto been done) a better result might be obtained, but most people here are agreed that there is little prospect of success before the industry in Ceylon at present.

3. The chief commercial obstacles to the success of rhéa are the facts that the great existing fibre industries of cotton, wool, jute, etc., are opposed to it, and that the mercerised cotton now so common competes with rhéa on its own ground, giving a similar silky lustre to the goods made of it.

4. I do not think that under present conditions it is worth the while of Government to do more than keep a plot of rhéa going at Peradeniya in case of a demand springing up, but later on it might be worth while to import machinery and try it on a large scale at the experiment station.

The Colonial Secretary replied to Mr. Edwards-Radclyffe on the above lines, in the name of H. E. the Governor, omitting the last paragraph.

## THE RUSSIAN TEA DUTY.

### INCREASE ANNOUNCED BY REUTER.

#### LOCAL VIEWS AND INFORMATION.

Both the Russian tea firms in Colombo received cablegrams from Russia this morning instructing them to ship no more tea *viâ* Odessa—which being on the Black Sea comes within the scope of the increased duty announced by Reuter to-day—but to send all their tea *viâ* Dalny. Formerly tea has been shipped in about equal quantities by Odessa and Dalny. The new duty means the death-blow to the London trade in teas for Russia and, practically to the extent that London suffers Ceylon should benefit, according to Russian merchants here. Last year about 20 million of Ceylon and Indian teas were shipped from London to Russia; and from Ceylon and India direct twelve millions and about five millions respectively. Even in the ordinary course of things more than twelve million lbs. of Ceylon tea would have been shipped direct from Ceylon to Russia this year; but with the London market closed the quantity so exported must be largely increased. As regards China, we are informed that, if China tea is shipped to Odessa, it will be necessary for the shippers to get a Russian Consular certificate, saying, where it comes from; otherwise China tea also will have to pay the extra duty. Our informant was unable to explain the position as affected by the most-favoured-nation clause.

#### SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The most prominent point to be remembered in connection with the increased duty on tea imported into Russia by the European



Frontier is, the Russian tea merchants assert, the immense advantage which will accrue to Ceylon! One of them says he will guarantee that 40,000,000 lbs. of Ceylon and Indian tea will have been despatched to Russia through Dalny by the end of 1903, and all will come from Colombo or Calcutta! Incidentally it may be mentioned that the proposal which the *Times of Ceylon* has long advocated, that more tea should be sold in Colombo than has been the case, will be carried into effect in a somewhat unexpected manner. This is the way it has been put to our representative to-day, with the further comment that it should be welcome news to the planters.

From Dalny the tea for Russia will be conveyed over the new Siberian railway, which will benefit to this extent; and, although this point may have weighed with the Russian Government when the question of the increase of the duty on tea was under consideration, yet we have it on good authority that the increase is retaliatory pure and simple.

It might be expected that the closing of the Black Sea and the Baltic Ports to Ceylon and Indian tea would adversely affect the steamers which convey the tea thither. But while there will be a loss there will also be a gain. It is quite true that Russian steamers—including those of the Russian Volunteer Fleet—will not have a paying freight as far as tea is concerned on their way from the Far East to St. Petersburg; but, on the other hand, they will benefit by carrying a greatly increased quantity of Ceylon tea to Dalny, so that the account will at least be balanced. It is possible that larger cargoes of copperah will be carried by the Russian steamers to Russia in the place of tea. Mr. T. O. Tchokoff will shortly be proceeding to Russia to discuss the desirability of sending vessels of the Russian Volunteer Fleet to Calcutta during the next tea season there; for the market there has been growing steadily in importance, and he thinks there would be plenty of tea for steamers to carry to Dalny.

An important fact to remember, in discussing the question of tea for Russia, is that Ceylon tea is an absolute necessity in that country. One hears much about China tea, but Russians will not now have this weak production unless it is blended with the stronger Ceylon tea, which not only adds flavour to it, but gives it keeping qualities in which China tea alone is notoriously deficient.

One the whole, therefore, it will be seen that Ceylon has little to complain about now that Russia has raised the duty on tea so as to bar all business in tea with London.—*Times of Ceylon*, Sept. 10.

## THE GOVERNMENT ENTOMOLOGIST.

Pending the establishment of the permanent headquarters of the Imperial Agricultural Department, it has been decided that the Government Entomologist, Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, should be stationed at Surat, Bombay Presidency. This Officer is to gather information in connection with the insects that are injurious to field and garden crops in India, with a view to suggesting simple means, whereby the insects may be destroyed and their ravages checked. There is no lack of scope for this Officer's researches, if those who are engaged in agriculture or who are in touch with cultivators will inform him whenever insects are found to be destructive. We print below the circular describing how specimens should be sent, and detailing the information required by Mr. Lefroy. Before any useful work can be accomplished in the way of remedies, it is necessary to know what are the insects which prove destructive to Indian crops, and we may then hope that the work of this office may make itself felt and prove of value to the community.

### DIRECTIONS FOR SENDING INSECT SPECIMENS.

Whenever possible, a plentiful supply of both living and preserved insects should be sent, in all stages.

Living specimens should be sent under, as far as possible, natural conditions, with a supply of food and some provision for air if the journey will occupy more than 24 hours. If the insect lives in the ground it may be sent in slightly moist earth. Every care should be taken in packing, so that the insects cannot be crushed or injured by any shaking of the contents of the package.

*Preserved Specimens.*—All soft-bodied insects, such as caterpillars, may be preserved in weak spirits or whiskey. Such are best forwarded in a small bottle, but they may also be soaked in spirit for two days and sent in blotting paper soaked in spirit, in a tight box or tin.

Hard insects, such as beetles, may be wrapped in soft paper. They should not be pinned, and should be so packed as not to roll about. In case of long distances, the insects should be dried first, as they are likely to mould, or else naphthaline or blotting paper soaked in carbolic may be placed in the package with them. Butterflies and moths can be readily killed by pinching them below the insertion of the wings. Their wings should then be folded back over the body and the insect placed flat in a small envelope or fold of paper.

Insects should never be packed in contact with cotton wool. Paper should be placed between the insects and the cotton wool. Scale insects, aphidæ, and other small insects, are most readily sent on their food plant in small boxes or tins.

A good supply of specimens should be sent, as in many cases a few of each sex have to be forwarded to the Indian Museum and to Europe for identification. When specimens are simply to be identified, they should be sent directly to the Indian Museum, Calcutta. When specimens are sent with a request for information, it is desirable to give as many particulars as possible concerning their occurrence, etc.; this is *absolutely necessary* where it is desired to obtain recommendations as to dealing with crop pests.

It is desirable to send specimens by the quickest method available, as an extra day in transit may kill all the living insects; parcels arrive more speedily if unregistered, and it is always desirable to inform this office how the specimens are sent, so that their delivery from the Post Office here may be expedited.

## BENGAL CINCHONA PLANTATION.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The following extracts from the Annual Report on the Government Cinchona Plantation and Factory in Bengal for the year 1902-03 are published in the *Calcutta Gazette* :—

*Weather and General.*—The rainfall during the year was much above the normal: 171.46 inches as against an average of 122.62 for the preceding 28 years. The heaviest fall occurred on 27th September, 1902, when 14.7 inches were measured. Although the total was so much greater than during the year 1901-02 when only 92.69 inches fell, and exceeded the fall registered in any of the preceding 28 years, there was little damage done by landslides on the plantation. Munsong, the new extension in the Dumsong forest, shared in the excessive rainfall, there 106.54 inches fell, as against 88.42 in 1901-02. The heaviest fall at Munsong, 8.83 inches, also occurred on 27th September, 1902.

*Plantation and Crop.*—The number of plants put out during the year was 458,927. These included 402,343 *Ledgeriana*, 26,459 *Succirubra*, 29,360 Hybrid No. I, and 765 Hybrid No. II. The area planted at the headquarters plantation (Mungpoo and Sittong) was 91.06 acres; here 160,967 *Ledgeriana* plants, all the *Succirubra* and all the Hybrid No. I plants were put out. At Munsong 89.1 acres were planted with 241,376 *Ledgeriana* and all the Hybrid No. II plants. The nursery stock of seedlings on 31st March, 1903, was 155,328. The stock included 8,000 more Hybrid No. I, 2,500 more *Succirubra*, and 123,386 more *Ledgeriana*, but 58 fewer Hybrid No. II seedlings than were in the lines on 31st March, 1903, indicating that about 134,000 more plants had to be put out after 1st April, 1903, than was the case at the same date in the preceding year. The delayed planting season which these figures indicate was due to the severe and continued drought that began in October, 1902, and had not broken at the close of the year under review. The total number of living trees of all kinds in the permanent plantations on 31st March, 1903, was 3,015,600. Of these 1,977,315 were at Mungpoo (including Rungbee and Labdah) and 208,331 were at Sittong. At Munsong, in the Dumsong forest, there were 829,954. The trees included 2,308,656 *Ledgeriana*, 256,711 *Succirubra*, 2,130 *Officinalis*, 439,903 Hybrid No. I, and 8,200 Hybrid No. II. The increase, as compared with 31st March, 1902, was 252,314. Planting at Munsong, notwithstanding the unusual drought, has been more successful than during 1901-02. The unfavourable planting conditions have, however, prevented the complete fulfilment of the year's programme prior to 31st March, 1903, since only 89.1 acres out of 100 acres prepared for planting had been put at the close of the year. This will, of course, be recorded as completed in the opening months of 1903-04. But the dryness of the planting season has made it further impossible to overtake entirely the filling up of the vacancies due



to the casualties explained in the last annual report. After a close personal examination of the extensions and careful discussion with the Deputy Superintendent of this subject in all its bearings, we are agreed that, in the interests of the extension, the programme of work for 1903-04 must be modified slightly. Instead of attempting to put out the full extension of 100 acres for that year, it will be necessary to be contented with a smaller area and devote the seedlings which otherwise would have filled the complete extension to the replacement of the 1901-02 vacancies. The factor which renders this decision essential is the labour one; this, as regards Munsong, is not capable of temporary modification.

During the year 600 maunds of bone meal at the rate of 10 maunds per acre were applied to other sixty acres of four-year old cinchona. The application of this manure is now beginning to show its effects on the plants previously so treated, their foliage being decidedly more abundant and healthy looking; their stock of fresh surface-feeding roots more plentiful; and their growth, except in trees already diseased, more vigorous. The results are such as to amply justify an increase in future of the quantity of bone-manure applied, and an extension of the acreage annually so treated. The method of deep trenching and more intensive cultivation systematically adopted during the past few years is now showing its full effects in a diminished mortality among the young cinchonas and a marked decrease in the amount of canker present in the extensions, and great credit is due to the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Pantling, for the care and energy with which he has carried out this improved method of cultivation. Early planting, in years when it can be carried out, appears entitled to credit for a share in this improvement. Unfortunately, however, early planting is not always possible, and has its own special risks which are, however, on the whole, well worth incurring. Grafting experiments have been continued by Mr. Green, Nursery Assistant, with hopeful results.

The crop taken from the plantation during the year has been 235,605 lbs. of dry bark. From Mungpoo the quantity taken was 209,219 lbs., from Sittong, 25,781 lbs.; 605 lbs. were also taken from thinnings at Monsong. The crop has been composed of 140,669 lbs. Ledgeriana, 12,580 lbs. Succirubra, and 82,356 lbs. Hybrid No. I. The whole of the bark thus harvested has been made over as usual to the Quinologist.

*Factory and Outturn.*—Work in the factory has gone on throughout the year without accident or delay. The systematic examination of the arrangement and method of working in connection with the separation of quinine has now been completed and the renewals and additions to factory plant mark the close, for the present, of this stage of inquiry and improvement, for carrying out which great credit is due to Mr. R. Pantling, Deputy Superintendent of the Plantation. Considerable advance has been made with the next stage of the inquiry which will incidentally involve a re-casting of the methods adopted for the preparation of cinchona febrifuge. The raw material worked up during the year included 392,250 lbs. of Ledgeriana, Hybrid No. I, and Officinalis bark, which provided 11,927½ lbs. sulphate of quinine, the average yield being 3.04 per cent, the residual alkaloids left over in the process, accounted for during the year, amounted to 3,516 lbs. In addition to the foregoing quantity of bark, 84,800 lbs. of mixed Succirubra and Hybrid bark, to which 3,036 lbs. of residual alkaloids were added, yielded 4,342 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge. The total outturn of manufactured products for the year has thus been 16,275 lbs. 4 oz., an increase as compared with the previous year of 2,840 lbs. 8 oz. This increased quantity included 1,916 lbs. 8 oz. of sulphate of quinine and 924 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge.

*General Charges.*—The charges debitable against the department as a whole have amounted to Rs.21,604 as against Rs.25,632. These charges include pay of clerical and menial establishment, Rs.4,962; postal and telegraph charges, Rs.507; advertising manufactured articles, Rs.680; and taxes (road and public works cesses), Rs.1,475. They include, besides, the expenditure incurred in adding to factory plant and appliances; the charges under this heading amounted to Rs.3,908. Besides the above, Rs.1,000 were expended in constructing a new road to the Sonada station of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

*Plantation Charges.*—The charges debitable against the plantation have been Rs.85,285 as against Rs.73,126 for 1901-02. The increased expenditure has been mainly on labour utilized in more effective and thorough cultivation. Against this outlay has to be placed the harvest, 235,605 lbs. of dry bark obtained during the year.

*Factory Charges.*—The expenditure incurred in connection with the factory was Rs.86,429. Of this sum Rs.38,000 represents the purchase money and Rs.1,557 the cost of carriage to the factory of 84,301 lbs. 12 oz. of cinchona bark acquired from private growers; the actual working expenses of the factory for the year were therefore Rs.46,871, being Rs.39,903 incurred in the manufacture of sulphate of quinine and Rs.6,968 for the manufacture of cinchona febrifuge. In order to produce 11,927 lbs. 4 oz. of sulphate of quinine, 205,348 lbs. of Ledgeriana bark, 46,368 lbs. of Hybrid No. I bark, and 70,576 lbs. 8 oz. of Officinalis bark from the stock held on April 1st, 1902, were used. The value of this bark was Rs.46,602. In addition 69,957 lbs. 8 oz. of Officinalis bark purchased during the year for Rs.31,918 were employed. The total value of bark used was thus Rs.78,520. Of the residual alkaloids left as a bye-product in the manufacture of quinine 3,036 lbs. treated along with 84,800 lbs. of Succirubra and Hybrid No. I bark provided 4,342 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge. The value of the bark used was Rs.7,047; of the residual alkaloids, Rs.2,877.

*Issues of Manufactured Articles.*—The issues of sulphate of quinine for the year amounted to 10,950 lbs. 5 oz., an increase of 1,157 lbs. 2 oz., as compared with 1901-02. There was an increased demand for 800 lbs. on the part of medical depôts, for 523 lbs. 2 oz., in connection with pice-packet system, and for 46 lbs. on the part of the Inspector-General of Jails, Bengal, but a decrease of 213 lbs. 10½ oz. on the part of Government dispensaries. The issues of cinchona febrifuge for the year amounted to 4,505 lbs. 12 oz., an increase of 835 lbs. 8 oz., as compared with 1901-02. There was an increase in the demand on the part of the public generally of 329 lbs., the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, South Africa, received 500 lbs., as compared with 300 lbs. in the preceding year.

*Receipts.*—The receipts for the year have amounted to Rs.2,11,784 as compared with Rs.1,91,922 for the preceding year. Cash receipts have amounted to Rs.81,438 and include, besides the receipts for manufactured articles (quinine, Rs.47,088 and cinchona febrifuge, Rs.32,441) the sum of Rs.1,799 as receipts for crude products (bark, Rs.269 seed, Rs.190 and residual alkaloids, Rs.1,340), and the sum of Rs.108 as receipts for miscellaneous articles (empty soda-drums, old gunny-bags, etc). The book credits for the year amounted to Rs.1,30,345, and have included Rs.36,670 for issues in connection with the pice-packet system, with an additional credit as regards Bengal, reported by the Accountant-General, Bengal, of Rs.6,403; Rs.85,783 for issues to medical depôts; Rs.400 for issues to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal; Rs.2,452 for issues to the Inspector-General of Jails, Bengal; Rs.5,000 for issues to the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, Cape town; and Rs.90 for issues to the Colonial Secretary, Sierra Leone. The outstandings representing cash issues made during the last few days of the financial year, the transactions in connection with which were not completed on 31st March, 1903, amounted to Rs.5,709. It has been necessary, under the advice of the Government Solicitor, to write off as a bad debt Rs.24 of the outstandings on 31st March, 1902; the remainder of the outstandings at that date were recovered in due course.

*Stock Account.*—The manufactured articles in stock on 31st March, 1902, consisted of 3,924 lbs. 14 oz. of sulphate of quinine and 2,377 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge; their respective values were: quinine Rs.59,023 and febrifuge Rs.23,770, these sums representing the average price at which stock of similar quality was sold during the year. Raw material and unmanufactured products included 230 lbs. of residual (amorphous) alkaloids in stock at Calcutta, valued at Rs.218 and 1,238,903 lbs. 15 oz. of dry cinchona bark, valued at Rs.2,32,527. The value of stores in stock was Rs.1,989, consisting of oils Rs.1,071, chemicals Rs.577; sundries (charcoal for purification), Rs. 340.

*Balance-Sheet.*—\* \* \* \* As directed by the Government of India the stocks of bark, quinine, and febrifuge are valued at the average price at which stock of similar quality was sold during the year. This involves an enhancement of the stocks held at the close of the year by Rs.1,20,771; at the same time, as directed by the Government of India, non-recurrent general charges, which amounted for the year to Rs.4,908, are excluded from the debit side of this account. The balance on this account is thus Rs.1,74,088. Excluding this enhancement in the value of the stock, which is due mainly to a different method of calculation, and allowing for the non-recurrent charges, the net surplus for the year amounts to Rs.48,408.



*Sale of Quinine at Post Offices.*—The quantity of quinine issued to the Jail Department during 1901-03 was 2,529 lbs., being 518 lbs. in excess of the supply during 1901-02, but still nearly 1,000 lbs. below the quantity issued for this purpose during 1900-01. This falling-off proves, on inquiry, to be due to the diminished prevalence of malaria in the Lower Provinces and Assam.

*Miscellaneous.*—(a) *Fuel Plantation*—Fifteen acres of the Khasia oak plantation were coppiced during the year. The yield was 27,603 maunds or 1,840 maunds per acre; of this, 24,103 maunds consist of oak fellings or 1,606 maunds per acre of firewood of the highest quality. The eight acres coppiced during the previous year have produced a healthy growth, and all vacancies have been filled up. (b) *Land Rent*—The revenue collected from settlers within the cinchona reserves for grazing and land rent amounted to Rs.3,429, being Rs.117 less than the previous year's revenue. This sum was, according to custom, paid into the treasury at Darjeeling, no credit being taken for it in the accounts of the Cinchona Department.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### SHEVAROY.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, held in the Victoria Rooms, at Yercaud, on Monday, the 7th September, 1903, at 1 p.m. **PRESENT:**—Messrs. C. Dickins, E. Dickins, J. C. Large, C. G. Lechler, W. J. Lechler, H. W. Leeming, Limouzin, S. M. Pritchard, C. Rahm, W. Rahm, F. Short. Mr. R. Gompertz, *Honorary Secretary*.

1. Notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.

2. Honorary Secretary explained that in the notice he had called this Meeting the "Quarterly" instead of the "Annual General" Meeting; and that he had only remembered that this was the Annual General Meeting this morning. In consequence of this oversight, he had not written the usual report, nor prepared the Annual Statement of Accounts, which should have been laid before this Meeting. He begged to apologize for the mistake; but as the accounts, though not tabulated and abstracted, had been brought up to date, there was no reason why the Meeting should not be proceeded with.

3. Read and passed accounts up to the 31st August, 1903, showing a balance in hand, on that date, of Rs.339-6-10. Honorary Secretary stated that he had also in stock 10 Bamboo pass, and six Coffee pass-books, of the value of Rs.65-8-0, and Stamps worth Rs.5-5-6 which would bring the total balance up to Rs.410-4-4 on the 31st ultimo.

4. Read letter from the Collector forwarding a list of alterations proposed by the Tahsildar in the Rules framed under the Coffee-Stealing Prevention Act, and enquiring whether we recommend their adoption.

*Resolved*—That the alteration of the date for submission of Form B to the 10th April is approved

ii. That it would be well to enter the name of the village to which the Estate belongs

iii. That we see no objection to the introduction of the headings proposed by the Tahsildar, if they be printed on the forms supplied by Government to planters.

5. Read letter of 16th ultimo from the Tahsildar asking for a number of Statistics about Coffee.

*Resolved*—That Honorary Secretary be requested to reply that he has not the necessary data, and is unable to furnish the information required.

6. Read proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2607. of the 4th August, 1903, stating that a sum of Rs.50,000 had been sanctioned for expenditure, during the current year, on the Yercaud Ghaut Feeder Roads.—Recorded with satisfaction.

7. Read Secretary's Circular, No. 51/03, of 22nd ultimo, stating that the Government of Mysore have sanctioned a payment of Rs.5,000 towards the expenses of the St Louis Exhibition.—Recorded with satisfaction.

8. Read Secretary's Circular, No. 55/03, saying that the Government of Madras had been pleased to contribute Rs.5,000 towards

the U. P. A. S. I. expenses at the St. Louis Exhibition.—Recorded with satisfaction.

9. *Resolved*—That, as the Brazil Mission had fallen through, the Rs.100 voted for it from the funds of the Association should not be drawn.

10. Proposed by Mr. C. G. Lechler; seconded by Mr. C. Rahm—That, as the Brazil Mission has fallen through, the Rs.120 subscribed towards the expenses of the Brazil delegate, be handed over to the Coffee Committee, viz., Messrs. Hodgson, Harris, Martin, and King-Church, on the understanding that it is not to be expended on the expenses of the St. Louis Exhibition, but is to aid in satisfying the demand for South Indian Coffee, which it is hoped will be created by it, after the Exhibition is over.

*Amendment.* Proposed by Mr. Large; seconded by Mr. Pritchard—That the Rs.120 be handed over to the U. P. A. S. I., as a contribution to the St. Louis Exhibition, without any restrictions.

The amendment was put to the Meeting and lost.

The original proposition was then put to the Meeting and carried by 9 to 3.

11. Mr. Gompertz having stated that, as mentioned in the notice calling the Meeting, he could no longer serve either as Chairman and Honorary Secretary, or on the Committee, for private reasons, the election of Office-bearers was then proceeded with, with the result that Mr. C. G. Lechler was elected Chairman and Honorary Secretary. That gentleman having declined the honor, owing to press of work, and for other reasons, Mr. B. Cayley was unanimously elected in his stead, with the following Committee: Rev. M. Andersen, Mr. C. Dickins, Mr. J. C. Large, Mr. C. G. Lechler, Mr. W. J. Lechler, Mr. C. Rahm, and Mr. W. Rahm.

A number of letters were read and recorded, and the Papers, Books, and Periodicals received since the last Meeting were laid upon the table.

ROBT. GOMPERTZ,

*Chairman and Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

*N.B.*—The following, which was not recorded on the Minutes of the Proceedings, is now added at the special request of Mr. J. C. Large:

"Before the close of the Meeting, Mr. Large expressed, in a few words, the appreciation with which the members regarded the long and arduous services of Mr. Gompertz during the last six years in which he has been their Honorary Secretary, and the great regret they felt in losing his valuable services. A very hearty vote of thanks was proposed, and carried by acclamation by all present."

ROBT. GOMPERTZ,

*Late Chairman and Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

## WYNAAD.

Proceedings of an Extraordinary General Meeting, called at the request of Messrs. Behr, Day, Mackinlay, Taylor, and Waddington; and held at the Meppadi Club on September 11th, 1903. **PRESENT:**—Messrs. Armstrong, Behr, Day, Mackinlay, Nicolls, Taylor, Trollope. Mr. B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*.

*Visitor:* Mr. Gillatt.

Mr. Waddington *in the Chair*.

1. *Roads.*—The Honorary Secretary drew attention to the correspondence in the *Madras Mail* re the "Wynaad Roads" ending with the Malabar District Board Engineer's letter of September 4th; and the following Resolution was unanimously passed:

*Resolved*—With reference to the statements made by the District Board Engineer, that this Association is of opinion that the work done on the Meppadi Chundale section of the Nilgiri-Calicut road, and of the metal collected on it, fully merits the descriptions given by Messrs. G. Romilly and B. Malcolm in their respective letters to which the District Board Engineer refers; and this Association confirms their statements after a personal inspection of the road made by 5 of the members present.

The Association regrets that in spite of its protest to the District Board of Malabar, the metal referred to has been passed; and is of opinion that the use of metal of this description, for the expenditure incurred, is distinctly a waste of money. Also that



it does not require an expert to judge of the quality of metal of this description, a sample of which was laid on the table and a proportion of which was broken by hand by the members present.

Furthermore the Association would point out that the road is not being broken up before the new metal is laid and it consequently cannot consolidate properly. That the Culvert near the Meppadi Toll-Gate is still blocked, though attention was called to its state some considerable time ago.

Finally that the Local Member of the District Board be asked to do all in his power to bring this matter before the District Board.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,  
Chairman.  
( „ ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
Honorary Secretary.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated August 28th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	217,321	302,521	27,457
1902-1903 ...	247,839	341,026	23,275

30,417 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 65,545 packages were offered in public auction  
31,158 „ CEYLON } this week.  
3,970 „ JAVA }

During the next few months Indian Tea will be arriving in quantities in excess of concurrent requirements, and it is to be

hoped that Growers will see their way to regulate supplies so that the quantities put up for auction will not be dependent on the vagaries of ships' arrivals as they appeared to be at the early part of last season. It will be remembered that in two consecutive weeks in the month of October, the amount of Indian Tea brought to auction varied from 39,000 packages in one week to over 54,000 the next. It is desirable to equalise supplies as much as possible and spread them more in accordance with requirements, as buyers would then feel greater confidence in holding stocks.

INDIAN.—The supplies have again contained some good liquoring teas from Assam and some of the Darjeeling Teas have also showed an improvement. The market has exhibited a steady tone and prices for some useful liquoring parcels from 7d. to 9d. have shown a hardening tendency.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 25,583 pkgs., av. 8·39d. 1902, 28,172 pkgs., av. 6·94d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 99,860 pkgs., av. 7·97d. 1902, 123,493 pkgs., av. 6·88d.

CEYLON.—These have been in rather larger supply but have been readily taken by buyers at rates previously current. In a few cases, prices for useful medium teas were helped by the competition of export orders.

Average for week 7·07d., against 6·48d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 686,411 pkgs., av. 7·46d. 1902, 773,451 pkgs., av. 6·70d.

JAVA.—A fairly large quantity was catalogued, sixteen estates being represented in the auction. Amongst these were some useful liquoring teas, and an invoice from the "Goalpara" estate commanded full prices. Since 1st June 22,578 packages of Java Tea sold on Garden Account realised an average of 6·61d. per lb.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—  
Calcutta 1/4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>32</sub>. Colombo 1/4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>.

**"All Sorts and Conditions of Men"**

USE

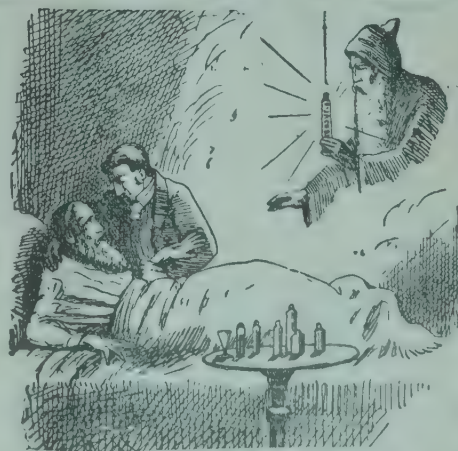
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**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

**CONQUERS PAIN**





## CINCHONA.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on September 3 will consist of 10,410 bales and 489 cases of Java bark weighing 950,856 kilos. The above quantity contains 44,726 kilos. or 1,560,000 oz. sulphate of quinine. The manufacturing bark contains an average of 5.06 per cent. of q.s. against 4.89 per cent. for the July auction, and an average of 5.51 per cent. for the previous ten auctions held at Amsterdam in 1902. The above supply includes 648,000 kilos. of Ledgeriana, 150,000 kilos. Succirubra, 148,000 kilos. hybrid, and 4,000 kilos. officinalis.

## QUININE.

This article is firmer, and business done. B. & S. and/or Brunswick on the spot at 11½d. to 11¼d., and March delivery at 1s. per oz. After a very quiet week the market closed firmer to-day, with small sales at 11½d. spot, 11½d. for December, and 1s. for March.

## CARDAMOMS.

In consequence of the arrivals of large quantities to be offered at the next drug auctions, there has very little business been done by exporters this week.

## VANILLA.

At auction on Wednesday 542 tins 7 cases mostly Seychelles were offered, of which about 300 tins sold at steady prices for good short, about 6d. lower for long and short medium; common brown and foxy sold at previous prices. Seychelles, etc., 7 to 9 inches, sold at 10s. to 13s.; 6 to 7 inches, 8s. to 10s.; good to fine chocolate, 4½ to 6 inches, 7s. to 8s.; common dry brown and foxy, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; fair, 5 to 6 inches, 5s. 9d. to 6s. 6d.; 6 to 7 inches, 6s. to 7s. 9d.; and 7 to 7½ inches, 8s. to 9s. per lb.

## MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1ST JANUARY TO END OF JUNE, AS SHOWN BY CUSTOM HOUSE RETURNS.

	IMPORTS.			DUTY PAYMENTS.			*EXPORTS.		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
British East Indies ...	37,350,123	44,585,814	46,775,358	73,858,358	76,882,678	83,070,511	4,810,736	6,434,444	6,957,488
Ceylon ...	49,619,694	55,528,718	57,072,657	37,142,504	40,846,087	46,286,844	7,807,034	7,955,197	8,884,044
China ...	4,001,497	4,583,708	3,245,266	7,627,362	6,440,218	4,956,866	5,289,369	5,269,080	5,651,633
Other Countries ...	11,604,895	7,484,450	4,892,362	5,383,598	4,737,621	2,906,197	589,660	575,763	740,322
Total lbs. ...	102,576,209	112,182,690	111,985,643	124,011,822	128,906,604	137,220,418	18,496,799	20,234,484	22,233,487

\*Analysis of above export of Tea from U. K. (not including transshipments).

	INDIAN.			CEYLON.		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Countries in Europe ...	2,309,386	2,730,182	3,390,394	3,498,118	3,470,500	4,813,152
United States ...	493,077	902,554	823,048	1,524,884	1,330,534	1,241,102
British North America ...	460,507	865,390	969,718	1,126,276	1,242,156	1,018,272
Newfoundland ...	63,418	53,736	57,688	96,873	154,146	185,863
Other Countries ...	1,484,348	1,882,582	1,716,640	1,560,883	1,757,861	1,625,655
Total lbs. ...	4,810,736	6,434,444	6,957,488	7,807,034	7,955,197	8,884,044

	CHINA.			OTHER COUNTRIES.		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Countries in Europe ...	2,558,316	2,444,543	2,949,457	471,653	486,414	683,280
United States ...	394,014	177,703	198,042	36,170	24,092	3,811
British North America ...	119,023	89,751	128,664	41,323	11,409	4,523
Newfoundland ...	34,731	50,537	60,247	8,559	4,870	648
Other Countries ...	2,183,285	2,506,546	2,315,223	31,955	48,978	48,060
Total lbs. ...	5,289,369	5,269,080	5,651,633	589,660	575,763	740,322

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8.39d., AUGUST 28TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry Prospect ...	102½c	6¼	29½c	†7¼	53½c	6½	20½c	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore ...	937	6.48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carady Goody ...	98 p	6¼	27	6¼	20	6½	27	7	...	...	...	...	24½c	6½
Fairfield ...	105	6½	25	6½	51	6¼ 6½	29	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poonmudi T Co B... ..	103 p	6½	41 p	7 7¼	36	6½	...	...	22	6¼	...	...	4½c	5¼
" Poonmudi... ..	172 p	6½	67 p	6¼ 7¼	53	†6¼	...	...	46	6	...	...	6½c	5¼
R T M ...	19 p	5½	...	...	19 p	5¼ 6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" ...	20 p	5½	...	...	20 p	5¼ 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S I T Co Kud. Ka... ..	142	6¼	44	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stagbrook ...	178 p	6¼	118½c	7	42	†6½	55	6½ 6¼	43	6	...	...	...	...
S T T Co Venture... ..	100 p	6½	...	...	50	6½	31	6½	...	...	18	6¼	...	...
Wynaad ...	205	6.64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19½c	6¼
Pootoomulla ...	84	6¼	...	...	21	6¼	26	6½	17	6¼	20	6¼	...	...
Wynaad T Co Pe ...	121 p	7	...	...	38	7	60½c	7 7¼	23	6½	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1903.

[No. 38.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 2nd proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

### CROP EXPERIMENTS.

#### HOW NOT TO MAKE THEM.

WE have repeatedly accused Governments in India of neglecting the application of Science to Agriculture. More or less directly, replies have reached us to the effect that there is a "Department of Agriculture" here, another there, and so on. This is all very well, but it is not what we have been advocating. A so-called Department of Agriculture is not necessarily an efficient department; and the general rule is that Departments of Agriculture have, during a great many years, been weak in respect to scientific officers. They have been especially weak when they should have been strongest—at the top. One result is that much has been essayed under the name of "research" or "experiment" that can only be regarded as reckless and wilful waste of public money and of the time of men totally unfitted for the work that they have undertaken. Madras could furnish us with many cases in point; and in Madras the Department of Land Records and Agriculture is still far behind the need of the day. It happens, however, that a more convenient instance is furnished by the Report on the Season and Crops of Assam for the year 1902-03. This is a blue-book. It bears the signature of "J. C. Henniker, Esq., I.C.S., Director, Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam." From page to page it contains lessons in the art of how not to conduct crop experiments, and reveals the seriousness of the defects that arise from placing an agricultural department under the care of someone who is obviously not an agricultural scientist or specialist.

In this report we read that a certain statement in the appendix "shows the average outturn of crops for the year as indicated by the crop experiments made in each district during the year 1902-03. The figures in the statement are not exact arithmetical averages of the yields obtained by experimenting officers. The method adopted consisted in discriminating between experiments made by superior officers and those by officers of low rank, and in selecting the figure about which the largest number of individual yields cluster as the average outturn for the year. The results of such crop experiments as deserve consideration are compared . . . with the outturn accepted as normal for each district." Who decides as to the merits of experiments, we are not informed; but we will give a few samples of the kind of record that is entered in the report. Under the head of Cachar it is observed:—"Twenty-three experiments were made in *sail* during the year 1902-03. Eight of these were made by sub-Deputy Collectors, *the rest by police officers of subordinate rank*. They give an outturn of 1,070 lbs. per acre, which is 70 lbs. more than the accepted standard of the district. This would indicate the crop to be 107 per cent. of the normal. The Deputy Commissioner's estimate is 125 per cent. Possibly, the normal figure requires revision. It needs watching in succeeding years." Again:—"In *aus*, seven experiments (*all by police officers of inferior rank*) were made, and they indicate an average outturn of 860 lbs. per acre, against the normal outturn of 800 lbs. per acre. The crop was a good one in this district, and as the experiments were made only by inferior officers, who, *for some unexplained reason*, always produce low results, I accept 125 per cent., which has been returned by the Deputy Commissioner." Yet again in Sylhet:—"Twenty experiments were made in *sail*, and of these, *two only were made by gazetted officers*" . . . "In *aus*, eleven experiments were made, *all by officers of inferior rank*. The figure derived therefrom is 918 lbs. per acre, against the normal outturn of 800 lbs. This would show the crop to have been about 15 per cent. above the normal. The Deputy Com-



missioner has reported the crop to be 85 per cent." It is no exaggeration to state that we have quoted but a few out of many instances that are available in the report before us. We could go on citing them *ad nauseam*. The italics given above are our own. To us they suggest that the Director has an idea that might be colloquially expressed thus: "Any fool can conduct crop experiments." Government money has been wasted, valuable time has been lost, in order to get a record of experiments which, on the face of things, are worthless. If subordinate police officers and all sorts of gentry such as are known in Assam as "kanungos" and "mandals" are employed to conduct crop experiments, there is sufficient evidence available to condemn the local Department of Agriculture as incompetent and unworthy of its name.

The lot of the police official in Assam would appear to be an extremely happy one. His whole duty does not lie in the prevention and the detection of crime and the maintenance of public order. He is *par excellence* the crop experimenter. His the humble hand that tills the soil, that raises experimental crops, that notes down results for the guidance or misguidance of one of the Heaven-born! The absurdity of the system—it obviously is an established system—is too manifest to call for very much comment; and we can but express the hope that the report under notice will "catch" Lord CURZON's eye. A course such as that pursued in Assam is calculated to bring Scientific Agriculture into ridicule. What we want is that planters and agriculturists should be taught how to do things, not how *not* to do them. Dr. LEHMANN, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of Mysore, has given valuable hints to planters as to how to conduct crop experiments. He has addressed Mysore cultivators to similar effect. We have not learnt yet, however, that he has invoked the aid of the Mysore Police as experimentalists or demonstrators. But then he is a trained scientist. We enter an energetic protest against the method of "experiments" followed in Assam, though it serves our purpose so far as to give considerable additional weight to the remonstrances we have frequently expressed and to our exhortations to Government in India that what Agriculture needs is aid in the matter of the application of science and scientific methods to its needs.

U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

CHINA'S TEA EXPORTS.

From commencement of present season to the 21st ultimo in pounds:—

UNITED KINGDOM.			
		Black.	Green.
1903	...	6,359,813	1,235,669
1902	...	5,079,395	1,556,278
1901	...	4,517,214	911,249

U. S. AND CANADA.					
1903	...	...	4,750,302	7,459,445	
1902	...	...	6,800,296	5,992,591	
1901	...	...	3,637,255	3,269,516	
OTHER EUROPEAN PORTS.					
1903	...	...	2,155,167	465,203	
1902	...	...	1,717,250	535,541	
1901	...	...	1,769,629	95,321	
RUSSIA DIRECT.					
1903	...	...	12,253,794	...	
1902	...	...	18,048,837	...	
1901	...	...	24,500,327	...	
BOMBAY AND OTHER PORTS.					
1903	...	...	217,601	333,467	
1902	...	...	...	238,496	
1901	...	...	...	259,436	
BATOU M AND NOVOROSSISK, ETC.					
1903	...	...	...	4,600,399	
1902	...	...	...	2,236,648	
1901	...	...	...	3,353,743	
RUSSIAN MANCHURIA via PORT ARTHUR, NEWCHWANG AND TIENTSIN.					
			Black.	Brick.	Green. Dust.
1903	...	...	14,669,663	6,298,533	465,923 10,133
1902	...	...	12,022,191	2,901,958	1,115,134 575,581
1901	...	...	4,320,340	14,800,879	265,318 486,256

COFFEE NOTES.

If coffee consumption increases in the next five years at the rate it has in the last five years, it will have attained the figure of 22,000,000 bags in 1908.

Chicago imported, directly, in July, 100,200 pounds of coffee, paying therefor \$11,201, or 11½ cents a pound.

The Haitian export duty on coffee pickings has been fixed at \$2 (\$1·96 United States) per 100 pounds. The law will cease to be operative on September 30 next, when coffee pickings will again become subject to the regular coffee export duty of \$3 (\$2·80 United States) per 100 pounds.

The Dutch East Indian crop is reported to be late this year. Government sales will be held at Batavia as follows:—

October 9	...	24,000 piculs.
November 11	...	25,000 "
December 4	...	24,000 "
Do. 30	...	25,000 "

Drouths in Brazil.—Reports of drouths in Brazil are more or less frequent and some cables say that they threaten to become serious. Rains, however, are reported in Rio Claro, which is in the central part of São Paulo.

The Associacao Commercial, of Sao Paulo, has received estimates from 94 out of 124 districts regarding the current coffee crop in that state, and altogether it is calculated at 7,000,000 bags, against 8,350,000 bags of the season of 1902-03, 10,148,000 bags of that of 1901-02, and 7,988,000 bags of that of 1900-01. Most of the replies are based on tax receipts for the fiscal year, July 1, 1902, to June 30, 1903.

Shipments of Porto Rico Coffee to U. S.—The total shipments of coffee from Porto Rico to the United States in the 12 months ending June 30 last amounted to 6,314,686 lbs. In the corresponding period of the preceding year the quantity was only 227,560 lbs. Its value was \$27,031 while that of 1903 was \$718,531.



In June last Porto Rico exported 1,102,724 pounds of coffee, at a total value of \$117,693. Of that quantity the largest recipient was France, which took 443,199 pounds; Spain was the next best market with 424,791 pounds; Cuba received 55,341 pounds, Austria-Hungary, 48,607 pounds; Germany, 30,416 pounds, and 370 pounds were shipped to Italy. The United States in the last 12 months has taken 7,000,000 lbs. of this coffee.

The S. Paulo Railway has been asked by the Secretary of Agriculture of Brazil to cut rates to satisfy the demands of coffee-planters.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Coffee, in the absence of new features and any developments and because of the Summer lassitude, continues in a dull way, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 25th ultimo. Brazil receipts are fairly full and promise to attain to the high figure of 1,800,000 bags estimated for the month of August, and may go beyond that figure. The Santos receipts are now running in excess of the August receipts of the 1901-02 bumper crop. And this in the face of the frosts of last Summer, which were said to have damaged the crop then growing 20 per cent! Firm offers from Brazil have been too high for buyers here, and have, therefore, met with scant attention. Bourbon Santos No. 3 has been offered at 6c. c. & f., and refused. Spot invoice coffee drags at unchanged quotations which are 4½c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 5½ to 5½c. for Rio No. 4, and 5½ to 6c. for Santos No. 4. Good roasting coffees are no more plentiful than heretofore and command a premium. A slow run of orders is reported by the jobbing trade.

In the option market prices are where they were one week ago. In a moderate way there has been some trading, chiefly induced by the nearness for September deliveries. There has been fairly heavy switching into the distant months. Hamburg and Havre are on a higher basis and this fact has served to strengthen the market somewhat, justifying the fluctuations and inviting attention of interests disposed to try the market for a flyer. Rumours of unfavourable weather in Brazil have been current, but traders are callous to such reports now-a-days. Similar lack of credence greets other reports which tell of proposals to organize the Brazil planters into an effective trust.

In mild coffees the increasing supplies have brought out rather free offerings, but buyers are backward in purchasing. The market is therefore quiet and easier. Good Cucuta has declined to 7 to 7½c. East India coffees are quiet and steady.

**Differences in Actual and Exchange Coffee.**—Regarding why any desired grade of coffee cannot be bought on a basis of the Coffee Exchange prices, about which there is much confusion especially outside of the coffee trade circles, the following explanation has been offered to the *New York Journal of Commerce*:

It is because the price on the Exchange is governed by the value of the grades most in supply and the least wanted. At present a buyer on the Exchange would probably receive Rio coffee grading about No. 2, which at the difference between grades, would cost 2½ cents a pound above No. 7. The standard on which the contract is based, with August at 3·60, the coffee delivered would cost the receiver 6·10c. per pound, net cash. Every grade from standard No. 4 and

below commands a premium above the exchange option prices. The grades most difficult to secure are standards No. 6, 7, and 8. To put this clearly, below is given the present market prices of the different grades in New York for 1,000-bag invoices, and the cost to the buyer if he could select and receive the corresponding grade on the Coffee Exchange, showing that the only grades that could be delivered at near invoice values are Nos. 1, 2, and 3:

Exchange standard— No. 1	Invoice prices.		Exchange value to receiver net cash.
	Rio.	Santos.	
2	6½	7	6·60c. per lb.
3	6½	6½	6·10c. "
4	5½	5½	5·60c. "
5	5½	5½	5·10c. "
6	5½	5½	4·60c. "
7	5½	5½	4·10c. "
8	4½	5	3·60c. "
9	4½	4½	3·10c. "
			2·60c. "

The standard on which transactions on the Coffee Exchange is "low ordinary No. 7." There are nine standards on which all deliveries are graded, having various values either above or below standard No 7. They are as follows:

Exchange standard—		Valued 3c. per lb. above No. 7	
No. 1	...	2½c.	"
2	...	2c.	"
3	...	1½c.	"
4	...	1c.	"
5	...	½c.	"
6	...		"
7	...	Basis of all contracts.	
8	...	Valued ½c. per lb. below No. 7	
9	...	1c.	"

Another discrepancy in prices that brokers appear to be having some difficulty in explaining to the trade is their inability to fill orders for interior buyers at ruling quotations for the various grades of Brazil coffee. The explanation is that buyers usually want coffees showing either attractive grocery style or good roasting qualities; these selections are in comparatively small supply, especially grades Nos. 8 to 4, and command premiums of from ¼c. to ½c. per pound from the quotations for ordinary grades of coffee, hence the apparent discrepancy.

### Visible Supply of Coffee,

on September 1st		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		431,550	380,000	240,000	216,650	227,950
to	afloat — Brazil ...	53,370	32,380	45,200	39,170	34,770
	loading — do. ...	5,290	4,180	1,240	6,410	...
	afloat — the East ...	2,760	3,600	1,940	3,370	3,450
	do. — U. S. A. ...	410	590	410	650	180
Stocks U. S. of North-America		493,380	420,750	288,790	266,250	266,350
to	afloat — Brazil ...	149,880	145,120	86,590	49,410	69,180
	loading — do. ...	24,060	40,350	40,240	14,590	26,590
	afloat — the East ...	1,760	4,000	6,240	7,350	...
U. S. A.		60	820	180	...	760
Stocks in Rio		669,140	611,040	422,040	337,600	362,880
Do. Santos		44,470	38,940	24,000	10,410	18,650
Do. Bahia		64,000	71,760	58,120	40,470	63,290
		2,290	2,290	2,290	940	880
Total		779,900	724,030	506,450	389,420	445,700
On August 1st...		739,070	685,000	454,360	341,120	399,960

**Coffee in San Francisco.**—The market has been extremely quiet and at present writing continues dull and heavy, dealers being little disposed to buy in excess of temporary requirements. Stocks in importers' hands are large, but as arrivals for the season are practically over, will decrease rapidly from



now on. Strictly superior grades of washed coffees are exhausted, fair to prime are still in good supply, but not more. The assortment is overloaded with ash-damaged and non-descripts, mainly Guatemalas. Large quantities of mild coffees are now coming forward to New York from Venezuela and U. S. of Colombia, and heavy receipts from those quarters are expected for some months to come. Quotations in New York for these have declined sharply of late, and has direct bearing upon the product of Central America.

The position of Brazilians has weakened a trifle during the past month, both as to spot coffee and futures, and is generally regarded as not promising any improvement under existing conditions and crop prospects as now estimated. At the close, however, futures improved 5 to 15 points under heavy speculative buying of the distant positions. Spot coffee unchanged. Receipts at the ports of Brazil so far are slightly in excess of last year's.

\* \* \*

**Guatemala Coffee.**—With reference to a notice which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for October 3, 1901, relative to the duty on cleaned coffee exported from Guatemala, the Board of Trade have now received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the operation of the duty in question—six paper dollars (equal about 1s. 3d. at the present rate of exchange) per quintal—has been extended until further notice. A proportionate rate of duty is leviable upon the export of coffee in the husk.

\* \* \*

**Coffee from the Congo.**—A writer in a Continental contemporary waxes enthusiastic over the merits of coffee grown in the Congo. In his opinion it does not suffer in comparison with American coffee. "The sun that shines on the Congo is the same," he says, "as that which warms the Brazilian plantations; the two countries lie on the same equator; the temperature is identical; and the Belgians who superintend the Congo coffee plantations are superior to the Brazilian planters. Then why should not Congo coffee in the near future take its stand among the finest growths in the world?" Such little things as soil and generations of experience in the cultivation of coffee do not seem to count. However, the original wild Congo species have been improved by intelligent culture, and to-day there are a large number of plants in bearing in both Upper and Lower Congo, particularly in the zone of the Stanley Falls. The following figures will show the growth in the number of coffee trees during the seven years 1895 to 1901:—1895, 61,518; 1896, 241,446; 1897, 494,069; 1898, 1,167,259; 1899, 2,021,178; 1900, 2,364,334; 1901, 2,631,183. The plantations are composed principally of Liberian kinds, though some species from Arabia and Guadeloupe may be seen there. The State is engaged in the culture of native sorts, the greater part of which produce a coffee of good quality. The work is entrusted to the natives, who perform their duties well. They live in a sort of little camp attached to the plantations, which is rendered bright by the multi-coloured garments and strange ornaments of the women and children. But picturesque as is the scene the camp offers, it is nothing when compared with the animation which prevails in the plantations when the time comes to gather the harvest. Quickly, and with uniform movements, the workers pick the coffee berries, until a heap of huge dimensions is formed. The berries are then carried to the "lavoirs." These are large oblong vessels, made of brick, through which passes a constant stream of

running water. The workers seize the sacks, hold them over the water, open the mouth, and an avalanche of berries falls into the vessels. The earth is loosened and sinks to the bottom, whilst the berries, being lighter, rise to the surface, and float thereon until, borne by the current of water to the end of the vessel, they fall like a red and shining cascade upon a wire grating. When the berries are dry they are passed between large rollers, which break the blackish husk and release the precious berries without bruising them. It now only remains to put the coffee in 66-kilog. bags, and it is ready for despatch.

\* \* \*

**Mocha Coffee.**—During the past few years, says United States Consul Wm. Masterson, Aden, Arabia, I have often heard the assertion made and have seen it in the newspapers in our country, that there was no such article as Mocha coffee, that the term is purely a fiction, and that what was once known as Mocha coffee is so mixed with other coffees that there is no longer a real Mocha.

In order to help correct such an impression and to do the coffee merchants of this place and the importers in our country an act of justice, I wish to say that there is such an article to-day in the American market as Mocha coffee; that this coffee is of the same kind and from the same place as the noted Mocha coffee of several generations ago, and that the growers and handlers of this coffee are as particular in regard to its quality and purity as they ever were.

At different times merchants have tried to ship coffee from other countries to this place and forward it from here as genuine Mocha, but the city authorities have always suppressed such traffic and have otherwise assisted the merchants in keeping up the standard and good name of this coffee.

Knowing of the carefulness with which the coffee interests are managed and the Government's protection over it, I am of the opinion that if by the time the consumer gets his Mocha coffee it is not pure, the mixing has been done after it leaves Aden.

A letter from E. D. Inward, Esq., Secretary of the Aden Chamber of Commerce, tells of the more recent steps that have been taken to protect the Mocha coffee interests, as follows:

An order—No. 36—dated the Aden Residency, April 13, was issued to the effect that all coffee or coffee husks other than Mocha should be placed in the Port Trust godowns (warehouses) at Maala and the keys kept by the Trustees; but as this proved too expensive for some of the smaller coffee merchants here, who could not profitably afford to pay the godowns rent charged by the Port Trust, further representations were made to the Political Resident by this Chamber with the result that a more recent order has been issued and is now in force, to the effect that all outside coffees must be stored in merchants' own godowns at Maala and the keys kept by the Port Trust officials. The above order obviates all possibility of fraudulent mixing, and you will be conferring a great benefit on the Aden coffee traders if you make this information as public as possible in the United States. A control has always been kept over foreign coffees here.

\* \* \*

In 1902 Greece imported 935 tons of Coffee, against 844 in 1901. Of the former quantity, 443 tons was from Austria-Hungary, 156 tons from France, and 336 tons from other countries.



TEA NOTES.

**London Tea Market.**—A London wire of the 14th says :—Messrs. Ewart & McCaughey's tea report states that at the auction sales 42,968 packages were offered. The prices for common to medium grades being uncertain, a good deal was taken out. Fine grades again met with attention, good Pekoe Souchongs selling especially well. Broken Pekoes with cup quality were also in strong enquiry. Common Pekoe Souchongs were quoted at about 5½d. Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's report, dated the 17th instant, states that heavy supplies are depressing the market, which for fine teas generally is easier, and the market for teas for price is also easier. The average price of Assam and Indian teas sold on garden account this week is 9½d. and 7¾d. respectively. A rise in prices was scarcely expected; but Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's cable of 17th to Colombo reports an advance of ½d. in the week's average for Ceylon teas. Indian tea shows a fall of ¼d. Of Ceylons 23,000 packages were offered and 21,000 sold; average 7¾d.; of Indians 37,000 were sold out of 49,000 offered; average 7¾d. It must be remembered that some very fine Assams have been offered of late, but perhaps the proportion of these has fallen off. The general tone of the market appears to have been steady to firm, except as regards common to medium descriptions, which were dull. According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Ewart and McCaughey's Tea Report, dated the 21st instant, says that at the auctions 33,153 packages were offered, with little changes since last week. Plain ordinary kinds were again inclined to come down. Some Assams which just failed to show any character took a lot of selling. Some Broken Pekoes among Dooars at 6½d. although poor, certainly begin to look very cheap. The commonest kinds were quoted at 5¾d. and deliveries of good exports diminished somewhat. Offerings at public sales will be regulated henceforth.

\* \* \*

**Tea in San Francisco.**—Tea at the port of San Francisco during July, 1903 :

	Pounds.
From China ... ..	562,340
From British East Indies ... ..	58,963
Japan ... ..	949,657
Total ...	1,570,960

\* \* \*

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—The quantity of tea brought forward at the sale on 19th instant makes the total disposed off to date 302,216 packages as compared with 282,683 to 19th September last year.

Demand was again good and general, and any stand-out teas, which however were only in small supply, were well competed for and realised full rates. Darjeelings were also in request, and an invoice from the Pandam Estate changed hands at the handsome average of Re.1-1-3 per pound.

As was rather anticipated common leaf grades were somewhat weaker, showing a further decline of 1 to 2 pies. Medium broken kinds appeared to be in less request and were easier to buy, but there was no quotable decline. Fannings and dusts buyers kept those classes fully firm at about last week's rates. Bombay buyers continued to compete keenly for the neat leaf Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs, and those descriptions may be quoted as rather dearer.

Advices from the growing districts are generally rather better, the cry of a month ago that "weather was wet, cold and generally unfavourable to growth" now giving way to more encouraging reports. Manufacture is in most cases well ahead of that to the same period last season, though not to such an extent at present as to indicate that the final outturn will be an unwieldy one.

The sale this week was to be held on Thursday on account of the Durga Poojah Holidays, no further one taking place until Friday, 9th October, after which date the usual weekly auctions will be resumed.

\* \* \*

**Green Tea Dust into Black.**—There will soon be patented, says the *Times of Ceylon*, a process by which green tea dust can be changed into black, and sold at a favourable price owing to the demand for black dust for brick tea; but before the patent for the process is obtained, the question of priority of discovery must be settled, for there is more than one claimant in the field. For some months past it has been known to a few that Mr. Kelway Bamber, Government Chemist, had perfected an invention by which the result referred to can be obtained. In fact, the black dust which he obtained by his process from green tea dust has been tested and reported upon by brokers; but the specifications upon which the patent rights would be based have not been sent in until to-day.

Mr. William Hall, Manager of the Galaha Tea Factory, has also come into the field. For the last ten days he has carried out experiments, with the result that he now declares that he can turn green tea dust and fannings into black dust. Samples of this latter were submitted to two well-known brokers. It was not stated to them how the dust had been produced. They were simply asked to report. One broker valued the dust at 35 cents per lb.; the other at 37 cents per lb.; so that this shows an increase of at least 23 cents over the price which would have been obtained for the same dust had it not been treated by Mr. Hall's process. Mr. Hall informed our representative that he was taking steps to-day to see whether a patent could be obtained for his process. So that it will be seen the inventor who first presents his specifications to the proper authorities will be the one who will secure the patent.

There seems to be an impression that the Russians, who are the principal purchasers of black dust, may not be keen to pay the price for dust obtained from green tea which they paid for the original black tea dust; but competition is so keen that if the new dust possesses the qualities claimed for it, there seems to be no reason why they should not take kindly to it and pay what it is intrinsically worth. The brokers can hardly distinguish the difference between black tea dust obtained from green tea dust, and the original black tea dust; and in every respect their qualities are similar. None of the new dust has yet been placed on the market, but there is no doubt, if 35 cents a lb. can be obtained for it, that it will very much strengthen the production of green tea to the benefit of all tea manufacturers.

REDUCTION IN WITHERING SPACE.

Another discovery which Mr. Hall claims to have made, but which has nothing to do with the foregoing, is concerned with black tea. By it he can reduce the withering space in a factory by 33 per cent. besides improving the quality, that is adding to its pungency. There will thus be a saving of



time, which to the planter is very important. More than that, he claims that the cost will be  $\frac{1}{8}$  cent per lb. cheaper, or  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per 100 lbs. But above all is the fact that the market price of tea manufactured under the new process will be enhanced. Mr. Hall would not describe his processes, but that in regard to dust is said to be similar to Mr. Bamber's.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Holders continue in control of tea, and it therefore remains their market, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 25th ultimo. At the same time, in the face of current prices, buyers are not inclined to come out to any large extent, and the market is consequently quiet and steady. Holders are sure that buyers must eventually have tea, and answer all inquiries with a stiff upper lip, but buyers knowing somewhat of the excess of supplies abroad, defer giving orders for a month or so. It is said that opportunities to obtain some choice teas have been lost in this way, and they may not present themselves again. However, the buyer falls back on his stock in store and waits, and in the eyes of the jobber only increasing the general barrenness.

There is some trading in narrow bounds. What teas are coming in are in the main the imports of small houses; the larger ones appear to be in no hurry to bring in their purchases. Abroad the markets remain firm excepting the Formosa market, which in the last week has eased off one cent. This is not true however, for the choice grades, which remain firm. The same fact is true of all teas of this grade. Low grades are inclined to heaviness throughout. Foochows are especially heavy. There is no call for this tea here and so none in the East. For the present time they may be regarded a dead article. In Japan the market has not yet improved. Picking will be stopped September 1. Congous remain steady. India and Ceylons are firm, especially for the choicer grades, which are if anything firming up. In some parts of the country, especially in New England, more stir is reported. Portions of Canada also report a greater activity.

**The Indian Green Tea Bonus.**—During August, bounty at half-an-anna per pound has been paid on 525,157 lbs. of green tea by the Indian Tea Cess Committee. The bounty has been paid on 661,775 lbs. from the beginning of the season to the 31st of August.

**Colombo Tea Sale.**—At the public sale of tea at Colombo on the 16th instant, 12,461 packages = 1,001,946 lbs. were offered, of which 9,304 packages = 747,333 lbs. were sold. The market was firm for thick, useful kinds, and common to medium Pekoes met with good competition at advancing rates. Other kinds were irregular with a tendency to weakness. Low-country teas were somewhat poor in quality. Green teas were in better demand.

**Green Tea.**—Judging by the rate at which the claims on the bonus are still coming in, the year should see nearly 11 million lbs. of Ceylon green tea manufactured—an increase of 250 per cent. over 1902.

**Tea in China.**—Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular of 21st August states:—

Our last printed Tea Market advices were dated 7th August.

**BLACK TEAS.**—A fair business has been done in Common Congou at Tls.  $13\frac{1}{2}$ – $14\frac{1}{2}$  per picul for shipment to London. Good Common Congou is in small stock and fetching Tls.  $15\frac{1}{2}$ –16 per picul. Teas equal to the U. S. A. Government Standard cannot be purchased under Tls.  $16\frac{1}{2}$ –17 per picul.

**GREEN TEAS.**—During the interval the demand for Choice Country Teas has continued and the market has been cleared of stock at fully previous rates. A fair business has been done in Medium to Good quality Teas at about the same prices as were ruling last year, viz., Tls. 37–40 per picul, but buying is not general. A small business has been done in Common Country Teas at Tls. 32–34 per picul.

*Local Packs, Wenchows, and Fychows* are in small demand at Tls. 26–28 per picul owing to their very bad cup quality this year, and also the heavy percentage of dust left in the Young Hysons.

*Pingsueys.*—The market is at a standstill, the stock of Good-liquoring Tea is small and Teamen are holding out for prices about Tls. 2-3 above buyers' ideas. The balance of the stock on this market is rather common and not desirable.

*Hysons.*—During the interval a strong demand has sprung up for Good Teas, and as this quality Tea is in small stock, the market has advanced at least Tls. 3-4 per picul.

*Sou Mees and Fong Mees* of good quality remain firm although buyers for Batoum are quiet just now. The Stock is small of really Good Teas. Medium quality Teas are slightly weaker although no quotable change is noticeable.

Latest Telegraphic advices from London and New York state that in both markets buyers are holding off and lower prices may be looked for in both markets for Green Tea.

**A Green Tea Packing Factory.**—Messrs. Darley, Butler & Co. of Colombo, are having a new building erected at the back of their offices. It is to serve as a factory for the preparation and packing of green tea with the patent tea machinery which the firm have introduced. The building will be completed by the end of the year, and it will be fully equipped and ready for use in January.

**Indian and Ceylon Exports.**—The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the first half of September, 1903: Calcutta, 10,066,327 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,677,588 lbs. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta, 9,259,841 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,694,100 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1903, to 15th September, 1903: Calcutta, 56,048,436 lbs.; Chittagong, 11,262,374 lbs. Total 67,310,810 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1902, to 15th September, 1902, 61,258,163 lbs.

The export of Ceylon tea to September 14th is 6,067,272 lbs. less to Great Britain than last year, and to other places it is 584,986 lbs. less. Reckoning green tea the total deficit is 2,834,439 lbs.

**Toasting of Tea.**—New crop tea is better than old crop tea. Fresh toasted tea is better than tea that has been toasted a long time. And when it is new crop and fresh toasted, it is then at its best.

In order to be able to give their trade the very best there is, Hills Bros., San Francisco, have installed in their building a tea-toasting plant, says the San Francisco Retail Grocers'



Advocate. They have an automatic electric tea-toasting machine that is the very latest, and the very best of its kind. This machine will enable them to take their new crop teas of all grades, toast them in San Francisco, and send them to their customers at their very best.

Tea-toasting is somewhat of the nature of coffee-roasting in the developing of the essential oils. Oxidization occurs in a similar manner, hence the great value of fresh teas.

When teas are toasted in San Francisco, immediately before shipment, they go to the trade in their very best possible condition and freshness. This applies to all grades of tea, but is, of course, more beneficial to teas of higher grade.

### NOTES.

#### Java Cinchona.

The shipments from Java for the whole of August were 1,100,000 Dutch lbs., as against 1,818,000 Dutch lbs. for the same time last year.

#### Kermanshah.

The British consular agent in his report on the trade of this port for, 1902-03 gives imports of Tea from India as worth £39,919, and imports of Coffee, all from Arabia and Turkey, at only £524. Bazaar prices of Tea are said to range from 14 to 22 krans per man, which is equivalent to a minimum of about 9d. and a maximum of about 14d. per English pound.

#### Madras Coffee-stealing Prevention Act.

It is proposed to make an amendment in the Madras Coffee-stealing Prevention Act, VIII. of 1878; whereby its date of submission of Statement B will be altered from 1st March to 1st April. The amendment will be taken into consideration on or after 1st November, 1903. Any objections or suggestions that may be received by the Government of Madras from any person with respect to the proposed amendment before the above date will receive due consideration.

#### "El Dorado" in Rubber.

The U. S. Consul at Pará reports that never before has Brazil shown so much enthusiasm in the india-rubber trade, and never before have so many men been employed in the business. Thousands of labourers are pouring into the forests of the interior, and thousands more are expected to follow. New rubber fields will, it is said, be opened and old ones worked with improved methods and larger forces. As an example of this, the Consul quotes the case of one of the largest rubber producers on the Madeira, who recently informed him that he would take out this year four times as much rubber as ever before.

#### An Experimental Agricultural Station.

It is now exactly sixty years since the late Sir J. B. Lawes established at his own expense the famous Rothamsted station for the carrying out of experiments in agriculture. During his lifetime he made himself entirely responsible for the cost of its maintenance. The good that he has done lives after him, not because a grateful nation, inspired by a wise and far-sighted Board of Agriculture, provided the funds, but because the founder left a sum of

£100,000 in trust for the purpose. It is, however, a sign of the times that Lord Onslow, with a company of scientists, such as Sir Michael Foster, Professor Armstrong, and Professor Tilden, has recently paid a visit to Rothamsted at the invitation of the Committee of the Trust. There they saw a field in which experiments on four-course rotation have been continued without a break for the last fifty-six years. The field is divided into three plots, the first of which has never been manured, the second has had mineral manure, and the third mineral and nitrogenous manures mixed. These plots are again sub-divided into four parts, each of which is subjected to different treatment. Mangels have been growing in another field for nearly thirty years. In the forty sections of this field different manures have been tried, and it is needless to add that the results have been all recorded. The most famous field of all is the Broadbalk field, in which for sixty years wheat has been grown, and that without any manure at all. The annual yield of this field for half-a-century has been thirteen bushels per acre. This is a record which even the States, with their vast tracts of almost virgin soil, cannot rival. Other fields are devoted to the study of the growth of leguminous plants, to barley, and to grasses of every kind. But large as £100,000 looks, it is not large enough to cover the expenses of all the subjects that are calling out for investigation. As a type, we may mention the best foods for the fattening of stock. It is to be hoped that the visit of Lord Onslow will be followed by something more substantial than the very great interest he must have felt at this fine instance of private generosity and enterprise.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### CEYLON TEA ESTATES AND VANISHING INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

##### A USEFUL LIST FOR COMPARISON.

The discussion recently started with regard to our up-country estates and bird life has, says the *Times of Ceylon*, so far, not resulted in sufficient proof being forthcoming to show whether insectivorous birds have increased or decreased with the conversion of forest and jungle into plantations. What are required are facts about birds which inhabited the planting districts in the early days of coffee, their life and habits, so that observant planters might express definite views on the vexed question as to whether birds have increased or decreased up-country in recent years. The list given below, prepared from the history of the birds of Ceylon by Captain Vincent Legge, the great ornithologist, whose observations were made in the seventies, supplies the information which is now wanted, and up-country readers might preserve the list for reference. Only insectivorous birds resident all the year through in the planting districts have been included. True migrants, which come over from Asia during the North-East Monsoon, as also partial migrants—birds resident in the low-country but which ascend the hills during the dry season—have been excluded and will be dealt with later if found necessary. The black bulbul, orange minivet, Ceylonese jay, jungle fowl, and spur fowl, which are found up to certain elevations, and are enumerated below, appear in the upper ranges, up to 8,000 ft., as soon as the calm weather of the North-East Monsoon has set in in November. Short notes on the habits, food, and nidification, where mentioned, with elevations, are appended. It is not possible to give particulars of colouration of the birds for purposes of identification, as it would take up too much space. The size of birds, with length of tail, is given, so that observant planters, noting these and the habits of the birds, should have little difficulty in recognising specimens. The birds have accordingly, in this article, been divided into three groups—large, medium sized, and small birds.



The figures given are, first, length of bird with tail; and, second, length of tail.

LARGE BIRDS: LENGTH FROM 28 IN. TO 10 IN.

Commencing with large birds we have a list of 14, and of this number 11 are described as wild forest birds. One, the ashy-headed babbler, includes, it will be noted, bugs among its food:—

CEYLON JUNGLE-FOWL (*Gallus Lafayetii*).—28 in.; 13 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Resident up to about 5,000 ft. Frequents various situations. Feeds on insects, grubs, seeds. Nests on the ground; throughout the year.

CEYLON JAY (*Cissa ornata*).—18.5 in.; 10.7 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Upper ranges down to below 4,000 ft. Shy bird. Affects tall trees. Feeds on lizards, and large beetles, also fruit. Nests in tall trees and saplings; cool season.

COMMON COUCAL (*Centropus rufipennis*).—17.5 in.; 9.5 in. Up to 4,500 ft. Inhabits every situation except gloomy forests. Feeds on beetles, slugs, scorpions, centipedes, lizards, sometimes small snakes, and pilfers nests. Nests in thick woods in low trees; May-September.

DARK-BACKED SIRKEER (*Taccocua Leschenaulti*).—15.5 in.; 9 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Shy bird. Frequents tangled thickets and bushy patna tracts. Feeds on grasshoppers, mantidæ and other insects, lizards occasionally. Breeds June-July.

CEYLON CRESTED DRONGO (*Dicranurus lophorhinus*).—14.1 in.; 7.6 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. High and low elevations. Inhabits forests. Feeds on insects.

CEYLON SPUR-FOWL (*Galloperdix bicalcarata*).—13.8 in.; 4 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Up to 5,000 ft. Very shy. Effects most entire concealment in forest. Feeds on insects, seeds, etc. Nests on the ground; April-August.

RED WOODPECKER (*Brachypternus Ceylonus*).—11.75 in.; 4 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Very abundant. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents forest and jungle. Feeds on ants and insects. Nests in holes in trees.

LAYARD'S WOODPECKER (*Chrysocolaptes Stricklandi*).—11.8 in.; 3.4 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Widely distributed. All elevations. Affects heavy jungle and forest. Feeds chiefly on ants. Nests in holes in trees; January—.

JUNGLE NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus atripennis*).—11 in.; 5.3 in. Fairly common. Up to 3,500 ft. Inhabits forest, scrub, etc. Feeds on beetles, winged termites, etc. Nests on the ground.

STRIATED GREEN WOODPECKER (*Gecinus striolatus*).—10.9 in.; 3.8 in. Quite a hill bird. Up to 4,500 ft. Retiring, shy disposition. Frequents stunted patna trees and ravines. Feeds almost entirely on black ants.

RUFous BABBLER (*Malacocercus rufescens*).—10.8 in.; 4.6 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. From great altitudes to low-country. Frequents thickets, bamboo-scrub, low jungle, and timber forests. Feeds on beetles and other insects. Nests in bushes, shrubs, or brambles; March-July.

BLACK BULBUL (*Hypsipetes Ganeesa*).—10.5 in.; 4.3 in. Very high and low elevations. Frequents forest, jungly ravines, steep woods and mot places where there are large trees. Feeds on insects, fruits, and seeds. Nests in trees at a considerable height.

DRONGO CUCKOO (*Surniculus lugubris*).—10 in.; 5.7 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents forest, low jungle and patnas dotted with isolated trees. Feeds on caterpillars, beetles, also seeds. Breeds early part of year.

ASHY-HEADED BABBLER (*Garrulax cinereifrons*).—10 in.; 4.3 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Up to 3,500 ft. Frequents gloom of forests, thick underwood and dense bamboo-thickets. Feeds on caterpillars, bugs (*Hemiptera*) and coleopterous insects. Breeds April-July.

KELAART'S NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus Kelaarti*).—10 in.; 5 in. Upper ranges. Affects stony patnas, and open forest glades. Feeds on insects. Nests on the ground; March-April.

MEDIUM SIZED BIRDS: LENGTH FROM 9.75 IN. TO 6 IN.

Of medium sized birds it will be noted that there are 28 species, and of this number about 10 affect all situations, including gardens, while an equal number are wild and shy forest birds. Over half-a-dozen species it will be seen are patna birds.

INDIAN CRESTED SWIFT (*Dendrochelidon coronatus*).—9.75 in.; 5.3 in. Up to 6,000 ft. Frequents open hill sides and jungle clearings. Feeds on insects.

CEYLON BLACKBIRD (*Turdus kinnisi*).—9.7 in.; 3.8 in. Loftiest regions down to 2,500 ft. Frequents thick undergrowth, copses,

gardens in Nuwara Eliya. Feeds on berries, but is highly insectivorous. Nests in niches of tree trunks, stumps, low forked branches; April-June.

BROWN-NECKED SPINE TAIL (*Chætura gigantea*).—9.5 in.; 2.7 in. Up to over 6,000 ft. Swiftest bird in existence. Wanders over whole island in the course of a day. Feeds on insects. Nests in inaccessible precipices.

CEYLONESE FROG-MOUTH (*Batrachostomus moniliger*).—9.4 in.; 4.7 in. Up to 5,600 ft. Strictly nocturnal. Inhabits in most recesses of jungle and dense thickets. Feeds considerably on beetles.

COMMON BABBLER (*Malacocercus Striatus*).—9.2 in.; 4 in. Up to 5,000 ft. Frequents patna, low scrub and bungalow grounds. Feeds entirely on insects. Nests in bushes, shrubs, or brambles; March-July.

SOUTHERN YELLOW-NAPED WOODPECKER (*Chrysophlegma xanthoderus*).—9.2 in.; 5.5 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Affects edges of forest, interior of jungle, wooded ravines, and low thickets. Feeds on coleopterous insects and ant.

COMMON INDIAN NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus Asiaticus*).—9.1 in.; 4.2 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Affects scrubby waste land and open-wooded country. Feeds on beetles and moths. Nests on the ground.

SPOTTED THRUSH (*Turdus spiloptera*).—8.7 in.; 3.2 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Up to 4,000 ft. Shy, retiring. Frequents jungle, undergrowth in forests, bamboo thickets. Feeds on pupae, coleoptera, and other insects. Nests in saplings, among roots of trees, on banks or little eminences; first half of the year.

MAGPIE ROBIN (*Copsychus saularis*).—8.5 in.; 3.5 in. Up to 5,500 ft. Frequents gardens. Feeds on insects. Nests in holes in walls, under roofs, hollow stumps, etc.

ALPINE SWIFT (*Cypselus melba*).—8.5 in.; 3.5 in. Upper ranges, but wanders all over the island in the course of a day. Immense powers of flight. Feeds on insects. Nests in mountain ranges; April-May.

BLIGH'S WHISTLING THRUSH (*Myiophonus Blighi*).—8.5 in.; 3.5 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Rare hill bird. From little over 4,000 ft. to 3,000 ft. Very shy. Affects vicinity of mountain stream; keeps entirely to shade of thick forest. Feeds on various insects, coleoptera, etc.

MADRAS BULBUL (*Pycnonotus haemorrhous*).—8 in.; 3.2 in. Common. Up to 5,900 ft. Affects edges of forest, open scrubby land, and gardens. Feeds on insects, also fruits and seeds. Nests in low bushes.

FOREST BULBUL (*Criniger ictericus*).—8 in.; 3.3 in. Widely diffused. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents forests. Feeds on insects, also fruits. Nests in forest saplings.

BLACK-HEADED CUCKOO SHRIKE (*Lalage Sykesi*).—7.75 in.; 3 in. Up to 3,000 ft. and somewhat higher. Frequents tall trees in open forests and gardens. Feeds on caterpillars and other soft insects. Nests in trees.

ORANGE MINVET (*Pericrocotus flammeus*).—7.75 in.; 3.6 in. Up to 4,600 ft. Numerous. Affects lofty trees in forests, and patna woods. Feeds on small butterflies and various winged insects.

WHITE-FRONTED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura albifrontata*).—7.1 in.; 3.4 in. High and low elevations. Frequents groves of trees, and isolated trees on patnas. Feeds on insects. Nests in small trees; early part of the year.

BLACK-BILLED BABBLER (*Pyctorhis nasalis*).—7 in.; 3.5 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Widely distributed. Up to 5,800 ft. Frequents swampy fern-brakes, patnas covered with mana grass, lantana, and thick cover. Feeds on small coleoptera and various minute insects. Nests in shrubs and tufts of mana grass without any attempt at concealment; May.

WHISTLING QUAKER-THRUSH (*Pellorneum fuscicapillum*).—6.8 in.; 2.6 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Widely distributed. Up to 5,500 ft. Very shy and retiring. Frequents forest, low jungle, scrub, and brushwood. Feeds on large beetles and insects. Nests in brambles, etc.

CEYLON SWALLOW (*Hirundo hyperythra*).—6.8 in.; 3.3 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents towns, villages, open country, estate stores and bungalows. Feeds on insects. Nests in outhouses, under culverts and bridges; March-June.

MALABAR GREEN BULBUL (*Phyllornis Malabaricus*).—7.5 in.; 2.7 in. Up to above 4,000 ft. Frequents tops of trees, and patna woods. Feeds on insects and fruit, chiefly the former.

GREEN BULBUL (*Phyllornis Jerdoni*).—7.5 in.; 2.8 in. Very common. Up to 3,500 ft. and slightly higher. Frequents open situations. Feeds on insects and occasionally seeds.



ASHY WOOD-SWALLOW (*Artamus fuscus*).—7.4 in.; 2.3 in. Widely distributed. Up to 5,000 ft. Frequents open hill-sides and patnas dotted with trees. Feeds largely on beetles, also other insects. Nests in holes in trees; February-March.

PALLISER'S ANT THRUSH (*Elaphrornis Palliseri*).—6.75 in.; 2.7 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Above 5,000 ft. Inhabits dense thickets in thick jungle. Feeds on ants and minute insects, and small seeds to some extent. Nests in dense bushes; March-April.

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (*Rubigula melanictera*).—6.5 in.; 2.6 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Up to 5,000 ft. Frequents forest, low jungle, and deserted grounds. Feeds on insects, snails, minute ammonites, also seeds. Nests in forks of low trees, bushes, and even on dead stumps; April-September.

BLACK ROBIN (*Thamnobia fulicata*).—6.4 in.; 2.5 in. High and low elevations. Frequents the vicinity of human dwellings, stony patnas, and bare hill-sides. Feeds on flies and other insects. Nests in banks along foot-paths, under shelter of rocks; in bungalow roofs, etc.; March-June.

ROBUST WREN-WARBLER (*Drymæca valida*).—6.4 in.; 2.8 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Common. Up to 3,000 ft. and somewhat higher. Frequents brambly wastes, open scrub, and deserted forest clearings. Feeds on insects.

CEYLONESE AZURE FLY-CATCHER (*Hypothymis Ceylonensis*).—6.2 in.; 2.75 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Up to 3,000 ft. Affects forest, shady jungle, detached woods and bamboo thickets. Feeds on small flies and insects. Nests in saplings and shrubs.

JERDON'S WREN-WARBLER (*Drymæca Jerdoni*).—6 in.; 2.6 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents fern-brakes, sides of over-grown ditches and long grass. Sneaking disposition. Feeds on various small coleoptera and other minute insects.

SMALL BIRDS: LENGTH FROM 5.9 IN. TO 2.3 IN.

Of the list of 20 small birds it will be noted that about half the number are described as frequenting all situations including estates, and about five are wild forest birds:—

BLUE REDBREAST (*Siphia Tickelliae*).—5.9 in.; 2.6 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents forest and jungle. Feeds on insects. Breeds May-June.

WHITE-THROATED WREN-BABBLER (*Dumetia albigularis*).—5.7 in.; 2.2 in. Tolerably common. Up to 5,600 ft. Frequents bushy patnas, low scrub, detached woods. Feeds on larvæ of various winged insects and minute coleoptera. Nests in low bushes; March-July.

INDIAN SWIFT (*Cypselus affinis*).—5.5 in.; 1.8 in. Up to 7,000 ft. Frequents estates and other open situations. Feeds on flies and other insects. Nests in verandahs of outhouses, beneath bridges and culverts, overhanging rocks, or caves; March-July.

LITTLE PIED SHRIKE (*Hemipus picatus*).—5.4 in.; 2.3 in. High and low elevations. Tame disposition. Frequents tall trees near edge of forest and heavy jungle. Feeds on insects.

WHITE-BROWED WREN-WARBLER (*Drymæca insularis*).—5.4 in.; 2.5 in. Widely distributed. Up to 5,000 ft. Frequents long grass and tussocky wastes, and hill patnas. Feeds on small caterpillars, minute insects, etc. Nests in long grass; May-June, and October-November.

BUNGALOW SWALLOW (*Hirundo Javanica*).—5 in.; 1.8 in. Above 6,000 ft. Frequents estate bungalows, etc. Feeds on insects. Nests in verandahs of bungalows and outbuildings on estates and eaves of native houses; April-June.

ASHY WREN-WARBLER (*Prinia socialis*).—5 in.; 1.8 in. Widely distributed. Up to 5,500 ft. Lives permanently in mana grass on patnas. Feeds on insects and occasionally small seeds. Nests in mana grass; May-July.

INDIAN TAILOR-BIRD (*Orthotomus sutorius*).—5 in.; 2.5 in. Widely distributed. Up to mountain ranges. Frequents estates, gardens, thick jungle, and forest. Feeds on larvæ and insects. Nests in low bushes and small trees; late in the year.

LONG-TAILED ROBIN (*Cittocincla macrura*).—11.3 in.; 7 in. Up to 4,000 ft. Frequents forest and jungle. Feeds on small beetles, ants, flies, etc.

PIGMY WOODPECKER (*Yungipicus gymnoptthalmos*).—4.9 in.; 1.3 in. Tolerably plentiful. Up to about 3,000 ft. Frequents uppermost branches of trees at edges of estates, or patnas. Feeds on worms, and grubs in rotten wood. Nests in holes in trees.

INDIAN SWIFTLET (*Collocalia francicæ*).—4.8 in.; 1.9 in. Up to 6,500 ft. Affects crags and rocky hills. Wanders great distances. Feeds on gnats, mosquitos and other small flies. Nests in caves in the hills and mountains; March-June.

COMMON WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops palpebrosa*).—4.4 in.; 1.6 in. Very numerous, up to about 3,500 ft. Frequents woods, forests, and gardens. Feeds on insects but mostly fruits and buds. Nests in small trees and bushes; June-August.

LOTEN'S SUN-BIRD (*Cinnyris Lotenius*).—4.3 in.; tail 1.2 in.; bill 1.8 in. Various elevations up-country. Frequents compounds, etc. Sips honey from flowers also feeds on insects. Nests frequently in lime or orange trees.

HILL BUSH-CHAT (*Pratincola bicolor*).—6.2 in.; 2.4 in. Upper mountains down to 3,500 ft. Frequents plains, gardens round Nuwara Eliya, patnas, and bare and rocky localities. Feeds on insects and larvæ of various kinds. Nests in holes in banks or old walls; April-June.

CEYLONESE BLUE FLYCATCHER (*Stoparola sordida*).—6.2 in.; 2.5 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Mountain ranges down to somewhat under 2,000 ft. Frequents outskirts of forests, edges of clearings, borders of mountain streams, and sides of roads and paths. Feeds on insects. Nests in holes in trees or stumps; April-May.

GREY-BACKED TITMOUS (*Parus atriceps*).—5.8 in.; 2.6 in. Numerous. Highest ranges down to 3,000 ft. Frequents forest, jungle, patna woods, and estates. Feeds on insects, also buds. Nests in holes in trees; March-July.

GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER (*Culicicapa Ceylonensis*).—5.2 in.; 2.2 in. Hill bird. Top of highest ranges down to 1,900 ft. Frequents a variety of situations. Feeds on insects.

CEYLONESE WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops Ceylonensis*).—4.7 in.; 1.75 in. Peculiar to Ceylon. Very abundant. Ranges down to 2,500 ft. Frequents all situations. Feeds on insects, also leaf buds. Nests in bushes, also coffee; March-May.

THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER (*Piprisoma agile*).—4 in.; 1.1 in. Scattered sparingly. Up to 3,000 ft. Feeds on spiders and small insects. Breeds early part of the year.

COMMON GRASS-WARBLER (*Cisticola cursitans*).—2.3 in.; 1.6 in. Widely distributed. Up to high elevations. Frequents patnas and grass lands. Feeds on small insects, caterpillars, beetles, and little snails. Nests in thick grass; May-July, November-December.

#### BIRDS AT DIFFERENT ELEVATIONS.

The above list is comprised of 63 birds, and their distribution at the different elevations, as can be seen from the particulars given, will be as follows:—

At 3,000 ft.—58 bids.	At 5,000 ft.—37 bids.
" 3,500 "—55 "	" 5,500 "—31 "
" 4,000 "—51 "	" 5,800 "—26 "
" 4,500 "—38 "	Above "—25 "

#### BIRDS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE LIST.

The following birds have not been included in the table given above as the elevations at which they are found are not mentioned. Some of them are quite familiar in the up-country districts:—

CEYLONESE TROGON (*Harpactes fasciatus*).—11.2 in.; 6 in. Found throughout the coffee districts. Inhabits gloomy recesses in forest and jungle. Feeds on coleopterous insects, bugs, moths, etc. Breeds May—.

CEYLONESE WHITE-BELLIED DRONGO (*Buchanga leucopygialis*).—9.9 in.; 5.1 in. Found on slopes of Kandyan hills, Pussellawa, Kotmale, and Badulla. Frequents estates and other open places. Feeds on beetles, bugs, winged termites, and other insects. Nests in large trees at a considerable height; March-May.

CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER (*Merosia Swinhoei*).—8.6 in.; 3.3 in. Sparingly dispersed. Found in the Kandyan Province and Uva. Frequents the vicinity of rivers in deep valleys, and high trees on steep ravines. Feeds on insects. Nests in holes in banks.

LITTLE MINVET (*Pericrocotus peregrinus*).—6 in.; 2.7 in. Found in most of the coffee districts. Frequents a variety of open situations. Feeds on various larvæ and small insects.

#### PATNA BURNING AND ITS EFFECTS.

Looking through the above list of birds it will be seen that a fairly large number frequent patnas, of which about a dozen species nest in patna grass, low bushes, and brambles, while half that number nest on the ground. It will therefore be seen that those birds must suffer considerably when patnas are set on fire. It will also be seen that several species nest in banks and other exposed places on estates. As regards the food of the different species, it ranges from ants to small snails and large beetles, lizards and small birds occasionally, and mosquitos to moths and butterflies. Bugs (*Hemiptera*), which are generally not a favourite with birds, seem to be eaten by three species.



## TEA AND COFFEE AT NEW YORK IN JULY.

Following are Reports of the New York Custom House on Tea and Coffee imported and exported at the Port during July last:—

IMPORTS OF TEA.			
From Yokohama	...	468,342	pounds.
" Kobe	...	363,100	"
" Hankow	...	291,776	"
" Foochow	...	62,359	"
" Amoy	...	319,691	"
" Hong Kong	...	2,985	"
" Ceylon	...	197,011	"
" England	...	194,909	"
" Shanghai	...	350,196	"
" Tamsui	...	30,000	"
" Calcutta	...	80	"
" Nova Scotia	...	7,028	"
" Turkey	...	200	"
" Germany	...	11	"

EXPORTS OF TEA.			
To England	...	91,000	pounds.
" Bermuda	...	42	"
" Mexico	...	200	"
" British West Indies	...	65	"
" Danish West Indies	...	112	"
" Cuba	...	250	"
" San Domingo	...	25	"
" Argentine	...	1,265	"
" Colombia	...	100	"
" Peru	...	140	"
" Venezuela	...	10	"
" China	...	46,912	"

IMPORTS OF COFFEE.			
From Germany	...	26,490	pounds.
" Netherlands	...	67,044	"
" England	...	107,255	"
" Costa Rica	...	65,997	"
" Guatemala	...	570,790	"
" Honduras	...	18,761	"
" Nicaragua	...	19,175	"
" Salvador	...	27,010	"
" Mexico	...	1,111,000	"
" British West Indies	...	17,470	"
" San Domingo	...	26,209	"
" Brazil	...	45,001,563	"
" Colombia	...	6,924,560	"
" Venezuela	...	6,371,142	"
" Aden	...	118,464	"
" British East Indies	...	338,335	"
" Dutch East Indies	...	184,714	"
" Turkey	...	147,746	"
" Ecuador	...	89	"
" Hayti	...	34,660	"
" Liberia	...	1,939	"

EXPORTS OF COFFEE.			
To Germany	...	19,993	pounds.
" Italy	...	59,589	"
" Cuba	...	992,092	"
" Danish West Indies	...	646	"
" Norway	...	9,050	"
" Turkey	...	1,308	"
" Bermuda	...	1,450	"
" Australia	...	22,580	"
" British Guiana	...	28,310	"

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

[In an article in the *Monthly Review* on "The Fiscal Controversy," Sir Michael Hicks-Beach writes as a "Unionist who believes that the proper object of a Customs Tariff is to raise revenue."] In his article Sir Michael presses the point that we should be compelled to give a similar preference to the other colonies by taxing the foreign foodstuffs with which they compete. He then asks what the people of the United Kingdom would gain, or lose, by this policy, and he makes the following reference to the tea duty question: "Mr. Chamberlain has suggested that any loss to the poor from this cause might be made good by remissions of taxation on tea, sugar, and tobacco. The suggestion that the remission of existing duties would

be a gain is in itself an admission that the imposition of new duties would be a burthen; but tobacco may be dismissed at once; for a large part of the population, specially women and children, are non-smokers, and all must eat. But if India and the Crown Colonies are to be included in colonial preference—and this could hardly be refused—some duty on tea and sugar must be retained. The sugar duty might, it is true, be repealed for five years, owing to the provisions against colonial preference in the Brussels Convention. But at the end of that time the West Indies might be trusted to demand a duty on foreign sugar, just as the Indian and Ceylon planters would demand it at once on foreign tea. Their tea, on equal terms, has already gone far to drive foreign tea out of our market; so that any preference would probably enable them, by raising their prices, to deprive consumers here of no small part of the benefit of any reduction of taxation." This is a polite way of saying to the consumer, "Don't have anything to do with preference schemes. If Indian and Ceylon growers, for instance, were to have it all their own way in the tea market you would have to pay fancy prices for your teas."

We recently recorded the views of Mr. Larkin, of "Salada" fame, on the subject of Formosa Oolong and the demand for this class of tea on the American continent. The flavour of these teas is considered by some experts to be artificial, and if this be so there is no reason why India and Ceylon planters should not successfully compete for the supply of this class of tea. A visit to Formosa by a tea maker with an inquiring mind would prove useful, and no doubt this suggestion will receive the attention of the Tea Association, if it has not done so ere this. If tea-drinkers on the American continent will have teas with the flavour of Formosa Oolong, Indian and Ceylon tea-growers must either supply them or lose a market which takes nearly twenty million of pounds of tea. We know that some people are of opinion that these differences of flavour cannot be produced by curing alone, but this remains to be seen. Anyway, the market is worth the expenditure of some time and trouble, and we shall be surprised if Indian and Ceylon planters do not make a bold bid for it.

It has been suggested, and will probably be carried out, that in the exhibition of the Ceylon product at St. Louis the tea should be marketable, not fancy. Further, that they should be taken out of a regular break, and the box sent should be a miniature box of the same pattern of chest as the break. The invoice number and the date it was packed, as well as the estate mark, are to be marked on the box; so that this tea may be compared with the tea sold at the public market. If some such scheme is carried out it is believed that it will go far to remove the prejudice attached to the keeping qualities of Ceylon teas.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

## PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

## MINUTES OF FRIDAY'S MEETING.

Extracts from minutes of proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Friday, 11th September, 1903, at 3 p.m.

## CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.—WEIGHT AND QUALITY OF TEA CHESTS TENDERED.

Read letter from the General Manager, Ceylon Government Railway, drawing attention to the weight and quality of tea chests sent to the railway for transmission by train, and asking that the question might be considered by the Planters' Association. *Resolved*:—"That copy of the letter be circulated to the various District Associations for information and guidance."

## PRIZE ESSAYS ON PRUNING OF TEA IN CEYLON.

Submitted correspondence.

Intimated that the judges have not yet completed their labours.

## RUBBISHY TEAS IN COLOMBO HARBOUR.

Intimated that the report on the matter was still under consideration of the Chamber of Commerce.



CARDAMOM COMMITTEE.

At the request of the Cardamom Committee, submitted the following *résumé* of replies received from various Consuls in China, Japan, and the Far East, in reference to the demand of cardamoms in these localities.

Read letter from His Majesty's Consul at Foochow stating that, from enquiries made, he gathered there is little demand for cardamoms in Foochow; the supply appears to be drawn from Annam.

Read letter from His Majesty's Consul at Pakhos, stating that there is not much prospect for opening a market for cardamoms in the smaller Treaty Ports, and that, as the Consulate at Samshui has been closed, he replies to the enquiry that no foreign cardamoms are imported to Samshui.

Read letter from His Majesty's Consul at Canton, mentioning that the present supply of cardamoms is chiefly from Southern India, Ceylon, and the Dutch Colonies, and sending specimens of the various grades imported.

Read letter from His Majesty's Consul at Tainan, stating that the demand for cardamoms in South Formosa is very small, the average annual import only amounting to about 10 lbs., and the import is entirely in the hands of Chinese merchants, the supply coming from China.

Read letter from His Majesty's Consul at Nagasaki stating that cardamoms are not mentioned in the Customs Return for any port in Japan; if any imports exist it is in such small quantities that it is placed under miscellaneous drugs, and the local Chamber of Commerce knows nothing of it.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Klungchow, Hainan, stating that the product is entirely used in manufacture of medicines imported indirectly through the large Chinese dealers in Hong-Kong. The amount annually imported is very small, being valued on the average at only about £140.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Kobe stating that there is no market for cardamoms in Kobe. The local chemists keep a few seeds in stock, which they obtain from London.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Chingkiang stating that the market is very limited, and it is entirely supplied from Shanghai.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Hakodate stating that there is no prospect of opening up a business of cardamoms there, the total value of drugs imported direct during last year being barely £10.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Wenchow stating that there is no demand for cardamoms.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Wuhu stating that cardamoms are imported from India and the Straits Settlements to the extent of about 1,000 lbs. per annum, while an inferior variety comes annually to the extent of about 7,000 lbs. largely from Siam.

The trade is entirely in the hands of native druggists, who obtain their supplies in small quantities from Shanghai.

Letter from the Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Legation at Shanghai stating that the trade is entirely in Chinese hands and that he understands the supplies are drawn from Cochin-China, India, Java, and Siam. The average annual import of cardamoms into Shanghai during the last five years has been superior 240 piculs, inferior 1,543 piculs, cardamom husks 145 piculs; they are retailed at dollars 1.50 per Chinese ounce, and dollars 0.80 second quality.

Letter from His Majesty's Consul at Tamsui, North Formosa, stating that there is no very great demand for the commodity. During 1902 1,407 lbs., valued at gold yen 386.95, say £40, were imported and for the first half of the current year 695 lbs., worth gold yen 215.30, or about £22-10-0. All the cardamoms came to fill small orders from China *via* Hong-Kong to the order of Chinese merchants who retailed the article as a drug.

Intimated that samples of cardamoms had also been forwarded to Zanzibar.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION RE CACAO STEALING: CACAO THEFTS COMMISSION.

Intimated that no progress had yet to be reported in the matter. *Resolved*:—"That pending special legislation Government be asked to invite the Government Agents in the various cacao districts to use special influence in getting the headmen and police to try to check robberies and sales of cacao in the open thoroughfares, during the coming crop. The Committee would point out the success attending the personal efforts of Government Agents last year in the Matalé district."

MACHINE FOR DRYING CACAO SEEDS.

Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, drawing attention to a new machine for drying cacao seeds, from which it would seem that, with this machine, the solar and artificial heat is combined, thus drying the seeds in greater numbers and in much less time. *Resolved*:—"That a copy of the letter be sent to the Kandy Districts, Kurunegala, Matalé and Badulla Associations."

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR CACAO DISEASE. PLANT SANITATION ORDINANCE NO. 5 OF 1901—PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORTATION INTO CEYLON OF PEPPER PLANTS FROM INDIA. PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CACAO DISEASE.

Read letter from Government forwarding accompanying copy of a regulation which it is proposed to promulgate under Section 3 of Ordinance 5 of 1891, together with copies of the forms to be used in connection therewith and inquiring whether the Planters' Association has any suggestions to offer in the matter. *Resolved*:—"That the correspondence be referred to the Cacao Committee of the Planters' Association; (2) that copies of the correspondence be forwarded to the District Associations interested."

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Batticaloa Association, transmitting copy of the following Resolutions regarding beetle pests on cocoanut palm:—"That in view of the serious increase in damage to cocoanut trees by beetle pests, *viz.* (1) *Oryetes Rhinoceros*, commonly known as the Black Beetle; (2) *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, or Red Beetle, the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Parent Association, asking it to take up seriously the question of the need of an Ordinance being passed similar to that of the Federated Malay States, enacted in 1898, an enactment for the protection of cocoanut trees from the ravages of certain beetles."

*Resolved*:—"That copy of the Resolution received from the Batticaloa Association be submitted to the Government Entomologist and to the Government Agents of the different Provinces with a request for information as to the advisability and practicableness of an Ordinance such as that suggested against the ravages of beetles on cocoanuts."

Submitted regulations made by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council under Section 3 of the Insects Pests and Quarantine Ordinance.

Read letter from Government intimating that, on the recommendation of the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regulations under the Ordinance No. 5 of 1901 had been passed prohibiting the importation into Ceylon of pepper plants from India where a disease of this plant has recently been causing serious damage and loss to cultivators of pepper.

Submitted copy of the Regulation published in the Ceylon Government Gazette, No. 592 of July 17, 1903.

TEA PESTS—SPREAD OF "SHOT-HOLE BORERS."

Read correspondence with Government on the subject of the spread of shot-hole borer pest in tea.

Read letter from Mr. Chas. Gibbon.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Dolospage and Yakdessa Association, transmitting copy of the following Resolution:—"That the views of this Association are in accordance with those of the Kandy Committee as contained in the Resolution recently passed."

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Dimbula Association, transmitting the following Resolutions:—"That the Parent Association Minute and Resolutions dated 18th July, 1903, as to the desirability of Legislation with regard to the sale of tea-plants from affected estates, be supported. (2) That the Dimbula Planters' Association have much pleasure in supporting the hearty vote of thanks accorded to Mr. E. E. Green."

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Passara Association, transmitting the following Resolution:—"That this Association is in favour of some simple legislation by Government on the lines suggested by Mr. Green to prevent the distribution of shot-hole borer and other tea pests."

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Kelani Valley Association, stating that so far no notification that the pests exist in the district has been received.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Maturata Association, transmitting the following Resolution:—"That the Resolution as to legislation with regard to the sale of tea-plants from affected estates be supported."



Read letter from the Rangalla Association stating that the Rangalla Association was in favour of legislation, but so far the district was free of the pest.

Read correspondence with the Chairman, Badulla Association, in reference to any literature dealing with the pest, in which the Government Entomologist mentioned "that a circular on the shot-hole borer is being prepared in the department of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, but waits completion for certain data expected in response to questions circulated through the District Associations," meanwhile adding that the following works deal with the pest:—(1) "Indian Museum Notes," Vol. iv, p. 57, plate V, fig. 2; (2) "Pests and Blights of the Tea-Plant," G. Watt, pages 192-4; (3) "Pests and Blights of the Tea-Plant," 2nd edition, Watt & Mann, page 174-6, and plate 4, fig. 2.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Knuckles, Kellabokka & Panwila Association, stating that this Association approve of legislation on the lines laid down.

*Resolved*:—"That the Planters' Association of Ceylon is now of opinion that the majority of the District Associations are in favour of legislation on the lines indicated by the Government Entomologist (Mr. Green), and that Government be asked to legislate accordingly against the spread of the 'shot-hole borer' pest in tea."

#### ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION, 1904.

Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Committee, World's Fair, St. Louis, asking that arrangements may be made that all tea exhibits be furnished in chests of uniform size and shape, containing a uniform number of packets of the different grades, any shortage being made up with packing materials if necessary. The object in view is the facilitation of the packing for shipments.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Uda-Pussellawa Association, forwarding the following Resolution regarding the class and marking of tea to be sent to St. Louis Exhibition:—"That teas sent to the St. Louis Exhibition shall be marketable teas. They should be taken out of a regular break and the box sent shall be a miniature box of the same pattern of chest as the break, with date of packing, invoice number, as well as the usual estate-mark; teas could then be packed at any time, and thus remove the general stigma as to the keeping qualities of Ceylon teas. Further, if fancy teas are sent, they should be so marked."

#### EXHIBITS FOR THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION, 1904.

*Resolved*:—"That the District Associations be asked to select an estate or estates, according to size of district, to make commercial teas, black or green, of three grades, two 5-lb. boxes of each grade, with copy of invoice for the St. Louis Exhibition. That the Kandy Districts, Kurunegala, and Matalé Associations be asked to collect samples of Ceylon cacao. That the selection of cardamoms be left to the Cardamom Committee. That the Kalutara, Kandy, Kurunegala, and Matalé Associations be asked to collect samples of rubber. That the Kandy Districts, Matalé, and Kurunegala Associations be asked to collect samples of the following produce:—Pepper, Nutmegs, Cloves, Mace, Croton Oil, Vanilla."

#### OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF TEA CROP FOR 1904

Considered the question of the official estimate of the tea crop for 1904. *Resolved*:—" (1) That an official estimate of the tea crop of Ceylon be compiled by the Planters' Association from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1904." (2) That District Associations be asked to compile such estimates for their district, and furnish them to the Secretary, Planters' Association of Ceylon, by the 30th November, or as soon thereafter as possible. (3) That district estimators be requested to obtain their estimates from acreages as far as possible, the statistics received to be considered confidential, not to be published by the estimators, and the total District acreages need only be given. Such returns should, in the opinion of the Committee, be—(a) Total acreage in tea, (b) acreage in bearing, (c) total estate crop (excluding bought leaf), (d) estimate of green tea to be made (being part of c), (e) estimate of native leaf (not included in c), (f) acreage of tea-land abandoned during the past year. District estimators are kindly requested to check the figures received so as to correct the possibility of the total under (c) being also included in (c). (4) That forms be issued separately to each Superintendent to be returned by him in a closed cover. That the foregoing Resolutions be forwarded to the Honorary Secretaries of the various District Associations with a request that they will kindly take immediate steps to furnish the Committee with the desired data. (5) That a Special Committee be appointed to consider the returns received in due course from

District Associations, and to report to the Committee before the end of December, 1903. (6) That the following members be asked to serve Hon'ble Mr. Edward Rosling, Messrs. W. D. Gibbon, T. C. Huxley, the Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, the Secretary, Planters' Association of Ceylon; and that the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce be invited to nominate two members of the Chamber to confer with the Special Committee of the Planters' Association, especially as regards the probable distribution of the crop."

#### PRESERVATION OF BIRD LIFE ON TEA ESTATES.

Submitted correspondence with the various district Associations on the subject of the comparative absence of bird life in tea districts in Ceylon, and the probable connection between that circumstance and the present prevalence of caterpillars and other pests on the bushes.

Read letters from the Honorary Secretary, Rakwana Association, intimating "That this Association heartily support Messrs. George Stuart & Co.'s suggestions for the preservation of bird life on estates, but agree with their correspondents who condemn the growing of lantana, is being subject to the attack of bug which infects adjoining vegetation."

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Dimbula Association, forwarding the following Resolution:—"That as the matter of preservation of bird life on tea estates was receiving full attention in the local papers it was unnecessary to discuss it at this Meeting."

Read letters from the Honorary Secretaries, Badulla, Matalé, Knuckles, Kellabokka and Panwila, Kelani Valley, Passara, Kurunegala, Balangoda, Maturata, and Hewaheta Associations stating that the matter will be considered at Meetings

### THE CEYLON THIRTY COMMITTEE.

Extracts from minutes of proceedings of a Meeting of the Thirty Committee appointed to administer the proceeds of the export duty on tea levied under Ordinances No. 4 of 1894 and No. 13 of 1902 for increasing the consumption of Ceylon tea in foreign lands, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Saturday, the 12th September, 1903, at 7-30 a.m.

*PRESENT*:—Messrs. A. C. Kingsford (*Chairman*), A. Philip (*Secretary*), Hon'ble Mr. J. N. Campbell, Hon'ble Mr. W. Henry Figg, Hon'ble Mr. Edward Rosling, Messrs. W. Cecil Braybrooke, R. Hyshe Eliot, Edgar Turner, Joseph C. Dunbar, T. C. Huxley, Frank S. Vowler, Walter J. Smith, H. O. Hoseason, E. D. Harrison, John J. Robinson, J. B. Coles, W. D. Gibbon, R. Morison, James Westland, W. D. Bosanquet, R. A. Galton, Robert Davidson, and George Croll. Twenty-three members.

#### LOAN FROM GOVERNMENT OF Rs.1,50,000.

Read letter to Government annexing copy of the following Resolution:—"That on the exhaustion of the present 4 cents (probably in August) bonus, a bonus of 3 cents per lb. will be paid on all tea certified by 31st December, 1903, up to a further 5 million lbs," and asking that the sanction of His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council may be formally intimated for the said appropriation of Rs.1,50,000, as desired and determined by the Thirty Committee.

Read letter from Government, dated 8th September, 1903, intimating that the Governor in Executive Council had been pleased to approve of the appropriation of Rs.1,50,000 proposed.

Intimated that a further sum of Rs.20,000 applied for had been received, being the third instalment on account of the loan of Rs.1,50,000, sanctioned by his Excellency the Governor.

#### CEYLON GREEN TEAS GRANT, 1903.

Submitted memos showing payments made as at 15th and 31st July and 15th and 31st August, 1903, and also comparative statement showing number of lbs. during 1902 and 1903 respectively up to 30th June of each year.

Intimated that payment having been made on 7 million lbs. green tea at 4 cents per lb., payment is now being made on a further 5 million lbs. at 3 cents per lb. on all green tea certified to 31st December, 1903.

#### WORLD'S FAIR, ST. LOUIS, U. S. A., IN 1904.

Read and considered correspondence with Mr. Wm. Mackenzie.



Read letters from Government stating that His Excellency the Governor had decided that Mr. R. Huyshe Eliot, Assistant Commissioner for Ceylon at the World's Fair, should be paid salary at the rate of £700 per annum, and that he should be reimbursed actual steamer and rail fares from Ceylon to St. Louis and back; further noting that a sum of £2,000 sterling had been voted from the Thirty Committee's funds towards the expenses of the representation of Ceylon at the World's Fair.

Read letter from the Board of Lady Managers sending an expression of thanks for the case of tea, which would be much appreciated.

Submitted letters from Mr. Gordon Field.

Read letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, suggesting union of Indian and Ceylon interests at the World's Fair, St. Louis, U. S. A. *Resolved*:—"That in reply it be stated that the Thirty Committee cannot recommend the Government to join with the Indian Tea Association at the St. Louis Exhibition, 1904, as final arrangements are now made, but that the Thirty Committee would be glad to co-operate or to hear the views of the Indian Tea Association regarding pushing tea on the Continent of Europe and elsewhere."

CEYLON TEA IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Read letter from the Secretary, Indian Tea Cess Committee, Calcutta, in reference to the question of extending the sale of British-grown teas in South Africa, and enquiring whether the Thirty Committee would consider favourably a scheme for joint working between Ceylon and India. *Resolved*:—"That pending information as to the respective quantities of China, Indian, and Ceylon teas imported into South Africa, consideration of the matter be deferred."

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

The following is extracted from the abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 15th instant, at which there were present: Mr. H. C. Begg (*Chairman*), Mr. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), Messrs. Geo. A. Ormiston, Lockhart, Smith, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

Read letter of 28th August from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London.

The principal subject dealt with in the letter was—

BLACK TEA FOR THE LONDON MARKET.

This matter was referred to in the proceedings of the last Meeting where it was stated that the Committee were awaiting the receipt of a telegram communicating the details of the scheme. This telegram had been received and was to the effect that details had been arranged on the basis of dividing the estimated crop into weekly offerings extending to 30th June, 1904.

The letter stated that a circular was being issued, pointing out that material advantage was gained last year by the action of the Regulating Committee, and expressing a hope that additional support would be received this year.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided to issue a circular to members of the Association stating what the London Committee proposed to do, and recommending them not to hasten the despatch of teas from the gardens as offerings were to be spread over the season until June, 1904. It was also decided to ask members of the Association if they would be prepared to support a proposal which had been made to regulate Calcutta sales and extend the auctions to 31st March.

ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.

In the proceedings of the last Meeting it was stated that the Committee were awaiting a reply from the Thirty Committee, Ceylon, regarding the proposal for an amalgamation of the Ceylon and Indian exhibits at the St. Louis Exposition.

A reply had since been received by telegram and was to the effect that the Thirty Committee regretted they were unable to recommend the Ceylon Government to join the Indian Tea Association in the representation at St. Louis, final arrangements having already been completed.

It was now decided to telegraph the result to the Committee of the Indian Tea Association, London, and request them to proceed with their arrangements for the Indian exhibit. It was also to be stated that a sum of £10,000 was practically assured.

MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN WAR.

Ignorance of the cause and nature of human ailments, and of what best to do when attacked by sickness, is responsible for greater loss of life, and infinitely more prolonged misery, than the most desolating war that was ever waged. Wars break out, rage fiercely, subside, and there is peace once more in the land; but everywhere and always there is a proportion of the people who are sick and ailing; who cannot properly sustain their part in the competition of life, and whose time is passed in suffering pain, from which they perceive no way of escape except by death.

In all ages the wisest and noblest of mankind have exerted their mental power to the utmost to avert, so far as may be, the suffering and wastage of humanity, and they have been rewarded by a large measure of success. The evils we deplore, great as they undoubtedly still are, have been enormously diminished by their efforts. Many modes of treatment formerly in high repute have been proved by modern science to be positively detrimental to patients, while remedies have been discovered of such wonderful efficacy that the cures they work would have been accounted miracles in a darker and more superstitious age. The foremost place among these disease-dispelling life-savers must be given to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. For thirty-five years that great remedy has been doing its humane work in all parts of the world. No other medicine is so much esteemed, nor likely to be while people voluntarily write of it in terms such as those employed by Mr. Isaac T. Sihiya, of Engun-jini, Sneezewood, P.O., Griqualand East, Cape Colony, who, in a letter dated 10th June, 1903, says: "I am convinced that but for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup I should not be alive to-day. Some years ago I had a bad fall from my horse, and sustained a great shock. I lay for a long time on the ground helpless, and when assistance arrived it was found that I had severely sprained my spine. After a while I recovered somewhat, and was not greatly troubled by my accident until after I entered upon my present duties as Forest Guard for this district. The work at that time was very hard, the people being unruly and giving much trouble. I had to be on horseback the greater part of every day, and very soon my back began to trouble me again. My kidneys were affected and caused me dreadful pain. Many times I was obliged to dismount from my horse and walk, leading the animal behind me; for I was not in a position to give up my work. A doctor whom I consulted informed me that one of my kidneys had been displaced, and was otherwise injuriously affected. For three years I suffered in this way, and none of the medicines I tried benefited me in the least. But one day a friend gave me a little book to read, and advised me to try the medicine described therein, which proved to be no other than Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I followed his advice, and to that fact owe the good health I now enjoy. I am confident that I could not have continued much longer to endure the terrible anguish with which I was afflicted before resorting to Seigel's Syrup."

Testimony such as this must convince even the most sceptical; yet let it not be forgotten that Seigel's Syrup is the unrivalled remedy for indigestion and of the numerous complaints which arise from that malady. "As regards my family," writes Mr. C. F. Morsner, of French Hoek, Paarl Division, Cape Colony, 15th June, 1903, "we keep Seigel's Syrup as our house doctor. It cured me of liver complaint. I have recommended it to numerous people, and always with satisfactory results."

Humanitarians look forward to a time when suffering shall be reduced to its lowest possible limit the goal alike of the best politicians and physicians.

MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated September 4th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904	256,814	330,738	29,930
1902-1903	285,486	368,578	24,935
39,493 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 70,183 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
28,217 " CEYLON			
2,473 " JAVA			



The report of the Director-General of Statistics gives the total acreage under tea in India at the end of 1902 as 525,252 with a production of 188,589,261 lbs., against an acreage of 524,767 and production of 191,302,773 lbs. in 1901. It also states that only 4,464,762 lbs. were retained for local consumption, besides 3,480,716 lbs. imported from other countries.

The report of the Indian Tea Markets Expansion Commission just issued shows that in two years they have sold 3,687,767 pice packets and 950,313 cups, the total quantity disposed of in the 24 months being 552,323 lbs. An area has been covered of over 2,500 villages and towns.

**INDIAN.**—In spite of a rather heavy auction demand was strong, all kinds selling very steadily, while anything with attractive quality realized full prices. A small invoice of fine Darjeeling Tea from "Jungpunnah" brought an average of 3/1½. Exports to U. K. from Calcutta and Chittagong second half August 12,100,000 lbs., against 10,690,000 lbs.; from 1st April 55,522,000 lbs., against 50,280,000 in 1902. Averages:—"Dooteriah," 2/4½; "Margarets Hope" and "Turzum," 1/6¼; "Balasun," 1/5½; "Bordubi" and "Behora," 1/3½.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 34,110 pkgs., av. 8/14d. 1902, 30,551 pkgs., av. 7/56d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 133,970 pkgs., av. 8/00d. 1902, 154,044 pkgs., av. 7/12d.

**CEYLON.**—The auction passed with good general competition, medium teas being if anything a trifle dearer, while better class descriptions sold well, last week's rates being maintained for commonest grades. Quality is now beginning to show signs of improvement. Exports to U. K. for August 6,500,000 lbs., against 7,250,000 lbs. same month 1902; total from 1st January 69,000,000 lbs., against 75,500,000; Estimate for September 6½ to 7 million lbs., against 6¾ million lbs. 1902.

Average for week 7/26d., against 6/52d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 712,641 pkgs., av. 7/46d. 1902, 800,081 pkgs., av. 6/69d.

**JAVAS**—Sold very steadily at full prices, all kinds meeting with good attention. Since 1st June 24,991 packages on Garden Account realised an average of 6/61d. per lb.

### COFFEE.

Messrs. G. Dauring & Zoon's Monthly Market Report, dated Rotterdam, August 31st, 1903, states:—Contrary to expectations, markets wore a hardening tendency; the trade has been purchasing with less reserve and ultimately values are ½ct. to 1ct. better.

Next Trading Company's sale will be held September 8th.

The Java crop is particularly late this year and arrivals continued moderate during the month under review. Importers met the market freely, and values were in sellers' favour, especially so for fine grades high grown, which realized fancy rates. Medium descriptions also Liberian, without any change in value.

Second hand dealings do not call for any remark and consisted chiefly of old pale Santos coffee at prices based on terminal values, consequently considerably cheaper than cost and freight quotations, preventing business in that line.

Arrivals in our market were unimportant, only 27,200 bags Java and 57,100 bags Santos. Deliveries of the latter amount to 70,400 bags, reducing our stock by 13,300 bags.

Terminal business was slow, without any change in value during the first part of the month. The trade has been using the moderate terme standard for purchases of old filières, which together with an advance in cost and freight, lead to an improvement of ¾cts., quotations being 15½cts. per September, 15½cts. per December, 15¾cts. per March, and 16cts. per May. Dealings amount to 83,000 bags or 580,500 bags since 1st January. August contracts 7,000 bags, tenders 6,000 bags.

Business was much interfered with by the advance, which Santos holders asked and succeeded in carrying through.

Two causes were put forward to legitimate higher values.

1°. Drought, prejudicial to the coming crop.

2°. Lower estimates of the present crop.

# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



As far as injury by drought is concerned, it is too early yet to have a decisive influence upon next crop, besides rainfall is reported since, beneficial to the September blossom. As to the second argument: lower crop estimates, the trade, after three years' experience, well knows what crop estimates mean and refuses to go by anything but receipts, although too early to be taken as a criterion. Nevertheless these reports were quite to the purpose, forcing values up from 3,600*réis* to 4,100*réis*, not a trifling affair indeed and sufficient to encourage owners not to neglect their fazendas. This year again large receipts are counterbalanced by unfavourable crop and weather reports, by which it was possible to sell a large quantity cost and freight at far better prices than would have been obtainable otherwise, the benefit being entirely on the Brazilian side. Public opinion at present favours the idea of reducing estimates of the present Santos crop, not exceeding the previous one, whilst Rio is reported smaller than anticipated, both crops combined not to exceed about 12 million bags.

Shipments from Santos have been—

(July 1st to June 30th.)	1902-03.	1901-02.	1900-01.
	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
To Hamburg and Bremen	2,101,100	2,134,700	1,702,900
„ Havre	1,232,300	1,934,900	681,300
„ Rotterdam	867,000	1,187,400	967,000
„ Trieste and Fiume	547,200	585,200	557,500
„ Mediterranean	397,100	342,700	305,300
„ Antwerp	373,900	430,300	342,000
„ London	355,900	233,900	50,500
„ Copenhagen	38,500	52,300	73,600
	5,913,000	6,901,400	4,680,700
„ United States	2,579,800	2,820,800	3,105,200
„ La Plata	49,600	9,700	35,600
Total	8,542,400	9,731,900	7,821,500

The usual increase in stocks has set in in July, European stocks being 1,350 tons more and visible supply 31,370 tons more.

PEPPER.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon, report:—Trade demand has been extremely poor and local business has come to a standstill. Lampong pepper is not considered cheap compared to other descriptions. Stocks at the end of July were slightly more, 7,500 bags in Europe and 3,100 bags in the United States. Shipments from Singapore and Penang were heavy during the first half of the month, particularly to the United States. These features had an adverse influence on the speculative market, resulting in realisation per December and March. Quotations are  $\frac{3}{4}$ ct. down for near and  $1\frac{1}{4}$ cts. for distant positions and the report has vanished,  $32\frac{3}{4}$ cts. being the universal quotation for all positions except March  $32\frac{3}{4}$ cts. Dealings amounted to 27,200 bags or 202,600 bags since 1st January. August contracts 1,800 bags and tenders 1,400 bags.

Stocks of all kinds on the principal markets of Europe—

August 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.
	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Netherlands ...	37,600	59,200	62,600
London ...	53,800	70,900	93,300
Hamburg ...	6,200	12,600	14,300
Havre ...	22,300	71,800	92,000
Bordeaux ...	500	4,800	1,500
Marseilles ...	1,800	6,700	3,600
Trieste ...	10,000	10,000	17,800
Total ...	132,200	236,000	285,100
On July 1st ...	124,700	234,700	266,000

Arrivals in seven months.

1903.	1902.	1901.	
Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	
Stocks January 1st...	181,000	237,700	305,000
Netherlands ..	16,000	28,400	27,100
London ..	60,300	66,000	49,300
Hamburg ..	32,100	40,100	29,900
Havre ..	10,500	24,400	44,400
Bordeaux ..	800	8,200	1,700
Marseilles ..	19,700	27,200	19,500
Trieste..	18,700	13,300	17,700
Total ..	339,200	445,300	494,600
Stocks August 1st..	132,200	236,000	285,100
Deliveries in seven months ..	207,000	209,300	209,500
„ „ July ..	31,200	35,100	31,000
Arrivals „ „ ..	38,700	36,400	50,100

Stock in New York

1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	
Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	
On August 1st ...	18,000	11,900	20,800	19,500
„ July 1st ...	14,900	12,500	22,900	23,000

CINCHONA.

The N. Y. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe as follows:—

August.

Year	Amst.	Year	Amst.
	lbs.		lbs.
1903	1,100,000	1897	697,000
1902	1,857,000	1896	979,000
1901	1,067,000	1895	697,000
1900	977,000	1894	853,000
1899	1,200,000	1893	636,000
1898	1,047,000		

January—August.

Year	Amst.	Year	Amst.
	lbs.		lbs.
1903	8,120,000	1897	4,931,000
1902	8,396,000	1896	6,029,000
1901	7,524,000	1895	5,013,700
1900	5,724,000	1894	5,554,000
1899	7,230,800	1893	5,376,000
1898	7,136,000		

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S LTD.

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to

His Majesty  
The King.

CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.



## QUININE.

Pending the bark-sale at Amsterdam to-day, and the figures relating to the Java shipments for August, there has been no disposition to operate this week. The quoted spot price in second hands for good German sulphate in bulk is 11½d. per oz., with sellers of December delivery at 11¾d.

The landings during August amounted to 10,000 oz., and the deliveries 98,944 oz., making the stock on August 31, 3,194,048 oz., against 3,560,752 oz., in 1902.

## CARDAMOMS.

Offered, 807 packages. Sold, 489. In large supply and slow of sale. Ceylon *Mysore*, small, common at 8d., fair to good at 8½d. to 10d., medium at 11d. to 1s. 1d., fine bleached at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d., bold dull at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d., fair bleached at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., fine at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d., and better still at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d., splits at 8½d. to 10d., good bold at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d., selected at 2s. 2d., brown at 8d. to 11½d., and seeds at 1s. to 1s. 1d. per lb.

## MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING AUGUST FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

			IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
			1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	15,979,017	15,058,379	12,850,188	11,872,785	10,839,931	9,483,288
	{ Green	...	129,114	...	...	6,958	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	8,859,464	9,372,238	8,281,418	8,982,052	8,999,605	9,663,191
	{ Green	...	69,600	...	...	82,020	...	...
Java	...	...	634,060	563,640	263,200	662,060	530,040	499,870
China, etc.	...	...	3,702,613	3,507,181	2,963,194	2,446,893	2,125,370	1,569,087
Total lbs.			29,373,868	28,501,438	24,358,000	24,052,768	22,494,946	21,215,436

## FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF AUGUST.

			IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.	
			1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.
Indian	{ Black	...	22,808,632	23,455,208	18,723,793	36,193,519	31,657,978	25,270,143	28,430,759	35,954,300
	{ Green	...	194,258	...	...	11,138	...	...	193,283	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	28,089,148	30,984,469	27,586,658	25,028,056	26,290,102	25,700,888	24,634,836	26,998,671
	{ Green	...	272,724	...	...	204,792	...	...	292,556	...
Java	...	...	1,822,730	1,509,410	1,109,990	2,096,540	1,696,240	1,322,440	1,066,660	1,133,790
China, etc.	...	...	9,296,714	9,576,975	6,318,817	6,676,244	5,837,746	4,196,655	13,700,395	17,992,470
Total lbs.			63,484,206	65,526,062	53,739,258	70,210,289	65,482,066	56,490,126	68,318,489	82,079,231

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 8½d., SEPTEMBER 4TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.		Average.		Broken Org. Pek.		Pekoe and Unassorted		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	127	6·87	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Curzon	19	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pillay Mulla	55	6¾	55	6½ + 6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vellingher	53	6¾	...	...	26	6½	...	...	27	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore	2075	6·52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arnakal	217 p	6¾	63	+6¾ + 7	103	6¾	...	...	39	+6½	...	...	...	...	12½c	6
"	324 p	6¾	89	6¾ + 7¼	133	6¾	...	...	73	+6¾	...	...	7	6¼	22½c	6
Ashley	60	6¼	...	...	33	6	...	...	27	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balamore	180½c	6¼	...	...	65½c	6 6¼	...	...	59½c	6½	49½c	+5¾	3½c	5½	4½c	5¼
Corrimony	104½c	6½	...	...	41½c	6½	...	...	43½c	+6¾	...	...	17½c	6	3½c	5½
Ellangy	101 p	5¾	...	...	45	5¾	...	...	14	6¼	25	5½	...	...	17½c	5¾
Glenmary	105	6¾	50	6¾	...	...	...	...	30	7	25	6¼	...	...	...	...
Isfield T Co I	50	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	6¼	30	5¾	...	...	...	...
Ladrum	80	6¾	13	6¾	38	6½	...	...	20	7¼	9	6	...	...	...	...
Penshurst	115 p	6½	61	6½ 7¼	19	6¼	...	...	...	...	16	6¼	...	...	19½c	5¾
Seafeld	100½c	6½	...	...	52½c	6¼	...	...	36½c	7	7½c	6	2½c	5½	3½c	5¼
T T E Co Bon Ami.	140	6½	30	6¾	70	6¼	...	...	40	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Kolie Kanam.	82	6¾	36	6¾ 7	45	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Mount	147 p	6½	8	+6¾	43	6½	...	...	40	+6½	9	6¼	...	...	1	6
" Pambaner	106 p	6½	44	6½ 7¼	25	+6	...	...	18	6¾	...	...	...	...	47 p	5¾ 6¼
Vembenard	150	6¾	62	6¾	71	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	6¼
Woodlands	14½c	6¼	...	...	14½c	6¼	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	6½
Wynaad	388	6·55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrapetta T Co A	63	6¾	44	6¾	16	6¼	...	...	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...
" " "	40	6½	40	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Askern	76 p	6¼	56½c	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chulika	112 p	6¼	41½c	+6½	24	6¼	...	...	31½c	6¼	16	6	...	...	9	6
Kanambyle & Cher.	51	7½	16	9½	18	6¼	...	...	17	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mootoomulla	46 p	6¼	12	6¼	1 b	6¼	...	...	21½c	7	10	5¾	2	6	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1903.

[No. 39.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 9th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

September 28th.—*Weather*—Rain still with us. *Wind* S.-W. Days warm. *Works*—Handling, weeding. *Coffee*—very vigorous. *Supplies*—might be better. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Plenty.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 29th September.—*Weather*—It has been unusually wet throughout September. This has been bad for coffee. Leaf-disease is showing up badly in stiff soils. *Interesting item*—The Government Entomologist has been here. He is reported to have said that bug is easily got rid of. *General health*—Plague has now made a lodgment at Gonicopal, and five deaths from this cause have occurred in an estate here. *Labour*—equal to requirements.

#### Kotagiri.

1st October.—*Weather*—No signs of a break from the continual showers as yet. The total rain for September is 8 inches with scarcely a single fine day. This has made the attack of leaf-disease bad and prolonged. *Crop*—Fly-picking commencing. *Tea* has been flushing very well. *Health*—Poor, a good deal of fever. *Labour*—Still rather scarce as locals are at work on their crops, and resident coolies have not come in yet. *Interesting item*—Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy came here for three days to examine "Green Scale" and "Brown Bug," and hopes to come again next April to treat affected areas by spraying. He also inspected "Mealy Bug" and two Scab pests on young *Castilloa* Rubber trees.

### PLANTERS AND THE LABOUR LAW.

It is amusing, yet also distressing, to observe the attitude that many planters have taken up in respect to the Madras Planters' Labour Act I. of 1903. For a great many years past the planting communities in Southern India have agitated for a Labour Law that should give them satisfactory control over Estate labour. It was the common grievance on the score of the absence of such a law that caused the various District Associations to unite in the formation of a central body, representative of all the planting districts of the South. What was asked for in early stages was an amendment of Act XIII. of 1859. This was found to be impossible. The Planters' Enquiry Committee reported in favour of an additional Act. Such an Act was drafted, the draft was submitted to numerous revisions. Planters fought ably and boldly for certain desired amendments, and in some cases they gained their point. Having secured every concession he could, the "Planting Member" of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George yielded with a good grace to *force majeure*, and seconded the resolution that the Bill, as finally revised and amended, should be passed into law. In doing so, he did not arrive at a settlement of a long-debated question, but merely helped to carry it into a fresh sea of dissensions. Now, the Nilgiri Association has the credit of being the first in British India to ask for the application of the Act to the District it represents; but this credit does not count for much. For months past the Nilgiri planters have wavered, and now, when they have definitely declared a policy, it is only the casting vote of the Chairman that has enabled them to do so. However, the die is cast, and the new Act will no doubt receive a fair trial in the Nilgiri district. This marks an advance, and if other planting districts follow suit, desirable amendments in the Act may not be very far off. Every delay in regard to the application of the Act means a delay also in the eventual amendment of it at points where it is found to be ill-adapted to local requirements and the conditions of Estate labour in the different districts.

It would be well if planters would consider very carefully what they have a prospect of gaining by pursuing a policy of obstruction. They have obtained the best Act that the Government could give them. They have been invited to give it a



trial, and then, if there is anything wrong, to approach the Government with representations based upon the results of experience. Apparently some of them think that they have a choice between Act XIII. of 1859 and Act I. of 1903. By the favour of the Madras Government this is so at the present time; but will it always be so? It is said that Act XIII. of 1859 is in some ways useful to the Government of India; but that is no reason why it should not be withdrawn from the Madras Presidency and the Native States of Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin. After the way in which successive Governments have been worried about reforms in the Labour Law as applicable to planting districts, no blame would attach to the present administrations if they decided to withdraw the alternative Act upon which planters now seem desirous of relying after urging for many years its manifest flaws and deficiencies. Left without Act XIII. of 1859, repudiating Act I. of 1903, where would the planters of any particular district be? If they will reflect upon this, they will probably decide not to drive the Government to extremities. We do not think that the Madras Government have adopted quite the attitude that they should have done; the reflections that have been cast upon planters because of their non-acceptance of an Act which is certainly not on the exact lines that they desired, are largely unfair. Still, planters themselves have not in all cases been so fair as they might have been in their criticisms. Let the past go. The present shows, as the past showed, that the power is in the hands of Government. It is vain to kick against the pricks. By submitting now, planters will at least place themselves in the position to test the capabilities of the new law. If there are defects, they will come to light, and, we have no doubt, be removed. But, if planters decline to give the law the necessary trial, there will be no proof of the existence of defects in it, and, sooner or later, they may find themselves in the position of accepting this Act or having none at all, and of having to negotiate with a Government whose sympathies they have wilfully alienated.

There is not a doubt about one thing. Every district that holds aloof from the new law will be regarded by the Madras Government as refractory. That is how the Government will regard the matter. The Government will continue to hold a weapon with which they can bring the refractory districts to reason. Is it likely that they will long refrain from using this weapon, *viz.* the power to deprive the districts referred to of the very doubtful advantages of Act XIII. of 1859? We think not. That is why we would add our exhortation to those of the present Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and the "Planting Member" and strenuously advocate the acceptance of the new Act in every planting district of the Madras Presidency and, with such modifications as can be obtained from Local Administrations, in Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, and Coorg. There is virtually no appeal against the decision of the Government of Madras. The Government of India is known to take a far less sympathetic view of the exigencies of estate labour and the contracts that are necessary to secure it. The Government of Madras hold the key to the position. They say that there is no case against the new law, but, at the same time, they admit that a case may possibly be made out as the result of practical application of this law. The right course for planters to take is as clear as any one could desire. They must give the Act a trial, note down the defects, collate their notes, and in due course, after, say, a year's trial, approach the

Government once more and state the results of practical and fair experience. If this course be taken, we feel convinced that their efforts to secure necessary amendments will not be in vain.

## U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### REGULATION OF SUPPLIES OF TEA TO THE LONDON MARKET.

The Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, has issued the following circular dated 19th September, 1903: "You will doubtless have noticed from the proceedings of the Meeting of the General Committee of this Association, held on the 1st September, that a movement had been set on foot in London to continue the regulation of offerings of black teas at the London sales. The General Committee are now informed by the Committee of the Indian Tea Association, London, that it has been arranged to spread the offerings over the season until the end of June next. In view of this arrangement the General Committee would recommend members not to hasten the despatch of their teas from the Gardens.

It has been suggested that the regulation of sales should be attempted in Calcutta also, but for a shorter period, say until 31st March next. In this connection I am directed to enquire whether members of this Association are prepared to assent to the proposal."

A reply was solicited before the end of September.

## COFFEE NOTES.

**A Brazilian Coffee Corner.**—A telegram from New York dated August 31 was thus transcribed in London papers:—

The following telegram has been received from Rio de Janeiro: "The 'Jornal do Commercio' announces that a syndicate of Americans is about to purchase the whole stock of coffee at 10,000 réis in Arroba."

The ignorance here displayed will scarcely surprise those of our readers who know how little interest is taken by the general Home Press in the important subject of Coffee cultivation. Of course, what is meant is "10,000 réis per arroba."

\* \* \*

**Say Coffee Will Rise.**—Messrs. J. S. Bache & Co., New York, in their weekly circular, say:—

"We are not disposed to question, however, but what there may be many advances between now and December, and we are inclined to look for a rather more active market. Prices are low, and adverse crop news will prove very tempting to the speculatively-inclined outsider. We do not believe any advance justified that is not based on an actual curtailment in productive capacity; but scalping operations on the long side might not be unwise for the next two or three months. Don't think, however, that it would be good policy to buy a thousand bags or so and store it away with the idea that prices will go up 5c. or 6c. a pound. There is too much coffee for that."

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Actual Coffee has been moderately active at unchanged and steady prices for Brazil



grades, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of September 1. The Brazil market itself is ragged and the tendency is to make concessions in the firm offers. Certainly the Brazil coffee is moving. A recent offer to the New York market was 4.94 and 5c. c. & f. in Rio No. 7, which was regarded high. Rio No. 7 at 5.10c. store terms has been refused here. The movement of the present crop continues heavy, averaging 70,000 bags in the daily receipts. The increase in the world's visible supply will probably prove 600,000 bags, bringing the total up to 13,000,000 bags. The reports of drouths have been displaced by those of rains.

In spot invoice there is a quiet market. Quotations are 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 8, 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 7, 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and 5 $\frac{1}{8}$  to 6c. for Santos No. 4. Jobbing business is fairly active. A complaint of jobbers is that wholesale houses are importing coffee heavily on their own account, a change not welcomed by them as tending to narrow their business opportunities. Much such complaint is general in grocery lines. The wholesalers are branching out.

In option coffee the market has been active but mainly in switching September into the distant months. The September liquidation was very large and of course few desired to receive the coffee. Hence the switching which was done at 85 points into March and 100 points into next May, realizing rather profitable margins. Not a little switching was done into November at 20 to 25 points. This month offers fine opportunity in a speculative way. The assumption is that a change in the value of grading of coffee will be ordered next November by the Grading Committee of the Exchange, which

## BASEL MISSION WEAVING ESTABLISHMENT, CALICUT, MALABAR.

### MANUFACTORY OF COTTON GOODS.

VARIOUS PATTERNS IN

TROUSERINGS AND COATINGS, GINGHAMS  
AND LADIES' DRESS MATERIALS.

### LARGE ASSORTMENT IN

WHITE TABLE LINEN AND TEA TABLE CLOTHS WITH NAPKINS TO  
MATCH (WITH KNITTED OR HEMMED FRINGES ACCORDING  
TO ORDER), TABLE CLOTHS IN DIFFERENT COLORED  
DESIGNS, BED AND TOILET  
LINEN, FACE AND BATH  
TOWELS.

### TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT

For making up Suits according to measurements, or  
Pattern Suit sent.

For Price List, apply to

BASEL MISSION WEAVING ESTABLISHMENT.

may order a reduction of 25 points from 50 points in the grades and it may not be uniform. The change will be made necessary should the wide divergence between the prices of actual and optional coffee continue. The tendency is to narrow again and the change may not be ordered. In that event some profits may not be realized. In consequence of the cessation of the September liquidation the market again rules flat, and the next move will probably hover around November, in which in the course of the last twelve months there has been enormous trading, insuring very heavy liquidation when the month arrives.

In mild coffee supplies are plentiful and buyers not overzealous to come out. Concessions are possible in the quiet market. Good Cucuta is quoted at 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. East India coffees are quiet.

\* \* \*

**Mt. Pelee Eruption and the Coming Coffee Crop.**—An optimistic London coffee house says:—"Ever since Mount Pelee, climatic conditions have been upset all over the globe to the detriment of good crops in any country, and it is quite possible that Brazil in its turn may have adverse conditions for the new crop." Possible, yes; but probable?

\* \* \*

Exports from Hawaii to the United States in the last twelve months included 1,852,162 pounds of coffee, an increase of 800,000 pounds over the preceding corresponding period.

\* \* \*

The popular price for blended coffee is 25c. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per pound, says the *American Grocer*, and it is surprising what fine grades can be had at that price.

\* \* \*

Reports from Jamaica in regard to coffee plantations are very meagre. There is less than 1,000 bags of Jamaica coffee in the New York, says the *American Grocer*. The finest marks bring 12@14c.

\* \* \*

Ordinary grades of mild coffee cannot be sold except at a concession from quoted figures, while choice to fancy grades command full figures, and often beyond quoted prices.

### TEA NOTES.

**Pingsueys, Congous, and Country Teas.**—Messrs. Wisner & Co., writing from Shanghai, on August 1, say that in black teas only a very limited business has been done, and prices have shown little change, closing weak. Good, clean, common tea has dropped two taels per picul on the Hankow market. Stock is 16,391 half-chests. Settlements reported are as follows: Ningchow, taels, 20.50 to 32.00; Oopack, taels, 16.50.

In green teas, country teas, these have continued to come to market freely and early in the interval found buyers at full rates. During the second part of the period under review, the market has been a falling one and buyers cautious. From the highest point prices of "fully good," to "choicest" chops have fallen 4 taels and of "common" to "medium" 3 taels per picul. "Kiukang Packs," "Wenchows," and "Local Packs" have continued to sell at comparatively cheap rates; at the close there is very little inquiry for them.

Shipments to August 1 to the United States have been 4,004,778 pounds black tea against 5,468,691 last year and 5,352,376 pounds green against 4,185,585 last year; to



Canada, 384,532 pounds black against 376,532 pounds last year, and 236,000 pounds green, 102,414 pounds last year.

\* \* \*

**Ceylon Teas for Japan?**—Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., Yokohama, August 13, say of Japan tea:—

“Judging from the present talk among native tea-men, they seem to take about the same languid interest in the local tea market from now to the end of the season that the habitual ‘fan-tan’ player does after three quarters of the cash in the game has been withdrawn, that is, they seem to know just how it is coming out. They say to-day, for instance, that there will be only seventeen days more picking (the growers having agreed to stop picking September 1) and the narrower the margin of production becomes the more confident they feel of their ability to take care of the present stock and probable addition and in consequence, signs of weakness on the part of holders is nowhere apparent to buyers for export.

“When we explain to them with painful particularity, the inroads Ceylon and India teas are making in the American and Canada trade for cheap Japans they miss the point entirely, and ask childlike and blandly if it is not possible for them to import some of the cheap Ceylons for home consumption in Japan! ‘These Mongolians is improvin’.

“Will an export of 42,000,000 from Japan cover the requirements of America and Canada for this season?”

The exported during the current season to August 11 has been 22,461,148 lbs. of which 5,551,555 lbs. were for New York, *via* Pacific Ocean and 3,480,963 lbs. *via* the Suez Canal; 3,551,963 lbs. for San Francisco, 10,550,863 pounds for Chicago, and 2,228,623 pounds in Canada. The total one year ago at this time was 19,244,527 pounds.

\* \* \*

**Report on Formosa Teas.**—Messrs. Tait & Co's circular, Amoy, July 20, says:—

FORMOSA OOLONGS.—Arrivals to the Tamsui market total some 300,000 half-chests, against at even date last year 265,000 half-chests. During the period under review market has been active, and after receipt of news of the fire on board ss. *Heathford* cargo teas were forced up \$2 to \$3. Fine grades met with good demand, but quality is very indifferent. They have strong water, but lack the true Formosa flavor. Choice grades have all been bought up, and we do not expect to see more from subsequent pickings. Chinese packers are having a very bad season, and all the profits made last year have been lost; but the grower is making good profits. Prices in the country keep very firm. We quote as follows:—Good, \$39 to \$41, duty paid; good to superior, \$46 to \$48, duty paid; superior, \$52 to \$55, duty paid; superior to fine, \$58 to \$63, duty paid; fine, \$68 to \$71, duty paid; finest, \$80 to \$90, duty paid.

Exports to the United States to July 16 were 5,569,034 pounds, against 5,367,721 pounds last year. Arrivals of Tamsui Oolong were 300,000 half-chests, against 275,775 half-chests one year ago, and settlements, 265,000 half-chests, against 255,000 half-chests then.

\* \* \*

**Report on Japan Teas.**—Messrs. M. J. Brandenstein & Co. say of Japan tea:—“Since our last, second crops are being marketed. The market has been weak on lower grades of poor steeping quality, but very firm on good drawing teas. Buying has been anything but active for the time of the

year, due to the undesirable offerings. The fine and good grades have been very scarce. Stylish basket-fired leaf is exceptionally meagre. Quality, on an average, about the same as last season. Style: Teas on offer are on the basis of last year.”

The settlements of Japan tea at Yokohama to July 30, and Kobe to July 28, are as follows:—

Choicest	...	60	3,875	...
Choice	...	55-59	11,147	...
Finest	...	50-54	25,140	...
Fine	...	45-49	44,703	5,159
Good medium	...	41-44	49,850	20,061
Medium	...	36-39	34,790	46,378
Good common	...	32-35	28,382	67,542
Common	...	28-31	29,767	56,204
Sundries	...	27	26,575	22,896
Totals	...	...	254,229	216,240

\* \* \*

Last year the tea from China for European Russia took the old route *via* the Amur, and importers will use the same route this year, although the freight charge *via* Dalny and the Chinese Eastern Railway is lower than by the Amur, and duty need not be paid in advance, while it must be so paid on the Amur. The reason is that insurance companies refuse to take the tea risks across Manchuria.

\* \* \*

Up to the present time South African-grown tea has not been able to find a large market, and whether the public taste can be educated in that direction remains to be seen. It is proposed to help it much in South Africa by tariff preferences, and a new duty of 5 shillings per 100 lbs. *plus* an *ad valorem* on all imported teas is under suggestion. Ceylon and Indias *via* London are chiefly used.

\* \* \*

**Tea-Planting and Tea-Drinking.**—A correspondent writes from Germany to *Commercial Intelligence*:—In view of the satisfactory results of experiments in tea-planting on a small scale in the Cameroons, the Government has decided to go in for planting on a much larger scale. Good varieties from Ceylon and the Himalayan district are to be cultivated. Talking of tea, I find that a good deal of “Russian” tea consumed in Germany is bought in London. There is a prejudice in favour of Russian teas, and the German dealers accommodate themselves to it by putting up Ceylon and Indian teas in wrappers printed with Russian characters. Thus the Teutonic consumer gets a very good article for his money, while, at the same time, his Russian bias is borne in mind. An East Prussian general dealer told me that he did quite “a roaring trade” in Mincing Lane “Russian.” I hope our tea-dealers have noted that the tea duty in the new German tariff stands at 12s. 8½d. instead of £2 10s. 10d. per cwt., and made preparations to work the German market directly the new advantageous rate comes into force.

\* \* \*

Mr. Larkin is indefatigable in his demand for a British-made Oolong tea, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, and his zeal in lecturing Mincing Lane and other Indian sources of supply continues unabated, and of course he provokes discussion and the desire on the part of some to attempt to slake his thirst for an Indian Oolong. Mr. Larkin says he needs it in his business, and he threatens really to buy Formosas should his patriotic wishes pass unheeded, and unrealized. On the face of things Mr. Larkins's concern deserves praise and recognition, and eventually, success.



However, the trade on this side of the Atlantic understands that Mr. Larkin does employ Formosas or China Oolongs in his blends, and is inclined to wonder at his ambition. It is inclined to the belief that the Canadian tea-man is a bear on Formosa tea, being a purchaser rather than a grower and therefore wanting tea at least possible cost. A considerable production of India Oolong tea would greatly add to the world's supply of Oolongs, demand for which is limited to not more than 20 million pounds, and prices would necessarily be forced down. While some India tea men think that an India Oolong can be made fully as good as Formosa, the tea trade generally holds that the peculiar excellencies in the Formosa tea is produced by Formosa soil, which cannot be duplicated, and Indian growers have themselves ascertained that a Formosa tea plant when transplanted in Indian soil reverts to the worst China types. However, there is a general agreement that the growing and manufacture of Formosa Oolongs is not thoroughly understood outside of the island. Let the experiments and subsequent events be what they may, it should seem hard to displace the popular and excellent tea, and it would be a pity, events actually producing the tea elsewhere than on the Island of Formosa, to see the Oolong so meet with a fall in prices as to affect the quality produced, and this may well be feared. India and Ceylon tea-men have produced wonderful things in the tea world, and if they want a British Oolong for British men and commerce and can supply it as good as any grown, why, we suppose, it will come about. Meantime, Mr. Larkin's real motive should be understood.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—More general trading is reported in tea but very little in a large way, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of September 1, buyers continuing disinclined to anticipate wants; prices are steady locally and firm abroad with some instances of advances.

It is now thought that no large business will be done before October. Buyers expect or at least hope for a decline, and will not enter the market except to satisfy immediate wants. From the inquiry that is general it would appear that stocks are getting low, at least in some much-desired teas, and eventually replenishing must ensue. The expectation is that the demand will come in a lump.

While teas of low grade are generally expected to show a decline as the season proceeds, an admission freely made by many importers, firm rates at the present high basis of values is reported as the common expectation for teas of superior grades. They are relatively scarce, and are in strong hands. Moreover, the consuming market is supposed to be more or less barren of them.

Japan teas continue hardening, and, in the course of the week, are up 1 cent for all grades. Picking stops to-day, and while a full crop will be shipped, the barren condition of the market here is expected to take all the tea offered and at the sellers' rates. A pretty battle is on between bulls and bears in this tea, and in the maintenance of price the advantage so far lies with the bulls. Formosas are up a cent, but it is only a recovery. Two weeks ago the sellers in the East experienced a panic because of the lack of buying from this side, and they made concessions which prompted considerable buying, which in turn induced the recovery. The better grades are reported scarce, and should continue to bask in the sunshine of high prices. Congous are steady, and as a drug on the market are being displaced by Foochow for

which there is no sale. The bulk of last year's large importation is still here unsold, together with some of the crop of the preceding season; of the present crop some 100,000 packages remained unsettled in China. The green teas remain steady, and their immediate future is problematical. The supply is plentiful. Indias and Ceylons are firm; the quality has much improved and they are in much less supply, London reporting 2,000,000 pounds of tea in stock at the end of July 1 last less than at any time since July 1, 1900. The missing supplies are thought to have come direct to America and not *via* London as heretofore. Nevertheless, it is well to note that the London market is firm.

Canada reports that in its market it might be anticipated that Japan teas are ranging 15 to 16c. for good; common or medium may be obtainable, the quality probably being a little coarser than last year's. Fine quality of all descriptions now evidently being off the market in Japan, holders there look for a good trade on such when business resumes activity, which is likely now the holiday season is over. "Tea for price" having been the demand for some years past, the flat flavored Ceylon imitation of Japan teas had been in demand; whereas, with the expectation of Japans now reaching 15 to 16c., with fair quality of cup, the desire of consumers will be to obtain Japan teas.

New fannings are very scarce, and the Canada market takes them at 8 to 8½c., while new siftings are quoted 6c. or over, according to quality.

\* \* \*

**American Market as Viewed in Japan.**—Writing from Kobe on August 12, the Japan Tea Exporting Co. says:—

"Our last report was dated July 22. Since then there has been a continued demand for low-grade teas, and some active business has taken place, the result being great scarcity of stock, which naturally caused prices to advance. After the turn of the month, however, all buyers assumed a cautious attitude, holding aloof from operating, except for filling only pressing requirements, and in consequence a somewhat quieter feeling has prevailed on the market.

"Prices have advanced for medium and downward grades by Y1, which is about Y2 higher compared with the prices ruling at the corresponding period last year, while goods of fine and higher grades, owing to the absence of demand, exhibit some weakness, though if compared with the quotation last year, the price is still Y1 higher.

"Small transactions have taken place in Yokohama for the third tea crop, for which prices more favorable than was anticipated are maintained there. It appears that high prices are anticipated, owing to limited arrivals being expected in consequence of a Resolution passed in the Shizuoka districts to suspend the picking of the leaf on and after August 31. On the other hand, on account of unfavorable news which has of late been received regarding the American markets, buyers hesitate to come forward to operate, and the result is the absence of free transactions. It is, however, expected that when larger quantities begin to appear on the market there will be a fair amount of business done. Only a small quantity of Ise third crop tea has arrived in Kobe, and this calls for no special comment.

"Although the demand which has recently increased for the low-grade teas has compelled shipments from the interior, yet the available stock remains small, the consequence being that the market is steadily maintained, goods equal to United States standard, being worth 16 cents delivered in the United



States. As to the report that it has been quoted at 15 cents delivered in the United States, there have never been any transactions at such a price, and it may, therefore be concluded that whoever made the offer on such a basis must have had some special motive for so doing.

"As one or other of the foreign firms continue buying, it is likely that the existing conditions will continue to be maintained, and that prices will not undergo any serious decline."

\* \* \*

**Tea in the United States.**—Inquiry is general as to how much tea is in the United States at the present time, and the following may give a line on the quantity in the country July 1 last:—

In principal Warehouses, January 1	...	90,971,210 lbs.
January Imports	...	9,611,430 "
February "	...	5,831,410 "
March "	...	4,158,527 "
April "	...	1,389,510 "
May "	...	1,933,737 "
June "	...	4,318,489 "
Total	...	118,204,316 "

Exports for six months, 4,000,000 lbs.; net imports, 114,204,316 lbs.; consumption, six months, 42,000,000 lbs.; stocks July 1, 72,000,000 lbs.

Consumption in the United States is put at between 5,000,000 and 7,000,000 lbs. monthly. The imports in July were at least equal to the consumption.

\* \* \*

**London Tea Market.**—Cabling to Colombo on the 24th ultimo Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton reported a dull market, but no change in the average, 7½d. Reuter announced that common qualities were steady and others firm, but also made no change in the average. Of Ceylons, 18,000 packages were sold out of 20,000 offered. There were 43,000 packages Indian Tea offered and 35,000 sold. Average 8d. (¼d. up).

\* \* \*

Receipts of Rio and Santos continue large, and will probably beat the August record of any previous year, says the *American Grocer*.

\* \* \*

Java teas are not included in the Russian increased duty.

\* \* \*

The use of cinnamon as a flavour for tea is not uncommon in Switzerland, according to some writers, the spice being added to the leaf before brewing the tea.

\* \* \*

Green teas in China are known as Sunglos, Moyunes, Hychows, Fychows, Tienkes, Tayshings, Pingsueys, Cantons and country green teas, which varieties are subdivided into gunpowders, imperials, hysons, young hysons, hyson-pekoe, and hyson-skin. Chinese black teas comprise Oolongs, Congous, Souchongs, and scented teas.

\* \* \*

**Advertisement.**—Would it not prove a novel and effective method of advertising tea to introduce the Chinese tea-ball in grocery stores? asks the *Merchants' Review*. It is a small hollow metal ball, divided in the middle and perforated with many minute holes. The halves are filled with dry tea, and then fastened together and suspended from an ornamental chain into a cup of boiling water. After being swung to and fro for a few moments the tea-ball is withdrawn, the water

in the cup having acquired the desired strength and flavour from the tea. As a novelty to be given away the tea-ball might prove a valuable advertisement.

\* \* \*

The *Investors' Guardian* of September 5 concludes a two-page article on Indian tea results in 1902 as follows:—

"The troubles of the Indian and Ceylon planters are not, it would seem, by any means over, and competition from these two sources must be carefully watched. Another matter which will have to receive attention is the deterioration in the older plant, which is reported from Assam and other districts. Then there is the exportation of inferior tea—the stuff which is sold in Mincing Lane for 'exportation only.' The fact that some tea has been rejected in America and shipped to England has led the London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon* to wittily give tea a threefold division, such as many other things have. This classification is:

First, teas which are fit for the citizens of the United States; second, teas which are not good enough for them, but which are suitable for the inhabitants of the United Kingdom; third, teas which will not do for Britishers, but are good enough for 'foreign devils' as the Chinese have it.

Some consolation for the planters may be found in the fact that Germany has recently reduced the duty on tea from about 5½d. to 1·34d. Some of the Colonial Press cite the States, Australia, and Canada, where there is no tea duty, as examples for the mother-country to follow."

## NOTES.

### Dutch Quinine.

The Amsterdam Quinine-works advanced their prices on September 4 by 1f. for Ed. II. and 1·50f. per kilo. for Ed. III., their quotations being 22f. and 27f. per kilo., respectively.

### Autres Pays Autres Mœurs.

In Turkey they drink the grounds of coffee with the water, and in Japan they often drink the tea, leaves and all, the leaves being reduced to a powder. Paraguayans drink maté tea in the same manner.

### The Frisco Market.

The *Weekly Commercial News* of 27th August reports regarding San Francisco:—Coffees hold fairly steady for choice grades, but lower grades are in abundance and weak. Japan teas also show some slight weakness.

### New York.

Tea and coffee, as sold in some parts of New York, are so much improved in quality of late years that the fact forcibly obtrudes itself upon one's attention. We record it as a tribute to the skill and honesty of the New York grocers.

### German Quinine, etc.

During the six months ending June (the latest figures available) the exports of quinine, quinine-preparations, etc., from Germany were as follows:—

		1901.	1902.	1903.
Kilos.	...	111,800	96,000	74,000
Marks	...	4,696,000	3,456,000	2,664,000

### Java Quinine.

At the tender of Java quinine held at Batavia on September 9, 6,091 kilos. Ed. II. were offered, of which 1,230 kilos. were sold at an average of 17f. 30c., per kilo. (about equal to 6·40 cents Amsterdam unit), against 18f. per kilo. paid at the previous tender. The next tender will take place on October 14.



**Tablets.**

Tablet coffee is now being manufactured. It is practically a distilled product, and the U. S. Government is examining the article with a view to army use. Concentrated tea should be added to the grocer's stock, if the coffee tablet takes with the public, and then there will no longer be excuse for badly-made tea and coffee.

**A Warning.**

Tea and coffee blends have this peculiar characteristic in common, namely, that damaged, mouldy, and ill-flavoured goods cannot be improved by being mixed with sound goods. This is most conspicuous in tea blending. A bad-smelling tea, instead of being helped by mixing with finer leaf, will spoil the good tea without being itself improved.

**India's Tea Production.**

Messrs. Wm. Jas. and Hy. Thompson, in their Report dated September 10, say: "The return relating to the Tea industry in India, of exceptional interest, affords additional strength to the views now widely current as to the future, for it shows that from all India, including Travancore, there are only some 24,000 acres to mature, or at a liberal estimate, say, 12 million lbs. more Tea to deal with, which is equivalent to only one month's consumption in the U. K. Any increase, therefore, above this in the annual yield must be due to exceptionally favourable seasons or a freer system of plucking."

**Russia's Tea Duty.**

In their report dated 10th ultimo Messrs. George White & Co. of London, remarks:—"It is now officially stated that the levy on Ceylon and Indian Teas imported into Russia by the European frontier and the Black Sea is raised from 31 roubles 50 copecks per pood to 33 roubles. This amounts to an increase of fractionally over 1d., per lb. or approximately 1s. 11½d. per lb. altogether, and is fortunately less serious than at first reported. The duty on China Tea remains as before, a stricter supervision to be exercised regarding the origin and place of despatch." It should be added that the duty on Java Tea has also not been raised, and that the new regulation means a preference of 1½d. per lb. to China and Java over British-grown tea.

**Highway Robbery of a Planter.**

A correspondent writes to the *Madras Mail*:—"Mr. A. W. Brodie, a well-known Nilgiri planter, left Coonoor on the morning of Wednesday, the 23rd ultimo, on his way to visit the Waterfall Estate on the Anamalais. He arrived by train at Podanur and left that place in a country cart about 7 P.M. When, within nine miles of Pollachi, he was attacked by a gang of ruffians and was beaten and robbed of everything he had with him. His arm is broken, and he had to walk the whole distance of nine miles, without boots, and streaming with blood. The Assistant Collector at Pollachi (like a good Samaritan) is now kindly looking after him, and he lies in his house in a wounded and bruised condition. All this happened on the well-known road to Pollachi in British Territory. Where were the Police? Is there no safety for life and property on the King's highway? Along this very road His Excellency the Governor will pass next month on his way to visit the Anamalais. It is surely high time that some enquiry should be made, as to the lawlessness of this District, and that this band of ruffians should be hunted down.

**The Clove Supply.**

The Zanzibar clove crop of 1902 was the smallest recorded during the last decade. Picking began early and continued later than usual, yet in some districts, notably in Pemba, a considerable quantity of cloves remained to be gathered at the end of the year. The labour available at harvest time is altogether inadequate, and although every effort is made to remedy this deficiency, a very large proportion of each year's crop remains unpicked. The market price at the beginning of the year stood at about \$3 50c. per frasila for Zanzibar, and \$3 30c. for Pemba cloves, but the demand was not great; from March to the end of September the quotation fluctuated between \$2 93c. and \$3 29c.; during the two following months the prices were steady at from \$3 40c. to \$3 60c. for Zanzibar, and from \$3 20c. to \$3 50c. for Pemba produce, but fell towards the end of December to \$3 30c. and \$3 17c. respectively. The average price throughout the year was about 3½d. per lb. These particulars are given by the Consul, who also quotes statistics showing that of the cloves exported, £136,172 in total value, £69,012 went to British India, £31,495 to Holland, and £16,872 to the United Kingdom. Why not try Clove cultivation in Southern India?

**Java Government Cinchona.**

From the report of the Government cinchona-plantations in Java for the first three months of this year it appears that the rainfall during this period has been abnormally heavy, and the heavy gales, which occurred chiefly in February, caused a considerable amount of damage to the plantations. On the other hand, the trees have suffered little from insect-pests. The continued drought of last year has had a favourable effect on the diseased trees, but it has stimulated the vegetation to such an extent that this may prove to be not entirely without some adverse influence on the harvest. The seedling-plantations promise a rich yield of valuable seed towards the end of the present year. There was no lack of labour during the period under review, and, as a consequence, the cultivation of the soil was commenced in March. At the end of the quarter the total shipments of bark to Tandjong Priok amounted to 190 tons; this includes 90 tons which had been held over from the 1902 harvest in order not to depress the low quotations then ruling. At the end of the quarter the demand for labour from other sides increased greatly; this led to an advance in wages amounting to about 4s. per ton. On March 7 a seed-auction was held, which produced nearly £940. The prices paid included £304 for forty-eight packets of hybrid seed of 25 grams each, and £42 for six packets Succirubra seed of 50 grams each.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****PRODUCE AND PLANTING.**

The report which gained currency last week that Russia contemplated increasing the duty on British-grown tea has now been confirmed by Reuter. The import duty on Indian and Ceylon teas imported into Russia by the European frontier and the Black Sea is increased from 31 roubles 50 copecks per pood to 33 roubles, the import duty on China teas remaining unchanged at the former figure. The reasons for this increase appear to be a wish to check the growing trade in Indian tea, the imports of which into Russia have, we believe, reached 20 million pounds annually, and is as yet in its infancy, and to encourage the import of China tea by the Trans-Siberian Railway. It may also be a little piece of retaliation



for India's countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar. Russian buyers are in evidence both in Colombo and Calcutta, and have for years selected the best tea they can get, particularly Darjeeling growth, to satisfy the demand for good tea in their own country, so that any vexatious increase in the duty will be a serious matter, both in their own interest and in that of the tea-producing countries of India and Ceylon.

Mr. George Seton's table of the working of the representative Indian tea companies has been referred to in many of the papers, and, as a rule, the comments based on it have been favourable to the outlook for Indian tea. "The Critic" is an exception, for while admitting that the table indicates very gratifying progress on the part of the Indian tea industry, it declines to draw entire comfort from the present situation. It says that the improvement will have to be carried very much farther before a large part of the capital now employed in the industry can be remunerative. It points out the danger of another glut of tea, unless consumption continues to expand considerably, and winds up with the remark that even the best of the companies' shares at current prices would involve considerable risks. This may be regarded as a pessimistic view of the position, but tea-growers will be wise if they accept and act on, as far as they can, any warnings on the subject of over-production. In this connection we notice the *Overland Times* of Ceylon has the following: "In the first half of this month Northern India has shipped to London over 3,000,000 lbs. of tea more than in the corresponding fortnight of 1902 and 2,000,000 lbs. more than in 1901. The tea has been going forward with a rush since last month. Providence may be kinder this year than we have any right to expect; but the prospect is a fall in Indian prices later on. We can only continue to advocate short supplies from Ceylon, with a correspondingly high quality."

In a long review of Mr. Seton's table the *Grocer* says: "The Indian tea companies raising the heaviest quantities of tea during 1902-03 were the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company (the largest of all) with 11,436,700 lbs.; next the Assam Frontier, the Assam, the Dooars, Nedeem, the Imperial, the Jokai (Assam), and Empire of India yielding from 3,380,000 lbs. to 3,999,000 lbs.; and the Doom Dooma, Chargola, Brahmaputra, and Amalgamated Estates with crops from 2,004,420 lbs. to 2,607,550 lbs. Companies raising amounts between 1,018,400 lbs. and 1,957,280 lbs. tea in the season were the Allynugger, the Jetinga Valley, the Jhanzie, the Sephinjuri Bheel, the Majuli, the Baraora, the Moabund, the Chubwa, the East India and Ceylon, the Singlo, the Jorehaut, and the Lungla (Sylhet). Others which grew crops differing in size from 778,800 lbs. to 963,810 lbs. tea were the Eastern Assam, the Rajmai, the Attaree Khat, the Lankapara, the Derby, the British Indian, and the Doloo; whilst the companies producing the lightest growths of tea were the Longai Valley, the Makum, the Meenglas, the Chandpore, the Darjeeling, the Indian of Cachar, the Lebong, the Hunwal, the Dejo, the Moran, the Scottish Assam, the British Assam, the Darjeeling Consolidated, and the Balijan, varying by small degrees from 685,980 lbs. down to 360,170 lbs. tea as their entire outturn for the past season. In paying dividend one company takes credit for a 20 per cent. rate and another for 15 per cent. Five companies paid 10 per cent., two were good for 9 per cent., three for 8 per cent., one paid  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., one 7 per cent., four 6 per cent., three 4 to 5 per cent., and ten had to be content with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. A solitary instance was afforded where only a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. rate was declared, and there were thirteen tea companies which failed to pay anything in the shape of a dividend for the whole year's working of their industries."

The trade of India with Chinese and Russian Turkestan passes mainly through Leh (Zadakh) in Kashmir. Leh is not a central market, but merely a village which chance and geographical position have made a convenient spot for registration. In 1901-02 the total trade between India and Central Asia amounted to £151,000, or 24 per cent. more than in 1900-01. The relatively small export of tea *via* Leh is partly Indian tea from native gardens round Palampur, partly China tea brought in increasing quantities from Bombay. Indian tea seems unlikely to succeed in Central Asian and Tibetan markets unless an article more closely resembling Chinese brick tea can be supplied.

In a book entitled "Tea Hints for Retailers," by John H. Blake, Denver, Colo., the author is of opinion that the China teas will be retired from the markets of the world through the overwhelming and superior commercial methods of their rivals, which the Chinese innately are unable to take up. The tea-growing experiments in South Carolina are referred to and approved by the author, who would go so far as to assist it with proper tariff consideration, which, as he thinks, would assuredly bring into bloom a valuable American industry and at the same time compel, so far as demand compelled it, the use of a superior tea from abroad, low grades being prevented from coming in on account of the additional tax.

This is the way they puff Japan tea in Chicago. It appears in a small monthly called *Gude Thynges*. "Tea time. The new Japan crop of 1903 has just come in. Is there anything about tea that is romantic to you? Anything away up the Omar Khayyam scale, with odors of pomegranates in Arabian Nights gardens? Yes? We thought so, but—our tea, our new Japan tea of this season's harvesting. May we brew a sermonette about tea—our tea? It won't be uninteresting. It's in, our new, fresh Japan tea. Now tea, though a dried leaf, may almost be said to be a dried flower. The dried flower, exposed to the air, must give back to the sun its subtle aroma. So the dried leaf, so tea. Fresh tea, then, has properties that vanish in the open. So they who buy tea in small quantities from our great chests and cannisters cannot know tea in its fullest value. But there is a way to do this. Buy tea in original packages of 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 pounds. Then you have tea direct from the Japanese garden to the Chicago teapot, and with a saving of 5 cents or more a pound. In tea, as in other things, the choice is at the tiptop. The tip of the plant and its two or three nearest leaves furnish the world's perfect tea. Down the branch are other larger and tougher leaves, from which comes tea of inferior delicacy. Blend some or all of these leaves and you have all known market varieties. We are great importers, as you know. We do not take what comes; we direct what shall come. Our Japan tea, just in, fired on porcelain plates, was first picked from gardens of our own selection, and came to us by fast mail steamers. The crop for high-class Japan teas ran about 33 per cent. short this year."

The *Journal of the Society of Arts* prints some extracts from a lecture delivered at the University Extension Meeting at Oxford on August 3 by Professor Raphael Meldola, F.R.S., on the relations between scientific research and chemical industry. Referring to the coal tar colour industry, the lecturer says:—The coal tar colour industry arose, in the first place, from an observation made by Dr. W. H. Perkin in 1856, in the course of a research having for its object the synthesis of quinine. He did not succeed in producing the alkaloid, but he noticed that aniline, when oxidised, gave a colouring matter, which he manufactured and introduced under the name of "mauve," and so laid the foundations of an industry which has developed to its present colossal dimensions. The art of the dyer and calico-printer has been absolutely revolutionised by the introduction of the synthetical colouring matters prepared from coal tar. Of these, more than 500 are now available—each one a distinct and definite chemical compound with characteristic colour; each one with properties rendering it suitable for application to particular classes of fabrics. Every range of colour, including the deepest black, can be imparted, and every degree of brilliancy or dulness, of fastness to light, to washing and bleaching agents, etc., can be realised as required. The natural dye-stuffs, such as madder, which supplied alizarin for Turkey red; the cochineal insect, which furnished a red dye; the lichens and dyewoods, which were used by the old-time dyers, have been displaced, or are on the way to displacement, by the tar products. The most important of all the natural colouring matters, indigo, is, as you know, among the latest of the achievements of industrial synthetical chemistry, and a great industry worth some £3,000,000 annually to our Indian Empire is threatened with extermination by the German manufacturers. Not a month passes without the introduction of new colouring matters, and so enterprising are the German colour makers that their pattern books are issued with full directions in various languages, and trained chemists in their service will give personal instructions to our dyers in the application of new and unfamiliar colouring matters.—*H. & C. Mail.*



## A RUBBER PEST.

Interfering with Nature is always apt to upset matters, as folk found to their cost in the introduction of the rabbit and thistle to Australia. When a new animal or plant is transferred to an alien country few can tell what its destiny may be. It may either encounter such a host of enemies as to be driven out of existence, or conditions may be so favourable to its development that instead of being a boon to the introducer it becomes a curse to everybody.

New enterprises, and more particularly new planting enterprises, have to be very carefully watched. They may give a decided increase of food to some insect pest or other which will in time adapt itself to its new surroundings and bring disaster in its train. In the July number of the "Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and Federated Malay States" just to hand, we find a record of an insect enemy of Pará rubber having been discovered by Mr. Tunnicliffe, at Port Dickson. This pest is a small boring beetle which attacks the bark of the tree causing it (the bark) to dry up and die. From Mr. Tunnicliffe's account, however, the beetle appears to have brought about its own destruction, for he says, "Hundreds of them are sticking on to the tree in their small holes, those that are dead having killed themselves by boring into the tree, from which a very little latex formed and coagulated, holding them in their self-made holes."

Mr. H. N. Ridley, to whom specimens of the beetles were sent, gives the following very valuable advice:—"But though this beetle has I think merely attacked the dead portion of the tree, it is not at all advisable to neglect it. There have been known more than one case of wood boring beetles, living normally, on dead wood, having gradually adapting themselves to attack living trees, and effected vast damage. It is just this set of insects that I should expect to be the greatest enemies of Pará rubber under cultivation, and just these that we must specially watch and guard against. Fortunately it is easy enough to destroy all rotten wood (*especially that of the trees themselves*) lying about the plantations, so as to leave boring beetles no breeding ground. To leave a dead Pará tree lying about among living ones is nearly as bad as to leave a corpse to decay in a town." Mr. Ridley is of opinion that the beetles are of the genus *Platypus*, of the tribe *Bostrychidae*.—*Penang Gazette*.

## COFFEE'S GOOD POINTS.

The foregoing caption is not quite fair to the great staple of Brazil, says the *Merchants' Review*, for it assumes that coffee has its bad points, but notwithstanding all the assaults upon its good name by the cereal coffee men, we have yet to discover that coffee-drinking has any drawbacks for the average man or woman, when indulged in with the same moderation that all wholesome eatables and drinkables demand if they are to be properly valued.

It is true that here and there can be found a person who cannot drink coffee without suffering from sick headache or other sign of disturbed digestion, just as people can be found to whom strawberries are a poison or milk a cause of troublesome gastric disturbance, but these departures from the normal should not be counted against coffee any more than the others should be counted against strawberries and milk.

According to the advertisements of the most active cereal rival of the coffee bean, the latter is responsible for many of the ills to which flesh is heir. This is preposterous, and doubtless the grocers, as a class, are well aware that it is so, nevertheless they may be glad to be provided with a few facts gathered from experience, which they may use against the valuable arguments of the cereal coffee men, whenever their customers approach the subject of the wholesomeness of coffee, in conversation with the grocers.

It is, however, rather late in the day to come to the defence of a food-drink which in the seventeenth century was eulogized in this fashion: "It much quickens the spirits and makes the heart lightsome, suppresseth the fumes exceedingly, and therefore is good against headache, prevents cough and consumption, and is excellent for the cure of gout, dropsy, scurvy, hypochondria, and the like." The writer of that old-time advertisement came nearer to hitting the mark than the moderns who decry the merits of coffee, although he probably claimed too much when he gave the beverage credit for preventing consumption, but in regard to curing gout he was not far astray, for present-day writers of repute

assert that coffee made strong and black is a specific for many forms of gout as well as chronic rheumatism, if a quantity of pure black pepper has been added to the coffee, a teaspoonful to the pint. Care must be exercised afterwards that the free perspiration induced does not invite the taking of cold. The dose should be taken before going to bed. The same remedy is good for breaking up colds.

Coffee is stimulating and exhilarating, but, unlike alcohol, leaves no depressing after effects. It is a valuable disinfectant and deodorizer. It will remove the foul odor of decomposing meat, if the latter is suspended in a room into which the vapour of roasting coffee escapes. Naturally coffee is useful where infectious and epidemic disease prevails.

People who have tried the practice say that miasmatic and malarial complaints are prevented by drinking a cup of hot coffee just before venturing into the morning air. In cases of torpidity of the liver coffee is beneficial. Anti-bilious and a good remedy for constipation, coffee would probably become the mortal foe of a good many patent medicines if its medicinal virtues were generally known.

It is well known that coffee is useful in nausea and violent retching, as well as in cases of extreme drunkenness. As a substitute for the beer, ale or spirits to which heavy drinkers have become accustomed, there is nothing better than a cup of good, strong, freshly-made coffee, especially when administered without milk or sugar. In typhoid and endemic fevers many physicians regard coffee as almost a specific. In fever and ague, when taken with lemon juice, it is said to be very useful.

It was Liebig who found that coffee contained many of the elements which stimulate the flow of bile and make it laxative and diuretic. Curiously enough, in its natural state coffee thrives best in those regions where malarial and bilious diseases abound—a wise provision of nature.

Infusions of raw coffee beans in cold water, taken on an empty stomach, after rising in the morning, have been found to be a sovereign cure for renal and hepatic colic, diabetes and other liver and kidney complaints.

Coffee soothes the tired brain and nerves and stimulates to renewed mental exertion, but it is only when used to excess that it causes sleeplessness.

Coffee contains essential principles of nutrition far beyond its stimulating or exhilarating properties, and is therefore an economical addition to the meals at which it is used, more particularly when it is drunk in the Turkish fashion, grounds and liquor together. It is chiefly useful, however, as an accessory to other food, aiding in the digestion and assimilation of the latter. It checks the too rapid consumption of nitrogenous material in the system, and thus economizes food and the vital force needed to convert the food into energy. Coffee has been called the intellectual beverage.

## AN INTERESTING CHAT WITH MR. P. C. LARKIN.

Mr. P. C. Larkin, of the "Salada" Tea Company, returned on the *Cedric* recently, after a four months' trip to Europe. Mr. Larkin, who was accompanied by his family, spent the time in Italy, France, Germany, and England. When asked if he had anything to say about tea that would prove of interest to our readers, he replied, says the *American Grocer* of 19th ultimo:—

"I do not know that I have, unless it would be interesting to them to know that anyone visiting Paris or the south of France cannot help but be struck with the progress Ceylon and India tea is making in the affections of the tea-drinkers there. In all the first-class hotels in Paris they have on their menu cards, 'Ceylon Tea,' as prominently displayed as in the Waldorf or Holland House in New York. Then one sees it in the grocery shop windows, and evidently, therefore, the teas of Ceylon and India are making the same progress there that they are in America.

"Since I have been away I hear that the importation of Ceylon and India green tea to America was larger for the first five months of this year than for the whole year of 1902, thus showing how rapidly these teas are displacing Japans and Young Hysons. The green teas of Ceylon and India are bound, by intrinsic merit, to eventually displace all China and Japan green tea, just as Ceylon and India black teas will displace all other black teas, because they are better cup quality. They have done so in England—the



greatest tea-drinking country in the world—they have done so in Canada, and they are doing so in the United States.

"The Ceylon and India tea-planters intend having a very magnificent exhibit at the St. Louis World's Fair. This will help to bring Ceylon and India teas more prominently before the tea-drinkers of America, and when they are once tasted that settles the question—the tea-drinkers will have no other. Our own particular brand, 'Salada' tea, has made wonderful progress during the first seven months of this year against the corresponding seven months of last. At our Toronto office we had a 27 per cent. increase after being in business there for over eleven years. Our Montreal branch had 26 per cent. increase; Buffalo branch, 35 per cent. increase; Detroit branch 73 per cent. increase; Pittsburg branch, 91 per cent. increase, and New York branch, 95 per cent. increase over the same seven months of 1902.

"In the city of Boston alone, where we have been pushing our tea for the last six years, our increase for the first seven months of this year over the same months of last year was 72 per cent."

Mr. Larkin read these figures from a letter that he had just received. Mr. Larkin says that it was a good "home-coming" for him, and that the moral of it all seemed to be that he was an incubus on the business, and should stay away altogether. (The *American Grocer* cannot agree with him on this point.)

This is the largest increase in any seven months that the "Salada" Tea Company have ever had. During the present year the "Salada" Tea Company opened a branch in Chicago, another in Cleveland, and are now doing business through all the Southern States and as far west as Minneapolis and St. Paul. This is the firm that first took hold of Ceylon and India teas, eleven years ago, and they have built up a most wonderful tea business in America. They are one of the largest advertisers of teas in the United States and Canada, and, at the bottom of it all, they claim that the quality of the tea they give the consumer is unequalled by any other firm in the world. During eleven years it has been a constantly increasing business, until to-day they are handling close on five million pounds of tea annually. They do not handle one pound of Japan or China teas, believing, as they say, that these teas have nothing before them but a constantly decreasing demand, until China and Japan teas disappear altogether, as they have in other countries, before the delicious teas of Ceylon and India.

### NATIONAL TEA UNION (LIMITED).

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the National Tea Union (Limited) was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, September 1st. The Meeting was not open to reporters, but our Manchester correspondent writes:—From inquiries I have made I am enabled to give an outline of the proceedings. Mr. James Duckworth, J.P., the Chairman of the Board, presided, and was supported by his co-Directors, Messrs. R. C. Burgis, J.P. (Leamington), Oates Rushton, J.P. (Wigan), and Alderman J. Williams (London). There was a large attendance of Shareholders, and the Directors submitted the following report:—

The Directors herewith present statement of accounts for the year ending June 30, 1903, the most trying period in the annals of the Company. The turnover for the first three months, viz., July 1 to September 30, 1902, was the smallest in the Company's record, but since that date the sales have steadily increased, and a considerable saving in the working expenses has been effected. As a result of the Resolution passed at our last Annual Meeting, calling for a change in management, your Directors called in Mr. Addleshaw (Messrs. Addleshaw, Warburton & Co), Solicitor, of Manchester, who recommended a separate audit of the books by an independent firm of accountants. Upon their advice the Directors have taken the actual market value of their tea estates investments, made a provision for bad and doubtful debts, together with 10 per cent. off plant and fixtures, totalling a loss, less *contra*, of £4,816 13s. 9d. The Directors are happy to state that the cash at Bank amounts to about £6,500, and no trade liabilities. This indicates your strong position as buyers on the market. The stock is clean and well bought. Every facility will be given at the Meeting, to be held on September 11, to discuss the position of the Company as to its past and future; the shareholders have it in their power to make the Company a great success. In conclusion, we would point out that your Directors know exactly the position of the Company—knowledge that has only been arrived at by great cost, care, and anxiety. Mr. Oates Rushton retires by rotation as Director, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The auditors appointed at the last Annual Meeting having resigned, the Directors called in the services of Messrs. Cooper & Cooper, of Manchester, who offer themselves for election at your hands.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. John Harper (Manchester), the report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted. Full explanations were given by the Directors as to the late investigation of the Union's affairs, and the Directors expressed themselves as being decidedly of opinion that the new auditors, Messrs. Cooper & Cooper, had reduced everything in the balance-sheet to strictly present value, so that they had every hope and confidence of working the Company successfully in the future. The Meeting expressed itself as in full sympathy with the Directors, and quite satisfied that the Union was now placed on a sound basis. It was resolved in future to hold the Meetings of shareholders half-yearly instead of yearly, so that the next balance-sheet will be made up to December 31 this year. Mr. Oates Rushton was re-elected a Director, and Messrs. Cooper & Cooper, chartered accountants, Manchester and London, were re-appointed auditors.

### U. S. IMPORTS OF COCOA.

The imports of cocoa reached a high level during the last fiscal year, says the *American Grocer*. The total reached 63,351,924 pounds of crude cocoa and cocoa shells, in addition to which there were imported 1,004,766 pounds of prepared or manufactured cocoa. The following statement shows the imports, exports, and net imports for 1903:—

	Pounds.
Imports of crude cocoa	63,351,924
Exports of crude cocoa	3,208,554
Net imports, 1903	60,143,370
Net imports, 1902	48,785,688
Net gain over 1902	11,357,682

Since 1898 the imports of cocoa have more than doubled, a fact which is highly significant of what free raw materials does for the extension of American manufactures. The trade in cocoa and its manufactures has doubled in five years, a still more significant fact when viewed in connection with the consumption of duty-paid tea, which from 1898—1903, averaged a trifle over one pound *per capita* per annum, a decrease from 1.40 pounds for the period 1892—97.

It is evident that cocoa is taking a much higher place among food products than it ever before occupied; and deservedly so. It is, as its name, *Theobroma Cocoa*, implies, "food of the gods." In its manufacture the excess of oil contained in the raw leaves is extracted, thus making powdered cocoa easily digested by the most delicate. Such eminent authority as Mrs. Ellen H. Richards (Massachusetts School of Technology) says: "The flavour of the cocoa bean seems to be almost universally liked, and the use of the various preparations made from it is constantly increasing. From the sweet chocolate with which the traveller now provides himself in all journeys in which the supply of food is doubtful, either in quality or quantity, to delicate colouring and flavouring of cakes and ices, nearly all kinds of culinary preparations have benefited by the abundance of this favourite substance."

### DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

#### SOUTH MYSORE.

A Special General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association was held at Saklasapur on September 7th. PRESENT:—Messrs. Harris (*President*), G. Anderson, C.I.E., J. G. Crawford, W. L. Crawford, de Salis, Galiffie, Gowans, H. M. Playfair, Lamb, C. Luke, L. F. Luke, Robinson, T. Anderson, Dennis, Pittock, Taylor, F. Norton (*Honorary Secretary*), Wetherall (*Honorary Member*).

Visitors: Dr. Lehmann, Dr. Butler, Mr. Barber, Mr. Woodbridge, and members of the South Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Mr. Harris opened the proceedings by welcoming Dr. Lehmann, Dr. Butler, and Mr. Barber to the District, and for attending the Meeting, and in conclusion inquired if any of them would desire to address the Meeting.

Dr. Lehmann very kindly intimated that it would be preferable if they joined in any discussion which might take place, so that information that was specially required might be more readily



afforded. The President, after consultation, called on Mr. Graham Anderson to open the discussion on Fungoid Pests.

Mr. Anderson commenced by most cordially endorsing what the President had stated relative to the high appreciation of the members of the Association of the distinguished compliment which had been conferred on Southern Mysore by Munzerabad being included in the tour of scientific inquiry, and dwelt on the fact that in the visit of the eminent scientists present, the members of the Association had a preliminary experience of the immense practical benefits which will certainly accrue after His Excellency the Viceroy's plans for forming a Bureau of Scientific Advice have been fully matured. He drew attention to the confirmed opinion of all practical workers that the future success of agricultural and horticultural operations very greatly depended on scientific assistance and by way of illustration briefly touched with much diffidence on some of the difficulties connected with the Fungoid pests of Shade trees and of Coffee. He laid great stress on the importance of making a clear distinction between those forest trees which, after having been felled, are known to start the disease called "Stump rot" and those which are the victims to the subterranean fungus which travels from tree to tree by means of its rhizomorphs, or by the roots in contact. If the botanical names of those trees which are known to start the primary growth of the destructive fungus are ascertained, much practical assistance will have been afforded.

A note of warning has recently been sounded in regard to *Ficus Mysorensis* and other excellent shade trees and it would be a great pity if attention was diverted from their propagation. Some of the *Ficus* tribe are epiphytic and having killed the tree upon which they originally grew suffer as victims from the fungus developed in the decaying stump.

Recent observations have clearly shown that many excellent shadders for Coffee similarly are victims to the fungus, but long experience has failed to prove that the pest ever originates or starts from the decay of their stumps after felling.

In regard to *Hemileia vastatrix*, while admitting the danger of applying unsuitable manures to Coffee trees and dwelling on the importance of ascertaining those most desirable for special or general use, he drew attention to the necessity for scientific advice and the danger of relying on what some of the original investigators had laid down, notably for example what DeBary had stated, relative to other fungoid pests, that "in the experiments he had made he never observed an individual or unhealthy predisposition of the nourishing plant; on the contrary that the more the plant was healthy, the more the mould prospered."

Dr. Butler in a most lucid and comprehensive manner afforded much valuable practical advice and concluded by pointing out the benefits derivable from hybridization and the production of immense varieties of cultivated plants.

Dr. Lehmann followed with valuable remarks on the careful selection of seed and the benefits calculated to result from systematically-conducted experiments with suitable fertilizers.

An interesting discussion then took place on Stump rot and its causes. Mr. C. Luke inquired at what age Silver oaks had been attacked in Assam, and Dr. Butler said he had seen trees from five and six years attacked and causing immense damage. Mr. Taylor suggested that the character of the soil might have something to do with the spread of the rot, but Dr. Butler could not definitely state that was so. Mr. J. Crawford said that it was not necessary for a tree to be cut down to cause stump rot, for he had seen equally disastrous results from trees that had been blown over.

Mr. W. L. Crawford gave some interesting details on the hybridizing of coffee: and the poor results attained: the produce having been very poorly reported on by the Home brokers, but he would be very glad to distribute seeds, after what had fallen from such high scientific authority, with a view to continuing the experiments. He also gave information as to the effects of leaf-disease in nurseries from imported seeds.

Mr. Barber said,—Reference having been made to the experiments in hybridizing coffee, I would like to say a few words, since there seems to be some misconception regarding the laws regulating their characters.

Planters seem to think that when they have obtained a hybrid their work is done, and if it proves a failure, as it is certain to do, they disgustedly drop the thing.

Really they have only taken the first step in a long and arduous business.

I can explain with a reference to the sugarcane seedlings in Barbados. There, of the 60,000 seedlings raised every year, only one or two are finally considered worthy of extended trials. The vast bulk are regularly and ruthlessly destroyed. The obtaining of coffee seedlings is a much easier thing, but it is necessary that the great majority should be similarly destroyed.

The reason for this is perhaps the following: It is a rule with hybrids that there is very marked tendency in their offspring to vary. Even when two parents with definite characters have been carefully chosen (almost an impossibility with sugarcane) the offspring vary enormously, there being among other characters a very strong tendency to throw back to an ancestral type. Now in cultivated plants the ancestral type is a "wild" one and therefore it is reasonable to expect what really happens frequently that the offspring are, to a great extent, quite unfit for cultivation.

The first step with hybrids then is to rigorously thin out all that do not appear well worth going on with. The ones so selected will have certain characters presumably such as it is desired to fix: vigour, freedom from disease, character of bean and so on. Those that are chosen to go on with should be crossed among themselves or even bred in and in, that is prevented from crossing with any other plants. The useful characters are by this means intensified. When once a useful type is obtained it must be "fixed" and the in and in breeding is intensified. It takes comparatively few generations to fix the type, but meanwhile it is important to keep the plants carefully protected from the pollen of neighbouring plants.

It is therefore a pity that the many hybrids and their offspring which we see scattered over coffee estates at present should be considered the final product when they merely represent the first and chiefly useless results.

For the experiments to succeed it is essential that they should be conducted on a large scale and that the experiments should be conducted continuously with a very definite object in view. Once this object is defined, the result is usually only a matter of time. It is possible within fairly large limits to obtain almost any result and this is for the very reason that there is such an enormous variation at the start that almost any tendency can be spotted and fixed. Thus it is that fruit and flowers of almost any form and colour can be obtained, within certain limits which hold for the particular plant being experimented with.

The work is long and tedious and cannot be done by any one planter. But by the help of all and a suitable combination of energy there is no reason why equally good results may not be obtained with coffee as with the many other plants such as potatoes, sugarcane, beetroot, etc., which have been so immensely improved in this way. Each plant has its own peculiarities and will have to be treated accordingly. And with coffee there will have to be a certain amount of continuous hard work and close scientific attention.

The following Resolution was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously:—

"That in view of the remarks of Dr. Lehmann, Dr. Butler, and Mr. Barber with reference to the hybridization and selection of coffee that the United Planters' Association be asked to ventilate a proposal amongst District Associations for planters to establish an experimental farm in a suitable locality in South India and to ask the various Governments if they would be willing to place the services of their scientists, from time to time, at the disposal of the managers of the farm, and to afford all the assistance possible should the scheme prove practicable."

Mr. Harris proposed and Mr. Graham Anderson seconded a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Lehmann, Dr. Butler, and Mr. Barber for their attendance and practical advice, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Norton then read his Report as follows:—GENTLEMEN,—Mr. J. Crawford, who was originally elected to attend the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., being unavoidably unable to go to Bangalore, I was asked to go in his place. I beg to present my report of a very interesting Meeting and trust that I carried out your instructions to your satisfaction. You have no doubt all read in the papers all that occurred, so beyond explaining one or two of the most salient points I need not detain you for any length. Two questions stood out more prominently than others, and those were the Labour Laws and the Quality of Coffee. The Labour Law was most comprehensively and ably explained in Committee by Messrs. Ackworth, Romilly, and Hodgson, and finally



so lucidly summed up by Mr. Harris, that we were able to adopt a unanimous vote of thanks to the Madras Government for their endeavours to meet the requirements of the Planting community. At one time it was feared that so happy a result might not be attained, as several delegates were instructed to vote against the Bill, but such new lights were thrown on it during its discussion in Committee that those delegates were able to change their attitude in regard to it, and to record their votes for the Resolution. The result has shewn that it is inadvisable to tie a representative's hands too strictly, but to allow him a certain amount of latitude and discretion. In connection with this Bill, Mr. Harris, Mr. Scot-Skirving and myself waited on the Dewan, and we were assured by him, that as the Bill affects us planters chiefly it would not be introduced into Mysore unless we asked for it, and that our suggestions and views, when it was introduced, would receive most careful and considerate attention. I am happy to say that in this matter we were able to act conjointly with the N. M. P. A. We had a most valuable and interesting lecture from Dr. Lehmann, on the Quality of Coffee, who is conducting experiments which will undoubtedly prove of most vital importance to our industry when he has had time to complete them. Dr. Lehmann once more emphasized the importance of guaranteed fertilizers, and he considered that the remedy laid in our own hands. By refusing to accept any but guaranteed manures agents will be bound to supply them. All District Secretaries were instructed to impress on the members of their Associations the necessity of insisting on receiving and being supplied with guaranteed analyses. I had the pleasure of reading a paper on the Quality of Coffee which was received with interest and attention, and its importance was recognized by a unanimous Resolution instructing the Secretary to write to all Curing Agents asking for their co-operation. It is a matter which is assuming graver proportions every year. Mr. Cameron gave us a most interesting lecture on auxiliary products, and I recommend members to place themselves in communication with him with a view to the introduction of bye-products. In Dr. Lehmann and Mr. Cameron we have sympathetic and willing friends to help us with sound and practical advice. The Hon'ble Mr. Ackworth, in an eloquent speech, moved three Resolutions with regard to Differential Duties which I had the pleasure of seconding.

It was resolved to support the St. Louis Exhibition and Rs.10,000 was voted from the U. P. A. Funds to be supplemented by contributions from District Associations, and Secretaries of District Associations were instructed to impress on their members that if through this medium they create a demand for East Indian Coffee in America, they must be prepared to support it. Mr. Harris, Mr. Scot-Skirving and myself were accorded an audience with H. H. the Maharajah of Mysore to whom our aims and objects were explained, and were listened to with sympathetic attention. This sympathy, I am pleased to inform you, has taken the practical shape of a donation of Rs.5,000 to the Fund; and I have just heard that the Madras Government have made a similar grant; to both the thanks of this Association are due. I am very sorry to report that the Coffee Cess scheme was abandoned for this year, for I am more than ever sure, from what fell from delegates, that there is a market for our coffee at our very doors, and if it is captured by tea-planters, we shall only have ourselves to blame. Though I was directed to support, which I did, the sending of a delegate to Brazil, it was decided, through want of funds, that we should apply through the Foreign Office and its Consuls for the information that we require. The voting powers of the Executive Committee have been altered, so that votes go by subscriptions, and I am glad to say that it was not found necessary to alter the constitution of the U. P. A. S. I. Mr. Hodgson was elected Planting Member in the place of Hon'ble Mr. Ackworth whose resignation takes effect next July, and I trust that this Association will record their appreciation of his unstinted services on behalf of the Planting community. Mr. Romilly was elected Chairman for the ensuing year and Mr. Scot-Skirving, Vice-Chairman. In conclusion, I have to thank you for having nominated me as your representative to the last U. P. A. Meeting.

Mr. W. L. Crawford was elected delegate to the forthcoming Dasserah Assembly.

Mr. Harris in summing up again alluded to the presence of the visitors and congratulated members on such a good attendance, and sincerely trusted that the remarks that they had listened to would bear fruit in the near future. He begged to emphasize what had

fallen from the Honorary Secretary in regard to the St. Louis Exhibition, and that members must be prepared to support any demand they may create.

Several members expressed their willingness to contribute. A vote of thanks to the President then closed the proceedings.

#### To the Honorary Secretary.

Three men of science latterly came up here from the East—  
One dabbled much in stinks and smells, one was a botanist,  
The other captured little bugs, an Entomologist.

The chemist came to study soils, to analyse manures.

The botanist for leaf-disease; with scientific lures.

He hoped to stop the spread of it and manufacture cures.

And finally the insect-man, there were no flies on him,

He came to study borer; and to gratify a whim,

To put one in his microscope and tear it limb from limb.

I haven't time to tell you the adventures that befell;

The chemist found a "Putgah" tree and analysed the smell:

He then went off to bed and guessed he wasn't feeling well.

The botanist was missing since his early morning tea,

So gangs went out to look for him; beneath a toddy-tree

They found him stretched upon the ground and breathing heavily.

The buggy-man perambulated slowly through the land

And saw a "cumbly-hulla," which he didn't understand,

So thoughtfully and tenderly he took it in his hand!

And so these men of science thought they'd leave the "Land of Mist."

They started off, the chemist, cryptogrammic botanist,

And in a bullock-coach behind the Entomologist.—J. B. R.

#### Mr. Norton's Speech on the Labour Law at the U. P. A. Meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I am sure we are all pleased at the satisfactory nature of this Resolution which has received the almost unanimous support of the delegates here. I don't think that we need to convince one another that this is a good Bill, but that we should try to bring round to our opinion our brother-planters who still hold a contrary one: and to that end I make these remarks. Had I been living in British India I should have welcomed this Bill (and with some modifications which we hope to get introduced into it; always bearing in mind that the principle must not be touched, and because the labour conditions in Mysore vary from those in other districts I am sure it can be made acceptable to us). It seems to be lost sight of that law-making is a science, which like all sciences, is a progressive one, and has no finality; I therefore do not consider this Bill as final, as after experience it will doubtless be amended, for until it has been put in force, you cannot know how it will work, and cannot approach Government with suggested amendments for its improvement. In my opinion this Bill is a great improvement on Act XIII., and is itself in its enactment or final stage a very great improvement on the Bill as it was first introduced into the Legislative Council; and thus shows a progressive step. I do not say it is a perfect Bill, but I believe it can be made nearly so if it gets a fair trial. I know that whenever a new Bill is passed there will always be a large body of malcontents, but laws are made to remove grievances or to allay discontent. Though I am sure there is a large body at home who disapprove of the new Irish Bill, I am equally convinced that the great majority of Englishmen will welcome it, even at some personal self-sacrifice, if it will remove a grievance and allay the discontent of centuries. As this applies to a nation, so does it to us as a smaller body. We have for forty years been calling on Government to find a remedy for a great grievance. Our agitation has gone through several phases until it has culminated in this Bill. If we do not accept it we proclaim our grievance a mock one, and our continued agitation an imposture; and when approaching Government on any other subject, possibly of vital importance to our industries, we can but blame ourselves if they look upon our petitions with disfavour and suspicion; and another real grievance may be shelved for even a longer period than the repeal of Act XIII. We shall have brought it on ourselves. For over forty years this Act XIII. has had the vials of our wrath poured upon its head in no unmeasured strain of vituperation and in many languages. Every succeeding year has only discovered new defects and blemishes but now, at the parting of the ways, they have suddenly found out virtues and charms hitherto hidden from our scrutiny. They say Act XIII. has all their heart and their affections and that they are being violently separated against their



will and wishes. The Act might aptly retort "Tis all very well to dissemble your love, but why did you kick me downstairs." I think we may say "farewell" to a Bill which has been replaced by a much better one. Sir, most of the criticism has been directed against XII. respecting inspection of lines, etc. We are here in accord, but a very large body resent official interference and have conjured up a bug-bear from which they do not seem to be able to relieve themselves. I believe these clauses will work either smoothly or with friction just as each manager works them. The man who is continually in Court seeking redress will most likely bring on himself those very evils which he dreads. I know of no law where large bodies of labourers are employed, whose health and comfort are not specially provided for by legislation. Take mines and factories. But instances might be multiplied. Inspectors are always appointed to look after the employed, and if we would look upon the visitor as an "Inspector" and not as an official, I am sure the difficulties could be got over. I do not know by what right we should claim exemption from a law which is always introduced where Capital and Labour are concerned. A letter was recently published (unfortunately anonymously) by a planter informing us that the same coolies returned to his estate year after year, and therefore he did not require this new Bill. Instead of being an argument against the Bill, I consider it the strongest argument in favour of it, for this planter has absolutely nothing to fear from the official inspection of his lines, which would sink into a mere formality, and I am convinced that the great majority, if not all planters, are in the same happy position, for we may take it for granted that coolies would not return year after year to the same estates if they were not well looked after. Government are only enacting or embodying in the Bill and giving it the force of law what nearly every one of us have done from motives of self-interest. Referring to letters in the papers, I think it is to be regretted that instead of rushing into print, the opponents of this Bill have not attended and stated their objections to it, for after the comprehensive way in which the matter has been gone into, they might have had their views changed, as has already most happily occurred at this Meeting. I never realized until I came here, though I followed the course of the Bill closely, the enormous difficulties that the Planting Member had to contend with, and the conflicting interests he had to reconcile, and this Bill, which I believe will bring us the relief we have so long desired, will remain a lasting monument to his tact and ability. I have much pleasure in recording my vote in favour of the Resolution.

### WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at the Meppadi Club on September 23rd. **PRESENT**:—Messrs. Armstrong, Behr, Day, Mackinlay, J. R. Malcolm, Nicolls, Powell Jnr., Taylor, Trollope, Waddington, West, and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*. *Honorary Member*: Mr. Tireman. *Visitor*: Mr. Gillatt. Mr. Trollope in the Chair.

1. Proceedings of last General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting taken as read.

2. **Election of New Member**.—Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Nicolls, that Mr. O. Richelman be elected a member of the Association.—*Carried unanimously*.

3. (a) **Roads**.—Read letter of September 21, 1903, to President, District Board, enclosing copy of the Resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting re the Chundale-Choladi Road.

(b) **Yellera Mulla Road**.—*Resolved*, that the Association address the Government of Madras with the request that a grant be made from Provincial funds to metal this road.

4. **U. P. A. S. I.**—(a) Read the Delegate's report of the Bangalore Meeting. Proposed by Mr. Waddington, seconded by Mr. Day and carried unanimously, that a vote of thanks be passed to Mr. Romilly for his services as Delegate.

(b) **St. Louis Exhibition**.—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write for information as to exhibits.

5. **Tea Cess**.—*Resolved*, that the Association address the I. T. A. for information as to whether the Nett, Gross, and Tare weights have to be shown on Tea chests shipped from Calcutta; and, if it is found that such is not the case, that the Head of the Customs be addressed

with a view of getting the vexatious order, as regards tea shipped from Calicut, removed.

### 6. Labour Law.

(a) **Voting power of the Association**.—Mr. Nicolls gave notice that at the next Meeting of the Association he would bring up the question of Voting power in so far as the votes for or against the Labour Law were concerned.

(b) Proposed by Mr. B. Malcolm and seconded by Mr. Day, that this Association does not see its way to giving any opinion as to the acceptance or rejection of the New Act until it has seen the Rules and Regulations; and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Collector of Malabar and to the U. P. A. S. I.

Amendment by Mr. Waddington, seconded by Mr. Behr—that Mr. Malcolm's proposition be postponed for consideration until the next Meeting.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

The proposition was then put to the vote and carried by 7 to 3—2 not voting.

7. **Next Meeting**.—The next Meeting of the Association was fixed for Wednesday, October 21st.

Papers on table—Planting Opinion; Indian Planting & Gardening; I. T. A. Circulars; U. P. A. S. I. Circulars.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) A. TROLLOPE,  
*Chairman.*  
( „ ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

## THE NILGIRI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

### A GENERAL MEETING.

(From the *Madras Mail*.)

OOTACAMUND, 23rd September.—A General Meeting of Nilgiri Planters' Association was held at the Armoury this afternoon. A general invitation to all Nilgiri planters to attend the Meeting was issued, for the purpose of discussing the new Madras Planters' Labour Act. Mr. T. Stanes was voted to the Chair, and there were also present Messrs. F. M. Cockburn, L. C. Liebenrood, L. M. Achard, A. K. W. Downing, E. G. Windle, A. M. Groves, S. Bell, W. Deane, H. P. Hodgson, T. Brown, N. Gray, L. W. Gray, A. F. VansAgnew, A. R. Pigott W. Barton Wright, A. Allen, W. Rhodes James, E. F. Minchin, J. Mackenzie, and the Honorary Secretary Mr. C. H. Brock. The following Honorary Members were also present: Mr. C. M. Mullaly, Collector of the Nilgiris, Mr. G. Romilly, and Mr. W. H. Hamilton, the District Police Officer.

### U. P. A. S. I. DELEGATE'S REPORT.

The first business on the agenda was the Report of the delegate to the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting at Bangalore.

Mr. H. P. HODGSON presented a Report, of which I make the following summary:—The *Madras Mail* kindly accorded us considerable space in the columns of its daily issue, and those interested were thus enabled to follow the proceedings which took place in General Meeting. It will be unnecessary for me, therefore, to go into the details of every subject of discussion. But there are one or two of the most important which I feel you would like me to touch upon, and perhaps the most important of these is the Madras Labour Act.

A whole day was given to the discussion of this Act in Committee. Several District Associations had instructed their delegates to vote against the Act, but after hearing the discussion I am glad to say that the final Resolution, when put in General Meeting, was carried unanimously. The Resolution reads:—

"That this Association tenders its most cordial thanks to the Government for their endeavours to meet the requirements of the planting industries as embodied in Act I. of 1903, and while regretting that it is made to apply to all forms of contract and all conditions of labour and that Act XIII. has not been allowed to run concurrently with it, accepts it as likely to prove of benefit to several of the planting Districts of South India, and will endeavour



to induce its members to give the Act a trial in their respective Districts."

You will see that the Resolution, while tendering to the Government of Madras our thanks, which are their due, for having endeavoured to meet our oft-repeated requests for protective legislation for our labour contracts, does not commit any District to its acceptance, and gives only a qualified approval of the Act. At the same time, in the light of the discussion that took place, the majority of the delegates were convinced that it is desirable to give the Act a trial, and agreed to induce their respective Districts to do so. The discussion of the Labour Act is down on the agenda paper to-day, and I will say more on this subject when it comes up.

The St. Louis Exhibition was considered a subject of the highest importance to both tea and coffee-planters, as an opportunity for advertising and pushing their products in a country having a large demand for both. Tea-planters both in Northern and Southern India have fully realised this and are taking active steps for the proper representation of their product. I can only express a hope that coffee-planters will do the same. The opportunity will be given them and it remains with them to accept or neglect it. The U. P. A. S. I. has given a grant of Rs.10,000 and the Madras and Mysore Governments have each kindly assisted us with grants of Rs.5,000, and we hope to get grants in aid from other Districts. But, gentlemen, let me impress upon you here that if you desire to secure any real and permanent advantage in the market which this Exhibition opens up to you, you must bestir yourselves and arrange for supplies of coffee to meet the demand which we hope will arise after the Exhibition. You are having a big advertisement provided and paid for, opportunity will be given to thousands of people who have never tasted pure East Indian Coffee to do so, and if it is really as superior to most other coffees as we believe it to be, there must be a demand for it, which, if carefully met and fostered, may lead to a new and extensive market in which it is reasonable to expect better prices may be obtained than by dumping down our crops in the overstocked markets of London, to fetch such prices as they choose to give us.

A Committee, consisting of Messrs. Harris, Martin, King Church and myself was appointed to arrange details for pushing coffee in the United States after the closing of the St. Louis Exhibition. This Committee is about to issue a circular to ascertain what support planters will accord to the proposal and everything must depend on the result of the appeal. For you will realise that without the means the Committee is powerless.

The delegate to Brazil had to be abandoned for the present, from want of funds. The Secretary was, however, instructed to communicate with the Government of India with a view to eliciting their good offices towards obtaining through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and His Majesty's Consuls in Brazil as much information as possible regarding the condition of the coffee industry in that country.

Mr. LIEBENROOD proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hodgson for his Report, and this was passed unanimously.

The SECRETARY announced that Mr. Hodgson had given Rs.100 to increase the Association's subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. from Rs.250, as was decided at the last Meeting, to Rs.350.

#### THE PLANTERS' LABOUR ACT.

##### DISCUSSION.

The matter opened with a question to Mr. H. P. Hodgson as to whether the new Act had been applied to any District.

Mr. HODGSON said he thought not in British India, but that Travancore had asked for it. He further stated, in answer to a question as to whether there was any objection to the Nilgiris refusing the Act, that the planters had asked for an Act and that 32 planters from this District had attended and given evidence at the Enquiry Committee that sat some years ago. These planters stated that they were losing money and asked for legislation. Government had taken up the matter, and after a great deal of trouble had given them an Act which they now refused to adopt. If they did that, he thought the charge of inconsistency might be fairly laid against them. The evidence before the Committee of Enquiry was given eight years ago, and it was true that conditions might have changed since then. It might be easier to get labour now than it was then, but this state of affairs was, he was certain, only temporary, and they would have difficulties again. Ceylon was in great need of more labour and was sending its agents to recruit from the same Districts from which Nilgiri planters drew their labour supply. The time would come again when there

would be a demand for labour in excess of the supply. He thought the Act was a good Act, and when they came to put it into operation he felt sure they would find they had over-estimated its difficulties.

The objection was then raised that Government would inspect estate accounts, but Mr. Hodgson said this applied only to check rolls. He did not think planters would have to keep any more accounts than they did now.

Mr. ACHARD said that a return of births and deaths was asked for, but was told that this was the law now, and that if he neglected to furnish Government with the returns of births and deaths he laid himself open to a penalty.

Mr. ACHARD said he had seen the Act working in Ceylon; it was most unsatisfactory there.

Mr. HODGSON said the Ceylon Labour Ordinance was a very different thing to the Labour Act. He added that he must say he thought it would be wise to give the Act a trial. Planters could apply for its withdrawal if it was found that it did not work well. There was another thing to be considered. There was every possibility of Act XIII. being withdrawn altogether, and if that occurred and they did not adopt the new Act, they would find themselves without any law at all. The Government of India had absolutely declined to amend Act XIII.; they said it was not applicable to the purpose to which it was put, and the Nilgiri planters had said the same thing. It was true that they had not all asked for a new Act, but such of them as had not approved had never thought fit to favour Government with their views. That was the unfortunate thing about planting affairs, men were in many cases most indifferent. They waited until an Act had been passed and accepted by the Planting Member on behalf of them, and then objected to it.

Mr. RHODES JAMES, referring to the withdrawal of Act XIII., said he preferred the problematic disadvantage of being some day left without an Act to the actual and certain disadvantage of adopting the new law.

Mr. ROMILLY said that personally, though he knew the Act would not be the best for his local labour, he did not think it would cause any very great inconvenience. It seemed to him very illogical to oppose any trial of the Act because they were afraid of it.

Mr. ACHARD said they did not want the Act; it was iniquitous and absurd.

Mr. HODGSON asked in what way.

Mr. ACHARD said it gave the Government Apothecary power to come to the planters' lines. He would be sure to condemn them and they would have to spend a large amount in building pucca lines, when the coolies would not live in them. It was well known that coolies preferred tatty lines to pucca.

Mr. HODGSON asked why Mr. Achard assumed the Apothecary, as he had called him, would be sent to find fault. The speaker did not think that that would be the case at all. The Enquiry Committee were satisfied with planters' arrangements for housing their labour, and why should not the local authority be so? There was the Collector to appeal to. He thought Mr. Achard's fears were absolutely groundless. In his opinion the coolies were well looked after now, why should not Government take the same view?

Another objection was raised that the planter, under the new Act, had to pay 2 annas a day to feed a coolie who was sick. There would be a great many sick coolies after the adoption of the Act.

Mr. C. H. BROCK, the Honorary Secretary, said the planter had his remedy. He could send the man off the estate and planters must remember that they received just double that amount when a coolie stayed away from his work when he was not sick. He spoke strongly on the delay there had been in bringing these objections forward. If they had been pointed out before the Bill was passed it might have been amended. Planters did not send them in, though the Bill was before everybody for two years.

Mr. RHODES JAMES said planters thought when the Act was to be amended that these objections would be removed and that planters would be fairly represented.

Mr. C. H. BROCK said it was impossible for one man to represent everybody. The conditions in the Districts varied in the greatest possible degree, and how could a member meet objections to a law working under conditions of which he was ignorant. If the planters themselves were silent who could speak for them?

Mr. BELL admitted that they might have been lax and was sorry planters had not been more attentive to this matter. All the same



he must vote against the adoption of the new Act; it would be a most irritating law. He could not see that they required a new Act.

Mr. HODGSON: Suppose Act XIII. is taken away?

Mr. BELL: Let Government give another.

Mr. BROCK said that Government had practically decided to repeal Act XIII.; was it not better that they should adopt the new Act now, while there was no labour difficulty.

Mr. BELL said it might be necessary to have the Act but they did not want it now. They wished to see first how it worked in other Districts.

Mr. HODGSON said that they all seemed to think that because there was a new law the cooly and maistry would at once become possessed of remarkable intelligence and use the Act to their own advantage against the planter. In his experience it did not matter what law they were working under. He felt certain there would be no difficulty, the cooly and maistry would jog along just as they did before.

Mr. BELL said they would find that their maistries had not taken the coolies before a Magistrate and the contracts would not be legal.

Mr. HODGSON said as a matter of fact they did not think of their maistries enough. These men lost money now which they would not under the Act.

Mr. GRAY said his estate was 22 miles from Ootacamund, and the coolies who were recruited would have to be brought in there to sign their contracts.

Mr. BROCK pointed out that the Act provided for the appointment of other persons than Magistrates by the local Government to witness the signing of the contracts. The difficulty might be met that way.

It was suggested that as the provisions of the Act could be made to apply to certain local areas only, some parts of the District should accept it while others left it alone. The conditions of the District were very varied.

Mr. ROMILLY asked if it was not better to find out the weak points in the Act by actual practice, than to discuss them round the table. Then they could get them amended or the Act withdrawn. The question was whether they were going to give the Act a trial or be inconsistent and refuse it. If they tried the Act they would maintain their reputation for knowing what they wanted and Government might help them again.

Mr. RHODES JAMES said they did not see what advantage the Act would be to them.

Mr. ROMILLY said under the present law the maistry lost money.

Mr. BELL said they did not want the Act and asked why it should be pressed upon them.

Mr. HODGSON said this District had asked for an Act through its Representative and through the witnesses before the Enquiry Committee.

Mr. RHODES JAMES: We asked for an Act, not this Act.

Mr. HODGSON said it would be best to try the Act and find out where it hurt and then get it amended or withdrawn. They would have the support of the Planting Member. He could not understand the absolute opposition there was to it. It was not a bad Act. If it did require certain amendments, it was impossible to get these done until the Act had been tried.

Mr. WINDLE said he had been as consistently against the new Act as anybody. He had taken the trouble to write to the Planting Member and point out various objections, most of which were met, but some, which he considered serious, were not. However, on carefully reviewing the situation, he was in favour of the introduction of the Act. He employed more local than imported labour, so his decision had not been influenced by personal considerations. There was the possibility of Act XIII. being withdrawn and for that and other reasons the Act should be tried.

Mr. HODGSON said personally he did not care which Act they had, but they must not be inconsistent. The new Act could be withdrawn or amended.

The CHAIRMAN said that seemed to be an uncertainty and it was this that made people hesitate before trying it.

Mr. BROCK said they had the word of Government that it would be withdrawn if it worked badly.

The CHAIRMAN said he had heard that the opposite was the case.

Mr. RHODES JAMES said the trouble was to find out how long it would take to withdraw the Act.

Mr. BROCK said if they tried the Act Government would help them, but if they refused there would be no more assistance to expect from Government. Personally he did not want the Act,

but he thought that the only way they could put themselves politically straight was to try it.

Mr. RHODES JAMES proposed and Mr. Archard seconded a Resolution that the planters begged to decline the Act.

Mr. WINDLE, as an amendment, proposed that Government be asked to introduce the Act for a year.

Voting on the amendment and Resolution were exactly even and the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment.

Mr. RHODES JAMES proposed that as the majority was so small the matter stand over.

Mr. HODGSON said this was an extraordinary suggestion after a vote had been taken and Mr. Rhodes James had lost.

Mr. RHODES JAMES said he proposed this because the notices calling the Meeting had not been sent out in time.

Mr. BROCK explained that the notices were sent in time, but by the fault of the Post Office some of them had not been delivered.

Mr. HODGSON said they had had level voting that day, but it would not have been so a fortnight ago. The more men thought of it the more they were in favour of giving it a trial.

The rest of the business of the Meeting was purely formal.

The Meeting recorded an emphatic protest against the proposal to cut down the sholas on the Dodabetta slopes for the extension of the Government cinchona plantations.

### THE ANAMALAI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of a General Meeting of the Anamalai Planters' Association, held at Paralai, on the 8th September, 1903.

PRESENT:—Messrs. P. W. E. Watts (in the Chair), G. L. Duncan, E. Walsh, C. R. T. Congreve, O. A. Bannatine, J. R. Vincent, and G. A. Marsh, *Honorary Secretary*.

Read notice calling the Meeting.

The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the 25th July were read by the Chairman and confirmed.

Read Resolutions carried by the U. P. A. S. I. at their Annual Meeting. A cordial vote of thanks to our delegate, Mr. H. P. Hodgson, for his services at the U. P. A. S. I., was proposed by Mr. Bannatine, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried unanimously.

Read letter regarding freight for Coffee on the Southern Mahratta Railway, which was recorded.

Read letter on Christmas Island, regarding Phosphates from the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I.—*Recorded*.

Read letter from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., regarding subscriptions to the U. P. A. S. I. for 1903-04. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to remit the annual subscription as soon as possible.

Read letter to the Collector with reference to the Coffee-stealing Act.—*Recorded*.

Read letter to the Postmaster-General regarding the way the Local Post Office receipts are credited, and his answer to the same.

The Meeting then discussed at length, in Committee, the St. Louis Exposition and correspondence regarding joining forces with the Travancore Hills Cardamom Planters' Association, and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to correspond further with the Travancore Hills Planters' Association on the subject.

The rough draft prepared by the Committee of the Address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor was approved and passed.

Mr. Marsh's proposition regarding Liquor shop. The proposal was postponed, pending such time as further information could be got from the authorities.

Mr. Marsh's proposition regarding Local Post Office was withdrawn; exception being taken by one of the members as to the right of the Association taking the matter up.

Laid on the table:—

Minute, Cash, and Copy Books.

Proceedings of the U. P. A. S. I. for 1902 and 1903.

*Planting Opinion*.

Draft Address to His Excellency the Governor and general correspondence.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the proceedings terminated.

It had been intended to present a formal Address to the Governor, but His Excellency having intimated that he does not



wish to receive any Addresses on this tour, the points stated below are to be represented to him informally at the Monica Bungalow on the 13th of October next.

The practical completion of the Ghaut Road and its re-opening after the damage done by the unprecedented storm of December ast.

The progress made in production. Exclusive of the Waverly and Waterfall Estates, in the season 1900-01, some  $1\frac{3}{4}$  tons of coffee were sent off; in 1901-02,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  tons; and last season 1902-03, 74 tons were harvested. The crops now on the trees are estimated at 136 tons with every prospect of a steady increase in the future.

Cardamom crops for the last two seasons are: 1901-02, 1,300 lbs.; for 1902-03, 18,515 lbs.; and the crop now coming forward is estimated at 34,500 lbs.

Tea has not yet been manufactured, but a large Factory is now in course of erection on Monica Estate. This season's crop is estimated at 50,000 lbs., and the following crop at 150,000 lbs.

Cinchona and Rubber show promising growths.

A revision of leases on the following points:—

(1) **Prohibition of Free Trade in Timber from Leased Land.**—By Section 4 the lessee is prohibited from sending any timber beyond the Annamalai Forest limits, except on payment of a heavy seignorage, and Section 3 seems intended to prevent the cutting of any trees, except for the purposes of clearing for cultivation or buildings. Section 9 prohibits the cutting of any trees, in the lessee's unopened land, of a certain class, named in Schedule 4. Most of these trees are deciduous and do not exist in our forests, but the omission from the Schedule of *Artocarpus Hirsuta* and *Calophyllum Elatum*, is asked for, if not the withdrawal of the Schedule. Permission to cut and trade freely in timber from planters' own lands, would involve the withdrawal of Section 14 which gives Government rights over trees in the "excepted" list. It is considered that the permission now asked for would lead to a very appreciable ghaut traffic, and assist planters also by giving return loads to carts bringing up grain when crop is not available.

(2) **Minor Forest Produce.**—Section 5 prohibits lessee from trading in articles of minor Forest Produce from his own land. It is desired that the right in these articles may be vested in the lessee, as is usual elsewhere.

(3) **Plantation Products.**—It is suggested that Rubber be included, and that Cardamoms, as already stipulated, be also added.

(4) **Rents.**—The question of remission of assessment has been taken up by the United Planters' Association and will, no doubt, come before His Excellency in due course.

It is true that the terms of the leases, as they now stand, were agreed to by the lessees when they entered into possession, but neither lessees nor lessor could then foresee the present straits of the Planting industry.

(5) In the reply to a former petition, His Excellency agreed that the construction of branch roads was necessary, though it might not be possible to provide money for that purpose as fast as we could wish. Planters fully recognize this, and propose that a branch Bandy Road be taken from Paralai through Puthutotam, Castlecroft, and Upper Stanmore, joining up with the present Government Bandy Road at Monica; (2) that this road be linked up by a bridle-path to where the present Sirakundru Road now ends; (3) that the Kaliandipandal bridle-path be widened into a Bandy Road. They would point out that these roads, if cut, would serve some 1,980 acres of cultivated land which, at present, cannot use the Government Bandy Road.

They express a strong desire that the excellent Ghaut Road now made may not be handed over to the District Board, but continue to be kept up by the P. W. D. The handing over of the road was originally contemplated in G. O., Revenue, dated 28th September, 1896, but planters believe they are correct in stating that the District Board is without funds, which would enable it to do any sort of justice to the upkeep necessary, and a failure would replace them in the old position of depending entirely on cooly and bullock transport, whilst the expenditure in making the Ghaut Road would have been in vain. Moreover, in paragraph 2 of Resolution, Forest, No. 466-A, dated 3rd October, 1896, it is evident that Government intended immediate construction of the road, and recognized that "the opening out of the tract" depended greatly upon this construction. Planters who have worked for over six years without the assistance of that road think they may fairly ask that a sufficient provision may be made for its upkeep or that it may remain in the hands of the P. W. D.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated September 11th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ... ..	296,485	359,769	31,580
1902-1903 ... ..	330,801	395,070	27,473

39,672 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 70,353 packages were offered in public auction  
29,031 " CEYLON } this week.  
1,650 " JAVA }

The following telegram sent from St. Petersburg through Reuter's Agency is of some importance to those interested in the production of Indian and Ceylon tea,—“A Government ordinance is published, increasing the import duty on Ceylon and Indian teas imported into Russia by the European Frontier and the Black Sea from 31 roubles 50 copecks per pood to 33 roubles. The import duty on China teas is not changed, but fresh regulations are enforced for the purpose of certifying the origin and place of despatch.”

This means that a preference of  $1\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. is given to China over British-grown tea.

INDIAN.—There was a fairly good demand for all except the poorer liquoring descriptions which were inclined to favour buyers, though not to the extent of as much as  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. There were strong buyers for a few of the finest invoices, Darjeeling and Assam benefiting by this enquiry. The following averages are worthy of note:—“Amal. T. Est. Dooteriah,”  $1\frac{7}{8}$ ; “Rungmook,”  $1\frac{1}{5}$ ; “Amal. T. Est. Lattakoojan,”  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ; “Badulipar,” “Cedars,” and “Turzum,”  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 35,141 pkgs., av. 7.89d. 1902, 36,830 pkgs., av. 7.58d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 169,111 pkgs., av. 7.98d. 1902, 190,814 pkgs., av. 7.12d.

*Comparative prices of Indian tea in London.*

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Dust. (Fair ordinary, dark liquor)	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	3d.	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
Fannings. (Red to brown, strong rough liquor)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	5d.
Broken Tea. (Brownish to Blackish, strong liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	6d.
Pek. Soug. (Blackish greyish, useful liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
Pekoe. (Greyish to Blackish, some tip, useful liquor)	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	6d.	7d.	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
Pek. Soug. (Blackish greyish, inferior liquor)	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	5d.
Pekoe. (Blackish, greyish, some tip, inferior liquor)	6d.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

CEYLON.—There was fair competition, and it was due to a further slight improvement in quality that quotations in many cases were on a fractionally improved basis.

Average for week 7.31d., against 6.46d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 740,039 pkgs., av. 7.46d. 1902, 826,288 pkgs., av. 6.68d.

*Comparative prices of Ceylon tea in London.*

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Pekoe Soug. (Ordinary leaf, fair liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	6d.
Pekoe. (Ordinary leaf, little twist, fair liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Pekoe Soug. (Rather bold leaf, indifferent liquor)	6d.	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	5d.
Pekoe. (Somewhat bold leaf, indifferent liquor)	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

JAVAS met with a fair demand though in the case of some of the poorer liquoring parcels prices ruled rather in buyers' favour, though no actual decline can be quoted. “Goalpara” estate was again represented by a good liquoring invoice. Since 1st June 26,622 packages on Garden Account realised an average of 6.60d. per lb.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{5}{8}$ . Colombo  $1\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{8}$ .

## COFFEE.

The Coffee market for landed parcels is still but indifferently furnished with supplies, and only the following are the totals of the quantities offered in public sale this week—viz., 8 casks 1,370 bags East India Plantation, 3,850 bags Costa Rica and Guatemala, 2,300 bags Columbian and New Granada, 1,580 bags Salvador, 844 bags Vera Paz, 403 bags Morana, 400 bags Mexican, and 300 bags



other sorts. These met a steady demand, and were nearly all cleared off at firm to again rather higher prices for the bright coloury kinds, such as blue Costa Rica from 74s. 6d. to 89s., with very fine Maragogipe (Salvador) as high as 116s. per cwt. There were besides 1,700 bags washed Dumont Santos, which went at 30s. 6d. to 40s. for small and medium, up to 47s. for bold, and 2,250 bags Unwashed ditto at from 23s. 6d. to 35s. 6d., quay terms. The market for Futures has mostly had a dull tone, and though easier terms have been ruling, business has been much curtailed, late quotations for good Santos for September to July delivery being 25s. 3d. to 27s. 7½d. The deliveries of Java coffee in Holland by the Dutch Trading Company during August were limited to 6,100 bags, against 5,870 bags last year, and 4,100 bags in 1901; thus making a total for the past eight months 101,750 bags, in contrast with 75,500 bags in 1902, and 86,300 bags in the year before that. The next public sale by the above-named company will be held on Tuesday next, when 24,400 bags Java coffee will be offered, and the price fixed for good ordinary quality is 26 cents, being about the same as was established at the previous auction in June.

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co. write:—"The arrangement of the September account has proceeded actively this week, holders mostly reporting to distant months, notwithstanding the high premiums; for confidence in a recovery from the present very low prices is gaining ground, encouraged by the belief that the current Santos crop is a moderate one. Last week's cables, reporting drought in Santos, have been followed this week by somewhat conflicting cables announcing rains. For instance, on Tuesday, Mr. Karl Kriche: 'Santos cables general rains.' On Wednesday, Messrs. Nauman, Gepp & Co., Limited, Santos: 'Raining some parts; prospects September flowering improved.' Messrs. Barbosa & Co., Sao Paulo: 'Light rains in two districts, but too late to do any good.' Messrs. Boetel & Co., Santos: 'Current Santos crop, 7,000,000; prospects unfavourable.' Messrs. Prado, Chaves & Co., Sao Paulo: 'Drought continues: only local storms:

receipts will moderate;' and, again, yesterday, from the same source: 'Weather continues unfavourable.' After opening firm on Monday markets have since been somewhat easier. Receipts have run very large again this week; but, as it is the earliest crop on record, this is not surprising, and to attempt to estimate the yield on the movement to date is impossible. For example, receipts in Santos to date are but little inferior to the record season of 1901-02, which yielded 1,166,000 bags, whilst, on the other hand, they are but slightly larger than in season 1899-1900, which gave only 5,704,000 bags. On the ruling price basis everything unfavourable appears to have been discounted, and the chapter of accidents should favour the bull, as we are at a level which, at last may be described as incompressible. At the present time there is no large individual holding of coffee, such as proved a menace two to two-and-a-half years ago; but the multitude of small holding looms in the aggregate so large that the huge visible supply does not weigh and the tone is hopeful. Rio receipts this week 141,000 bags, against 119,000 bags last year and 137,000 bags in 1901. Santos receipts 325,000 bags, against 295,000 bags last year and 345,000 bags in 1901. The market in Santos has continued firm, and considerably over 'terme' parity. We quote good average 27s. 3d. to 26s. 6d. c. & f., as compared with 32s. 3s. c. & f. a year ago. Compared with last week, we note the following changes: London futures partially 1½d. lower, Havre ¼f. decline, and Hamburg ¼pf. to ...pf. decline. New York unchanged for all months up to and including December, but 10 points lower for January to July, 1904."

#### TEA IN NEW YORK.

Demand continues small, and it begins to look as though holders would have to meet the wholesale grocers half-way before relieving themselves of important quantities of leaf. Low-grade tea has felt some demand, some country greens and Pingsueys changing hands near the close. The primary market for Formosas is easier, say a

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cent a pound lower, but with this exception the producing points seem to be steady in their views as to prices. Foochow is very little wanted and are easy. Upon the whole the lower grades are in the poorest position as regards strength of tane.

**INDIAN TEA.**—Increased quantities have been brought to auction, comprising 39,490 pkgs., which met a good demand at full rates. With larger arrivals from India it becomes necessary for importers to regulate the weekly supplies more in accordance with the requirements of buyers, and to avoid the printing in any one week of an excessive quantity that the trade are unable to absorb, and whereby prices are adversely affected. All good medium teas continue to meet with attention. Good Broken Pekoes are in strong demand. Some of the Assam estates show very attractive quality, but this varies considerably as a few Darjeeling and Assam invoices already show a falling-off in character. High figures are wanted for the best Darjeelings. A choice invoice from the Jungpunnah estate, Darjeeling, brought long prices, two breaks of Pekoe going at 2s. 8d. and 2s. 11½d., and four of Broken Pekoe at 2s. 0¼d., 3s. 4d., 3s. 4½d., and 4s. 1d. respectively. Dooars, Cachars, and Sylhets are about up to their recent standard. Finest Broken Orange Pekoes realised from 2s. 0¼d. to 2s. 7d., fine 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 10¾d., useful lines 1s. 1d. to 1s. 5½d.; finest Broken Pekoes 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d., finest 1s. 10½d. to 1s. 11½d. and 2s. 6d., medium to good 10d. to 1s. 3½d.; fine to finest Orange Pekoes 1s. 7¼d. to 1s. 10½d. and 2s. 5d., fine Pekoes 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., finest 2s., with numerous Pekoes and Orange Pekoes from 11d. to 1s. 5¼d. Finest Pekoe fannings made 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 4¼d., fine 10¾d. to 1s. 1d., common to good 5¼d. to 9¼d. Finest Pekoe Souchongs brought 10½d. to 1s. 0½d., fine 9d. to 9½d. Supplies consisted of a larger proportion of common tea than recently. Common leaf was in good request at firm rates, Pekoes selling from 6½d. to 7d., and Pekoe Souchongs 6d. to 6½d. A few inferior Pekoes were sold at 6d., and Pekoe Souchongs at 5¼d., but leaf Tea under 6½d. was scarce. Broken Pekoe Souchongs ruled at 5¾d. to 9d., and broken Tea at 5½d. to 9¼d.

### COCOA.

A sudden revival of demand has been experienced for this article since our last report, and the light public sales have gone off with a lively competition at an irregular advance of 1s. to 3s. per cwt.

—viz., 392 bags Trinidad, dark at 59s. 6s., good red at 61s. 6d. to 63s., and fine at 68s.; 711 bags Grenada, pale at 51s. to 53s. 6d., good common to fair red at 54s. to 57s. 6d., good and fine at 58s. to 60s. 6d.; 85 bags fermented Jamaica at 53s.; 4 bags Dominica at 56s. 6d.; 10 bags St. Vincent at 54s. to 55s. 6d.; one lot fiery red 61s.; 20 bags Demerara, pale at 55s., red at 64s.; and 545 bags Ceylon, low at 41s. 6d., native at 46s. to 47s. 6d., small and middling at 53s. to 59s., fair bold at 63s. to 66s., and fine red at 69s. 6d. to 71s. 6d. per cwt. About 500 bags Guayaquil, African, etc., were held firmly and withdrawn. Privately, also, there has been more doing at rates corresponding to those above quoted, with some comm Dominican at 51s., and good African at 54s.

### CINCHONA.

At the Amsterdam auctions of Cinchona on September 3 10,899 packages were offered (weighing 950,856 kilos.), compared with 6,979 packages offered at the auctions on July 23. Of the above quantity 10,739 packages were sold, at an average unit of 9.90c. per ½ kilo., as against 6.55c. per ½ kilo. paid at the previous auction. The approximate quantities of quinine purchased by the principal buyers were as follows: The English and American factories, 12,046 kilos.; Brunswick factory, 7,650 kilos.; the Manheim and Amsterdam factories, 8,628 kilos.; the Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories, 5,203 kilos.; and various buyers, 10,680 kilos. The prices paid for the manufacturing-bark ranged from 5c. to 71½c. per per ½ kilo., and for the druggists' bark from 10¼c. to 54c. per ½ kilo. The unit show an advance of 5 per cent., practically everything being sold.

### QUININE.

As a result of the 5-per-cent. advance in the unit at the Amsterdam bark-sale, makers advanced their prices 1d. per oz., best German brands in bulk being now quoted at 1s. 1d. Howards have also advanced their prices to 1s. 2d., and for 1,000 oz. lots of 1-oz. vials they now quote 1s. 4d. Whiffen's brand has also advanced to 1s. 1d. Salts of quinine are also higher. In second hands there was more activity at the close of last week, some 50,000 oz. of German bulk selling on the spot at 11½d. to 11¾d., and December delivery at 11¾d. to 1s. This week, however, the market has been inactive, with sellers at 11¾d., spot, and December at 1s.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.89d., SEPTEMBER 11TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry														
Glenfruin	22 p	6	3 p	6½	11 p	6	3	6½	4 p	5½	...	...	1½c	5½
Travancore	1777	6.43	...	...	3	6½	9	6½	3	6½	1½c	6	2½c	5½
Atchencoil	18 p	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	6½
Glenmary	119	6½	50	†6½	...	...	30	7	25	6	...	...	2½c	5½
Glenmore	120½c	6½	...	...	73½c	6½	44½c	6½	...	...	1½c	5½	2½c	5½
Lockhart	120½c	7½	51½c	6½ 9	62½c	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	7½c	6
MD	60½c	6	25½c	6½	25½c	†5½	...	...	...	...	...	...	3½c	5½
Merchiston	108 p	6½	46	6½ †6½	42	6 6½	...	...	7½c	5½	...	...	10½c	5½
Poonmudi T Co B...	168 p	6½	60 p	7	63	6½	...	...	...	...	10	6	7½c	5½
„ Braemore...	72 p	6½	31 p	6½ 7	24	6½	...	...	14	6	...	...	3½c	5½
„ Poonmudi...	163 p	6½	76 p	6½ 7	45	6½	...	...	34	6	...	...	8½c	5½
S T T Co Venture...	117 p	6½	...	...	46	6½	31	6½	29	5½	...	...	11½c	5½
T T E Co Bon Ami...	115	6½	42	6½ 7	44	6½	29	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Mount	120	6½	5	6½	32	6½	30	6½	5	6	...	...	48	6½
„ Pambanar	101 p	6½	55	6½ 7½	28	6½	...	...	12	6	...	...	6½c	5½
„	108 p	6½	39	6½ 7½	34	6½	21	6½ 7½	...	...	...	...	14 p	5½ 6½
Vembenard	129	6½	62	6½	54	6½ 6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	6½
Wallardi	79	6½	50	6½ 6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	5½ 6½
White Hills	60	6½	...	...	33	†6	20	6½	...	...	...	...	7	5½
Wynaad	179	6.32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tanga Mulla	88	6	34	6½ 6½	26	5½	...	...	8	6	20	6	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per...	91 p	6½	...	...	34	†6½	57½c	5½ 7½	...	...	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1903.

[No. 40.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 16th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—Very strong and wet, the rainfall is much beyond the average. *Works*—Handling and weeding. *Coffee*—healthy and late supplies good, early supplies have suffered from the wet. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Plenty.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 7th September.*—*Weather*—It is still continuing over-cast and rainy. Amounts gauged now average about 15 cents a day. It is to be hoped it is now going to clear up. *Plant diseases*—Leaf-disease is extending with this wet, but it is not very general as yet, and, on the whole, coffee is looking well. *Works*—Attention is being mostly concentrated on weeding, but some handling is being done. *General health*—Fair. *Labour*—Sufficient.

### SALES OF COFFEE IN INDIA.

IN our U. P. A. S. I. section to-day we place before our readers the latest statistics available in respect to Imports and Exports of Coffee and Tea. Commenting upon the figures relating to coffee, we may remark that those that tell of imports cannot be accepted as complete. So far as they deal with raw coffee they probably are nearly so, but the importation of tinned coffee must amount to a very considerable value. In many cases, it is only too probable, the coffee is shipped along with other goods, even in the same cases with other goods, and entered in Custom House returns as

“oilmanstores.” The leading firms of retailers might be able to throw light upon this point, but it would be impossible to arrive at anything like a trustworthy estimate of the quantity imported on account of “bazaar” dealers. There appears to us to be a strong probability that a very large proportion of any Brazilian Coffee that passes into consumption in India reaches the country in the form of ground and tinned powder; and this is just the branch of trade in regard to which statistics must be accepted as affording very little information. It appears, however, that over one million pounds of Coffee are imported, chiefly from the Straits Settlements and Austria-Hungary. Supplies from the latter port are unquestionably of Brazilian origin. These supplies come mostly to Bombay and Burma, but Bombay re-ships about one-third of its imports—chiefly to Persia, Arabia, and Mauritius. Burma is, to a small extent, a coffee-producing country. It has, in times past, drawn upon this Presidency and Mysore and Coorg for supplies. Yet what it imports from foreign countries—probably chiefly from the Straits Settlements—passes into consumption in the Province itself and is not re-shipped. To this extent, therefore, Coffee from the Federated Malay States and, possibly, from Java, must be regarded as ousting Indian Coffee in a measure from an Indian market.

It is very desirable that planters in this country should know the extent to which their Coffee is undersold in India by Brazilian or other imported Coffees. Just at this point statistics fail us. The primary reason for this is that, in a commercial sense, there is no local market for Coffee in India. There are no Indian quotations of price. Each planter knows what rate he can obtain on the estate for such coffee as he sells locally, but such sales are not recorded in official publications. They must indeed be regarded as more or less of a retail character, though some may run to large figures, and the total of such transactions must certainly be important. It is most probable that Brazilian competition is also almost entirely of a retail character. Oilmanstore dealers import to meet their own requirements, there is no public market (wholesale), and the volume of business thus transacted can but be guessed at, as there are no data upon which to base estimates even as reliable as those that are annually forthcoming in respect to Brazilian Coffee Crops. Then as to the price paid for importations of this kind, the



Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India can say but little, and that little is of no practical value. What he does say amounts to this : that, so far as the figures of quantity and declared value in the import and export trade may give an indication of the relative rates of Indian and foreign coffees, the values divided by their respective quantities give an average rate which is in the case of :

Imported coffee ... 4 annas per pound.  
Indian coffee exported ... 7 " "

It is quite obvious that these figures are entirely unreliable; yet, at the same time, we have to bear in mind that even the actual value of the Indian Coffee exported from this country would afford but little clue to that of such Indian Coffee as is sold in India for local consumption. Generally speaking, the former comprises the superior qualities produced; the latter, the inferior qualities, including garblings and what might be fairly termed refuse.

In spite of the unreliability of the figures furnished we would lay stress upon one or two points that they appear to indicate. In the first place, we have the solid fact that imports from foreign countries, as recorded in Custom House returns, show an increase of half-a-million pounds (over 60 per cent.,) as between 1901-02 and 1902-03. More than one-half of this increase represents Brazilian Coffee (as statistics relating to imports from Austria-Hungary show). The Straits Settlements account for another two-fifths. As re-exports show but a trifling increase, these figures mean that to the extent of 500,000 lbs. Indian Coffee has been undersold in India by foreign coffee during a single year, in excess of the underselling of the year immediately preceding. This appears to us to be a very serious matter. The figures are not very large, but they are too large, and the rate of increase is alarming. The first thing that strikes us is the desirability of instituting the most searching inquiries possible as to the importations of coffee, quality, price, etc. The next, the question of the possibility of establishing in this country what it now lacks, *viz.* a local Coffee market. That the difficulties in the way of establishing such a market are immense, we are fully aware; but it is essential that hard-pressed planters in this country should do everything that lies in their power to protect their "Home" interests while they are essaying to develop their interests abroad. That this matter should receive the earnest attention of all who are concerned in the Indian Coffee industry, appears to us to admit of no doubt whatever.

## BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

AUGUST 1903.

**Cocoa (raw).**—There was only a moderate supply in the United Kingdom last month, but the deliveries were good, and the stock came to be on a parity with that in 1902.

In the first eight months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	lbs.	39,040,769	42,750,254	41,220,816
Home consumption	"	28,267,850	32,762,075	29,659,620
Exports	"	8,117,581	9,146,807	7,313,047
Stocks in bond	"	13,124,000	13,133,000	20,724,000
Value of imports	"	£1,104,457	£1,241,953	£1,239,156
Do. exports	"	237,376	254,853	227,609

**Cocoa (prepared).**—The quantities landed and delivered were again heavy, and the stock was shrinking fast.

In the first eight months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	lbs.	6,913,472	5,578,309	5,477,364
Home consumption	"	6,531,440	5,132,135	5,072,683
Exports	"	285,071	466,513	578,917
Stocks in bond	"	152,000	180,000	151,000
Value of imports	"	£684,799	£570,980	£566,676
Do. exports	"	33,592	49,847	62,600

**Coffee** was consigned here to a fair extent, and in spite of larger clearances than in August, 1902, the stock showed a large preponderance over that in the year just named.

In the first eight months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	cwts.	954,034	727,335	817,227
Home consumption	"	185,597	206,942	227,445
Exports	"	450,904	233,100	475,084
Stocks in bond	"	838,000	523,000	389,000
Value of imports	"	£2,711,079	£2,180,998	£2,647,901
Do. exports	"	1,133,832	688,549	1,388,314

**Chicory.**—Movements under this head were within a narrow compass, and the stock was a mere bagatelle.

In the first eight months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	cwts.	56,602	64,779	70,247
Home consumption	"	51,314	55,111	54,194
Exports	"	169	402	480
Stocks in bond	"	5,000	11,000	23,000
Value of imports	"	£25,827	£29,238	£31,664
Do. exports	"	177	416	491

**Tea.**—Very liberal importations took place last month, so that, notwithstanding heavier deliveries for home use, there was an accumulation of stock, though it continued to be 12,205,000 lbs. lighter than that in the former year.

In the first eight months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China	lbs.	12,814,763	12,754,322	9,279,623
Do. British East India	"	62,437,452	68,655,178	65,751,777
Do. Ceylon	"	69,706,076	78,315,166	77,329,356
Do. Other countries	"	14,135,894	9,519,728	6,537,329
Total imports	"	159,094,185	169,244,394	158,898,085
Home consumption—China	lbs.	10,153,684	8,165,790	6,209,391
Do. do. B. E. I.	"	96,836,111	98,203,180	99,552,498
Do. do. Ceylon	"	52,408,833	56,566,454	62,069,162
Do. do. O. C.	"	7,595,605	6,176,018	4,170,433
Total	"	166,994,233	169,111,442	172,001,484
Exports—China	lbs.	7,377,603	7,518,768	7,221,275
Do. British East India	"	6,225,145	8,265,474	8,422,618
Do. Ceylon	"	10,615,146	11,459,098	11,871,757
Do. Other countries	"	735,609	928,572	892,677
Total	"	24,953,503	28,171,912	28,408,327
Stocks in bond	lbs.	74,305,000	86,510,000	79,394,000
Value of imports	"	£5,071,881	£5,229,118	£5,032,629
Of which British Indian	"	1,984,801	2,219,253	2,135,252
Do. Ceylon	"	2,185,146	2,356,311	2,393,624
Value of exports	"	1,083,976	1,134,014	1,098,082



# U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

The undernoted statistics have been kindly furnished by the Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India in reply to a report made by the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

It will doubtless be remembered that similar statistics relating to earlier years were published in *Planting Opinion* some months ago.

That they deserve and will repay earnest study will doubtless be admitted by all readers who give them, another first place, even casual attention.

## I.—Imports of Tea from Foreign Countries into British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03.

Into	1901-02.	1902-03.
<b>BY SEA.</b>		
	lbs.	lbs.
Bengal ... ..	161,691	166,241
Bombay ... ..	2,501,065	3,055,215
Sind ... ..	11,305	92,015
Madras ... ..	40,016	30,908
Burma ... ..	490,390	503,978
Total ...	3,204,467	3,848,357
<b>BY LAND.</b>		
Sind and British Baluchistan ... ..	784	1,568
North-West Frontier Province ... ..	...	...
Punjab ... ..	560	1,792
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh ... ..	...	...
Bengal ... ..	90,272	67,872
Assam ... ..	244	...
Burma ... ..	1,339,408	1,606,192
Total ...	1,431,248	1,677,424

## II.—Foreign Countries from which Tea was imported into British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03.

From	1901-02.	1902-03.
<b>BY SEA.</b>		
	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ... ..	35,618	33,617
Austria-Hungary ... ..	...	3
Russia ... ..	265	176
Africa, East ... ..	...	1,652
" West ... ..	48	...
Cape Colony ... ..	...	323
Mauritius ... ..	2,406	20
Natal ... ..	110	...
United States ... ..	10	...
Aden ... ..	133	56,979
Arabia ... ..	...	1,894
Ceylon ... ..	820,709	780,078
China, Hong Kong ... ..	137,953	93,411
" Treaty Ports ... ..	1,594,741	2,111,442
Japan ... ..	22	36
Java ... ..	150,660	267,623
Persia ... ..	188	210
Straits Settlements ... ..	461,224	491,246
Turkey in Asia ... ..	280	...
Australia ... ..	100	9,647
Total ...	3,204,467	3,848,357

## II.—Foreign Countries from which Tea was imported into British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03—continued.

From	1901-02	1902-03
<b>BY LAND.</b>		
	lbs.	lbs.
Afghanistan, Southern and Western ... ..	784	1,568
Kashmir ... ..	...	1,456
Thibet ... ..	560	336
Nepal ... ..	85,792	66,976
Bhutan ... ..	4,704	896
Western China ... ..	114,240	4,144
North Siam ... ..	2,016	5,600
North Shan States ... ..	1,202,544	1,578,864
South Shan States ... ..	14,112	11,088
Karennee ... ..	6,496	6,496
Total ...	1,431,248	1,677,424

## III.—Exports of Foreign Tea to Foreign Countries from British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03.

From	1901-02.	1902-03.
<b>BY SEA.</b>		
	lbs.	lbs.
Bengal ... ..	...	...
Bombay ... ..	1,248,785	1,604,093
Sind ... ..	1,056	1,227
Madras ... ..	42	...
Burma ... ..	59	1,586
Total ...	1,249,942	1,606,906
<b>BY LAND.</b>		
Sind and British Baluchistan ... ..	52,976	67,643
North-West Frontier Province ... ..	...	495,600
Punjab ... ..	450,464	2,912
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh ... ..	...	112
Bengal ... ..	...	112
Assam ... ..	...	...
Burma ... ..	8,176	10,416
Total ...	511,616	576,800

## IV.—Foreign Countries to which Foreign Tea was exported from British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03.

To	1901-02.	1902-03.
<b>BY SEA.</b>		
	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ... ..	161	6,440
Austria-Hungary ... ..	50	...
France ... ..	228	...
Germany ... ..	...	105
Greece ... ..	55	...
Italy ... ..	25	...
Russia ... ..	24,509	56,301
Spain, Gibraltar ... ..	...	100
Turkey in Europe ... ..	...	100
Egypt ... ..	7,975	7,792
Abyssinia ... ..	2,950	12,215
Africa, East (British) ... ..	12,069	20,833
" (German) ... ..	560	220
" (Portuguese) ... ..	31,941	36,984
" (Other Ports) ... ..	...	180
" North ... ..	...	16
Madagascar ... ..	1,040	2,693
Mauritius ... ..	376	310



IV.—*Foreign Countries to which Foreign Tea was exported from British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03—continued.*

To	1901-02.	1902-03.
BY SEA—continued.		
	lbs.	lbs.
United States ... ..	1,140	470
Natal ... ..	10,413	37,400
Aden ... ..	38,634	50,715
Arabia ... ..	623	825
China, Hong Kong ... ..	880	1,027
Mekram and Soumiani ... ..	1,004,240	1,230,940
Persia ... ..	...	86
Siam ... ..	208	1,666
Straits Settlements ... ..	111,865	139,488
Turkey in Asia ... ..	...	...
Total ...	1,249,942	1,606,906
BY LAND.		
Khelat ... ..	...	112
Afghanistan, Northern and Eastern ... ..	386,960	383,824
„ Southern and Western ... ..	52,976	67,536
Dir, Swat and Bajaur ... ..	60,592	111,776
Kashmir ... ..	112	1,456
Ladakh ... ..	2,800	1,456
Nepal ... ..	...	112
Sikkim ... ..	...	112
North Siam ... ..	448	224
North Shan States ... ..	...	112
South Shan States ... ..	7,728	10,080
Total ...	511,616	576,800

V.—*Imports of Coffee from Foreign Countries into British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03.*

Into	1901-02.	1902-03.
BY SEA.		
	lbs.	lbs.
Bengal ... ..	10,864	36,176
Bombay ... ..	471,520	825,664
Sind ... ..	448	224
Madras ... ..	4,144	2,688
Burma ... ..	355,936	499,632
Total ...	842,912	1,364,384

BY LAND.

Nil.

VI.—*Foreign Countries from which Coffee was imported into British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03.*

From	1901-02.	1902-03.
BY SEA.		
	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ... ..	76,832	38,192
Austria-Hungary ... ..	231,728	504,000
France ... ..	112	...
Germany ... ..	8,848	21,616
Italy ... ..	...	16,912
Russia ... ..	112	224
Egypt ... ..	...	6,496
Africa (East Portuguese) ... ..	...	1,680
„ „ (Other Ports) ... ..	...	224
Cape Colony ... ..	...	224
West Indies ... ..	...	112
Natal ... ..	224	...

VI.—*Foreign Countries from which Coffee was imported into British India in 1901-02 and 1902-03—continued.*

From	1901-02.	1902-03.
BY SEA—continued.		
	lbs.	lbs.
Aden ... ..	15,568	50,176
Arabia ... ..	...	7,056
Ceylon ... ..	6,944	6,832
Persia ... ..	112	...
Straits Settlements ... ..	502,432	710,640
Total ...	842,912	1,364,384

BY LAND.

Nil.

VII.—*Exports of Foreign Coffees from British India to Foreign Countries in 1901-02 and 1902-03.*

From	1901-02.	1902-03.
BY SEA.		
	lbs.	lbs.
Bengal ... ..	224	4,592
Bombay ... ..	206,752	228,144
Sind ... ..	112	...
Madras ... ..	...	...
Burma ... ..	...	...
Total ...	207,088	232,736

BY LAND.

Nil.

VIII.—*Foreign Countries to which Foreign Coffee was exported from British India to other Countries in 1901-02 and 1902-03.*

To	1901-02.	1902-03.
BY SEA.		
	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ... ..	4,368	14,000
Italy ... ..	112	...
Africa, East, British ... ..	...	224
Mauritius ... ..	68,320	47,824
United States ... ..	336	...
Arabia ... ..	101,136	76,384
China, Hong Kong ... ..	224	...
Persia ... ..	32,368	94,304
Turkey in Asia ... ..	224	...
Total ...	207,088	232,736

BY LAND.

Nil.

COFFEE NOTES.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The market has been quiet in coffee for both actual and optional, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 8th ultimo. In prices there are no changes worthy of note. The Brazil market is on a parity with that locally and offers and sales include 3,000 bags Rio Nos. 5 to 8 at 5c. c. & f., 1,000 bags Rio No. 7 at 4.90c. c. & f., and 1,000 bags Rio Nos. 3 to 7, averaging No. 5, at 5.40c. do. Rio No. 6 at 5.15c. c. & f., and Bourbon Santos No. 2, 6½c. c. & f. The market has been steady, and this had its effect here, prices



being maintained for spot invoices at  $4\frac{7}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 8,  $5\frac{1}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 7,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and  $5\frac{7}{8}$ c. to 6c. for Santos No. 4. Distribution has been moderate and jobbing likewise.

In the option market the heavy September liquidation has been followed by a restful quiet. The next movement will concern itself with November, which is a month of much interest at present, and in which there has been large trading. In it will be determined whether the values of the Brazil grades shall be changed, and there has been much speculation on the doubt. The matter is still indefinite, but the tendency is for a narrowing of the differences existing between the lower and higher grades of coffee. The latter is more abundant. Much will depend on the class of coffee that will be shipped meantime from Brazil to the United States. Meantime some attention is being given to reports that the Santos crop will be rather small. Abundant rains are reported for the growing crop.

A moderate business is being done in mild coffee. Supplies are abundant but not in the better grades, which readily find buyers at steady prices. Good Cucuta is 7 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents. East India coffees are quiet.

Messrs. Karl Krische & Co., Santos, estimate the receipts of coffee at Santos during September at 1,200,000 bags, and at Rio 525,000, a total of 1,725,000, compared with 1,714,000 in September last year and 2,246,000 in September, 1901.

New York retailers are striving to make reputations by selling a fancy blend at 25c. per pound. Some of them are notably fine in cup quality. There is also a large trade in a blend retailing at 35c. or three pounds for a dollar; exquisite in cup attraction, having full body and rich, mellow flavour.

**Coffee Futures at New Orleans.**—Preparations for establishing the coffee future market upon the floor of the New Orleans Board of Trade. Trade have not progressed so rapidly as was at first expected, owing, it is said, to the thorough manner in which the Special Committee in charge of the matter is performing its work. The rules and regulations to govern the system and method of the department will probably not be ready much before September 15, and the market itself will hardly be in running condition before September 20.

**Coffee in the U. S.**—Market weak, says the *American Grocer* of 2nd ultimo, except on specially desirable lots of mild sorts. While the quotations for Brazil sorts are on the basis of  $5\frac{1}{8}$ c., and Maracaibo  $7\frac{1}{4}$ @ $7\frac{1}{2}$ c., for good Cucuta, it is difficult to make sales at quotations, except where an invoice is fully up to or above grade. The country is consuming more coffee than ever before, and the American people are getting better value in roasted coffee, and this is increasing consumption and establishing coffee as a popular beverage in sections where it had a light foothold a few years ago.

The Costa Rica coffee crop of 1901-02 was a reduced one, 236,037 bags, as against 320,934 bags of the previous crop, or 26.45 per cent. less. On the other hand, the average price realised abroad was considerably better than that in 1901; but, although this was an encouragement to the planters, there has been no increase in the area planted, and the export of coffee is likely to remain at between 250,000 and 300,000

bags per annum. The export to the United Kingdom has amounted to 73 per cent. of the whole crop, as against 66 per cent. in 1901. The area under banana cultivation continues to increase rapidly, over 2,500 acres of new plantations having been made last year.

**Adulterated Feed.**—The Journal of Commerce of New York says that "dealers in feed in this city are much concerned over the growth of a systematic plan that has been in operation for more than a year of adulterating feed with peanut shells and coffee hulls. Peanut shell bran costs about \$9.00 per ton in New York and ground coffee hulls cost about \$6.00 to \$7.00 per ton, and up to 40 per cent. of which can be mixed with mill bran and pass muster. While peanut bran has about 6 to 7 per cent. protein and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. fat, coffee hulls have only about 2 per cent. fat and no protein at all, and are said to be poisonous also. A State law makes it a criminal offence to sell adulterated feed unless the package containing it is branded or tagged with an analysis of the contents. Yet some dealers buy feed of mills with their brands on the bags, adulterate it as above and sell it in the original packages at a less price than they paid the mills, as the mill price is \$18 and the adulterated mixture costs only \$13 per ton." Retailers who handle feed need to be careful as to the source of their supply.

Verily, says the *Merchants' Review*, this is the "silly season," when sensational but baseless despatches appear in the newspapers and when strange theories are thrown out by deliberative bodies with a view to startling the public and focussing the popular attention upon obscure personalities. Thus we read that the Journal do Commercio of Rio de Janeiro has announced that a syndicate of American capitalists is about to purchase the whole stock of Brazilian coffee at the price of ten thousand réis an arroba. This belongs to the "important if true" category of current news. We should be sorry for the members of that syndicate if they invested any hard cash in the scheme. It is probable that there is much more coffee in Brazil than even the trade statistics reveal, and just as soon as foreigners came forward to relieve the market in the manner described by the Brazilian paper, just so soon would the Brazilian coffee-planters redouble their exertions to turn out as much coffee as possible.

It is now promulgated that coffee is dangerous to Governments, and were less of it drunk there would be so many revolutions less, especially in South America. An Ohio medical journal learnedly says: "In South America, where coffee is used to an alarming extent in some of the republics, it finally brings about a physical agitation in which it is quite impossible for the victim to sit still, or lie still, except when sleeping. Some have gone so far as to attribute the national unrest of the South American republics to their excessive use of coffee. It has become a saying that it is a quiet day, indeed, when there is no new insurrection in South America. It may be that these characteristics are in reality due to the immoderate use of coffee." Unfortunately for the argument, observes the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, the South American republics, despite that they almost entirely supply the world with coffee, use themselves relatively little of it. Perhaps in taxing coffee the Governments are planning more wisely than they know. And to think on what volcanoes the United States, Holland, and Sweden live, Governments that



have up to the present been so stable, this using more than ten pounds of coffee per inhabitant per year! But this is not all and we quote further this conclusion of the same authority: "If the average citizen of Great Britain uses only three-fourths of a pound of coffee in a year, while the average citizen of the United States uses over twelve pounds, shall we not in some measure attribute the hurry-scurry of our cities, as well as the slowness and conservativeness of British cities, in part at least to this difference in the consumption of coffee?" Now, then, if the average Englishman does not know what ails his enterprise in contrast with the Yankee he need be no longer ignorant in view of this revelation. London in the last year increased the consumption of coffee 100 per cent., and perhaps it at last has met with the elixir of life, the possession of which is so much envied in the American. More Yankee invasion, indeed! But apart from all this, what nonsense is written and said of coffee just to fill vacuums.

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In these days of the malignment of coffee by sordid sources, it is pleasant to give wider publicity to a tribute by Gelett Burgess. We gratefully reproduce this by him: "Nothing we drink is quite so dark as black coffee. See how the liquid in the cup forms a little concave mirror, in which is reflected the light over the table! By tipping the cup, or agitating it slightly, the image of the light dances in and out of wonderful Arabesque patterns, filling the circle with queer designs like Japanese mons. They flash in changing shapes, one melting into another with the rapidity of lightning, a fascinating network of zigzag lines. So, too, for one sensitive to a certain sort of coffee intoxication, there is a mental Arabesque of quaint thoughts that is stirred into life by the stimulus of the beverage. Coffee occasionally has the curious effect of magnifying common things, and of making slight moods and incidents picturesque. And so, in its own curious way, does black coffee at times induce abnormal mental states, finer and more elusive than the intoxication of alcohol, more nearly resembling the restless exaltation of physical fatigue."

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An American firm of retail grocers print the following eulogium of dry-roast coffee:—

"A prominent Western coffee roaster recently ridiculed, in a published article, the idea that any one 'would be so foolish as to roast coffees absolutely dry, or without the addition of water.'

"He made no pretense that his own coffees were dry-roast.

"But Acker coffees have been absolutely dry-roast for 22 years.

"It may have been 'foolish' for us, during these 22 years, to give our customers 16 ounces pure coffee to the pound in place of the usual combination of coffee and water, but the development of the most critical coffee trade in this country partly atones for the loss of the additional profit.

"But 'dry-roast' is a pretty title to juggle with.

"Many adopt our title, but continue to pour on the usual proportion of water."

We have referred to this subject before, says the *Merchants' Review*. Possibly the dry-roast process is superior to the wet, but where does the superiority lie? Not in the excessive weight of the beans that have been brought into contact with water while in the roaster, for unless the water is used to excess the intense heat turns it into vapour, which quickly escapes into the air. It is claimed that roasting is made safer by the use of small quantities of water, as it extinguishes the sparks that sometimes occur in the cylinder.

Total stock in United States September 1, 2,547,936 bags against 2,467,352 bags September 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States September 5, in store and afloat, 2,498,231 bags against 2,980,524 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 428,703 bags against 405,120 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York September 5, 1,929,164 bags. Stock in other coffees September 1, 343,496; in San Francisco, 75,441 bags and in New Orleans, 9,766 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, September 1, 13,148,200 bags.

Brazil stock in Baltimore, August 29, 56,164 bags; in New Orleans, 151,998 bags.

Warehouse deliveries since September 1, 1903. New York, 38,962; Baltimore, 1,470; New Orleans, 716. Total, 41,141.

Receipts at	1903-04.	1902-03.
Rio, July 1 to September 3	1,157,000	1,011,000
Santos, July 1 to September 1	2,222,000	2,008,000
Total ...	3,379,000	3,019,000

\* \* \*

**Mat Coffee in Warehouse.**—The stock of mat coffee in New York warehouse September 1—

	September 1 1903	1902
	Mats.	Mats.
Padang ...	75,385	55,527
Praeger ...	1,000	300
Malang and Buitenzorg	2,000	2,000
Palemb'g and private growth	56,529	58,000
Macassar and Bonthyne	19,000	16,375
Total ...	153,914	132,202

Deliveries during August, 1903, 7,122 mats, of which 4,125 mats were Padang. Deliveries during August, 1902, were 10,524 mats, of which 7,737 mats were Padang.

### TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—A broadening in the demand is reported in the tea market, which consequently is steadier and therefore healthier in tone, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 8th ultimo. It is thought that two-thirds of the buying market is now disposed to come into the market, and presently will do so. Meantime pending this expected activity and during its probable Autumn course, prices should hold steady for the more desired grades of teas, such as Japans, the greens, Congous, Indias, and Ceylons. A booming market should not be looked for. The boom of last year has had its untoward effect in putting too large supplies in consuming hands, and an even larger importation has been arranged for during the current season. We began July 1 with at least 72,000,000 pounds of tea in the land, 36,000,000 pounds more than was needed for current supplies, and on top of this 110,000,000 pounds are to come in. Meantime the fairly high prices are not stimulating any additional tea-drinking on the part of the country. It should seem that tea must fall in price, but it is to be remembered that the incoming supplies are in strong hands, and holders, while finding it impossible to advance prices, in all probability will be able to maintain those at present ruling, or nearly so. They have been able so far to prevent any marked decline, which set in two months ago and which makes present prices look less, as they indeed are, but further they have not lowered themselves.

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**London Tea Market.**—A London wire to the *Englishman*, dated September 28th, says:—Messrs. Ewart MacCaughy & Co., Ltd., report that at this week's sale 37,521 packages were offered. Assams, as a whole, sold well; some Pekoes were rather uncertain, ranging to 9d.; teas for price were



little changed; clean from 7d. common Pekoe Souchongs remain about 5½d., and a few were quoted at 5½d. Altogether a steady market, with plenty of buying.

According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's report, dated the 1st instant, says that the Tea market generally shows a slight decline. The market for medium-liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes shows a fractional advance. The market for teas for price is easier. The average price of Indian and Assam tea sold on garden account is 9¼d. and 7½d. respectively. According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Ewart and McCaughey's Tea Report, dated the 5th instant, says that 36,302 packages were offered for sale at auctions and passed with a fair spirit at late rates. Assams, on the whole, sold well, although sometimes it was rather difficult to get on with Pekoes between 7d. and 9d. Common kinds were steady at 5¾d. with a few at 5½d. quotations where the quality showed a falling-off.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's cablegram of the 1st instant to the Colombo papers announces a rise of ¼d. in the average of Ceylon Tea. Buyers, it is said, are operating very cautiously. Fine teas are generally dearer; teas for price, easier. C. P. Souchong 6¼d.; average 7½d. Reuter confirms the average as 7½d.—against 6½d. for the corresponding week of last year—and adds the remarkable fact that all the 13,000 packages catalogued were sold. India put up 45,000 packages, of which only 38,000 sold, with a drop of ½d., which brings the Indian average down to 7½d. The stocks in London on the 1st instant were:—

Ceylon: 22,400,000 lbs.—down 2,500,000 lbs. in the month.

Indian: 38,300,000 lbs.—up 9,700,000 lbs. in the month.

\* \* \*

Direct exports of tea from India for half-year ending June 30 to North America were: 1903, 773,215 lbs.; 1902, 646,075 lbs.; 1901, 749,831 lbs.

\* \* \*

The Kangra Valley tea-planters seem to have had a bad time on the whole this year. A short time back we had occasion to remark on the want of rain in that district; now it appears that the Valley has had more rain than it wanted. They had ten days' very hard weather last month and heavy snow fell on the upper ranges on the 10th and 11th. The effect on the crops generally has been good but we understand that there is still a great deficiency in the tea crop which it is now too late to have any hope of making up.

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**Ceylon Tea Shipments.**—The following is the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce official tea telegram to London on October 1st:—

September shipments	...	...	...	5½ millions.
October estimate	...	...	...	7 "

The September estimate was 6½ to 7 millions. The shipments for August and September last year were 7,467,514 lbs., and 6,702,973 lbs. respectively; and for October they were 6,628,444 lbs.

\* \* \*

The wonderful manner in which India and Ceylon teas have been forced down the throat of the world testifies in an unmistakable manner to the masterfulness and skill of the companies exploiting the British colonial tea industry, for there is no gainsaying the superior delicacy and flavour of the Chinese teas. So says the *Merchants' Review* of New York.

Messrs. W. J. & H. Thompson, in their report, September 17, say: The new Russian duty, which has already come into force, has had no adverse effect as yet on the demand for shipment—export orders have been more plentiful, strengthening the rates for medium and good teas—while common grades for home consumption have dropped in price, with an active demand at lower quotations.

\* \* \*

**China Tea.**—According to the Annual Report of the Imperial Maritime Customs of China, the grand total of the exports of tea for the year 1902 was 1,519,211 piculs or 202,455,881 pounds, against 1,157,211 piculs or 154,256,226 pounds in 1901, a substantial increase which is likewise exceptional, for the importations from China, excluding the year 1898, when 1,930,795 piculs were exported, have been continually decreasing since the year 1895. In the last ten years the highest figures reached were 1,865,680 piculs (1895). Exports were lowest in 1901. The following are the details of distribution: Of Congous, 506,885 piculs were exported in 1902, of which 114,364 piculs went to the United States direct, 77,065 to Great Britain, and nearly all of the remaining to Russia. Hong Kong is represented with 42,078 piculs. Of Oolongs, 77,906 piculs were exported, of which the United States got direct 52,751 piculs. Souchongs were sent direct to the United States to the extent of only 8 piculs. They went in the main to the continent of Europe, Russia excepted, the total being represented by 18,867 piculs. The grand total was 26,072 piculs. The exports of scented capers were 10,055 piculs, almost entirely distributed from Hong Kong. The entire export of black tea amounted to 687,228 piculs or 101,615,490 pounds, of which 168,501 piculs or 22,461,183 pounds were sent direct to the United States.

Of green tea the total export was 253,757 piculs or 33,936,808 pounds, of which 126,196 piculs or 15,821,927 pounds were sent to the United States direct, and 64,377 piculs to Russia. To the United States were sent 23,052 piculs of young hyson, 13,142 piculs of hyson, 951 of imperial, and 89,088 piculs of gunpowder. Russia took large quantities of the better grades, excelling the United States. The figures were 16,536 piculs young hyson and 41,677 piculs of hyson. Russia received almost the entire output of brick tea, being sent 477,597 piculs of black and 86,932 piculs of green. Russia also practically got the entire production of tablets—7,156 piculs. Japan by direct export received only 1 picul of green tea, but was allowed to have 7,061 piculs of black tea. On the other hand, India took only 877 piculs of black tea direct, but ordered 10,984 piculs of green tea, which, on the whole, is no small bit of heresy for that country to perpetrate. The Philippine Islands figure in the list with only 177 piculs. Russia leads all other countries as China's best tea customer. The grand total sent direct to that country was 882,893 piculs or 117,689,636 pounds, but second is the United States, with, however, only 294,697 piculs or 39,283,110 pounds, and third is Great Britain, with 116,317 piculs, and next Hong Kong with 77,425 piculs.

\* \* \*

Sir Thomas Lipton's presence here is so splendid an advertisement for Ceylon teas that other makes as well as his own are profiting by it, says the *Merchants' Review*. But Sir Thomas did not challenge in order to get an advertisement. He challenged because he was a "dead-game sport," and his manly sportsmanship and fine genial manners have endeared



him to the American heart. Anything of ours except the cup is his for the asking. He has given us medicines to make us love him, as Falstaff says, and we are almost sorry that he cannot take the cup back with him.

\* \* \*

Packet tea is growing in favour, says the *American Grocer*. The persistent work and judicious advertising of the British packers is having its effect in an increasing demand. The demonstration counter has played no small part in stimulating demand.

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Before the British Association at Southport recently Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Manifold, of the Indian Medical Service, read a paper on recent explorations in China. In the course of this he said, that from Ta-Chen-lu the party followed the great tea road between Thibet and China, so called because of the great traffic in tea carried between Lhassa and Ya-chou. Millions of pounds' weight of coarse tea sweepings go into Thibet from Western China, and the lecturer pointed out that if free commercial relations could be established with Thibet there was no doubt that the better and cheaper Indian tea would capture this market.

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The following telegram with reference to the tea crop in the various districts has been despatched by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association at Calcutta to the Committee of the Association in London:—Assam and Cachar—Outturn last month about normal; immediate prospects fair; weather generally too cold for the time of the year and is checking leaf. Sylhet, Dooars, Terai, and Darjeeling—Outturn last month about normal; immediate prospects fair; weather moderate.

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The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the second half of September 1903, Calcutta, 9,109,216 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,698,701 lbs.; quantity entered during the corresponding period last year, Calcutta 11,612,406 lbs.; Chittagong 1,782,000 lbs.; total from 1st April, 1903, to 30th September, 1903, Calcutta 65,157,652 lbs.; Chittagong 12,961,075 lbs.; total 78,118,727 lbs.; total from 1st April, 1902, to 30th September, 1902, 74,652,569 lbs.

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The prospects of the tea industry in the Darjeeling district continue favourable. Last year the season terminated very abruptly, but there is every appearance of climatic conditions being such as to enable more than a normal output to be manufactured this year.

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**A "Boom" in Ceylon Tea in Paris.**—The *Paris Journal* recently published a long editorial on the enterprise of the Tea Planters' Company in Paris in giving an insurance policy for one month against death by accident to purchasers of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and 1-lb. packets of tea. The new departure was announced while public opinion was still much agitated by the catastrophe on the Paris underground electric railway; and it gave the Company and Ceylon tea a splendid advertisement. The *Journal* is now to distribute 25,000 lbs. of Ceylon tea, done up in  $\frac{1}{8}$ -lb. packets, as prizes to readers of the paper.

Messrs. Ch. & A. Boehringer, of Colombo, state for the satisfaction of Ceylon planters that refuse tea (red leaf, etc.) is shipped by them to the Continent only, and there it has to be mixed with lime before the Customs will allow its passing free of duty. They ask—"Would it not be advisable if the Planters' Association induced the Customs in London to denaturalise all refuse or rejected teas to prevent their going into consumption?"

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**Tea for Australia.**—REJECTED SHIPMENTS RETURNING. Last year's incident connected with the rejection of Ceylon tea at Melbourne Customs, and the controversy which followed, will still be fresh in the memory of our readers. By the Australian law, all tea that did not conform to the standard was liable to be destroyed. The standard—a somewhat rigid one—was that no insoluble matter should be contained in the tea, and that all the properties of tea should be there. Now it happens that in the Ceylon dust shipped to Australia there has been a certain amount of grit, which was insoluble, did not come into liquor, and nothing could be drawn out of it. It did not at all affect the quality of the tea. The presence of the grit was apparently enough for the Australian analyst, and he condemned the tea. The question was carried to law and decided against the tea merchant by the Supreme Court.

The Customs authorities did not exercise the option of destroying the tea. Presumably this was in response to the vigorous protests made, it being explained from Colombo that the tea was perfectly sound and in great demand here. The tea was stored in warehouses at the expense of those who sent the tea from Ceylon, and it is now coming back in dribblets. For instance, ten and a-half chests of tea were brought back by the O.-P. ss. *Orient* yesterday, and in the manifests of the last few mail steamers from Australia a quantity of tea was included. This tea, it should be remembered, was condemned two years ago.

Mr. A. H. Ayden, of Messrs. Whittall & Co., informed our representative that he had heard by the mail before last that the question of the re-shipment of rejected tea from Australia to Ceylon was being considered, but, as far as he knew, nothing had been settled either way. The Commonwealth is at present undergoing a change of Government, and it may be that the tea which recently arrived here has been allowed to pass owing to a temporary relaxation of the rules during the political changes.

Those who sent the dust from Ceylon two years ago will be only too glad to have it returned. When it left Ceylon it was worth anything from 16—18 cents a lb.; now it will fetch in any market but the Australian anything up to 30 cents a lb. Mr. Ayden showed two specimens of dust, with unavoidable grit in them, which were worth over 30 cents each a lb.; but, if this tea was sent to Australia, it would not be passed.

From another source we learn that rejected tea has been returned to three or four firms in the Fort. Messrs. Forbes and Walker have had a quantity to sell. It was put on the market, but has not yet been sold. Mr. Drury said it was good dust, but, owing to the length of time it had been kept in Australia, it had got very flat. The great point to remember, however, he said, was that dust to-day fetched a much better price than it did when this tea was rejected.—*Times of Ceylon*.

On inquiry at the Customs our contemporary learnt that, if the tea rejected in Australia and returned to Colombo can be proved to be Ceylon tea, no duty will be levied; otherwise it would have to be charged the 25 cents import duty.

## NOTES.

**Rubber in Costa Rica.** The export of rubber grows less year by year owing to the careless way in which the trees are bled.

**Cacao in Costa Rica.** The export of cacao is increasing as the new plantations come into bearing. The value exported in 1902 is £4,943, as com-



pared with £1,866 in 1901; and the local demand, which is considerable, is entirely met by the home-grown article.

**India-Rubber in Peru.** In accordance with the provisions of a law promulgated in December last, it is left to the discretion of the Government to extend the time for which concessions have already been granted, or which may hereafter be granted, to india-rubber companies. The extension may be for any period not exceeding 40 years.

**Tannin.** Tannin is found in the coffee bean, but only one-quarter as much as tea yields. Weight for weight, coffee gives less theine than tea, but as more coffee than tea is used to make the beverage a cup of coffee usually contains as much theine as a cup of tea, "Theine" is the stimulating principle of both tea and coffee, but, although chemically identical, this element in coffee is known as caffeine while in tea it is called theine.

**Russian Trade with Seistan.** The Armenian journal, *Surandak*, states that M. Sobansky, Director of the Bank of Meshed, on April 27 last (o.s.) sent to Nusretabad, chief town of Seistan, a caravan of 12 tons of Russian goods, consisting of petroleum, sugar, tea, calico, and other cotton goods. These goods safely reached their destination, in spite of great difficulties, and were promptly sold at very advantageous prices.

**Blending.** There are, says a New York paper, as many possible combinations in blending coffees as in the game of chess, and perhaps the perfect blend of blends is yet to be discovered. Think of the rewards for the lucky grocer who discovers the best way of mixing the best coffees to make the best blend at a popular price. Tea blending is equally as fascinating, owing to the same chances that new discoveries may be made. There is one great drawback in blending, however, and that is the variation in coffee and tea flavours from season to season. Sometimes the variation is so slight as to be imperceptible to ordinary drinkers.

**The Calcutta Botanical Gardens.** In the Report of the Calcutta Royal Botanical Gardens, Major D. Prain, M.B., I.M.S., says:—The out-door work for the year 1902-03 was almost exclusively with regard to economic plants—particularly fibre-bearing plants including *rhéa*, *agaves*, *furcræas*, and Indian hemp and Indian yams. Samples of *ipecacuanha* have been submitted for medical examination. Arrangements are being made for the propagation of *Ixora coccinea*, a substitute for the foregoing drug, and for the introduction of finer kinds of American pines. The Japanese bamboo, *matakè*, was also introduced this year. The herbarium and library work are progressing favourably, as also work at the Lloyd Botanical Gardens.

**Balata in Dutch Guiana.** The Balata industry was more prosperous during 1902 than it has been for several years past, the amount brought to town being 321 tons, against 237 tons in 1901 and 208 tons in 1900. This does not, however, represent the actual yield, as a very considerable amount was lost in transit from the bush to Paramaribo; most of this was, fortunately for the colony, insured. It is difficult to say how much was lost in this way, but within six months claims were made against a single

Insurance Company for about £7,500, the value—insured—of some 90 tons lost in the rivers by the upsetting of the boats in which it was being transported; no lives were lost. It is understood that the Insurance Company in question has decided not to take any further risks of this sort.

#### Tahiti Vanilla.

Vanilla is now no longer a lucrative production in Tahiti, as the present low prices scarcely pay to cultivate the vine, inoculate the flower, and prepare the pod for shipment. This much we gather from the British Consul at Tahiti, who tells us that the native is turning his attention to copra, as its preparation is more simple and suitable to his indolent disposition. It may eventually take the place of vanilla should that article cease at any time to be an important export from Tahiti. The Consul gives an interesting table, showing the exports of vanilla from Tahiti from 1893 and 1897 to 1902, also showing the values and average price per lb. Last year the average price was 2s. 11d., and the exports 324,340 lbs., valued at 47,417l., or 120,603 lbs. more than in the preceding year.

#### Cocoa in Dutch Guiana.

Cocoa is the most important industry of this colony, but the year 1902 was most unfavourable, the total crop being only 2,187 tons against 3,004 tons in 1901. There is very little doubt, says the British Consul, that this state of things might be much improved by higher and more scientific cultivation. Recognising this, the Government propose to establish an experimental station: but much might be done on the part of the individual planters, by manuring, more thorough pruning, and when planting new areas or when supplying old fields, by using only plants raised from seed imported from other countries, *e.g.*, Trinidad or one of the other West Indian Islands. The destruction of diseased pods and branches, by fire or otherwise, is almost entirely neglected, these are often left lying on the ground after gathering or pruning, and are, in all probability, the means of reproducing and spreading the disease, "Kroloto," which has already done so much harm to the plantations and to the colony generally.

#### Scientific Aid.

The *I. P. G.* offers a suggestion worthy of consideration by all concerned and interested:—"We are most anxious to secure the custom of Germany and the United States for our teas. What is one of the best ways to set about attaining our object? Why, we should say, enlist the active and practical assistance of German analytical and agricultural chemists and American inventors by offering substantial prizes for new discoveries, which will improve the quality of our teas to such an extent as will raise them to the pitch of perfection. When it is made worth the while of the gentlemen above mentioned, to actively engage in the work of improving Indian teas, the mere fact of their having taken up the subject in right earnest, will be a better advertisement for us, than any number of worthless advertisements in small provincial papers. Will the Indian Tea Association and the Tea Cess Committee consider the matter? We feel assured that the adoption of our suggestion will bring grist to the mill. It is only by offering really handsome honoraria that we shall be able to enlist the services of the best talent of Europe and America in furthering our best interests. In rewarding we shall be rewarded a hundredfold."



## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## ALOES IN CEYLON.

Application having been made by Mr. R. M. Eckert, of Sunnycroft Estate, Veyangoda, to the Government Agent of the North-Central Province, for the lease of land lot No. 7456 in preliminary plan No. 2398, containing in extent 661 acres and 3 roods, bounded on the north by Pannakkawalakele, south by Thonygalakele, west by Pusiyankulamawewa Ismattekele, and east by Galkadawala village, Hinnemukalana, and Karambewa village, situated in the village Pussiyankulama of Nuwaragam korale in the Nuwaragam-palata of the Nuwarakalawiya District, for the purpose of experimental cultivation which, if found to be successful, may lead to the opening up for cultivation of a large area of unirrigable jungle land hitherto lying waste, it is hereby notified under regulation No. 52 of land sale regulations, published in *Gazette* dated 20th February, 1903, that the said land will be leased to the said applicant for five years under the following conditions, unless within six weeks from the date of this notice valid reasons to the contrary are adduced:—

1. The land to be taken over by the lessee in blocks of at least 100 acres each every year, such blocks being defined by the Government Agent by arrangement with the lessee.
2. The lease of the entire land to be completed within five years and to be terminated in the fifth year.
3. The rent for the blocks taken over to be Re.1 per acre per annum, payable each year in advance.
4. At the expiry of the lease, right of pre-emption at Rs.10 per acre to be allowed to the lessee.
5. No timber above 2 feet in circumference to be felled, and any valuable timber under that size felled to be paid for at Government rates.
6. Aloes only to be cultivated on the land leased.
7. The land to be forfeited to, and vest in, the Crown, if at any time such land or any building thereon be applied, without the written consent of the Governor, to other purposes than those specified in the grant or lease, or if, within a reasonable time, the necessary steps have not been taken to apply the land to the purposes for which it was granted.
8. No permanent buildings to be erected on the land without the written consent of the Government Agent.—*Ceylon Gazette*.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

While the Consuls at the Treaty Ports of China inform us that the awakening of the Chinese tea-grower to the needs of foreign markets is as far off as ever, there are a few prophets on this side who are still hopeful. Not long since one of these made it known that, "With a sufficient capital, which would be reproductive, I would undertake to double the present trade in China tea in a few years, to the great benefit of the Chinese, and also to the health and temperance of tea-drinkers who would consume China tea if they could get it." But, he added, no doubt with regret, "meanwhile the trade persists in ignoring it." This may be very obstinate policy on the part of "the trade," but they evidently have good reason for this wayward course. Teas from India and Ceylon have secured such a firm hold on the trade and on consumers that without the expenditure of a large sum of money it is not quite clear how the China tea trade is to be successfully rehabilitated, notwithstanding that those interested are never tired of telling us "that the day will come," etc.

If we may judge by a recent circular from Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., of Yokohama, the Japanese tea-man is not quite awake to the competition of Indian and Ceylon growers. The firm mentioned say: "Judging from the present talk among native tea-men, they seem to take about the same languid interest in the local tea market from now to the end of the season that the habitual 'fan-tan' player does after three-quarters of the cash in the game has been withdrawn, that is, they seem to know just how it is coming out. They say to-day, for instance, that there will be only seventeen days more picking (the growers having agreed to stop picking September 1), and the narrower the margin of production becomes the more confident they feel of their ability to take care of the present stock and probable addition, and, in consequence, signs of weakness on the part of holders are nowhere apparent to buyers for export. When we explain to them with painful particularity the inroads

Ceylon and India teas are making in the American and Canada trade for cheap Japans they miss the point entirely, and ask childlike and blandly if it is not possible for them to import some of the cheap Ceylons for home consumption in Japan! 'These Mongolians is improvin'.' Will an export of 42,000,000 lbs. from Japan cover the requirements of America and Canada for this season?" Tea exported during the current season to August 11 has been 22,461,148 lbs., of which 5,551,555 lbs. were for New York, *viâ* Pacific Ocean, and 3,480,963 lbs. *viâ* the Suez Canal; 3,551,963 lbs. for San Francisco, 10,550,863 lbs. for Chicago, and 2,228,623 lbs. in Canada. The total one year ago at this time was 19,244,527 lbs.

Amongst the pamphlets recently issued by the Cobden Club, intended to illustrate the charm of the good old Protectionist days, is one on the humours of Protection by Lord Welby. Referring to coffee, the writer says: "Let us take first the case of coffee. In those days the coffee duty was 6d. per lb. on colonial coffee, 1s. 3d. per lb. on foreign coffee, and an intermediate duty of 9d. if the coffee came from the Cape of Good Hope or from east of the Cape. The result of the working of these duties was that it actually paid the importers of foreign coffee from Hamburg and the Continent to send the coffee to the Cape of Good Hope and bring it back again, in order to land it here at the intermediate duty of 9d. It was reckoned that the cost of that junketing journey was 1½d. per lb., which, added to the intermediate duty of 9d., still left a profit of 4½d. per lb. as compared with the foreign duty. Thus the law made it profitable to send coffee several thousands of miles across the sea, subject to the loss of interest on the money invested, and to the charges for freight and insurance, in order to bring it back and sell it in London. It should have been to sell it in Bedlam."

Although Americans are large consumers of coffee some of their dietetic authorities do their best to discourage coffee-drinking. An Ohio medical journal says: "In South America, where coffee is used to an alarming extent in some of the republics, it finally brings about a physical agitation in which it is quite impossible for the victim to sit still, or lie still, except when sleeping. Some have gone so far as to attribute the national unrest of the South American republics to their excessive use of coffee. It has become a saying that it is a quiet day, indeed, when there is no new insurrection in South America. It may be that these characteristics are in reality due to the immoderate use of coffee." The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* points out that, "Unfortunately for the argument, the South American republics, despite that they almost entirely supply the world with coffee, use themselves relatively little of it."—*H. & C. Mail*.

## TEA PESTS.

A Meeting of the Pussellawa Planters' Association was held at the Gampola Hotel on Saturday afternoon, the 26th ultimo. From a report of proceedings in the *Times of Ceylon* we extract the following:—

## SHOT-HOLE BORER—AN IMPORTANT REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN: Before the receipt of the first letter from Mr. Green we had already appointed a Sub-Committee on the subject. It met on several occasions and prepared a report which they will be glad to submit to you now, for your approval or otherwise:—

Report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Pussellawa Planters' Association to collect statistics as to the existence, spread, and best means to combat pests and blights affecting tea in this district. The attached circular was sent out to some sixty estates representing approximately 25,000 acres, ranging in elevation from 1,500 to 4,500 feet and with a rainfall averaging from 90 to 180. Answers to the circular were received from forty-five estates with a total of 19,000 acres. Seven estates, about 3,000 acres, are said by the residents to be not now affected by shot-hole borer, though small areas have at times been attacked. The elevation of these seven estates ranges from 3,000 to 4,500, rainfall 120—180. Thirty-eight estates, about 16,000 acres, elevation from 1,500 to 4,000 feet, rainfall 90 to 150, report as being affected by this pest, and from the information collected it may be said that a large proportion of this area is severely affected by shot-hole borer. It is eminently satisfactory that this Committee can say in reply to the circular as regards all other pests and blights than shot-hole borer this



district is singularly free. In no case has opinion been expressed that any other pests or blight has ever done serious damage or remained long in evidence. It is an interesting fact within the knowledge of this Committee that the shot-hole borer is spreading in a southerly direction, its first appearance being nearly always on the northern boundary of the estate. The conclusion this Committee has inevitably arrived at with regard to the shot-hole borer is that it is the most serious pest that has yet been known to attack tea over any extended area. The affected areas have undoubtedly rapidly increased during the last two years and drastic and systematic measures are absolutely necessary to keep it in any sort of check. Weighing the evidence afforded by the responders to their circular this Committee considers that the present inroad of the borer necessitates the destruction of all prunings over affected areas and would go so far as to recommend legislation to make this compulsory. On this point the Committee was divided, three to two being in favour of legislation. Fully alive, therefore, to the extremely destructive nature of this insidious pest the Committee is of opinion that the whole time of an expert should be given to the complete study of it, and that this want might be met by appointing a trained assistant to work under the Government entomologist, whose time is at present divided amongst the study of numerous other entomological questions.

The CHAIRMAN: That, gentlemen, is the report which the Sub-Committee have drawn up with great labour, and I trust it will meet with your approval. (Hear, hear.) On one or two points there may be a difference of opinion. We consider the present inroad of the pest necessitates the destruction of all prunings over all infected areas. That may meet with opposition or debate.

Mr. MACGREGOR: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am one of those opposed to legislation in connection with making it compulsory to bury prunings or burn them. I think it would be a great mistake. If you went so far as that you would have to legislate for the time you ought to prune your tea. If you let your tea run on for two or three years without pruning, it becomes a regular harbour for the borer. I think it ought to be left to the discretion of the superintendent, agents, or proprietors, to say whether they have shot-hole borer. It is then to their advantage to bury or burn their prunings; but to make it compulsory is a thing I strongly object to.

Mr. LUCAS seconded what Mr. MacGregor had said.

The HONORARY SECRETARY: Before we go on with borer there is a Resolution to be considered, sent to us by the Committee in Kandy, about legislation as regards the sale of tea-plants in infected districts.

Mr. MACGREGOR: Everyone has your support there.

The HONORARY SECRETARY pointed out that they had objected to this at first, and what he wanted to know was that they changed their minds? The Kandy Committee supported legislation.

Mr. SHELTON AGAR: How about sending plants from one infected district to another?

The CHAIRMAN: It is sought to prohibit that, and I think it is desirable. Does anyone oppose this Resolution?

Mr. SHELTON AGAR: Would you say "except in the case of one infected estate to another"?

#### SPEECH BY THE GOVERNMENT ENTOMOLOGIST.

Mr. E. Green, the Government Entomologist, made an interesting speech on the subject of Shot-Hole Borer. He explained at the outset that he had brought no specimens of the pest with him, nor had he come to deliver a set speech on the subject, but more to give them any information he could of practical importance. "I want to say," he went on, "that without minimising the importance of the pest—I think it is a very serious one and requires careful watching—I think it is a pity a scare should be the outcome of it. I do not think it is a pest likely to jeopardise the tea industry in any way. It means a considerable amount of loss of crop, no doubt, but I think you may put aside the idea which some people have got into their heads that it is going to wipe out the tea. From what I have seen of it—and I have known it now for 13 or 14 years—it appeared in the Nawalapitiya district first, as appears from one of the first reports and I have not heard of any large dying-out of tea. I have not any reliable reports as to the death of a single tree that can really be put down to the Shot-Hole Borer itself."

#### DESTRUCTION OF PRUNINGS.

At the same time I should like to point out that to keep it in check I consider the destruction of prunings is one of the important

points to remember—not the only important point, because there are several things which should be attended to. I think it is a mistake to allow the tea to run too long without pruning. If you allow it to do so the plant gets full of the borer and weakens its stamina. It will not recover in the same way and necessitates heavier pruning. I have not had any experience of the district down here, but judging from what I have seen I should put the length of the interval here between prunings from 15 to 18 months according to elevation, as a safe time to allow tea to run. I have been told by several people that that would mean a loss of the tea, yet I have been told that many people round here do prune at comparatively short intervals. Is it the custom down here to prune at such short intervals?

Mr. BLISS: Yes, about 15 to 18 months.

Mr. GREEN: Then again I think there is no doubt it will necessitate more liberal cultivation than has been the custom in a good many places if you are going to keep the tea up to its present state of bearing; but beyond that I am of opinion that if in a place like this you destroy your prunings and prune at fairly frequent intervals and keep the tea in good heart, it will be able to fight its own battles. I have frequently found in vigorous tea that the tendency of the plant is to deposit fresh wood over the hole made by the borer, and these holes are blocked up, there being neither entrance nor exit. You see the galleries in the middle, and you find the holes have been blocked up by a new growth of wood which has isolated the galleries altogether. On that account I deprecate the excessive punishing of tea in places where the borer has been at any time. In a case like this I think the idea of going below the borer is hopeless. It is not very easy for everybody to tell whether they are going below the living or the old gallery, and you may be doing a lot of unnecessary damage to the tea. I think that ordinary pruning according to the merits of the bush is what I should recommend in a place like this, and careful cultivation of the tea to keep it in full vigour. There has been a good deal of talk about chena being full of shot-hole borer. I found the borer in a certain number of plants, but I have also, I suppose, had any number of other things sent to me as shot-hole borer which proved to be quite a different thing, altogether. It is perhaps difficult for you to understand. There are probably about 100 different beetles in Ceylon, all closely allied to the shot-hole borer and only distinguished under the microscope, as a matter of fact.

#### FALSE ALARMS.

A gentleman sent me the other day some dead Albizzia branches. I found the beetle was completely distinct and had evidently got into the thing when it was dead. I told him so, but he was very sceptical and said it must be the shot-hole borer. I have had a second lot from him in which there were several distinct species—all different, and not one was shot-hole borer. It is rather difficult for a layman to say for certain whether it is shot-hole borer or not. It is a class of beetles, the greater number of which go for dead wood; the furniture beetles which bore into chairs and rafters; but only a comparatively small number of them attack living wood. Other species do so, but mostly confine themselves to a few trees. I think I have found the shot-hole borer in guava, and in grevillea of course, and in annato, and I have seen it in living albizzia branches but not to the extent it is to be found in tea. In many places a large number of vagrant beetles fly about and try to worry their way into any tree. It is a moot question where the borer came from. It is probably indigenous and must have originated in some tree, but in its original condition it was probably very much more limited than it is now. Many pests when they get a large extended area of cultivation without any break in it, like tea, and where they can find a continual branch to breed in, alter their habits very considerably and are able to increase and multiply to a greater extent than they did in their original home. I don't know whether there are any particular points that any gentlemen would like elucidated.

#### A DISCUSSION.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you find shot-hole borer in tea only?

Mr. GREEN: It occurs in grevillea, in guava, and in annato.

The CHAIRMAN: In dead tea?

Mr. GREEN: I found one species in living tea, and several in dead tea. The beetle goes generally for dead wood. I suppose you have all acquainted yourselves with the way the borer gets into the tea bush. It goes into the knot hole and each one of



these little infections is quite distinct from the next one, not running up and down the stumps. When it gets into one hole the parent beetle lays its eggs in a circular gallery and the parent vacates that hole and probably goes off and makes a series of channels in another knot. There is always an interval between the several infections up the stump. In pruning with a view of getting below the borer it is quite a chance whether you will not—by cutting between two knots—be under the impression that you have got below it, when it is still there. You cannot be absolutely certain about it.

The CHAIRMAN: Does it work up or down as a rule?

Mr. GREEN: It does not go up and down, but begins in the red wood. Mr. Green also explained that it generally attacked plants 4 or 5 years old and nearly always in the red wood first.

Mr. SKELTON-AGAR: When the tree is pruned, how long does it take the beetle to vacate the prunings?

Mr. GREEN: If the prunings lie on the ground what happens is this: After a certain time there will be a certain amount of eggs and a certain number of young grubs. The grubs that are less than three-quarters grown will die. Those three-quarters grown and above will mature and come out of these prunings in time. They take a certain time to do so. Burning of course is the most perfect way of getting rid of the borer, especially as you can burn straight away off the bush. But there is always this in burying—I am not averse to burying if there is proper burying—but if you only scrape a hole and pile your prunings, in and then place a little earth on to the prunings, all this is waste of time. The way to bury is to dig large holes at the time you prune, throw the prunings straight in, and cover them with earth well beaten in and stamped down.

The CHAIRMAN: Would three or four inches be sufficient?

Mr. GREEN: I should say six to nine inches. In reply to further questions Mr. Green explained that the female beetle was impregnated in the gallery and after laying her eggs flew away and entered another stump and made her gallery. The male beetle never leaves the stump.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Green very much for his kindness in giving them that explanation. At any rate he had filled them with hope. He (the Chairman) thought things were very much worse.

Mr. GREEN: I don't wish to minimise the seriousness of shot-hole borer; but my opinion is that it is not a pest which will endanger the tea industry in any way.

Mr. Green's proposal was unanimously approved.

As regards the Committee's report, the discussion on which had been interrupted, Mr. MACGREGOR proposed and Mr. MURRAY seconded:—"That the paragraph with regard to legislation for the compulsory destruction of all plants be deleted from the report."

This was agreed to on a show of hands, by 13 against 11.

The report, with this alteration, was then adopted.

Mr. Green's speech on the shot-hole borer question, with the subsequent discussion (fully reported in our Sunday edition) followed.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. E. M. HAY, closed the proceedings.

## TEA REFUSE.

### ITS PREPARATION FOR THE MARKET.

It seems a somewhat peculiar coincidence that one of the first dryers that was introduced into the tea districts should have been the outcome of a chance visit by a tea proprietor to a foundry near London. He had gone to see some coffee damaged by sea water manipulated, so that only an expert could tell by infusion that it had ever been injured, and the fact became revealed that almost every kind of damaged produce could be treated by washing out the salt, and re-drying at a high temperature in a hot air chamber. Tea was there present waiting its turn to be manipulated, and pass into consumption. This took place some 25 years ago or more, but the same business is probably still carried on, and we have no doubt that much of the tea, which is rejected by the Customs as unfit for human consumption but is allowed to be landed free of duty for the manufacture of Thein or Caffeine, finds its way into those cleansers' hands, and is subsequently sold. We regret to notice, too, from the home papers that the largest quantity rejected hails from India, and is increasing, last year's rejections marked 1,500 against 900 in 1902, and it is quite time that something was

done to stop such stuff being foisted on the public. The process consists of an immersion in water, and an immediate removal into a hot drying atmosphere sufficient to recock it and thoroughly expel all moisture. It cannot be said that low-class tea would be injured by such a process, except in strength of cup. In fact, it would be cleansed of all impurities, but what we wish to point out is the great inducement for manipulating and passing into consumption teas of this class; for teas passed as unfit for consumption get in free of duty for so-called chemical purposes.

It has been intimated to the Governments of Bombay and Bengal by the Government of India that "refuse tea," exported from the country, is to be exempted from Customs duty. The decision was come to after deliberation with the Tea Cess Committee.—*Capital*.

## RUBBER RESOURCES OF RHODESIA.

The British South Africa Co., holding a royal charter for the administration of the various territories of Rhodesia, have favoured the *India Rubber World* with some details regarding the existence of India-rubber in that region, and the nature and extent of its exploitation to date. Attention will be given first to a report by Colonel Colin Harding, C.M.G., on the rubber industry in North-Western Rhodesia—a region bounded on the west by Portuguese Africa (whence come the Benguela rubbers) and on the north by the Katanga district of the Congo Free State, also a rubber-producing area. It is natural, therefore, that rubber should be found in this part of Rhodesia. Colonel Harding reports the following native species:—

(1) *Landolphia florida*.—Found generally in this territory between 12° and 14° S. latitude; abundant in the marshy and verdant spots, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and 20 to 60 yards in length, extending around the forest trees and forming an almost impenetrable thicket. The natives select the larger portions of the vines, leaving the smaller branches, which, in another year, would have attained maturity, to rot on the ground. The latex does not flow from the bark, so that the native method of extraction would appear to be the only practicable one. The vine is cut into lengths of 3 or 4 feet, which are carried into the kraal and soaked for 48 hours, and then hammered or pounded to remove the bark from the stems. The resulting mass is then boiled continually for three or four days, to remove as much as possible of the woody fibre of the bark, after which the rubber, while still warm, is rolled into sticks 6 inches long (*matalas*) and hung up to dry, being made later into *ch-totes*, ready for the periodical visits of traders, who send it out to the Atlantic coast.

(2) *Kiekxia (Funtumia) elastica*.—Found generally in the same districts; latex is obtained by tapping the trees, and the product is better than from the vines, besides being prepared with more freedom from dirt. The rubber is sometimes mixed with inferior sorts to help their sales. Colonel Harding had little personal knowledge of this species, however.

(3) *Carpodinus lunceolatus* ("root rubber")—"Although admittedly it is of inferior quality, still it is a rubber that thrives in the soil where no other root could exist, and will with an ordinary amount of care in collecting it, eventually prove a valuable asset." Abundant north of 15° S. latitude. The root of the *Carpodinus* so nearly resembles a length of *Landolphia* vine that only an expert can distinguish them. The *Carpodinus* plant rises only 6 to 10 inches above the surface, while the roots are found about 4 inches below, and, spreading evenly and uniformly, cover a great deal of ground. "At present the plant is so plentiful that in rubber districts the natives collect only the larger roots, leaving the smaller exposed and perishing under a tropical sun. The surface, after the natives have collected their rubber, resembles an orchard or meadow which has been upturned by a grub-seeking hog." The process of preparing rubber from these roots is the same as from the *Landolphia* vines.

Another report is by Dr. Blair Wilson, Civil Commissioner, in regard to the Mweru district of North-Eastern Rhodesia, which lies east of the Congo Free State, between 8° 30' and 9° 30' S. latitude. Here are reported several species of *Landolphia* vines, no rubber trees being found. All the species are not of equal value, some yielding rubber scantily and of inferior quality. Rubber has long been used by the natives for playing balls, drumsticks, and the like, and until a foreign demand was developed, the



vines were not injured in extracting the latex. Then the vines began to be destroyed, until now "the trade in rubber is now practically finished in the Mweru district." Whereas there were in 1899, twenty white rubber traders there, bartering goods for rubber, a large quantity of which was exported, only one trader went through the district in 1902, bringing back very little. Besides, much rubber at one time was smuggled into the district from the Congo Free State, but that has now been stopped by the authorities of the latter. The *Landolphia* vines here grew to a diameter of 4 inches. The natives not only cut all the vines, large and small, but dug up the roots, until nothing remained. The Mweru natives seem to have had but one method of preparing rubber: "The juice is collected by the hand as it flows from the cuts and is then rubbed on the body and limbs; the heat of the body and the spreading out thus in a thin layer facilitate evaporation, for the juice quickly coagulates enough to be scraped off and rolled up in the form of a ball, in which state it is always met with; by this method the maximum of purity is obtained."

To recur to North Western Rhodesia, the official report of the administrator for 1901-02 (recently printed) reports a rich rubber district in the Bakaonde country, 100 by 75 miles in ex-rubber trees of two species, but no *Carpodinus*, so far as he knows. The rubber, prepared in small balls, is of good quality. Very destructive methods prevail, including the tearing up of the roots of *Landolphia*. Many white traders are at work in the district, and large areas are reported in which the rubber has been exterminated. The administration will try, however, to put a stop to these abuses. This district, by the way, is on the eastern border of North-Western Rhodesia, while that reported on above by Colonel Harding is on the western border.

Measures of preservation of rubber have been adopted in North-Eastern Rhodesia, the administrator of which reports having proclaimed a rubber reserve in the Kafue district (immediately north of the Zambesi river), in which the work of rubber gathering will be regulated. During the year ended March 31, 1902, there were 125,998 pounds of rubber exported from North-Eastern Rhodesia, valued at 1s. 6d. per pound, or £9,449 17s. No statistics exist for North-Western Rhodesia.

### FROM THE STATES.

The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 8th ultimo remarks:—We have before commented upon the opinion in the trade, last notably voiced in the Annual Report of the New York Chamber of Commerce, that a mistake was made in permitting the repeal of the late duty on tea by the Federal Government. The opinion, we gather, is a growing one, and is now becoming a matter of keen regret in what may be styled the original importing houses. Something has happened which was not generally expected at the time the repeal was agitated, and this something is the entrance into the primary market of very many of the smaller wholesale houses, who now purchase their tea direct in the East to the loss of the importing jobber, whose business is proportionately diminished. During the time when the duty was in effect, it was no small labour to import tea; the customs regulations were complicated and not easily understood, and besides, considerable cash capital was necessary in the transaction. The smaller house was not disposed to trouble itself with these complications, and so it made its purchases from the experienced importing houses. These themselves were not in love with the duty. It for one thing required about 100 per cent. more capital than otherwise necessary, and the tangled stocks were a bother, to say nothing of the exasperation of never knowing whether they were long or short. So that when there was a special demand on the part of the houses further removed from importing directly their needs, they were disposed to join with enthusiasm to cause the repeal of the obnoxious duty. But it appears since to have developed among the smaller dealers that it would be nice to be direct importers of their teas, and not finding any longer the customs regulations as an obstacle, they embarked on their own account; then, moreover, it seemed reasonable and right to dispense with the middleman, the importing jobber, so much the more profit being earned. But changes bring about changes, usually not looked for; and all the trade now knows that the addition of so many new interests as buyers in the primary markets has induced a competition for tea in them to the great enhancement

of prices. As affairs now stand, the Orientals have got the best of it, and are getting rich at the expense of those who expected to reap larger profits because of their nearness to the source of supply, and of course also of those who were there originally. In other words, the market, which heretofore was in strong hands, is now not controlled by the buyers. All this has made interesting dancing, and we are paying the piper liberally. It may be assumed that present conditions will prevail, so far as importation directly by houses with less capital is concerned. It is in the air with wholesale houses, and they must do it, we suppose. Coffee importing houses report the same thing. We can give no other advice than that the buyers must come together and reach an understanding. Theirs is the final pronouncement as to whether they shall buy or not, and according to their wishes so shall be the results. We have but to instance the Formosa market, where for a short while recently buyers abstained from buying, and presently a panic ensued among the sellers, and the tea began to march downward, declining in a very short while 1 per cent. a pound. But the buyers rushed in pell-mell, and the market went up, recovering all it lost, and became firm. We do not advocate any return to the duty; but since this is a consuming country, and therefore demands tea at its cheapest cost, some *modus operandi* must be devised so that we be not fleeced with our eyes wide open. Let us remember—United we stand, divided we fall.

### THE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY.

The most fruitful source of contention between individuals is failure to comprehend each other's meaning. Such error arises, more often than not, from different individuals attaching different meanings to the same word. And this being true of people employing their common language in domestic negotiation, how vastly greater is the danger of misunderstanding between people ignorant of each other's language! Interpretation and translation are not exact sciences. A political dispatch written in one language may be rendered in another, so as to soften it, or make it appear more stringent, at the will of the interpreter; and that, too, without any indefensible departure from the original. Some years ago, there was almost a rupture between the United States and France, owing to an American minister, imperfectly acquainted with the French language, attaching a dictatorial meaning to the very innocent word *demandeur*.

Nations are more widely divided by difference of language than by colour of skin, rivers, mountain chains, or even oceans. The Englishman and the Australian, born at opposite points of the world, converse like brothers, while a Chinaman of Swatow and a Chinaman of Canton, natives of the same country and both supposed to speak Chinese, find it convenient to talk together in a barbarous sort of English which they acquire from British and American sailors at their ports, so greatly does the Chinese language differ in various parts of the Celestial Empire.

Some of the world's greatest thinkers hold the opinion that a time must surely come when there will be but one language spoken throughout the world. They base their belief upon the obvious facts that every year transit becomes cheaper and more rapid, and education more diffused and of a higher standard. Trade, by bringing all nations together, and uniting their interests, is another great factor that must not be lost sight of. Enter a good drug store in any country you please, and ask, by its English name, for a bottle of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and it is a thousand to one but you will be immediately supplied with what you desire, so universally is that great remedy known and esteemed. Writing 9th June, 1903, Mr. J. McJohnns, F.C., of Vogel Vlei, Mossel Bay Division, Cape Colony, says: "A few weeks ago a coloured man came into my store who appeared a mere skeleton, and complained of pain in his chest and lungs. He asked my opinion, and I recommended him to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup and a Seigel Plaster. He accepted my advice and the result was astonishing. The man is now perfectly well, and gratefully acknowledges the cause of his good health."

Another letter, dated 17th June, 1903, from Mrs. W. Smith, of Graham's Town, Cape Colony, is equally satisfactory. Mrs. Smith says: "Three years ago I was much troubled by pains in the head, which were so severe at times as to cause me to vomit and badly affect my eyesight. To add to my misery, my teeth



would frequently ache for days and nights continuously, until I thought I must go mad. Yellow patches appeared on my chest and back, caused, I was told, by an affection of the liver. I obtained medicine from several physicians, but without experiencing the slightest relief. I had abandoned all hope of being cured when a doctor advised me to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. After taking a few doses of that remedy, there was a change for the better. I continued to take the Syrup for a time and was soon completely cured. All of my ailments have disappeared and I now enjoy the best of health."

The remedy of which Mr. McJohnns and Mrs. Smith speak so highly is the standard medicine of the sixteen principal countries of the world; but there is no nation by which it is not known and esteemed, and no language in which its use has not been commented upon with gratitude.

### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated September 18th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	346,462	383,198	33,655
1902-1903 ...	375,250	420,134	27,473
49,976 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 75,480 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
23,429 " CEYLON			
2,075 " JAVA			

From market movements during the past week it is evident that the Trade are not disposed to heavily stock tea at rates recently current, and the result of offering some 50,000 packages of Indian Tea has been that the market has shown weakness with a fractionally lower level of price. The position does not warrant any heavy fall, as if there should be an increase of some few million lbs. in the Indian crop, the same is likely to be counterbalanced by the increase which is taking place in the consumption and the shortage

in the supplies lately received from Ceylon. Therefore there appears to be no occasion for Importers to unduly force matters.

INDIAN.—The market showed weakness, and a large proportion of the supplies had to be bought in for want of adequate support. Low priced and medium teas show about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. decline on the week, but quality was partly responsible for this movement. Some of the better liquoring Assam Teas also showed a fractional fall in value.

The official wire gives exports from Calcutta and Chittagong to U. K. for the first half of September as 11,740,000 lbs. against 10,950,000 lbs. for the same period last year, making the total exported to U. K. from 1st April to 15th September 67,262,000 lbs., against 61,230,000 lbs. last season.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 41,273 pkgs., av. 7·69d. 1902, 38,780 pkgs., av. 7·18d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 210,384 pkgs., av. 7·93d. 1902, 229,654 pkgs., av. 7·13d.

CEYLON.—These kinds remain unchanged; the average price obtained for the week's supplies shows a fractional improvement, but this is due to the rather better quality of the offerings.

Private advice from Ceylon gives shipments to U. K. for first half of September as 2,250,000 lbs., against 3,500,000 lbs. for same period last year.

Average for week 7·34d., against 6·34d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 762,563 pkgs., av. 7·45d. 1902, 850,975 pkgs., av. 6·67d.

JAVA.—In some cases prices mark a fractional decline on rates ruling last week; at the decline however the teas met with a satisfactory demand. Since 1st June 28,491 packages on Garden Account realised an average of 6·59d. per lb.

### COFFEE.

The public sale of Java Coffee by the Dutch Trading Company at Rotterdam on September 8th passed off well, when 24,400 bags of that description offered found ready buyers at better prices, establishing a rise of 1 cent on the valuations, and making the quotation for good ordinary quality 27 cents, instead of 26 cents as at the auction near the end of June. At the September sale by the above Company in 1902 the price of "good ordinary" Java was 37½ cents,

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

### CURES

**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



or 10 cents higher than now, as compared with 35 cents in 1901 and 1900, and 26 cents at the same period of 1899. Here the demand from both the home trade and exporters continues good, and the limited quantities of fancy coffees put up by auction since our last report have been cleared off at very firm to enhanced rates for finest orts as under:—40 pkgs. Plantation Ceylon, small from 30s. to 45s. 6d., low grey at 55s., middling blue at 79s. 6d to 85s. 6d.; and superior 90s. 6d. to 96s.; 980 bags small to good middling East India from 35s. 6d. to 76s.; 3,360 bags Costa Rica and Guatemala, pickings and small at 21s. 6d. to 32s., good to fine fine ordinary at 35s. 6d. to 43s. 6d, low middling and middling at 46s. to 59s. 6d., good middling to bold bluish coloury at 62s 6d. to 72s. and 77s., with bright blue from 82s. 6d. to 96s., and Peaberry from 43s. 6d. to 65s., and up to 82s.; 3,000 bags Columbian and New Granada, pale and greyish at 28s. to 34s. 6d. and 43s., greenish at 44s. to 57s.; 900 bags Peruvian, fine ordinary to middling at 38s. to 47s., peaberry at 50s., 141 bags Vera Paz at 34s. for common; 236 pkgs. Jamaica at current rates; 1,310 bags Salvador, small to middling at 35s. 6d. to 48s. 6d., good middling to 50s., peaberry at 52s. to 67s.; 400 bags Mexican, good middling at 53s. to 53s. 6d., bold at 65s. to 73s.; 2,880 bags Unwashed Dumont Santos, small (foxy) and medium at 27s. 6d. to 31s. 6d., peaberry at 35s.; and 2,076 bags Washed ditto grey and coloury at 30s. 6d to 39s., with bold at 38s. 6d. to 46s. per cwt. Futures have again experienced many fluctuations, but taken altogether they have not been of unusual importance, and good Santos deliverable between September and July has been taken at 25s 9d. to 28s. 6d., which is 6d. to 1s. per cwt. above last Friday's quotations. Stocks of coffee in the chief ports of Europe on the 1st instant were still very excessive, amounting to 431,600 tons, against 380,000 tons in 1902, and 240,000 tons in 1901.

Messrs. George White & Co., in their Report, September 17, say: Latest arrivals have not maintained the standard of quality reached in the earlier shipments, and this, combined with the comparatively large offerings, has caused a weaker tone. . . . With regard to prospects of supply, recent cablegrams point to modified anticipations on the other side of anything approaching an excessive crop. On the comparatively high level prevailing for the ordinary consuming qualities since the season opened, the assumption is that operators for home and foreign markets, in expectation of a somewhat lower basis following freer supplies, have more or less confined their purchases to immediate requirements and that some concession in price will lead to a good general business and increased offtake. The following extract from a noted trade journal with reference to the finer descriptions is of interest:—"The liberal demand for these grades points to the fact that the consumption is well maintained, notwithstanding the free advertising of teas of inferior qualities, which clearly proves that the consumer is willing to pay a reasonable price for good tea. It only requires an earnest effort on the part of the retailers to bring them prominently under the notice of their customers to

ensure a much larger sale, instead of clinging to the opinion that the public will only pay the price for practically the commonest teas."

### CINCHONA.

At the London auction on Tuesday the small supply of 1,009 packages (containing about 105,000 oz. quinine) was offered, of which the greater part sold at an advance of 10 per cent., the average unit being 1½d., against 1¼d. last sale.

The following table shows the quantity of bark offered and sold:

		Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
South American cinchona	...	297	297
East Indian cinchona	...	594	497
African cinchona	...	66	45
Ceylon cinchona	...	52	18
		1,009	857

The following were the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:

		Lbs.
The American and Italian factories	...	48,433
The Mannheim and Amsterdam factories	...	36,595
The Imperial Quinine factory	...	33,970
The Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories	...	17,485
Messrs. Howards & Sons	...	15,820
The Brunswick factory	...	2,939

Total quantity sold	...	155,242
Bought in or withdrawn	...	31,807

Total quantity offered and sold ... 187,049

The prices paid were as follows:

AFRICAN.—Dull red quill, 5½d. to 5¼d.; and red quillings, 4¼d. per lb.

SOUTH AMERICAN.—Bolivian cultivated Calisaya quills, 5½d. to 5¼d.; Colombian, small dusty chips, 6¼d.; and twigs, 2d.

EAST INDIAN.—Officialis, natural stem chips and shavings, 2¾d. to 6d.; renewed, 3¾d.; broken quill, 5¾d.; root, 5½d. to 6½d.; and branch, 4¾d.; Red stem chips and shavings, 2¾d. to 3½d.; branch, 1½d. to 1¼d.; Ledgeriana, natural stem chips, 3½d. per lb.

The half-monthly shipments from Java for September amount to 566,000 Amsterdam lbs., against 180,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1902, and 601,000 Amsterdam lbs. in 1901. In the drug-auction 32 serons fair sound Loxa quill brought from 10½d. to 10¾d., and a bale of dark, thin, flat Calisaya sold at 1s. 7d. per lb. Seven bales of bright flat damaged Cartagena were limited at 5½d., and 10 serons from Paita sold at from 8¾d. to 9d. per lb.

### QUININE.

Consequent upon the advance in the London bark-sale there has been a rather firmer tendency in quinine in second hands, a small

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business having been done at from 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 11 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. for good German sulphate in bulk, there being few sellers at these prices, however. On Wednesday December delivery sold at 1s., and March at 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

### CARDAMOMS.

Almost every broker offered cardamoms to-day, the total supply aggregating 583 packages. There was a fair demand, and as importers and dealers appeared anxious to sell, rather lower prices were accepted. The following prices were paid: Ceylon-Mysore,

fine bold pale, slightly open, 2s. 4d.; good bold pale bleached, 1s. 10d. to 2s.; medium and bold pale, 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.; bold medium pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.; bold dullish, 1s. 8d.; bold pale split, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; small good pale, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.; medium and small, 11d. to 1s. 1d.; small and medium dull, 10d. to 11d.; small yellowish, 9d.; dull specky splits, 9d.; peas, 8d. to 9d.; brown, split, and pickings, 8d. to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Two packages small to medium lean native wild sold at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., and medium round pale Mangalore were held at 2s. 4d. per lb.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN UNITED KINGDOM FROM 1ST JUNE TO 31ST AUGUST, AS SHOWN BY CUSTOM HOUSE RETURNS.

		IMPORTS.			DUTY PAYMENTS.			* EXPORTS.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
India	...	27,054,441	26,233,201	20,184,292	34,763,295	29,773,467	23,111,727	2,048,866	2,562,596	2,221,406
Ceylon	...	29,499,207	32,344,896	29,191,576	21,866,514	21,844,079	21,579,682	4,042,118	4,882,724	4,552,359
China	...	8,847,945	8,246,744	6,197,089	3,738,234	2,481,140	1,713,408	2,901,410	3,150,403	2,324,129
Other Countries	...	4,287,768	2,783,426	2,220,844	3,334,262	2,156,829	1,663,243	201,037	501,195	245,491
Total lbs.	...	69,689,361	69,608,267	57,793,801	63,702,305	56,255,515	48,068,060	9,193,431	11,096,918	9,343,385

\* Analysis of above export of Tea from U. K. (not including transhipments).

		INDIAN.			CEYLON.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Countries in Europe	...	982,432	1,257,581	1,217,881	1,693,010	2,520,065	2,432,706
United States	...	193,785	216,069	79,599	692,269	588,199	616,453
British North America	...	213,526	307,335	153,723	810,708	777,592	619,757
Newfoundland	...	12,972	35,083	28,726	85,011	123,157	108,628
Other Countries	...	646,151	746,528	741,477	761,120	873,711	774,815
Total lbs.	...	2,048,866	2,562,596	2,221,406	4,042,118	4,882,724	4,552,359

		CHINA.			OTHER COUNTRIES.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Countries in Europe	...	1,651,436	1,879,132	1,295,690	162,049	442,629	220,863
United States	...	82,825	86,140	45,040	6,617	14,426	3,543
British North America	...	21,578	126,867	51,175	8,407	4,931	2,571
Newfoundland	...	14,954	29,885	8,896	2,371	1,524	1,258
Other Countries	...	1,130,617	1,028,379	923,328	21,593	37,685	17,256
Total lbs.	...	2,901,410	3,150,403	2,324,129	201,037	501,195	245,491

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-69d., SEPTEMBER 18TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	3443	6-40												
Atchencoil	36 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	8	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	6	2	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Invercauld	188 p	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	63	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	65	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ 6	...	...	52	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kan D H T Co G	402 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	198 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7	93 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Kalaar	238 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	79	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	6	...	...	9	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kan D H Co Kan	103 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Munaar	355	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	152	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	70	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	84	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	19	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
" Nullattani	421 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	215 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	26	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
" Periavurrai	196 p	6	30	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	62	6	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	68	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ 6	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
" Yellapathy	380 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	60	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	44	6	...	...	11 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Poonmudi T Co B...	122 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7	39	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	23	6	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
" Braemore...	148 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	54 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7	67	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	22	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
" Poonmudi...	150 p	6	59 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	35	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Riviera	80	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	58	5 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
S I T Co Kud Ka	141	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	82	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	29	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	6	...	...	...	...
S T T Co Venture...	179	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	131	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	48	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
T T E Co Bon Ami...	89	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	40	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Mount	115 p	6	...	...	35	6	34	6	6	6	...	...	...	...
" Pambar	100	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7	19	6	20	7	17	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	40 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1903.

[No. 41.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 23th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

October 14th.—*Weather*—A nice sunny break on now, wind still from the S.-W., but very little to speak of. *Coffee*—The break is just in time for the supplies which were suffering from want of sun: coffee generally magnificent. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—Gymkhana at Saklasapur.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 14th October.—*Weather*—After the first few days of the current month, the weather has been fine and bright and chilly at nights. Yesterday, there was a smart shower in the evening from the N.-E. *Coffee Diseases*—Coffee has come out wonderfully well from the unusual wet of September. Leaf-disease is confined to bad patches only, and, on the whole, coffee is looking very fine. Weeding, handling and care of supplies are the only works that are in hand. *Labour*—Plentiful. *General health*—Fair. Plague has unfortunately invaded one Estate, another death from that cause having occurred there last week. There had been several previously.

### FOREIGN TEA IN INDIA.

LAST week we wrote about Sales of Coffee in India, basing our remarks upon statistics furnished to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., by the Director-General of Statistics. It should, by the way, have been stated in our U. P. A. S. I. section that these statistics were supplied in reply to a request (not a report) made by the Secretary. The Tea figures require to be studied from a different standpoint from that occupied when reviewing the statistics relating to Foreign Coffees, though it would appear that a considerable quantity

of Foreign Tea comes to India *to stay*. Total imports of such Tea by sea amounted in 1902-03 to 3,848,357 lbs., by land to 1,677,424 lbs., making a total of over 5½ million lbs. Exports totalled only 1,660,996 lbs. by sea and 576,860 lbs. by land—total, say, 2½ millions, so that something like 3 million pounds of Foreign Tea would appear to pass into consumption in this country. This is by no means an unimportant quantity; and when it is placed side by side with the figures relating to sales effected by the Indian Tea Markets' Expansion Commission it affords food for reflection. The imports by sea come chiefly to Bombay and from China, though Ceylon supplies over ¾ million pounds. The tea that is imported into Burma by land is, presumably, also China Tea. It would appear, therefore, that India received by sea last year 2,200,000 lbs. of China Tea, and by land, in Burma, over 500,000 lbs. Ceylon contributed 780,000 lbs., the Straits Settlements 491,000 (mostly China tea, no doubt) and Java 267,000. The real significance of these figures can, however, only be realised when it is noted that imports of China Tea and of Java Tea, though not of Ceylon leaf, show a marked increase when 1902-03 figures are compared with those of 1901-02.

It is evident from this that the importation of Foreign Teas into India has increased of late. So, to a smaller extent, have exports of such teas. The balance remaining appears to indicate that there is an increased demand for Foreign Teas in India. Although there are certain importations from the United Kingdom, these do not appear to call for special comment. They do not amount to very much, and it is to be expected that a certain quantity of well known brands or blends should find a market in this country, even though much of the tea should have been originally shipped hence. What appears to demand investigation is the manner in which imports from China (directly and indirectly), from Ceylon, and from Java are disposed of. How is it that Indian Tea has not been able to exclude imported tea of all kinds, except packet or blended teas that have acquired a high reputation in the Home market? Omitting what may be regarded as transshipment or "carrying trade" supplies, there is still an appreciable quantity that is either consumed in this country or used in it for blending purposes. We do not entirely object to the conduct of blending operations in India. On the contrary, it seems probable that such blends may prove useful as "pioneers" in



new markets and in such as are not yet converted to a belief in the pure Indian leaf. But we should certainly like to know exactly how surplus imports are utilised; and we feel that this is a matter that deserves the consideration of the Indian Tea Association.

We compete successfully with China and Java in foreign markets. Can we not hold our own markets against them? Bombay would appear to be the head centre of India's trade in Foreign Teas, and we cannot but think that a close investigation of the conditions and requirements of the Bombay market would well repay the trouble and expense that would be involved. It should be possible also for India to secure the whole of the Burma demand for Tea. A reference to the statistics published in our last issue will show that Burma imports large quantities of Foreign Teas while exporting (as far as can be judged from Custom House returns) very little. It would be instructive to know if this is really the case and, if so, why? Obviously much of the tea taken by Burma comes from the Shan States. What are its characteristics, what is the average price or the range of prices? Is there anything about these teas that precludes successful rivalry on the part of Indian leaf? We would draw the special attention of the Indian Tea Association in Calcutta to the subject of imports of Foreign Teas into Bombay, Bengal and Burma, and exports therefrom, in the hope that an exhaustive investigation may be made, and that one result may be the discovery that India can secure for herself this trade that is now practically going past her, or being done in Foreign Teas within her own limits. Whatever the prospects in foreign markets may be, Indian tea-planters cannot afford to neglect the markets nearer home. It appears sufficiently clear that she is at present acting as 'carrier' in respect of a great deal of Foreign Tea. How much better would it be for her if she could manage to replace these teas by her own, and thus secure the producer's, as well as the carrier's, profit.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Mocha Coffee Still Comes.**—Wm. Masterson, discerning consul of the United States at Aden, gives pleasure to the lovers of good coffee by disproving the often-made assertion that genuine Mocha rarely if ever reaches that country. It has been said again and again that what purports to be Mocha from Arabia is nothing more than Brazilian coffee shipped to Aden and thence forwarded to the United States as the real thing, the only difference between it and the honest Brazilian product sent direct being one of price. A coffee connoisseur is not to be deceived by such statement, however, for he knows Mocha when he tastes it.

Mr. Masterson has done justice to the Arabian growers and has restored the confidence of the consumer by a report to the government, in which he states that a good many hundred thousand pounds of real Mocha coffee is sent to this country from Arabia every year, and that the Aden Board of trade takes careful and effective means to protect the brand from every form of adulteration or substitution there. The United States imported 1,091,004,252 pounds of coffee, worth \$70,982,155, in 1892. Of this, 2,688,285 pounds, worth \$377,352, was Mocha. In 1897 the amount of coffee imported from Aden was over 5,000,000 pounds, the imports in two other years being 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 respectively.

The *Singapore Free Press* states that reports from Brazil that have just come to hand are discouraging to planters in Java. The number of coffee trees coming into bearing in Brazil is simply enormous so that, in a year or so, when crops from them flow into the market, a further fall in quotations may be looked for. The demand for coffee is on the increase, but the supply increases too fast to prevent the fall in prices

\* \* \*

That the coffee-planters of the Peninsula have not yet entirely abandoned the Liberian berry for the cultivation of Pará rubber is evidenced, says the *Straits Times*, by the fact that the amount of coffee exported hence during 1902 was 104,000 piculs, as compared with only 80,000 piculs in 1901, an increase of 24,000 piculs, or exactly 30 per cent. The average price received was \$21.88 as compared with \$20.57 in 1901—an advance of 6 per cent.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—NEW YORK, Sept. 5, 1903.—A better tone dominated the market, and prices advanced slightly. Cable advices were received from Karl Krische & Co., Santos, saying that the stocks of coffee at the interior stations were light; this information was interpreted as foreshadowing comparatively small receipts; in fact, the day's pointers of the Santos interior receipts dropped to 33,447 bags, and this had a strengthening influence. Private cable advices were received reporting general rains in São Paulo, but this appeared to have no influence as a market factor. The European markets also were stronger, both Havre and Hamburg reporting advances, they, too, evidently being influenced by the prospects of smaller Santos receipts. The Brazil markets were unchanged and a moderate amount of business was transacted with Rio, the sales reported including 3,000 bags Rio Nos. 5 to 8, at 5c., c. & f.; 1,000 bags Rio No. 7, at 4.90c., c. & f., and 1,000 bags Rio Nos. 3 to 7, averaging No. 5, at 5.40c., do. The spot market for invoices was steady, and sales were made of 3,000 bags Rio No. 7 spot at 5.10c., and 2,000 bags do., to arrive, at 5.10c. Prices quoted were unchanged at 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 8, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for Rio No. 7, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ @5 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ @6c. for Santos No. 4. The distributing business continued moderately active.

Speculation in the market for contracts reached only limited proportions. The opening was at an advance of five points during the day. The market was firmer on receipt of bullish cable advices from Brazil, and the close was steady.

Business in the market for West India growths was active. It was learned that large interests were free buyers, especially of Bogotas for investment account, but that they were buying on a low basis of values.

The tone of the market is firmer, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 15th ultimo, and the trade confident in the suppression of some strong bear influences. Rio and Santos receipts were somewhat smaller than in the same week last year. Demand is broader, jobbers reporting a satisfactory distributing outlet, and dealers buying more liberally. Brazil markets were firmer, and the offers from Rio and Santos were on a higher basis; they included Rio No. 7 undescribed, at 5 $\frac{3}{16}$ c., c. & f., and described at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., c. & f.; Santos No. 4 to 8 at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ c., c. & f.; and Santos Bourbon Nos. 3 and 4, at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c., do. Sales reported were 5,000 bags Rio No 8, described



as flat bean, good roasters, at 5c., c. & f., and 2,500 bags desirable old crop Santos No. 3 sold on sample at 6¼c., c. & f. There were indications of other sales, but particulars were not made public. The spot market for invoices was firmer, with buyers reported showing increased interest. Sales were reported of 1,000 bags Santos No. 2 at 6¾c.; 1,000 bags desirable Rio No. 7, at 5¾c., and 100 bags Rio No. 7 at 5¼c. Prices quoted at the close were 5c. for Rio No. 8; 5¼c. for Rio No. 7; 6 1/16c. for Rio No. 4, and 6¼c. for Santos No. 4.

Some interest has been displayed in the market for contracts.

Mild coffee was firm and good stocks are taken sometimes at an advance; East India firm; Jobbing demand moderate.

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**Haitien Coffee Pickings.**—A law promulgated on the 7th August, fixes the export duty on coffee pickings at \$2 (\$1.96 United States) per 100 pounds. The law went into immediate effect, but will cease to be operative on September 30 next, when coffee pickings will again become subject to the regular coffee export duty of \$3 (\$2.895 United States) per 100 pounds.—Alexander Battiste, Deputy Consul-General at Port Au Prince.

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**To Boom Porto Rico Coffee.**—For the first time in the history of Porto Rico all the coffee growers, at a convention to be held on September 20, were to unite to seek a market in the United States and otherwise further their interests. They are backed by the banks and business men of Porto Rico.

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**Porto Rico Coffee in Europe.**—Washington, D. C., August 14.—During the month of June the export trade of Porto Rico included that of 1,102,724 pounds of coffee, at a total value of \$117,693. Of that quantity the largest recipient was France, who took 443,199 pounds at a total value of \$49,833. Spain was the next best market with 424,791 pounds at \$44,467; while Cuba came a very poor third, receiving 155,341 pounds, for which she paid \$14,392. Austria-Hungary took 48,607 pounds, for which was paid \$5,592, and Germany 30,416 pounds at \$3,379, and 370 pounds at \$30 were shipped to Italy.

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It is proposed, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, to inaugurate a propaganda in favour of that much maligned beverage—coffee. Two very potent reasons for such a campaign have developed in the last few years, making it imperative that the importer, broker, jobber, and wholesaler as well as the grower co-operate to improve conditions in the coffee world.

The reasons are: First, the largely increased output of the plantations, particularly in Brazil, which is now largely in excess of consumption. Second, the active advertising campaign of a certain coffee substitute concern, in which coffee is alleged to be responsible for almost all the ills of humanity. This concern, it is said, has appropriated \$1,000,000 to be spent in advertising during the current year, with the result that every daily paper and magazine of this, the greatest coffee-consuming country in the world, is filled with warnings against the use of coffee, and gross misstatements as to its injurious effects. The growers of Central and South America are already looking for some remedy for the ruinous prices

that have prevailed for a year or more. The governments of some of the coffee growing countries are considering measures of relief, but so far have done nothing more than to assist in the publication of a monthly newspaper printed in Spanish, for circulation among the growers. Obviously, what is needed is to curtail the production or increase the consumption. The former is admittedly impracticable, since the growers cannot be expected to destroy bearing trees, and even if some were willing to join in an agreement to destroy part of their trees, it would be impossible to get the majority to carry out such a compact. The remedy lies, then in increasing the consumption. The conditions are very much the same as those confronting the tea trade some years ago, when production so far outstripped consumption, that ruin threatened the growers, and importers and dealers found no profit in handling tea. The East India and Ceylon Governments then levied a small tax on tea, which it spent advertising its merits, and in spreading broadcast in England and Canada, the United States and elsewhere, the proper method of brewing, etc. The results were immediate and satisfactory. The amount annually expended in advertising is said to be more than \$500,000. The need that something of this nature be undertaken in the coffee interests is even more urgent. It is estimated that not half of the coffee-drinking families in the United States know how to brew coffee properly. They should be taught. But perhaps the greatest factor in arresting coffee consumption in the United States is the persistent newspaper advertising of cereal substitute manufacturers, in which coffee is pronounced injurious and poisonous.

Coffee growers, or the governments of coffee-producing countries, and those who import and distribute it, should co-operate to bring the merits of coffee to the attention of the consumer, and to teach him how to prepare it. This might be done by each producing country levying a small export tax, or by all importers agreeing to contribute a fraction of a cent a bag on all importations for this purpose. This might be supplemented by an appropriation by the governments of the coffee-growing countries.

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**Encouragement to Coffee-planters in Mysore.**—We take the following extract from the Address delivered by the Dewan of Mysore at the opening of the Representative Assembly on the 5th instant:—

“The depression in the coffee trade owing to competition from Brazil and other causes has been, it is well known, retarding the growth of that industry throughout India. There has been a large diminution of more than 20,000 acres in the cultivated area of this crop in Mysore, the decrease this year being about 2,500 acres, and it was therefore with great willingness that the Government complied with a request made by the North and South Mysore Planters' Associations for a conference on the subject. Mr. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., who was deputed with instructions as the representative of Government met Mr. Graham Anderson, C.I.E., and other leading planters and conferred with them at Mudgere and Saklespur, the centres of coffee growth, on the present state of their industry. The subjects considered were the registration of titles, levy of a coffee cess, measures for the prevention of adulteration of coffee and a few others. The question of introducing the Coffee-Stealing Act and the Labour Law were also touched upon. The fullest



assurance of sympathy and help on the part of Government has been given to this enterprising body of gentlemen, whose industry has been of so much benefit to this country. Lately, a contribution from the State of Rs.5,000 was sanctioned to enable the Planting Associations to exhibit the local coffee and cardamoms at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904."

**The August Coffee Movement in the U. S.**—The August movement of coffee is notable, says the *American Grocer*, for heavy receipts at Rio and Santos, they being only 59,000 bags behind the record-breaking crop of 1901-02; increase in the world's visible supply; deliveries in the United States and Europe, 85,511 bags less than in August, 1902; a steady market with fluctuations in spot within  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per pound.

The following statement shows the August movement in detail:

Stocks August 1, 1903:	Bags.	Bags.
United States ..	2,400,040	
Europe ..	7,245,426—	9,645,466
Receipts during August:		
United States ..	656,900	
Europe ..	649,822—	1,306,722
Total supply August, 1903	...	10,952,188
Less stock September 1, 1903:		
United States ..	2,547,936	
Europe ..	7,186,814—	9,734,750
Deliveries, August, 1903:		
United States ..	509,004	
Europe ..	708,434—	1,217,438
Deliveries, August, 1902	...	1,302,949
Decrease from August, 1902	...	85,511
Deliveries, July, 1903	...	1,339,679
Deliveries, August, 1903	...	1,217,438
Averages per month, 1902-03	...	1,330,541
Total 1902-03	...	15,966,498

The visible supply of the world, September 1, was 13,148,200 bags, against 12,370,466 bags August 1; 12,226,947 bags September 1, 1902, showing an increase in August of 777,734 bags, and 921,253 bags more than in September, 1902.

Transactions on the Coffee Exchange were 802,250 bags, with 3.55 cents the lowest price for August and September deliveries; highest 5.00 cents, for July.

The spot price of No. 7 Rio fluctuated between  $5\frac{1}{8}$  @  $5\frac{1}{4}$  cents, as the official quotation.

The total deliveries in September in the United States were 509,004 bags, of which 411,505 bags were of Brazil sorts, 97,499 bags all other kinds.

The total receipts during August at Rio were 1,101,000 bags; at Santos, 2,071,000 bags; both ports, 3,172,000 bags, against 2,853,000 bags same time in 1902; 3,309,000 bags in 1901.

Conditions continue favourable for very low prices.

**Latest Coffee Tablet.**—Mr. R. C. Anderson, El Paso, Tex, writes in the *Spice Mill*:—My new coffee tablet is not a compound. It is simply coffee in tablet form. In other words, a pound of coffee reduced to three ounces without loss of any of the aromatic oils. The reason others have failed to produce results lies in the fact that they invariably introduced foreign ingredients to solidify, and which invariably ruined the flavor. Samples of my tablet sent to the War Office were examined for army use, and reported on favourably

under date of August 10. My product is subject to a chemical analysis by any and all who wish to test my claims. It will be found to contain nothing but coffee, pure and simple. My tablets are the result of many months of careful study and practise, aided by a steam-tight, self-condensing vessel, patented in 1895. I am enabled to pass ground coffee through a machine, the coffee coming out at the end ready to form into tablets, and this without loss of any of the aroma. I have the matter of separating the elements of the berry and reuniting the same in tablet form under complete control.

## TEA NOTES.

**Ceylon Tea Imports to America.**—It is interesting to know, says the *Times of Ceylon* of 7th instant, that last month for the first time a larger quantity of tea than of any other product was sent from Ceylon to America.

**Colombo Tea Sales.**—The demand at the sale on the 7th instant ran almost entirely on "leaf" teas, and prices for Pekoe and Pekoe Souchongs were firmer all round. Broken Orange Pekoes and Broken Pekoes were neglected, and a smart drop took place in these grades. Dusts have now reached a lower range of price; but were fairly steady at the fall.

Mr. Renton has kindly written to the *Times of Ceylon* to state that Antwerp is the distributing port through which practically the whole of the Ceylon teas for Switzerland (Basel and Zurich), and for Germany south of Frankfort, enters the continent. Mr. Renton states that there is still little or no tea-drinking in Belgium. With regard to the very important subject of the reduced duty in Germany, Mr. Renton says that it is true the reduction has passed the Reichstag, but that it will take effect on the 1st January next is highly improbable. Nothing will be done till the new Commercial Treaties in Germany are arranged, and when that will be no one knows. The Government also will give no warning. The new duty will be gazetted some fine afternoon, and will become law next day. In the meantime the effect on trade is very bad. Retailers and dealers are carrying hardly any stocks—the former practically none. The total quantity of tea cleared for consumption to the end of July was 762,000 lbs. less than at the same date last year. Ceylon is put down as being 3,600 lbs. behind, whereas from British India there is an increase of 113,000 lbs. Now the total export of tea from India to Germany to the end of June, continues our Commissioner, was only 141,013 lbs., and the total export for 1902 was only 608,119 lbs., which makes it impossible almost that 541,640 lbs. should have been cleared for home consumption in the first seven months of the year, and 606,000 lbs. for the whole of 1902. No, some of the importers, annoyed at the success of Ceylon tea, are declaring their imports as Indian. This is a manoeuvre which deserves to be exposed. Regarding latest doings and immediate prospects, Mr. Renton adds:—

We are doing as well as can be expected in France, Italy, and Scandinavia. I was down all over the Saxon Duchies and Thuringia last month, and I am now off to Scandinavia.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Mr. A. R. Robertson writes in the *Spice Mill*:—The tea market continued quiet for the past



month; Formosa teas are lower in price for lowest and medium grades. Fine to choice teas are steady, and will apparently remain so, as advices from the East point out that such teas will not be found in third crops, and for other grades the offerings will be poorer in quality.

Oolongs from Foo Chow are slow sellers, with small demand. Congos are attracting more attention, with indications of steadiness, in medium grades. There are some very choice tea offerings, 60 to 70c. being paid. Japans are not active sale, and show little alteration in prices. China greens are a little easy, with some fine liquors offering in Pingsueys.

Ceylon and India blacks have had an increased demand recently at steady prices, while the greens are making remarkable strides in consumption, and some very fine liquors are offering at low prices.

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Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., stated to a *Daily Mail* representative in Liverpool on September 18 that his experiments in Jamaica had showed excellent prospects of tea-growing on the island. In a short time tea of good blend will be added to the exports of Jamaica. Mr. R. Dawson, an expert, selected the warm, temperate slopes of the Blue Mountains, at an altitude of some 4,000 feet, as being an ideal place for the growth and cultivation of tea. There is ample water-power to work the machinery. From experiments it has been proved that the Chinese varieties grow luxuriantly, but there are still better prospects for the Assam and Ceylon hybrids.

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Buyers and consumers of Japan teas should always keep in mind the difference in these teas that are due to the difference in their treatment as by pan-firing, basket-firing or sun-drying process. The sun-dried teas are generally placed second to the pan-fired leaf, but they drink better as a rule, owing to the thorough fermentation they receive by being dried in the sun before firing. The basket-fired Japans are esteemed for blending purposes. There is one feature common to all Japanese teas, and that is, the delicacy of flavour, which, combined with the light colour of their liquor, makes them deceptive to people not familiar with their qualities, for they actually are stronger and more pungent than many of the Chinese teas.

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Sir Henry Seymour King writes to the editor of the *Overland Mail* :—

The blessed word "Retaliation" is in every month, and many are expecting the creation of a Commercial Paradise by its magic influence, though, sad to relate, some still doubt the opportunity has arisen of converting these doubting Thomases.

The Russian Government, impelled, as some allege, though I do not vouch for the fact, by antipathy to that recent brilliant specimen of constructive statesmanship, the Sugar Convention, has increased the duty on Indian and Ceylon teas from 31 roubles 50 copecks per pood to 33 roubles, thereby differentiating against our tea in favour of China by fractionally over 1d. a pound; fortunately the Indian Government need no popular mandate nor parliamentary approval, and the "big revolver" lies ready to their hand. The imports into India from Russia amount to roughly £2,124,000, of which no less than £2,100,000 is Russian mineral oil; let the Indian Government at once retaliate by imposing a heavy duty on Russian oil until such time as the increased duty on tea is removed or, while they are about it, greatly further reduced from its former oppressive amount. There can, of course, be no doubt about the result.

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So shall the great Sword of Retaliation smite the foes of their country, to the joy of all faithful believers and the confusion of all sceptics; all which is much to be desired.

The paper aforesaid comments this :—The reported action of the Russian Government in increasing the duty on Ceylon and Indian teas imported into Russia by the European frontier and the Black Sea from 31 roubles 50 copecks per pood to 33 roubles, while that on China teas is left unaltered, may have some motive other than purely fiscal which is as yet undisclosed. The inference, however, is that it is desired to discriminate against a British product; for it is stated that "fresh regulations are enforced for the purpose of certifying the origin and place of despatch." If Mr. Balfour has the courage of his convictions he may now (as Sir Seymour King suggests in the above letter) put his own doctrines into practice with immediate advantage to India, and prove the value of his new opinions. In India legislation is facile and Simla is within telegraphic reach of the India Office. We see that in 1901-02 out of the total quantity of kerosene oils imported into India (91,467,466 gallons) as much as 84,477,876 gallons, of the value of £2,098,656, are noted in the returns as coming from Russia. Clap on to every gallon of Russian oil a spanking duty and you have an object-lesson in Mr. Balfour's principles which ought to impress the electorate in this country. Do it by a Bill run through in a day at a special meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council and you give Russia an object-lesson in her own methods applied to herself. It is surely not conceivable that fresh converts like Mr. Balfour and the Duke of Devonshire should throw away this excellent opportunity of demonstrating the efficiency of their new principles.

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**London Tea Sales.**—In their cable of 8th instant to the Colombo papers Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton report a generally steady market, prices harder. Fair liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong 6½d.; average for the week 7¼d. (½d. up). Reuter wires that common qualities secured full rates, and fine qualities were in demand at full prices. Of 18,000 packages offered 17,000 sold. India offered 40,000 packages and 31,000 sold. Dealers and blenders doubtless understand now that the Ceylon supply to London this year will be several millions short.

According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Ewart and McCaughey's Tea Report, dated the 12th instant, states that there were 37,103 packages offered for sale, and there was good bidding for all grades. Assams again were in strong enquiry, and the common kinds quite maintained last week's advance, 6d. being about the lowest quotation, although some were taken at 5¾d.

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—With liberal sales the Formosa market ruled steadier, prices being quoted up ½c. per pound to 14c. lowest for invoices and 15c. for lines at the close, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of September 15. The distributing business was fairly active and the demand from the consuming trade was pretty and at steady to firm prices. India and Ceylon teas were in fair demand and firm.

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The tea auctions were resumed at Calcutta on Friday, the 9th instant, after the Poojahs, when 23,991 packages were offered and 22,580 sold to a firm market. Full average prices were realised for all kinds except Broken Pekoe kinds. Notwithstanding a falling of the quality all round, Colonial.



Bombay and American buyers operated freely. Russian and Australian buyers took a fair proportion.

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**Brick Tea at Nagasaki.**—Of the export of tea in 1902 from Nagasaki 20,081 lbs. was brick tea, which all went to Russia, while practically all the other tea exported, viz., 8,531 lbs. went to China. The advance of this export of brick tea has been very rapid, for in 1899 it amounted to only 191 lbs., in 1900 to 1,808 lbs., in 1901 to 10,288 lbs., and in 1902 to 20,081 lbs.

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**Increased Tea Duty in Russia.**—We append copy of correspondence between the Ceylon Association in London and Downing Street on the subject of Increased Duty on Indian and Ceylon teas imposed by the Russian Government, for the information of all interested :—

The Right Hon'ble J. Chamberlain, M.P., Colonial Office, S.W.

SIR,—I am instructed to invite your attention to the announcement that the Russian Government has by a recent Ordinance increased the duty on Indian and Ceylon teas imported by the European Frontier or the Black Sea by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  roubles per pood, equivalent to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. per pound. From this increased duty China and Japan teas will, it seems, be free.

The total import of tea of all growths into Russia is about 126,000,000 lbs. annually, of which about 50,000,000 lbs. is imported by the European Frontier and the Black Sea.

The following comparative figures for the years 1899 and 1902 show how rapidly Indian and Ceylon teas have been displacing rival growths in this latter portion of the trade when on even terms :—

	1899.	1902.
Ceylon Tea shipped direct from Colombo	3,949,740	11,727,068
„ re-exported from London	1,587,286	3,647,807
	5,537,026	15,374,875
Indian Tea shipped direct from Calcutta and Chittagong	44,811	4,001,423
„ re-exported from London	727,252	2,886,445
	772,063	6,887,868
Total British-grown teas	6,309,089	22,262,743

lbs. or an increase of 350 per cent. in three years.

The larger part of the imports as above into Russia, however, still come from China; and it is to be feared that further progress with our teas may be checked by the differential tax now imposed on them.

I am to suggest that the facts be submitted to the Foreign Office in the hope that representation may be made to the Russian Government on the subject.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, (Sd.) WM. MARTIN LEAKE, *Secretary*.

Ceylon Association in London, 61 and 62, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., 14th September, 1903.

The Secretary to the Ceylon Association in London.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, on the subject of the surtax recently imposed by the Russian Government on tea imported from India or Ceylon, and to inform you that the matter is receiving the attention of His Majesty's Government.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, (Sd.) C. P. LUCAS.

Downing Street, September 17th, 1903.

## NOTES.

### Pepper in the United States.

The *Spice Mill* for September reports—Pepper is now far below the East Indian price here. The trade demand improves gradually. Stocks of Acheen here and on the way are extremely light, the principal supplies being Singapore.

### Quinine Auction in Batavia.

(American) Consul B. S. Rairden writes from Batavia, says :—The sixth public sale of quinine by tenders for the year 1903 took place at this city on the 24th ultimo, and the following unsatisfactory prices were realized : There was put up for sale 9,661.08 kilograms (21,253 pounds) of sulphate of quinine, Editio II, packed in cases of 400 ounces, and 240 kilograms (528 pounds), Editions II and III, packing at purchaser's option. Of the above lot, only 2,412 kilograms (5,307 pounds) were sold, at an average price of 14.95 florins (\$6.01) per kilogram (2.2 pounds) or the unit price of 0.05225 florin (2.1 cents) for the bark at the Amsterdam market.

### Tea and Coffee in Hongkong.

At the last Committee Meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Pollock asked whether tea and coffee had been tried in the New Territory, and the Secretary stated that an enquiry from the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, had elicited the following notes on the subject :—*Tea* : Extensively cultivated by Chinese and abandoned many years ago on account of heavy taxes imposed on it by Mandarins. *Coffee* : Experimentally tried on the island of Hongkong 10 to 20 years ago by private European enterprise. Never tried in New Territory. The bushes in the Public Gardens do not flourish properly. Coffee requires a continuous hot damp climate and deep rich soil in order to grow properly.

### Cocoa in the United States.

The imports of cocoa keep growing, says the *American Grocer*, in a way which indicates the steady expansion of the cocoa and chocolate industry. The July imports of crude cocoa were 6,173,331 pounds, against 5,447,121 pounds in July, 1902; for the seven months ending July, 39,643,514 pounds, against 32,310,555 pounds for the same time in 1902; 32,166,078 pounds in 1901. The imports of manufactured cocoa do not increase in like proportion, showing that domestic manufacturers of the article are most in favour with the people. In July the imports were only 65,145 pounds, and for the first seven months of this year, 612,910 pounds, against 653,023 pounds for corresponding period in 1902, a decrease of 40,113 pounds. The value of domestic manufactures of cocoa exported during the same period was \$134,105, against \$103,710 same time in the previous year. It is highly encouraging to see this old-established American industry pushing ahead in such a fine manner. It is a case of stimulation due to free raw material, with a protective tariff on foreign manufactures of cocoa, which are sold about as cheap under a big tariff as under a lower schedule of duties. It certainly looks as if the foreign manufacturer paid the duties instead of the American consumer.

### Planters and the Mysore State.

On the opening day, 5th instant, of the Mysore Representative Assembly, Mr. Scot-Skirving, representative of the North Mysore Planters' Association, addressing His Highness the Maharaja, said :—“As the representative of the North Mysore Planters' Association, it is my privilege to congratulate Your Highness on the statesmanlike step Your Highness has taken in opening this Assembly in person. For the honour thus done to this Assembly, to the representatives from various Districts and Associations throughout the



province, and through them to Your Highness' subjects generally, I, on behalf of the Association which I represent, beg to thank Your Highness. I also gladly seize the opportunity presented here, to thank Your Highness for the sympathy shown to the coffee-planting industry by the generous gift of Rs.5,000 towards the expenses of exhibiting our produce at the Exhibiton at St. Louis. The exhibition of our produce will, it is thought, create a demand in America for our coffee, and thereby help us to struggle through the present critical condition of our industry. I take the presence of Your Highness here to-day as a happy augury for the continuance of an enlightened, sympathetic administration, and I wish Your Highness a long, a happy, and a brilliant reign (loud cheers)."

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

The *Times* of the 17th instant, in summarising the contents of the Government Blue Book on British and Foreign Industry, gave particulars of eight leading articles of food consumed in the United Kingdom. In this summary the value of tea from British possessions is given as £7,976,000, against £865,000 from foreign countries. Mr. Wm. Martin Leake, Secretary of the Ceylon Association in London, in a letter which appears in Tuesday's *Times*, calls attention to these figures. He says: "A noteworthy feature in this statement is the unique position of tea. While in the case of the other seven articles British possessions supply only from 4 per cent. to 33 per cent. of the whole, in the case of tea the proportion is close on 90 per cent. This has not always been so. In 1872, when Messrs. Keir, Dundas & Co., of Kandy, in which firm I was then a partner, produced and shipped to London the first consignment of tea ever exported from Ceylon, the proportion of the home consumption then contributed by British possessions—i.e., by India—was only 13 per cent. Not less noteworthy are the conditions under which this peaceful revolution has been achieved. The British Government, a Government devoted to free trade and to whom a tax on food is as an accursed thing, has throughout selected tea for exceptional taxation. For three years past tea, the average price of which in bond has been about 7d. per lb., has been subject to a duty of 6d. per lb. Indian and Ceylon planters can claim that they have demonstrated the possibility, even under adverse circumstances, of producing within the limits of the Empire an adequate supply of one necessary of life. An incidental result of their efforts not to be overlooked has been that the price of tea in bond has been reduced by about 60 per cent., so that the whole population has shared with the Government in the fruits of our planters' enterprise."

The *Manchester Guardian* quotes Mr. Leake's letter as proof that the theory of the need of preferential tariffs to increase the food supply of the Empire does not hold good in the case of tea. It says:—"Had Mr. Chamberlain with his present views been in power thirty years ago he would no doubt have contended for a preferential duty on Indian as opposed to China tea. India was then only supplying 13 per cent. of the home consumption, and we can imagine how Mr. Chamberlain would have argued that by giving a preference to the Indian planter we should encourage him to increase his production rapidly, until the Empire in respect of tea became self-supporting. Fortunately for the Empire such absurdities were not current in those days, and the Indian tea trade was left free to develop in open competition with the Chinese. The result has been that private British enterprise, with no sort of artificial stimulus from tariffs, has built up a great tea-planting industry in Ceylon, as well as in India, which now supplies 90 per cent. of the tea consumed in this country. Does not such a record suggest that the work of encouraging the production of food in the Empire may be safely left to the colonial farmer, who may be trusted to develop any form of agriculture that will pay? There is every reason to believe, for example, that the production of wheat in Canada is increasing almost as rapidly and on as sound a basis

as the tea industry of our Indian dependency, and preferential duties intended to promote wheat-growing are as unnecessary to the colonists as they would be burdensome to the English people." For all that, Indian and Ceylon planters would have been relieved of a severe struggle in the past had a preferential tariff existed, and they would not have objected to the artificial stimulus which the *Manchester Guardian* holds up to scorn.

The forty-seventh report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's customs for the year ended March 31, 1903, lately published, contains the following particulars:—The revenue from the tea duty in the last financial year was £5,975,483, as against £5,792,967 in 1901-02, an increase of £182,516, or 3·2 per cent. Towards the end of the year 1902-03 it was generally anticipated in the trade that the duty, which had been increased from 4d. to 6d. per lb. in 1900, would be reduced, and clearances were postponed. Had this not occurred the increase would have been somewhat greater. The crops of 1902 were not so large as was originally expected, and prices, which during the Summer and Autumn had been at a very low level, rose in consequence. Between July, 1902, and February, 1903, the rise in price may be put at 1½d. per lb., the London sales of Indian tea in the latter month averaging 7½d. per lb., and of Ceylon tea 7½d. per lb. The exports of tea from the United Kingdom during the financial year 1902-03 have been about 4,600,000 lbs. in excess of those of the preceding year, and this has also helped to raise the price. Of the total revenue in 1902-03, tea from India contributed 57·8 per cent.; tea from Ceylon, 34·2 per cent.; tea from China, 4·6 per cent.; and tea from all other countries, 5·4 per cent. The gross receipts from the duty upon coffee in 1902-03 were £194,152, and the net receipts £178,628. The gross receipts show a decrease of £26,749, or 12·1 per cent., whilst the net receipts show an increase of £4,286, or 2·5 per cent., as compared with 1901-02, the cause of these movements being due largely to the reduced quantities sent away on drawback, owing to the cessation of the South African war.

The Government of New South Wales cannot be accused of recklessness in its expenditure for tea for its hospitals, gaols, and other public institutions. It recently advertised its need of 500 or 600 chests of blended Indian and China teas at a uniform value of 6½d. per lb.

At the Grocery Exhibition, held at the Agricultural Hall this week, the Managing Director of the Company promoting the series of exhibitions referred in his speech to the exhibition to be held at Cape Town next year. He and other speakers are reported as having expressed the hope that Natal would become a tea-producing country. This is rather rough on the pioneers of the tea industry in Natal who have been producing tea for years. Perhaps these exhibition speakers were wrongly reported, and they may have really expressed the aspiration that Natal might soon become a tea-exporting country. Before this happens on a large scale there are the tea requirements of South Africa to consider.—*H. & C. Mail.*

### LEGISLATION IN MYSORE.

During the second day's proceedings, on the 6th instant, of the Mysore Representative Assembly, Mr. SCOT-SKIRVING addressed the Assembly as follows:—

SIR KRISHNAMURTI AND GENTLEMEN,—As the representative of the North Mysore Planters' Association, I do not on the present occasion deem it advisable to occupy the time of this Assembly with any subjects of purely local interest. I propose, however, with your permission, Sir, to refer briefly to two subjects of general interest throughout the Province. These are, the Game Act and the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. With regard to the former, I would again congratulate the Government on its introduction into the Province. Without this Act, certain species of wild animals would have become extinct, and I feel sure, that when, with systematic administration of the Act, the people of the Province have become familiarized with its provisions, the end aimed at will be fully attained. The Act as it now stands may not perhaps be perfect but should alteration be found desirable any proposed alteration might well come from the Game Association, which exists and is doing good work, rather than from individuals.



Everyone interested in the subject is at liberty to join that Association and through it voice a collective opinion.

In regard to the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, I believe the Act, at present, only extends to certain Municipalities. I here plead for its extension throughout the Province.

As you are aware, Sir, a society exists, under the patronage of Her Highness the Maharani Regent, which aims at inculcating in the youth of Mysore the virtue of kindness to animals, and the amelioration of animal suffering. This society will, without doubt, bear valuable fruit for the future, and it would be a splendid thing if its humane teachings could be extended to every school in the Province. But this society—however noble its aims, however excellent its work—cannot reach the illiterate. I therefore beg for the extension of the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals throughout the Province. I feel sure that every educated man with a heart that beats in sympathy for suffering would gladly do all in his power to assist the magistracy and the police in bringing to justice the scoundrel who for sordid ends, or from callous indifference for animal suffering, inflicts needless pain on helpless creatures in his power.

The Dewan, in reply, said that he had very little to say with regard to the Game Act which had already been passed; and if any suggestions were to be made for its further improvement, Government would favourably consider the same. Regarding Mr. Skirving's other proposal for the extension of the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Government were prepared to give their best consideration if any definite idea regarding the proposal was given. That was a subject that surely appealed to Government very much, and any practical suggestion would be considered by Government.

### WEST INDIAN GRASS OILS.

In the March issue of the *Bulletin* of the Department of Agriculture for Jamaica an account of some grass oils distilled in Trinidad and in Jamaica was given by the Jamaica official analyst, Mr. H. H. Cousins. It appears that a vigorous attempt is intended to take up the cultivation of the *Andropogon* grasses, with a view to developing the essential-oil industry, on account of the reduced cultivation of the sugar-cane. The Trinidad oils distilled experimentally were those of *Andropogon Nardus* and *A. Schoenanthus*, and were found to possess the following characters:

	<i>A. Nardus.</i>	<i>A. Schoenanthus.</i>
Sp. gr. at 15° .. ..	0.9084	0.9315
Rotation .. ..	+ 0.1°	+ 3°
Aldehydes .. ..	15.5 per cent.	48.2 per cent.

The oil from *A. Nardus* showed a total geraniol and citronellal value of 53 per cent., and thus corresponds with an ordinary Ceylon citronella oil, except that its content in active constituents is somewhat low. This, however, is possibly accidental, and with proper distillation a normal oil would no doubt result. The *A. Schoenanthus* oil did not in the least resemble a palmarosa oil, but much more closely resembles lemongrass oil.

I am indebted to Mr. Cousins for samples of the Jamaica oils, which are of very great interest. I propose to investigate them more fully, but in the meantime give the following details of them:

The oil from *A. Nardus* is a pale oil of exceptionally fine odour, and has the following characters:

Sp. gr. at 15° .. ..	0.8955
Rotation, 100 mm. .. ..	- 3° 30'
Refractive index at 20° .. ..	1.4712
Aldehydes .. ..	25 per cent.
Geraniol and citronellal .. ..	87 ..

In general it appears to closely resemble the fine Java citronella oils, being of much finer odour than the normal Ceylon distillates. It is soluble in 1 volume of 80 per cent. alcohol, and on addition of 10 volumes shows only the faintest opalescence. If it could be produced at a reasonable price in quantity, it would no doubt find great favour in this market. Messrs. Schimmel & Co. have reported on what appears to be the same oil, and say that it takes about an intermediate place between the Java and Ceylon oils;

but I am of opinion that it is more of the Java type than of the Ceylon.

The Jamaica oil distilled from *A. Schoenanthus* is not a palmarosa oil, and is accurately described as a true lemongrass oil. This raises the question as to which grass is really the parent of lemongrass oil, as it appears out of the question that so enormous a change in the character of the product could take place by the grass being cultivated in Jamaica.

This lemongrass oil has the following characters:

Sp. gr. at 15° .. ..	0.8965
Rotation, 100 mm. .. ..	- 0° 30'
Aldehydes .. ..	83 per cent.
Refractive index at 20° .. ..	1.4896
Insoluble in 70 per cent. or 80 per cent. alcohol.	

The oil is a typically fine lemongrass oil, with a very high aldehyde-content, and differs only from normal Eastern oils in its insolubility in alcohol. The insoluble portion of the oil is a heavy body, sinking to the bottom of the alcohol, which I am now investigating. Apart from this insolubility, which may not be normal, and may be found to disappear when the oil is distilled under normal conditions, the oil may be described as a fine lemongrass oil, with a very high citral value; and, since the value of lemongrass oil depends entirely on its citral-content, the oil should command a ready market if produced at a reasonable price.

### COFFEE ROASTING.

"DRY ROASTED AND WARM PACKED"

Writing in the *Spice Mill*, Mr. Chr. H. Thingelstadt says:—

Although the consumption of coffee is constantly increasing, it is surprising how few persons know anything about the characteristics or the peculiar quality of the coffee bean beyond the fact that coffee is the seed of a berry which in colour and size resembles a cherry, and which is the fruit of a tree peculiar to the tropical countries. But the twin seeds, when taken from the yellowish pulp of the berry, have little of the appearance of the coffee bean known to the buyer in the far-off temperate zones.

Raw coffee seeds are tough and horny in structure, and devoid of that peculiar bland and mellow aroma which ascends from the coffee-pot to greet the gratified nostrils of the coffee lover. The raw seed betrays nothing of this. These qualities are developed in the bean by roasting, and are due to the presence in the bean of three things: "Caffeine," which gives it dietetic value; "caffeic," which gives it flavour, and "caffone," which determines its richness of aroma. But these three essential qualities, which are developed and liberated by roasting, are volatile in nature, and, therefore, escape quickly. The roasted coffee bean under the microscope reveals a sponge-like structure, each little cell only too ready to yield up its drop of aromatic volatile oil, and upon which the fragrance and value of the whole depend. It is not the bean itself that is wanted. The coffee-grounds are nothing but waste, and are thrown away. It is the active, volatile principles that are extracted into boiling water, and which give the rich, smooth, aromatic beverage that should grace the table.

The air, however, quickly absorbs these principles from the roasted coffee when exposed; therefore, the consumer who buys his coffee in bulk or from open bins, buys a coffee bean already destitute of a large part of its volatile value. The bean also loses from 15 to 20 per cent. in weight by roasting. Many roasters put back this weight to the betterment of their purses, by filling the sponge-like pores with some foreign matter, and then glaze the bean, to protect the filling and improve the appearance of the bean. This doctored product, of course, suffers in flavour and wholesomeness, while it increases the cost to the consumer in proportion to the weight added by the doctoring. But the innocent buyer knows nothing of this. He only knows it seems impossible to get a good cup of coffee at his table.

To roast the coffee bean dry, to pack it unadulterated while warm into air-tight packages, prevents the escape of the coffee principles, and also does the consumer justice as to weight and purity.

The roaster who values his reputation aims at three things: A good bean well cleaned, a scientific blending for flavour, then well



developed and thoroughly roasted, as you do not obtain the drink with its rich, mellow aroma that is so highly praised by the coffee connoisseurs until it is well done. I have known many coffee roasters to turn out a roast where the outside would be well done and the centre of the berry under done. The reason for this is that they rushed their coffee too much. They should give it proper time to roast.

A roast should never be hurried, nor should it be left over the fire too long. Coffees should be treated according to their nature in order to develop their full aroma. It is easier to roast coffee under done than to roast it to the finishing point.

In conclusion, I wish to add a few statistical facts about coffee and its production. I will here quote from my circular of July 14, 1902.

The following is an example of three years of Rio and Santos crops, and how the world's visible supply resulted:

1898-1899 - Total...	...	...	...	8,771,000
1899-1900 - " ..	...	...	...	8,959,000
1900-1901 - " ..	...	...	...	10,927,000

An average, say, of 9,500,000 bags.

The world's visible supply July 1, 1898, was 5,486,000 bags, against 6,868,000 bags July 1, 1901, showing nearly 1,500,000 bags' increase in the world's visible supply in three years, and with Rio and Santos crops averaging 9,500,000 bags, clearly proving that the world had not required as much as 9,000,000 bags of Rio and Santos coffees on an average in three years, and this, too, taking deliveries as consumption.

			Bags.
World's visible supply, July 1, 1899	...	...	6,200,000
World's visible supply, July 1, 1902, about.	11,500,000		
Plus private stocks, July 1, 1902, about	1,250,000		
			12,750,000
Rio and Santos crops, 1899-1900	...	...	8,959,000
Rio and Santos crops, 1901-1902	...	...	15,200,000

It makes very little difference, in view of the monstrous supplies existing, whether this crop or next crop is nine, eleven, or fourteen millions of bags. Either one of these quantities is much in excess of what is really wanted. Consumption may, however, exceed my calculations and have a favourable tendency to strengthen the market.

Some of my readers may remember that in my circular of October 12, 1899, just after my return from Brazil, where I had spent nearly four years studying the coffee production and its peculiarities, I took the position that there was no prospect of a permanent improvement for coffee until the price itself curtailed production. I still adhere to this view, and I believe that all speculative attempts to sustain prices will only encourage further efforts for larger production. My opinion is not influenced by the speculative actions of others, nor by sentiment. I am governed solely by supply and demand, and on this natural basis I feel that values will continue low for a long time to come, while the values of existing stocks must necessarily rule low until the price itself comes down to a point low enough to permanently curtail production. I have been accused of being a chronic bear. If so, I was just as chronic a bull for ten years, during which time the supplies of the world were undergoing a steady decrease.

## U. S. IMPORTS.

### INCREASE IN TEA AND COCOA—DECREASE IN COFFEE.

The preliminary commercial statement of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce, for the closing month of the fiscal year 1903, contains some interesting figures as to the imports and exports of tea, coffee, chicory, and cocoa. It also shows the yearly average value of certain groceries during the past four years.

Americans are apparently becoming greater tea-drinkers, for in 1903 the net imports of that article were 104,632,260 pounds against 74,374,041 in 1902. Compared with the preceding year the imports from Japan increased more than 7,000,000 pounds, and there was an increase from China of more than 19,000,000 pounds.

The gross imports of coffee in the fiscal year 1902 were 1,091,004,252 pounds, while in 1903 only 915,066,380 pounds came in. Despite the falling off in imports, which was probably due to this market having a large supply on hand, the amount transhipped

and exported was 47,701,306 pounds, against 34,462,615 pounds in the previous year. It is interesting to note that the *per capita* consumption of coffee is about thirteen pounds, while that of tea is one and one-fourth pounds. The price of tea, however, is more than double that of coffee.

Although coffee in 1903 was plentiful the price was six points higher than in 1902, and this fact may or may not have had something to do with the remarkable increase in the importation of one of its adulterants, namely chicory. Nearly six times as much raw chicory was entered in 1903 as in 1902, with an average value of 1.98 cents against 1.92 cents. There was also a large increase in the quantity of prepared chicory, the price showing a forty-five point gain over the previous year.

The net imports of crude cocoa showed a gain of 11,357,052 pounds over 1902. There was also an increase in both prepared cocoa and prepared chocolate. The rapid increase of the importations speaks well for the healthy state of consumptive demand for chocolate, breakfast cocoa, and chocolate confectionery. The price of both the crude and the prepared article is slowly decreasing.

The following table of comparative prices, together with the figures already quoted, is taken from a recent issue of the *Merchants' Review*:

		1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
		per lb.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Coffee	...	6.66	7.35	6.41	6.47
Tea	...	12.45	12.18	12.42	14.42
Raw sugar	...	2.48	2.26	1.46	1.70
Rice	...	2.03	2.13	2.13	2.21
Canned salmon	...	9.95	10.24	8.48	8.64
Cocoa	...	13.55	14.08	12.95	12.34
Chicory	...	1.46	1.92	1.92	1.98
Figs	...	5.83	4.61	4.30	4.71
Prunes	...	10.76	8.50	8.43	9.99
Raisins	...	5.15	7.71	5.98	6.70
Currants	...	2.53	5.71	3.42	2.19
Dates	...	2.06	2.02	1.72	2.24
Almonds	...	15.02	18.40	12.56	16.43
Pepper	...	9.80	11.23	12.81	10.51
Nutmegs	...	22.08	19.65	18.45	18.71

Of the fifteen articles in the foregoing table a dozen—coffee, tea, sugar, chicory, figs, prunes, raisins, dates, almonds, rice, salmon, and nutmegs—show a higher average value in 1903 than in 1902. Three articles—cocoa, currants, and pepper—were lower. In 1902 the following articles: Pepper, coffee, salmon, cocoa, raisins, sugar, figs, prunes, dates, almonds, and nutmegs, averaged lower in value than in 1901, tea alone showing an advance, while rice and chicory were unchanged.

## ATTENTION TO TEAS AND COFFEES.

A salesman went out of a retail grocer's store, in the southern section of our city, mad all over the other day. We will not discuss whether or not it was good business for him to get mad. His parting shot to the grocer who told us the incident, and who had business sense enough to realize its truth, is what we are interested in, says the *Philadelphia Grocers' Review*.

The salesman had a line of teas and coffees from a good house; had vainly tried a number of times to get five minutes of the grocers' time, and at last, discouraged, had darkened his door for the last time flinging this at the grocer's head as he left: "You grocers are a lot of blanked fools. You try hard to sell wash-blue, soap, and cereals at cost; most of you get up before daylight to bring a load of truck up from the wharf, to make a profit on, in the morning and lose most of it in the afternoon, while the very part of your business that would pay you the biggest returns for the least effort you give but scant attention to or else neglect altogether. I mean your teas and coffees."

The grocer was so impressed by what the man said that he went right to work covering a box with paper which he filled with a twenty-five cent coffee he had confidence in, displaying the same on his counter together with a neat sign calling attention to its good qualities and price. He also told his clerks to try and sell the coffee to people whom they knew did not buy their coffees from him. The result was the biggest kind of a surprise to him. He sold more coffee the balance of the week than he had ever sold in the same time before, and made a number of new customers who now buy their coffee from him right along.



It is not much wonder that the average grocer growls at tea and coffee peddlers, cut stores, and the like, cutting into his sales when we consider what small study he gives to those two articles himself. If he gives and takes credit he turns his trade over to some coffee house, good or bad as the case may be, and lets them dictate what he shall sell and how much he shall pay for it. One very conscientious grocer we know, who would not think of selling Maracaibo for Java, for months bought, in Java markets at Java price, a bleached Maracaibo which he sold to his customers as pure Java. The grocer had the clear conscience while the man who sold him the coffee had about 100 per cent. profit. We won't say who'll be the best off in the next world, but we think we know who was the gainer in this; for the grocer as far as we know never discovered the deception, and gets most of his coffee from the same house yet. A very little bit of inquiry would have saved him many dollars.

People whose information is worth having don't throw it at the heads of those whom they think would not appreciate it. It has to be sought after.

We will give an illustration of the possibilities of profit in coffees at the present time. A certain grocer with whom we are well acquainted, and in whose word we have the fullest confidence, told us he had a certain blend of coffee which brought him in a profit of \$10 weekly. The blend cost him 16 cents and he sold it under a fancy name for 35 cents, selling from fifty to sixty pounds of it weekly. It cost him time and effort to work the trade upon it, but it was worth time and effort. Most grocers buy Java and Mocha, paying fancy prices for them, and sell it for their best coffee at a comparatively small profit. The grocer we have just quoted had sense enough to know that what his trade wanted and was willing to pay for was good cup qualities and not standard names.

The first requisite toward building up a good coffee trade is absolute independence in buying. The man who has spot cash gets the worth of his money every time.

Then if he doesn't know much about coffees himself he should hunt up somebody who does and learn the qualities possessed by the different kinds.

A man who can give you this information can also give some ideas about blending. Given a good article, it is now up to the grocer to induce the retail buyer to give his coffee a trial. Personally we do not believe in low prices, as an inducement to the retail buyer of teas and coffees. People, as a rule, have no confidence in low-priced teas and coffees, above everything else the grocer sells. A coffee sold at 15 cents per pound will have a twang to it that the same kind sold at 30 cents or 35 cents will not have. There are exceptions to this rule, but it will hold good with the general run the grocer must work.

Thirty cents a pound plus a good recommendation means more profit and also makes more sales than just plain 20 cents. If you don't believe it just try it and see.

This is not a learned discussion on the qualities of teas and coffees, for the writer does not know as much about them as many who will read this. It is just a little that he has picked up knocking about among hard-working grocers and some who do not work so hard, but seem to be more prosperous than those who do. —*Spice Mill.*

## SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE.

### A LESSON FROM JAVA.

The recent presentation of a weighty and influentially-signed memorial to the Bombay Government urging the placing of scientific effort for the improvement of agriculture upon a more modern basis has, it is to be hoped, aroused some little interest in a problem of peculiar importance to a population dependent almost entirely upon the cultivation of the land. Despite the fact the question has a direct bearing upon the prosperity of millions of people it has been one of these subjects upon which it is difficult to focus public attention especially in India, and to a more or less extent in other British possessions in the tropics. Popular apathy arises mainly from popular ignorance. Few people have a just appreciation of what thorough, continuous research by the ablest scientists can do—and has done—for countries no better favoured by nature than India, Ceylon or the Straits. Like the fiscal problem it is a question which needs inquiry; and unfortunately it has

had no Mr. Chamberlain to urge its claims upon the public mind. By some the devotion of science to agriculture and horticulture is regarded as one of the fads of modern times upon which every Government which desires to be considered abreast of the age must allot a few thousand pounds a year. But to realise what many thoughtfully expended in research and experiment has accomplished, the inquirer must take a concrete instance and ignoring theoretical advantages, judge by actual results. And such an investigation will, in many cases, lead to the unearthing of irrefutable evidence favouring the scheme urged in the Bombay memorial.

We will take as a beginning what is admittedly one of the finest institutions of its kind in the world, the Botanical Department of Buitenzorg in Java. "Among the twenty or thirty tropical gardens established in the Colonial possessions of the various European Powers," wrote an English traveller ten years ago, "three stand pre-eminent—those of Calcutta, the Peradenia Gardens in Ceylon, and the Dutch Gardens at Buitenzorg." It was probably patriotism which induced him to place them in this order, for, in reality, the Buitenzorg gardens are far and away superior to the others. They serve a Colony, the prosperity of which depends upon the success of its agriculture—and, be it remembered, a Colony with a revenue less than half that of the Bombay Presidency. And what have they done for the planters and the cultivators of Java? Two or three examples may be quoted. Compare the cinchona industry in Java and Ceylon. In 1891, Ceylon exported about nine and a-half millions of pounds of cinchona. Ten years later the exports had fallen to a mere six hundred and eighty thousand pounds. But in Java the cinchona plant has become a very valuable asset. The production of cinchona has increased fifty per cent. in the last eight years and to-day amounts to nearly twelve millions of pounds. The cinchona plantations of Java cover twenty-five thousand acres in Ceylon a mere 700 acres are now devoted to the industry. And the reason? The application of science to agriculture. Years ago Ceylon had as good a chance as Java of maintaining her cinchona plantation. But in those days the Ceylon Botanical Department was incomplete and could render no assistance, whereas the Dutch planters in Java profited by the chemical researches and the new methods of selections carried out by the scientists at Buitenzorg. Science conquered; and the practical abandonment of the cultivation of the cinchona plant in Ceylon—last year's export was only valued at fifty thousand rupees—shows how agriculture may languish for want of scientific advice. Take a still more recent case. The experts in the Agricultural Department in Java have recently studied citronella oil, whereas in Ceylon and the Straits the industry has been left more or less in the hands of natives. Java oil is now worth 1s. 4d., whilst Ceylon oil reaches 10d. with difficulty. Happily Ceylon is now alive to the importance of scientific research and the director of the Ceylon Botanical Department is, assisted by the agricultural chemist, "preparing the ground for the improvement of the Ceylon industry." Mr. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Gardens in the Seychelles, who has recently made a tour from Ceylon to Java has drawn attention to these instances of the value of the application of science to agricultural industries and also mentions that in Java the gutta percha industry has been studied scientifically for the last twenty years whilst the cultivation of this exceptionally useful plant is only being stated in the other colonies.

It is worth while considering an organisation which can point to many results of the character indicated. The Buitenzorg Gardens which have reached such a high pitch of perfection have done so much for the development of agriculture cost only three lakhs of rupees a year to maintain the Bombay memorialists estimated that the annual expenditure which would be required to the local Department on a satisfactory basis would be one and a-quarter lakhs. The manner in which the money is provided is evidence of the intelligent appreciation the Dutch possess of the value of the institute. The planters of Java and the merchants of Amsterdam give a liberal subsidy, and a large grant is made by the Education Department. The Dutch Government of Java take the keenest interest in the condition of agriculture; an interest which almost necessarily grew up under General Van den Bosch's "culture system" which saved Java from bankruptcy in the thirties of last century. The gardens themselves date back before that great administrator's day, but although they were originally established in a corner of the park surrounding the residence of the Governor-General in 1817, it was the famous botanist Teysmann, who went out with Van den Bosch, who first made them known to a wider



public. But it was many years before anything like modern organisation was attempted. Dr. Scheffer, of Utrecht, found in 1876 a school of agriculture with a garden attached to it and his successor Dr. Treub who took over the work in 1880 must be given the credit for organising the systematic scientific investigation and experiment which obtains to-day.

The institution officially known as the Nederlands Plantentuin to Buitenzorg, comprises the botanical gardens, a horticultural garden and a mountain garden. It is managed upon business lines and the useful and the scientific have never been sacrificed for the picturesque or the beautiful. The visitor is struck by the centralisation of institute. The experts, the laboratories; the museums, the libraries and the experimental fields are all in one spot. There is no delay in inter-communication between the departments. The work too is done by a permanent staff of a dozen well remunerated scientists and their assistants. Men are not sent out to Buitenzorg to learn the rudiments of their profession. They are Doctors of Sciences or Professors before they start; they have received the best European training; and they are ready on the spot all the time instead of being sent out for brief tours at long intervals. The ten laboratories embrace pharmacology, agricultural chemistry, agricultural zoology, phytopathology and physiology, a botanic laboratory reserved only for foreign *savants*, and laboratories for the study of tobacco, coffee, and of primeval forests. The Laboratory of Agricultural Chemistry studies the nature of soils, the ingredients to be introduced there, the fermentations of the products, their bacteriology and plants sent by private individuals to be examined: the Laboratory for Primeval Forests deals with wild vegetation; the Laboratories of Agricultural Zoology and phytopathology investigate animal and vegetable parasites which infest plants. The protective value of such work is immense and the interests at stake are so large that the planters do not grudge the expenditure the Buitenzorg Institute involves.

Last year Dutch India produced over one hundred million pounds of coffee—and coffee plantations are peculiarly liable to sudden destruction by disease such as ruined Ceylon as a coffee-growing country last year. Dutch India produced 766.238 tons of sugar—and on sugar-cane no less than 150 insects have been counted. But Buitenzorg is not concerned with protective investigation alone. It possesses a Trial Garden where new growths are tried for the market and efforts made to establish new industries or improve old ones. This garden has a director, a hundred workmen, a supply of tools and a chemical and physiological laboratory. Nor is what may be called missionary work forgotten. By publishing results, by visiting plantations, by examining and reporting upon specimens sent in, the experts at Buitenzorg strive to interest the planting and agricultural community in the best methods, to create as it were a scientific atmosphere so that nothing which may give the products of Java some advantage in the markets of the world may be neglected or remain unknown. When it is added that in addition to the organisation mentioned Buitenzorg possesses a herbarium consisting of tropical and forest flora library of 6,000 volumes and an active publishing or information distributing department one begins to realise the thoroughness of the system which has made the Hortus Bogoriensis, one of the model institutions of its kind in the world. The little botanical garden found by Professor Reimwardt nearly ninety years ago was intended "to screen science to carry high and for the renown of Holland," and his successors have worthily striven to live up to this ideal.—*Times of India*.

## FRAUD IN JAVA AND MOCHA COFFEE.

In response to an invitation from the editor of the *Spice Mill*, August E. Gans, of Chicago, who has recently been more or less prominently before the public as a "coffee expert" seeking to carry on an educational propaganda against the alleged practise of selling Brazilian coffees for Java and Mocha, has furnished the following communication, written upon the letter heads of the Chicago Cooking College, in which Mrs. Nellie Duling Gans is "principal, demonstrator, and entertainer." The letter is sufficiently eloquent to speak for itself.

CHICAGO, August 27, 1903.

Editor of the *Spice Mill*:

"Coffee" is a subject upon which many books have been written, and upon the "American" commercial treatment of which another

one—on asbestos—can be written, as you know perfectly well! "Roasting" is a vital treatment applicable particularly to "cahue" (of the unspeakable Turk), but you—as an editor—will surely appreciate its proper use with regard to the "prosperity" drawn by dealers in and sellers of *coffee*, "misbranded" as "Java and Mocha" at the expense of the "dear people"!

Your query: "How does it come that you are so much in earnest about this matter?" although singularly polite, notwithstanding its "American nerve," should have read simply: "How much cash do you make by your interference in coffee?" However, since the writer three times in his life has had the pleasure of intimacy with the blue pencil as an "editor," he appreciates where you stand, and begs to answer his own paraphrase of your question with "not one cent." Still, as a newspaper man, you scent the battle from afar! Why I have made "coffee" an "issue"—against all the millions and all the type in its defence—would make pretty "hot stuff" in itself, although the heading of this letter partially explains my interest in food matters, and especially in "pure food matters." That is, however, another story! It will be told sometime.

For nearly two years I have investigated "coffee" in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri, have had at my disposal all the federal statistics and reports of Senate and other Committees on foods, all that has been printed on coffee in French, Spanish, German, and English (including the Coffee Convention, New York, October, 1902, Coffee Exchange), all the Food Commissioners of various States, and their national conventions—in one word I have done with coffee what Heinrich Boerne accuses the Germans of doing when they want to clean a grease spot out of a coat: "They study chemistry first!" And all that without a "dollar" from anybody! Is not that "cranky"?

The absolute "fact"—frozen facts as Oakes Ames used to call them—which nobody dares or can attack, are simply these: We have eighty millions of people. They consumed, in 1901, an average 10.60 pounds of coffee, or about eight hundred and fifty million pounds. In these eighty millions of people the census of 1900 will give you the number of dealers in coffee (importers, brokers, wholesale and retail grocers). Now then, in 1897 or 1898 I paid in Chicago between 40 and 45 cents for a pound of "Java and Mocha." In 1903 I pay the same for the same thing. In the six years from 1897—1902 inclusive, we imported to the United States about one hundred and thirty-eight millions "Java and Mocha," and from Brazil alone about four thousand millions of pounds of coffee. To these four thousand millions you must add the importation from all the rest of the coffee-producing countries. Since acquiring Porto Rico and the Philippines we have also become "producers," only the quantity we produce "cuts no ice" as yet. The entire total of coffee imported into the United States in six years is about five thousand million pounds, of which only nearly one hundred and thirty-eight millions were "Java and Mocha" and of these one hundred and thirty-eight millions there were not twenty millions "Mocha." Now then, the grocers, etc., of the United States have sold us daily in six years (and they all have "boomed" it) "Java and Mocha" at from 35 to 45 cents per pound at retail, when all the genuine "Java and Mocha" in the country in six years amounted only to one hundred and thirty-eight millions of pounds.

And now comes the peculiar "prosperity" question: Why do we pay to-day up to 45 cents a pound for "misbranded" "Java and Mocha" when the price of coffee has gone down in Brazil from \$20 per saco (bag = 60 kilos. = 134 pounds) to \$5 (about) per bag? Who is my authority for that statement? Senor Don J. T. de Assis-Brasil, the Brazilian minister in Washington, as delegate to the Coffee Convention of October, 1902, in New York. And what has Brazil got to do with "Java and Mocha" in the United States?

Simply that the Brazilian "Bourbon Santos" (grown from seeds of the coffee grown on the French island of "Réunion," formerly "Bourbon," on the west coast of Africa, which is known as "Bourbon," and does resemble Mocha) is sold us to a very large extent as "Mocha."

Then there is "Bogus Mocha," "Peaberry Mocha" (in the former of which the buyer simply drops the "Bogus") and the Lord only knows what else that is sold us as "Mocha," partly in tin cans elegantly "labelled" as "Java and Mocha," not to forget the "Mocha" manufactured by sifting machines in Brazil (according to F. G. Carpenter) as well as in the United States. And what is "Mocha"? The first and only coffee ever known in the civilized world, came from Arabia, was known as "Mocha," and has been



appreciated by that name for its peculiar aroma "between new-mown hay and fresh tea" ever since.

In 1683, when John Sobieski, of Poland, whipped the Turks besieging Vienna, the victorious Poles found in the tents of their abandoned camps "Mocha" in all its stages—a fact which I cannot find in encyclopedias, but which I learned at college.

The province of Yemen in Arabia (Arabia felix = Happy Arabia), however, produces now only about twelve millions of pounds of coffee, on which the entire world draws, and which, if they all came to the United States, would make only forty-eight millions of pounds of "Java and Mocha" mixed with three quarters of a pound of Java to each one quarter of Mocha.

Since the people of the United States drink in one year about eight hundred and fifty millions of pounds of coffee, even the entire product of Yemen could not begin to supply in the United States the (artificially increased) demand for "Java and Mocha"! So it is supplied "otherwise."

A grocer in a city of about 200,000 inhabitants, to whom I suggested that I would "educate" the people, said: "Now, don't! the less they know the better they're off." "You are mistaken," I replied, "what you mean is 'The less they know the better I am off.'" He just had sold me for 45 cents one pound of "Java and Mocha"—when there was not one bean of "Mocha" in his entire town! However, the end of this dishonest swindle is near. In Illinois the pure food law passed in 1899 says: Section 14—"An article shall be deemed adulterated \* \* \* \* Fourth: if it be an imitation of and sold under the name of another article."

All the shystering of hired attorneys will not prevent the ultimate enforcement of this plain law, which provides for its violations in Section 23 for fines of from \$25 to \$200 or jail for from thirty to ninety days, or both, in the discretion of the court. I ask you—and all the people who understand "grafting" and "politics"—why is this law not enforced in Illinois? Is it the same "influence" which sent an attorney from Chicago to Washington to argue the perfect propriety and legality of selling glucose syrup as "Maple Syrup"? To those of your readers who desire to go into "medias res," I recommend very seriously the reading of the report of last year's coffee convention committee on the "Causes of the Crisis" in coffee (brought on by the fall in price from \$20 per bag to \$5 per bag), in Senate Document No. 35, which publishes the coffee convention's proceedings, reports, etc. I emphasize "publishes," because W. J. Bryan before the trust conference in Chicago, and Mr. Roosevelt, as president, agreed and agree with the writer that "Publicity" is our national police or "gensdarmierie," and the International Coffee Convention of 1902, by adopting the report of its committee on the "Causes of the Crisis," confess and "admit" their conviction that there is a "monopoly in coffee," otherwise a trust which benefits "middlemen" to the detriment and at the expense of the "totality of producers and consumers."

As they say in Latin-American countries: "Hé dicho!"

AUGUST E. GANS.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### SHEVAROY.

A Special Meeting of the Association was held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on Monday, October 5th, to consider the following with respect to the new Feeder Roads.

I. Contract rates.

II. Whether planters are willing to take the Construction Contracts themselves or whether it would be *advisable* to let Government procure an expert.

PRESENT:—Messrs. J. C. Large, Vernede, F. Short, S. M. Hight, Pritchard, C. J. Lechler, C. Dickins, B. Short, Ryle, Limouzin, W. T. Lechler, Rev. H. Anderson, W. Hight, Cole, W. Rahm, Campbell, C. Rahm, and B. Cayley (*Honorary Secretary*).

The following four Resolutions were passed:

1. That the Government rates offered for the Feeder Roads be agreed to. Proposed by Mr. S. M. Hight and seconded by Mr. C. Dickins and carried by 12—3.

2. That, though we have accepted the Contract rates offered by the Executive Engineer, we are of opinion we shall not be wholly recompensed for the loss of our coffee by any profits that may be made on these contracts and hope that this circumstance will be taken into consideration.

3. That it would be fairer to all concerned to hand over the contract of the road only to those planters whose property it runs through, whether private land is taken up or not, also that, as crop is coming on and labour may be interfered with, the contracts be given to those *planters alone* who are interested in the same. Proposed by Mr. F. D. Short and seconded by Mr. S. M. Pritchard. —Carried unanimously.

4. That, as it has been pointed out to this Meeting that the contract for the regrading of the road from Yercaud to Hopeville, passing the Stanmore Estate (a distance of one mile one furlong) has been given to a Contractor, though half the width of the road is still owned by the proprietor of the above estate and khist is still being paid thereon, it was resolved that the matter be brought to the notice of the Executive Engineer with the opinion of the Meeting that this contract should have been offered in the first instance to the above proprietor.

(Signed) BERNARD CAYLEY,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

## KANAN DEVAN.

Proceedings of Quarterly General Meeting held in the Munaar Reading Room on Saturday, the 26th September, 1903, at 1-30 p.m. PRESENT:—Messrs. J. A. Richardson (*Chairman*), R. W. Cole, A. F. Martin, W. C. Martin, W. O. Milne, W. A. Lee, H. L. Pinches, T. C. Forbes, M. C. Koechlin, C. Bell, E. E. Williams, J. M. Bridgeman, C. B. Holeman-Hunt, A. J. Wright, Baron J. Von Rosenberg, E. R. Howlett, J. French, H. R. Quartley, H. S. Holder (*Honorary Secretary*), Rev. F. E. Markby, Messrs. R. Harley, R. F. Thorp, C. H. Corry (*Visitors*).

Read notice calling the Meeting.

Proceedings of last General Meeting were taken as read.

Proceedings of Committee Meetings were read out and confirmed in Meeting.

Proposed by Mr. R. W. Cole, that the Rev. F. E. Markby be elected an Honorary Member of this Association. Seconded by Mr. W. D. Martin and carried with acclamation.

Mr. Markby made a suitable reply.

**Bangalore Delegate's Statement.**—Mr. E. E. Williams who had again kindly represented this Association at the Bangalore Conference then gave his report on the Meeting, touching on subjects that were of greatest interest to this Association, such as Currency Notes, St. Louis Exhibition, Tea Cess Act, Travancore Export Duty on Coffee, Delegate to Brazil, Labour recruiting, and the Madras Planters' Labour Law, his remarks on which it had been decided to receive in General Committee.

Mr. Pinches proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Williams for having again so ably represented this Association at Bangalore.

Seconded by Mr. Bell and carried unanimously.

Baron Von Rosenberg moved the following Resolution: That since this Association is still in ignorance as to what local rules are likely to be introduced by the Travancore Government under Section 42 of the Act, the question of accepting or rejecting it be deferred and a correspondence entered into on the subject with the Travancore Government.

Seconded by Mr. Pinches and carried by 15 for to 9 against.

**Cooly Rest-Houses, Bodinaikanur.**—Read President, Dindigul Taluk Board's letter, dated 19th July, on above subject.

The Chairman directed the Secretary to reply the President that this Association were anxious to meet the Board in this matter but would like to know if the Board could help this Association in the way of a site for the rest-sheds.

**Rate of Batta.**—Proposed by Mr. H. D. Martin, that the District rate of cooly batta be fixed at 2 annas. Seconded by Mr. A. F. Martin and carried.



**Duty on Tobacco and Cigars.**—Read District Magistrate's letters and enclosures on this subject.

*Resolved*, that the Honorary Secretary do write to the District Magistrate asking if it were necessary to pay duty on manufactured Tobacco and imported Cigars that had already paid duty in British India, also that the District Magistrate be asked whether it would not be possible for him to authorise some official near Munaar to receive the duty on native Tobacco or Cigars imported by post.

**Bodi Ghaut Road.**—Read Mr. Knight's letter asking for funds with which to carry on repairs to the Ghaut Road.

*Resolved*, that the Secretary do write Mr. Knight that funds are at present not sufficient to allow of any payment being made on account of the road and that moreover it was considered too late and too near the North-East monsoon to commence repairs now.

*It has since transpired that Mr. Knight had already executed considerable repairs to the road.*

Read Mr. Bewley's letter of the 3rd August in regard to want of funds for the road.

*Resolved*, that the Honorary Secretary do write through Mr. Sealy to His Highness' Government pointing out our troubles in connection with this road and asking Government to sanction a donation of Rs.1,000 towards the cost of repairs.

**Statement of Finances.**—The Honorary Secretary laid a statement on the table showing the state of Finances; the Association had altogether Rs.615-6-1 in hand.

Read U. P. A. Secretary's letter dated the 2nd of September asking for this Association's subscription or part thereof for 1903-04.

*Resolved*, that the Honorary Secretary be instructed to pay half the subscription now, i.e. Rs.260.

**Opening of Markets in the District.**—Mr. Holder proposed that Government be asked to declare markets open at Yellapatti, Panniar and Munaar where coolies and others in the neighbourhood could purchase their weekly provision. Seconded by Mr. Richardson and carried *nem. con.*

**St. Louis Exhibition.**—Read Mr. E. E. Williams' letter of the 29th August suggesting that this Association approach the Travancore Government with a view to obtaining a donation towards the St. Louis Exhibition expenses on the same lines as those on which the Mysore and Madras Governments have subscribed, also letter from the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth making a similar suggestion.

*Resolved*, that Honorary Secretary do communicate with the C. T. P. A. on the subject.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Meeting terminated.  
*Papers laid on the Table—*

U. P. A. Circulars.

I. T. A. do.

District Association.

H. S. HOLDER,

Honorary Secretary, K. D. P. A.

5th October, 1903.

## NILGIRI.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on the 23rd September, 1903. PRESENT:—

**Members and Non-Members:**—Messrs. T. Stanes, F. M. Cockburn, L. C. Liebenrood, L. N. Achard, A. K. W. Downing, E. G. Windle, A. N. Groves, F. Bell, W. Deane, H. P. Hodgson, T. Brown, N. Gray, L. W. Gray, A. F. Vans-Agnew, A. R. Piggot, W. Barton Wright, A. Allan, W. Rhodes James, F. Minchin, J. McKenzie, C. H. Brock (*Honorary Secretary*). **Honorary Members:**—Messrs. C. M. Mullaly, G. Romilly, W. H. Hamilton. **By Proxy:**—Messrs. O. K. McCallum, A. W. Brodie, J. G. Findlay, F. J. Hill, A. J. B. Hare, H. Simon. Mr. T. Stanes was voted to the Chair.

The Proceedings of last Meeting were taken as read.

**I. U. P. A. S. I. Delegate's Report.**—Mr. H. P. Hodgson then read his report which ran as follows:—

**GENTLEMEN,**—As desired by you I attended the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., at Bangalore as your delegate. The Meeting

was held on the 3rd of August and the succeeding days. Ten District Associations were represented at the Meeting by their delegates. And a large amount of business was transacted.

The *Madras Mail* kindly accorded us considerable space in the columns of its daily issue. And those interested were thus enabled to follow the proceedings which took place in General Meeting, and in consequence it will be unnecessary for me to go into the details of every subject of discussion, but there are one or two of the most important which I feel you would like me to touch upon. Perhaps the most important of these is the Madras Labour Act of 1903.

A whole day was given to the discussion of this Act in Committee. I have the full proceedings with me, but they are very lengthy. I am prepared to answer any question you wish to ask me upon them.

Several District Associations had instructed their delegates to vote against the Act, but, after hearing the discussion, I am glad to say that the final Resolution when put in General Meeting was carried unanimously. The Resolution reads:—"That this Association tenders its most cordial thanks to the Government of Madras for their endeavours to meet the requirements of the planting industries as embodied in Act I. of 1903, and while regretting that it is made to apply to all forms of contract, and to all conditions of labour, and that Act XIII. of 1859 has not been allowed to run concurrently with it, accepts it, as likely to prove of benefit to several of the Planting Districts of South India, and will endeavour to induce its members to give the Act a trial in their respective Districts."

You will see that the Resolution while tendering to the Government of Madras our thanks, which are their due for having endeavoured to meet often repeated requests for protective legislation for our labour contracts, does not commit any Districts to its acceptance, and gives only a qualified approval of the Act. At the same time in the light of the discussion that took place the majority of delegates were convinced that it is advisable to give the Act a trial, and agreed to induce their respective Planting Districts to do so. The discussion of the Labour Act is down on the Agenda paper to-day and I will say more on this subject when it comes up.

**St. Louis Exhibition.**—This subject was considered as one of highest importance to both Tea and Coffee planters, as presenting an opportunity of advertising and pushing their products in a country having a large demand for both. Tea planters both in Northern and Southern India have fully realised this and are taking active steps for the proper representation of their product. I can only express a hope that Coffee planters will do the same. The opportunity will be given them to do so, and it remains to them to accept or neglect it.

The U. P. A. S. I. has given a grant of Rs.10,000 and the Madras and Mysore Governments have each kindly assisted us with grants of Rs.5,000, and we hope to get further grants in aid from other Districts.

But, gentlemen, let me impress upon you here that if you desire to secure any real permanent advantage in the market which this exhibition opens up to you, you must bestir yourselves and arrange for supplies of coffee to meet the demand which we hope will arise after the exhibition. You are having a big advertisement provided and paid for for you. Opportunities will be given to thousands of people who have never tasted East Indian coffees to do so, and if it is really as superior to most other coffees as we believe it to be, there must be a demand for it, which, if carefully met and fostered, may lead to a new and extensive market, in which it is reasonable to expect better prices may be obtained than by dumping down our crops in the overstocked markets of London, to fetch such prices as they choose to give us.

A Committee consisting of Messrs. Harris, Martin, King Church and myself was appointed to arrange details for pushing coffee in the U. S., after the closing of the St. Louis Exhibition. This Committee is about to issue a circular to ascertain what support planters will accord to the proposal, and everything must depend upon the result of the appeal. You will realise that without the means the Committee is powerless.

**Delegate to Brazil.**—Had to be abandoned for the present from want of funds, the St. Louis Exhibition taking precedence in importance in the opinion of the Meeting.

The Secretary was however instructed to communicate with the Government of India with a view to eliciting their good offices towards obtaining through the Minister for Foreign Affairs and His



Majesty's Consuls in Brazil as much information as possible regarding the condition of the coffee industry in that country.

*Guaranteed Analyses of Fertilizers.*—Perhaps India is the only country in the world in which cultivators are content to spend large sums of money on chemical fertilizers without a guarantee of what they are buying.

And yet the value of manure depends entirely on its component parts. That these vary very widely in manures of the same kind especially the poonacs, was demonstrated to me by Dr. Lehmann both at the Meeting and subsequently in his Laboratory, but we have been buying them as poonacs without any regard to their respective values, and thereby often wasting our money in putting out a comparatively useless manure, when we can ill afford to do so. The Secretary has been instructed to again ask all firms who have not yet arranged to do so, to give guaranteed analyses of all fertilizers they supply. The names of such firms as agree to do so will be circulated to Districts Associations after which it is hoped planters in their own interest will purchase their fertilizers as much as possible from such firms.

*Remission of Coffee Assessment.*—It was resolved that the Government of Madras be addressed by the U. P. A. S. I., with a view to obtaining a remission of Assessment on all Coffee Estates, as a means of assistant to the industry in its present difficulties.

*The British Tea Duty.*—The burden on the industry caused by the present heavy duty on tea amounting to about 80 % of its present market value, has again been brought to the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I have touched as briefly as possible upon what I consider to be the most important subject discussed at the late Meeting. But if there are any other subjects that any member present wishes for information upon, I shall be glad to answer questions.

I would draw special attention to the very interesting lecture given by Dr. Lehmann touching on the very important matters connected with coffee to which he is devoting his attention. Also to the interesting paper read by Mr. Cameron. For these as well as for what took place in Committee, I would refer you to the Book of Proceedings with a copy of which I hope every member will supply himself. I can assure him that he will get a good deal of every interesting matter.

(Signed) H. PERCIVAL HODGSON.

A vote of thanks to Mr. H. P. Hodgson was proposed by Mr. L. C. Liebenrood and seconded by Mr. C. H. Brock was carried unanimously.

The Honorary Secretary announce that Mr. H. P. Hodgson had given the Association a donation of Rs.100 to augment the N. P. A. Subscription to the U. P. A. S. I., thus raising it to Rs.350.

Mr. L. N. Achard then offered Rs.100 from Dunsandle Estate for the same purpose, which was gratefully accepted by the Meeting.

II. THE LABOUR LAW.—A prolonged discussion arose on this subject which lasted for 1½ hours, during which Messrs. H. P. Hodgson, G. Romilly, E. G. Windle, L. C. Liebenrood, F. M. Cockburn and C. H. Brock advocated giving the Act a trial in this District, while Messrs. W. Rhodes James, A. Allan, F. Bell, L. N. Achard and L. W. Gray opposed the introduction of the Act.

Finally Mr. W. Rhodes James proposed, and Mr. L. N. Achard seconded:—

"That this Association begs to decline the introduction of Act I. of 1903 into this District for the present as being not required."

Then Mr. E. G. Windle proposed the following amendment seconded by Mr. A. F. Vans-Agnew:—

"That this Association is willing to give Act I. of 1903 a trial in this District for one year."

On this amendment being put to the Meeting, 16 votes were recorded both for and against it. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment which was accordingly carried.

III. TEA CESS AND CALICUT CUSTOMS.—Read letters from Mr. F. J. Hill and the Hon'ble Mr. G. L. Acworth, and extracts from the Honorary Secretary's letter to the I. T. A.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to await reply from the I. T. A., and if that body were not going to move in the matter, to address the Board of Revenue, Madras, if possible, in conjunction with the Calicut Chamber of Commerce.

IV. ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.—Mr. H. P. Hodgson said that the Committee elected by the U. P. A. S. I. would shortly send round a circular with a view to ascertaining what support planters will give, so that they may arrange to have supplies of coffee to meet such demand as may arise from the exhibition.

The U. P. A. S. I., with the help of the Governments of Madras, Mysore and Travancore have collected Rs.23,000 to meet the expenses of exhibiting coffee (also to be served in the cup). Pepper and Cardamoms in conjunction with the Indian Tea Cess Committee's exhibits of Tea.

V. REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.—"With reference to the District Police Officer's report on the proposed Registration of Domestic Servants on the Nilgiris, this Association wishes to strongly support the movement, and again urge its necessity." Proposed by Mr. C. H. Brock, seconded by Mr. F. M. Cockburn and carried unanimously.

VI. GOVERNMENT CINCHONA ON DODABETA RESERVES.—Proposed by Mr. E. G. Windle and seconded by Mr. H. P. Hodgson:—

"That this Association offers an unqualified protest against the proposed acquirement of the Dodabeta Reserved Sholahs by the Government Cinchona Department."

Carried unanimously.

VII. MEETINGS AT COONOOR AND KOTAGIRI.—Read Mr. J. S. Hawkins' three letters to the Honorary Secretary re-holding Meetings of the N. P. A., also his proposal to form Sub-District Associations which should be represented on a United Nilgiri Planters' Association.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. J. S. Hawkins and inform him that twice formerly Sub-Associations at Kotagiri had been formed but which fell through, as have General Meetings called at other places than Ootacamund, but at the same time to draw his attention to the fact that, by Rule 8, Extraordinary Meetings can be called at any time and at any place by any 8 members who must attend to form a quorum.

Votes of thanks was proposed by Mr. C. H. Brock to the Chairman and to Capt. C. T. Swan for the loan of the Armoury Room for the Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bell and carried unanimously.

A number of papers received since last Meeting were on the table.

(Signed) THOMAS STANES,

Chairman.

( „ ) CHARLES H. BROCK,

Honorary Secretary.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated September 25th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 .. .. .	388,419	403,276	35,740
1902-1903 .. .. .	410,518	436,861	28,591
41,957 pkgs. INDIAN 20,078 „ CEYLON 2,085 „ JAVA	Total 64,120 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

The official telegram from the producing districts which will be published at the end of this month is awaited with particular interest. There is no doubt that buyers are showing timidity owing to the increased crop which was reported to have been made up to two or three weeks back, and have been operating with great caution in consequence. Private cables received during the last week nearly all show that the increase is not continuing in the same proportion as it was in the early part of the season, and should the official wire confirm these reports growers will be in a strong position, especially as the usual Autumn trade in the country has not yet been done.

INDIAN.—Some teas of indifferent quality have been offered, and quotations for the same have been marked down quite ¼d. per lb. A few parcels of medium teas have also sold at slightly cheaper rates, but for the best liquoring kinds a good demand has existed, and some very satisfactory quotations have been recorded.—Amongst these the following are worthy of note:—"Rungmook," 2/1½; "Amal. T. Est. Nagri," 1/9½; "Poobong," 1/4; "Tara T. Co.," 1/2½; "Amal. T. Est. Lattakoojan" and "Beheating," 1/1½.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 37,610 pkgs., av. 7-87d. 1902, 29,680 pkgs., av. 7-13d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 247,994 pkgs., av. 7-92d. 1902, 259,334 pkgs., av. 7-13d.



*Comparative prices of Indian tea in London.*

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Dust.	(Fair ordinary, dark liquor)	5½d.	3½d.	3d.	4d.
Fannings.	(Red to brown, strong rough liquor)	5½d.	4d.	3½d.	4½d.
Broken Tea.	(Brownish to Blackish, strong liquor)	6d.	5d.	5½d.	5½d.
Pek. Soug.	(Blackish greyish, useful liquor)	6½d.	5½d.	5½d.	6d.
Pekoe.	(Greyish to Blackish, some tip, useful liquor)	6½d.	6d.	7½d.	6½d.
Pek. Soug.	(Blackish greyish, inferior liquor)	5½d.	4½d.	4½d.	4½d.
Pekoe.	(Blackish, greyish, some tip, inferior liquor)	5½d.	4½d.	5½d.	5½d.

CEYLON.—Ceylons were fairly steady and quotations for all but the lowest grades were maintained. Only small supplies are likely to be brought forward for the present, and the amount printed for next week totals little more than 13,000 packages, which is the smallest quantity that has been offered in a full working week since November, 1901.

Average for week 7·33d., against 6·78d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 780,804 pkgs., av. 7·44d. 1902, 866,909 pkgs., av. 6·68d.

*Comparative prices of Ceylon tea in London.*

		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Pekoe Soug.	(Ordinary leaf, fair liquor)	6½d.	5d.	5½d.	5½d.
Pekoe.	(Ordinary leaf, little twist, fair liquor)	6½d.	5½d.	7d.	6½d.
Pekoe Soug.	(Rather bold leaf, indifferent liquor)	5½d.	4½d.	5d.	4½d.
Pekoe.	(Somewhat bold leaf, indifferent liquor)	6d.	4½d.	5½d.	5½d.

JAVA.—The Javas were mostly of useful character and met with a steady demand at prices showing little or no alteration on previous quotations. Since 1st June 30,336 packages on Garden Account realised an average of 6·59d. per lb.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4½. Colombo 1/4½.

## COFFEE.

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co. write:—"We have had a series of moderate markets this week, but with a steady tone throughout. The Brazilian markets were closed on the 7th and 8th instant but on the other days cabled firm prices, and Santos offers are rather dearer on the week. There is certainly no pressure to sell from Santos, where prices are maintained at a level materially above the European "terme" parity, which latter would appear to be too low. One or two items of crop information have come to hand, and would seem to disprove the rumours that last week's smaller Santos movement was owing to rains, which would prove beneficial to the next crop. On Tuesday, Messrs. W. Botel & Co. (Santos) announced: 'Weather unfavourable for next crop; too dry; rain much wanted; drought has done considerable damage; too early to estimate.' On Thursday, Messrs. Prado, Chaves & Co. announced: 'Santos flowering reported very irregular and rather poor; weather unfavourable.' On Tuesday, Messrs. Barboza & Co. (Sao Paulo) cabled that to date one-third of the Santos crop had been received. If correct, this would mean for Santos a yield of some 6,000,000 bags only, against receipts of 8,350,000 bags last season and 10,166,000 bags in 1901-02 at that port. This week's comparison of receipts, as regards Santos, is not really as favourable as it looks, because, there were three days' holiday against only two days last year; but, all said, the figures are encouragingly moderate. Rio receipts this week, 121,000 bags, against 117,000 bags last year and 159,000 bags in 1901, Santos receipts, 193,000 bags, against 233,000 bags last year and 318,000 bags in 1901. The speculative markets in Europe have fluctuated but slightly; but New York has improved steadily. Compared with our last, we note the following price changes:—London futures: September, 6d. dearer, other months 1½d. dearer; Havre, ¾f. to ¼f.; and Hamburg, ¾pf. to ½pf. advance. New York has advanced 20 to 10 points, except for August, 1904, which is 5 points higher."

# "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

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FOR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

# CONQUERS PAIN





Great firmness has again characterised the market for landed parcels this week, and the bulk of the supply brought forward has been taken off at somewhat further improved prices for the coloury sorts, the particulars being as under:—19 pkgs. Ceylon, small and grey at 49s. to 57s., middling at 80s., bold at 96s. 6d. to 100s.; 560 bags East India plantation, common Neilgherry from 40s. 6d. to 55s., other growths from 61s. to 74s., and peaberry at 36s. 6d. to 63s.; 5,180 bags Costa Rica and Guatemala, low to good ordinary at 24s. 6d. to 38s., low middling and middling at 42s. to 58s., good middling and coloury at 60s. 6d. to 68s., good and fine blue at 70s. 6d. to 80s. 6d., with peaberry from 36s. to 73s. up to 83s. and 90s.; 2,110 bags New Grenada and Columbian, part country damaged, very ordinary at 24s. to 23s., low middling and middling at 38s. to 49s., good middling greenish at 51s. 6d. to 58s. 6d., and peaberry at 36s. to 45s. 6d.; 750 bags Salvador, ordinary and middling at 28s. to 33s. and 43s. to 48s. 6d., peaberry from 45s. to 54s.; 540 bags Mexican from 34s. to 50s., and bold at 59s. 6d.; 527 bags Vera Paz on proportionate terms; and a few Nyassaland of the new crop from 35s. 6d. to 53s. for small to bold. Likewise 495 bags Washed Dumont Santos, small at 31s. to 33s., medium at 38s. 6d. to 42s., bold at 46s. to 48s.; and 2,226 bags Unwashed ditto from 28s. to 37s., with peaberry at 34s. to 39s. per cwt. The usual number of ups and downs have been observable in Futures this week, but without materially affecting the general run of quotations, which have differed little from those of Friday last, and good Santos for delivery between now and next July has been operated in at 26s. 6d. to 28s. 9d.

Comparative receipts of Brazil Coffee at the shipping ports from July 1 to September 16, 1903, have been as under:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
At Rio ... bags	1,376,000	1,266,000	1,606,000	770,000
At Santos... "	2,635,000	2,528,000	3,044,000	2,213,000
Total... "	4,011,000	3,794,000	4,650,000	2,983,000
Crop ... "	...	12,324,000	15,496,000	10,900,000

### COFFEE IN THE U. S.

A review of the August movement will be found on another page. The market, in view of the enormous visible supply, is very steady and looks as if it was on bottom. If it can stand up under the heavy receipts at Rio and Santos and lighter deliveries in August this year as compared with last, it certainly cannot be called weak. The market for mild sorts unchanged, with prices nominal on the bulk of the stock. The sales from August 21 to September 4 include 9,879 bags Maracaibo, from 5½ @ 11c.; 16,490 bags Savanilla, from 5¼ @ 12c.; 2,234 bags Central American, 3½ @ 13c.; 577 bags La Guayra, 5½ @ 10½c.; 111 bags Jamaica, 5¼ @ 11½c.; 100 bags Coro, 5 @ 6c. Quotations nominal. Good Cucuta, 7½c.; choice, 10 @ 11c. and better; washed Maracaibo, 8½ @ 11c.; Bogota, high grade, 12 @ 14c., and better; Bucaramanga, 10½ @ 14c. for choice to fancy; Padang, interior, 14½ @ 15½c.; fancy, 20 @ 26c., and possibly

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-87d., SEPTEMBER 25TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore ...	733	6-35												
Carady Goody ...	107	6½	42	6½	28	5¾	37	6¾	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glenmary ...	115	46	50	6	...	...	30	6¾	35	5¾	...	...	...	...
Lockhart ...	94½c	8	64½c	7½ 9¼	30½c	†6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nagamally ...	41 p	5¾	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poonmudi T Co B... 102 p	6½	41 p	6¾ 7	33	6¼	...	...	...	23	6¼	...	...	38 p	5½ 6
" Braemore... 137 p	6¼	62 p	6½ 7	42	6	...	...	...	28	5½	...	...	5½c	5¾
S T T Co Venture... 137 p	6	...	...	39	6	...	60	6 6¼	25	5½	...	...	13½c	5¾

higher for extra fine lots; Mocha, 12 @ 18c.; Blue Mountain Jamaica, 9 @ 11½c.; Central American better grade, 10 @ 14c.; Mexican best grades, 8 @ 11½c.

### TEA.

Messrs. Wm. Jas. and Hy. Thompson, in their Report, September 24, say: The market this week presents no new features to record—common tea has been rather easier and medium grades devoid of character have also participated in a slight reaction, but those invoices with desirable cup quality have sold freely at fully previous quotations. Home consumption this month to date shows an expansion of over ¼ million lbs., but export has fallen off some 600,000 lbs., the total clearances, however, showing a slight increase. Shipments from Calcutta on Russian account are 1¼ millions in excess of last year, while the exports from Colombo are lighter, though it seems probable that a good proportion of the heavier clearances entered for China were ultimately destined for Russia, perhaps *viâ* the new Siberian Railway. The sales have amounted to 42,000 packages against 35,300 packages last year, making the total offerings of this season's tea to date 259,000 packages against 304,000 packages a year ago. The tone has been firm for price teas, and at the decline quoted on the 17th instant buyers have come in freely, influenced possibly by the feeling that there is a general understanding among some of the larger importers not to place more on the market at one time than can fairly satisfy trade requirements. With so little of this crop realised it is early perhaps to make a hard and fast rule, but the principle is sound and is a cause for satisfaction, showing, as it does, that sellers, at all events, do not anticipate an excessive crop. The best invoices have now been mostly sold, and a slight falling off in quality is noticeable from all districts—this, as usual, has first affected the values of medium teas, which are selling ¼d. to ½d. per lb. lower in many instances than was the case the early part of this month. Fine and finest are getting scarcer, but continue to command good prices, an average of 2s. 1¼d. for a small invoice from Rungmook Estate, Darjeeling, being worthy of mention. The withdrawals from auction have not been so heavy as previously, and a fair proportion has been placed at a slight improvement. For next week about 40,000 packages are in print. There was a fairly good demand at the Calcutta sales last Friday, common tea being quoted slightly easier; the 23,000 packages offered realised an average of 5a. 8p.

### CINCHONA.

The auction to be held at Amsterdam on October 8 will consist of 7,537 bales and 421 cases, weighing 712,485 kilos. of Java bark. The stock in first hands at Amsterdam on September 15 consisted of 3,094 packages Government and 8,223 packages private bark, including the quantity to be offered at auction.

### QUININE.

A further improvement took place in second hands after the close of our last report, a good spot business being done at 1s. to 1s. 0¼d., and December at from 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0¾d., the week closing firm at the higher figure. This week the activity has subsided somewhat, with a small business at 1s. 0¼d. spot, 1s. 0¾d. for December, and 1s. 0¾d. for March, the market closing quiet to-day at these figures.

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1903.

[No. 42.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 30th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

October 19th.—Weather—Wind changing now to the South—heavy showers from the East. Temperature very pleasant. Coffee estates looking very well. Health—Good. Labour—Abundant. Interesting item—The paddy crop this year should be very good.

### RUSSIA'S DIFFERENTIAL TEA DUTY.

OUR present issue contains some interesting references to the Russian Tea Duty. The announcement was made a short time ago that the import duty on Indian and Ceylon teas imported into Russia by way of the European frontier and the Black Sea had been increased from 31 roubles 50 kopecks to 33 roubles. This meant a preference of about  $1\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. to China over British-grown teas. Among planters, opinions may be said to vary. Some regard this increase of duty as a counter-stroke against England because of action by her in regard to the Sugar Duties. Others assert that Russia is merely trying to stimulate traffic on her great railway in Asia. The latter is the version authorised by the Russian Consul-General in London; but it would be interesting to know what has been said to the Chinese authorities by Russian Consular representatives in the Celestial Empire. The probability is that while in England Russian representatives disclaim any intention of damaging British interests, in China they claim a determination to advance the interests of that country. The Russian Consul-General in London prepares us for little double-faced manoeuvres of this kind. Upon the question whether

Commerce of 1859, he declares that it is not: "The treaty specifies that British goods are not to pay a higher duty than the goods of any other country, but Britain is the only European country, practically, that sends tea into Russia, and the treaty, therefore, does not apply in this instance." *Ergo*, the treaty applies to *European* countries alone! Another plea, not reconcilable with the above, is that Britain by her exclusion of Russian bounty-fed sugar has already violated the above treaty.

Now, if the action taken is really intended to be retaliatory, it certainly affords an instance of the kind of thing that Britain would have to face if either Mr. BALFOUR'S or Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S fiscal policy were adopted. There is, however, this to be remembered. Retaliation is a game that two can play; and if India were to retaliate by imposing a fairly heavy duty on Russian petroleum the probability is that Russia would not gain by her recent move, but lose, and lose heavily. We are not among those who advocate such a course. To threaten to adopt it, might be useful; but if it were really adopted a heavy loss would fall upon the consumer of Russian kerosene oil in India. This oil is now sold throughout the length and breadth of the land. Of the oils available in large quantities it is the cheapest, and if its price were materially raised by the imposition of a heavy duty, the public in most parts of India would have to bear the extra charge if Russia persisted in giving Chinese, Japanese, and Java tea a preference, and thus forced India to give effect to a threat of retaliation in regard to kerosene oil. This does not appear desirable in the interests of India, and we are inclined to think that it would be wiser for this country to face the handicap of  $1\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. and push her teas into the Russian market all the more vigorously, until she has conquered that market and made the duty a tax on Russian consumers rather than on British producers. Russian fiscal principles are not those that are in favour in England; Russia is sadly in want of money, and in the hope of obtaining it may for a time resort to curious methods. In the long run, however, China and Ceylon tea should win, even though their rivals be afforded a substantial preference; especially as that preference is really not so large as it appears to be when the increase of duty is set against first cost of the tea instead of, as it ought to be, against the cost of the tea laid down in Russia duty



paid. It is not in price alone that Indian tea will gain in the race against China, and the handicap referred to is really not such a very heavy one as to be regarded as fatal to all chances of a victory for British-grown teas on the Russian markets.

In this connection we would call our readers' special attention to an article on "Russian Paternalism" quoted among our Tea Notes. The price generally paid for tea in Russia will amply cover even the enhanced duty that has been announced with reference to British teas. What we want is to secure a taste for our teas among Russian consumers. In the early years the enhanced duty may lessen our profits; in the long run, if it be continued, it will merely fall upon the Russian tea consumer, who has become accustomed to carrying a very much heavier burden. To call upon India to adopt any method of retaliation at the present time would, we think, be a mistake. The probabilities are that in the near future Russian financial exigencies will be extraordinarily great. Therefore, enhanced duties all round are at least a possibility. Indian planters should push steadily ahead in the teeth of all disadvantages, certain that they will reap their reward in the course of time, and that their teas, if adapted to the requirements of the Russian markets will find an increasing sale there, no matter what obstacles the Russian Government may throw in their way.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Dutch East-India Figures.**—The Government crop is estimated at 221,000 piculs Java and 34,900 piculs Padang. The first Government sale will be held at *Batavia*, October 9th, containing: 16,800 piculs Passaroeang, 8,000 piculs Preanger.

Messrs. Pinto & Co., Santos, cabled that the receipts of coffee are retarded by bad weather. Crop accounts are good and Santos blossoming is luxuriant. Prospects are for large Rio and Santos crops.

Havre de Grace (Md.) *Republican* says editorially:

"It is reported that the competition of the Brazilian coffee plantation, together with exhaustion of the soil, is driving the coffee industry out of Java. It is a well known fact that there is not a pound of Java coffee on the American market and has not been for years."

Editor McCombs has been misinformed, says the *Merchants' Review*. There is really no competition of consequence in the market for fancy Java coffees, and so far from being extinct the supply of Java coffee in our market yearly amounts to fully 20,000,000 lbs. It is, however, true that much of the so-called ordinary Java coffee is of Brazilian origin.

The coffee-men of Porto Rico met in San Juan, September 20, and organized for trade purposes. The meeting—the first coffee convention in the history of the island—brought together 200 men interested in the industry, every bank being represented, who pledged themselves to aid the movement to bring about better conditions. Acting Governor Hartzel announced the receipt of a cablegram from Governor Hunt assuring an immediate discussion of the reciprocal

commercial treaty with Spain which would open the Spanish market, now closed by the tariff. The planters are encouraged by the plans under discussion, which are directed to reaching the retail trade in the United States.

**Central American Coffee Crops.**—Private mail advices received from Central America note that the Costa Rica crop will be considerably smaller than the last one, but reports from other districts vary greatly, the crop in some parts amounting almost to a complete failure, whereas in the higher parts a good crop is expected. It is, however, feared that the size of the bean will only be moderate. News from Salvador state that the Santa Ana and Oriental districts promise a good crop, but not so large as the one this year, which was exceptionally large. Around Salvador city the prospects are not so favourable. The estates at Guatemala, which last year suffered so severely from the eruption of the Santa Maria volcano, have greatly recovered in appearance. They will, however, yield no crops this season, for although there have been signs of flowering, the buds have not set. The shortage this season from these estates amounted to 200,000 quintals. Reports from Mexico note complaints of too much rain in the higher districts (Orizaba, etc.), whereas a good crop is expected in the lower ones (Tapachula).

This is the season of big consumption, says the *American Grocer*, and as blended coffee has caught the popular fancy there is a higher basis for choice to fancy Guatemala, Bogota, Bucaramanga, and other desirable Mexican and Central American coffee than for the bulk of the stock.

Estimates of the 1903-04 Brazil crop place the outturn at 13,000,000 bags.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The market for both actual supplies and contracts was firmer, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of the 22nd ultimo, and prices advanced  $\frac{3}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$ c., with a tendency still upward. This was attributed to the stronger and higher Brazilian and European cables, a slight decrease in the crop movement and rumors current to the effect that the yield of the present Brazil crop has been overestimated to a great extent. Private cables received here from a prominent firm at Santos, say that labourers are retiring from the interior of São Paulo, which is an indication that the picking of the crop is at an end. This news has caused a bullish sentiment in trade here and in Europe. The demand in the local market was more active, as is usual at this time of the year, and buyers showed a good disposition to purchase more freely on the basis of present prices, which looked attractive. There was also an improved inquiry for invoice lots for shipment from Brazil, which resulted in fair sales of Rio Nos. 7 and 8 at about  $4\frac{7}{8}$  to  $4\frac{15}{16}$ c.; Santos No. 3 at 6-30 and described as good roasters of Rio No. 7 at about  $5\frac{1}{16}$  to  $5\frac{1}{8}$ c., all cost and freight terms. Trading in invoices on the spot was narrow, and no sales of importance were effected. The rise in prices towards the close of the week brought the distributing business to a standstill and a general quiet pervaded the market. Holders of invoice parcels on the spot were firm and named  $5\frac{5}{16}$  for Rio No. 7,  $5\frac{1}{16}$  for Rio No. 8,  $6\frac{1}{8}$  to  $6\frac{1}{4}$  for Rio No. 4,  $6\frac{5}{16}$  and  $6\frac{3}{8}$  for Santos No. 4,  $6\frac{1}{16}$  to  $6\frac{1}{8}$  for Santos No. 5, regular New York terms. The quality of the



receipts at Rio and Santos continues to show an improvement, but it is expected that the quantity of the better grades will not be as large as last season, consequently there had ought to be no reason for changing the official differences between the different grades of coffee.

Trading on 'Change was not active and general conservatism on the part of operators was apparent. The drawback was principally the unprecedented large visible supply of coffee. The advices to the effect that the present crop has been underestimated were accepted by operators as mere theories, as they have received similar reports in previous years, which failed to materialize. Prices show a partial advance of 5 points.

The demand for mild grades of coffee showed an improvement and prices rested on a firm basis in sympathy with the advance in values of Brazil coffee. Transactions for the week were fairly large and included sizable parcels of good Cucuta at  $7\frac{1}{4}$  to  $7\frac{3}{4}$ c. Good roasters brought as high as 8 to  $8\frac{1}{4}$ c. East India growths were steady, but no large parcels were traded in. It was rumored that an invoice of pale Padang interior was sold at  $15\frac{1}{4}$ c., *ex store*. Private mail advices from Holland state that the tendency was firmer and although transactions were not over-important, the sales in the aggregate were satisfactory and higher prices obtained. The demand for fancy Javas was active, and full prices were obtained by sellers. Holders asked 26c., Dutch currency for good ordinary Java.

\* \* \*

In the coffee report issued by Mr. C. E. Bickford, broker of San Francisco, on September 4, 1903, is the following account of the present condition of the coffee market: Little change has occurred since the 7th ultimo. The period is a dull one and all markets remain quiet. Some exceptional sales have been made of strictly fancy, bold blue washed Costa Rica at 14 @ 15c., but the quantities were small, owing to depleted stocks. The business could be repeated on a larger scale with suitable coffee. Salvadors are held on the basis of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ c. for current unwashed, but without transactions; buyers at 7 @  $7\frac{1}{4}$ c. Inferior and ash-damaged coffees have sold irregularly, generally lower. Conditions as to next Brazil crop are by some regarded improved on reports of rains being general throughout the State of San Paulo. Others contend that the crops had not been menaced by the lack of it up to this time. The present crop is coming forward freely, receipts at the ports of Brazil being still in excess of last year's some 300,000 bags.

#### TEA NOTES.

**Russian Paternalism; ITS INJURIOUS EFFECTS UPON THE TEA TRADE OF THE EMPIRE.**—A correspondent of the *Evening Post*, who is making a study of economic conditions in Russia, has the following to say of the blighting effect of Russian Paternalism on the tea trade:

The illustration which Pierre Leroy Beaulieu gives of the way Russian paternalism affects the tea trade is a case in point. The Russians are probably the greatest tea-drinkers in the world. Hankow, on the Yangtze, in China, is their great supply market. There are two ways by which its output may reach the Russian consumers; one is by sea *via* Odessa, and the other is overland, largely on camel back. From official data, registered in 1893, it costs \$9.80 to convey

a pood, or thirty-six of our pounds, from Hankow to Nijni-Novgorod, while the same quantity of tea can be transported through the Suez Canal to Odessa, and from there to Nijni by rail for \$3.12. Economic laws have marked out the tea route, but Russian paternalism, assuming to be wiser than nature, sketches a different course. At Odessa the custom-house authorities meet the tea with a duty of \$17 for the pood, while at Kiakhta, on the other route, they ask but \$9.72 on leaf tea, and less than one-fourth as much on the tea pressed into bricks, such as the poorer people use.

The immediate and outward effects of this radical piece of paternalism are, of course, good; its real effects would be, could consuming interests be ignored. This transit supplies thousands of Siberians with a livelihood. Tea begins to pour into Kiakhta in November; in December it is not uncommon to see 5,000 boxes delivered daily. Tea destined for this point from Hankow, as he described the process in 1900, is first sent by boat to Tien-tsin, whence it goes up the Pei-ho on junks to the foot of the Great Wall, where it is packed on the backs of camels. Its first journey is one of 900 miles across the desert to Urga, the sacred town of Mongolia. Transport can take place only at this end of the line in October, when the roads are hardening with frosts and the camels have returned from their Summer pasturage. These camels are hired from the Mongolians, and for them the tea merchants have to compete vigorously, since there is great profit for those who secure the first of the crop of tea. A certain quantity of tea is also conveyed in little Mongolian carts, which, in turn, carry back wood.

The camels are unloaded at Kiakhta, and the wicker boxes, each containing about 150 pounds of tea, are divested of the camel's hair covering which has served to protect them across the desert of Obi, where rain is almost unknown. For the rest of the journey across Siberia it is necessary to screen them with waterproof covering. The earlier teas which arrive are carried by sledge for the next stage of their journey, although river boats and ultimately the railroads help in their further conveyance. The outlines of this trip show something of the difficulties of getting tea by an overland route through such a stretch of country; it often takes a year from the time of gathering the leaves. The notion that this method of conveyance improves the quality of the tea is regarded by experts as something of a superstition. In any event, it must ride many miles on the sea, and that is the supposed deteriorating influence. The Hankow-Peking Railroad will doubtless cut out the sea trip but this had not become a factor when Beaulieu wrote his scholarly treatise on the subject. The Trans-Siberian Railroad, great as its effects as a trade route have been, does not remove the need of Government subvention if it is to compete with waterborne freight. This it gets in the form of lower duties at its ports of entry. The iron horse and the camel are treated alike whenever economic law would of itself decide against either.

Tea costs, after these transportation charges and middlemen's profits have been met, about five times its value where it grows. This the Russian consumer has to pay for. The difference between the duties at Odessa and those by the land route the Russian treasury loses. No one gains the difference; it is wasted in an expensive method of transportation. It comes to pass that, although tea is the great drink of Russia, occupying a larger place in the country's social life than almost any article that we have in America, the peasantry drink a wretched quality made from the steeping of the leaves over



and over again till the decoction is only straw-coloured water. Suppose the Russian Government left this business to economic law, and assessed on the water-borne tea only the duty that she now collects from that which comes overland, what would be result? Tea would be cheaper. Her people would consume more of it. Business of the transporting agencies would increase by leaps and bounds. Perhaps some of the money that the peasantry saved in this way they would expend on something else, and so employ the labour temporarily thrown out by withdrawing the Siberian overland subsidy. But this would not be paternalism.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The demand was more active, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 22nd ultimo, and the trading in lines as well as in invoices was confined principally to parcels on the spot. Desirable grades of green teas were mostly patronized, and sellers obtained full prices. The spot stocks of the latter grades are light, and arrivals from the East were readily absorbed at full values asked. As a result of the scarcity of the better grades of Formosa and Congous, prices are very strong, and an advance is not improbable. Business transacted in spot invoices, included 5,000 packages of Pingsueys at about 21 cents for pea leaf, 19 cents for seconds and 23 cents for firsts; 1,000 packages of fine Formosa at about 19½ cents; 600 packages of good Congous at about 9 to 9½ cents, and 1,200 packages of Imperial country greens, seconds, at about 22 cents. The lower grades were not wanted, but prices were steady in sympathy with the firmness of the better qualities. Advices from the East were steadier, but prices asked for parcels for shipment were too high to admit of business.

Packet tea is deservedly growing in favour in the States.

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1901	...	...	24,533,420	...

EXPORT OF TEA TO BOMBAY AND OTHER PORTS.

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1903	...	...	108,135	512,667
1902	...	...	46,892	413,347
1901	...	...	...	556,615

EXPORT OF GREEN TEA TO BATOUM AND NOVOROSSISK, ETC.

				lbs.
1903	...	...	...	5,028,665
1902	...	...	...	5,614,103
1901	...	...	...	4,403,832

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depend upon the inferiority of its quality. In fact the market value of tea remains as firm as it was fixed in the beginning of the season. Nay, it is even higher than the quality of the leaf may warrant it. At any rate it does not show a tendency to fall, now that about half the amount of tea for the season has been brought on the market. Such being the case, although transactions in general are far from being active, we cannot but regard them as being favourable in every respect.

Moreover, the quality of this year's tea being somewhat superior to that of last year's product, there is no reason to regard the market value of the former as higher than the latter. As to sales effected, it may be noted that the amount delivered up to the 10th instant did not fall short of 4,969,500 kin, valued at 2,472,961 yen, the average price per picul being 49.73 gen.

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From crop returns made to date by garden managers in the various producing districts as compared with those to the same period last season, prospects would now appear to be much more favourable, and the likelihood of a short crop very small. In nearly every district outturn is ahead of last season to date, and in some cases very considerably so, attributable to a large extent no doubt to improved climatic conditions, but indications are not wanting that some concerns are resorting to coarser plucking as a means of realizing a perhaps somewhat high estimate. This policy has proved a fruitful source of loss in the past when over-production caused such disastrous results to tea-growers generally. Last season's short crop, however, to a very great extent rectified this by reducing stocks in all consuming centres to a very low level and thus placing the industry as a whole on a sounder basis. With fresh markets opening up and an increasing demand from already existing ones, a larger outturn can this season be handled without inconvenience. It is estimated that the Indian crop will show roughly an increase of about ten per cent. on last year's final figures, which should mean that 158 to 160 million pounds would be available for the United Kingdom. This quantity, it is considered, would not be in excess of requirements but it is to be hoped a system of coarse plucking will not be indiscriminately adopted and an unwieldy quantity of tea produced and forced on the market, thus undoing all the good that has resulted from last season's early close. Here and there managers speak of the cold weather setting in rapidly and hint at an early close, which is customary news at this time of year, but most reports mention favourable



and over again till the decoction is only straw-coloured water. Suppose the Russian Government left this business to economic law, and assessed on the water-borne tea only the duty that she now collects from that which comes overland, what would be result? Tea would be cheaper. Her people would consume more of it. Business of the transporting agencies would increase by leaps and bounds. Perhaps some of the money that the peasantry saved in this way they would expend on something else, and so employ the labour temporarily thrown out by withdrawing the Siberian overland subsidy. But this would not be paternalism.

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weather for growth and manufacture which scarcely leads to the belief that many gardens will fail to reach their estimated quantity.

\* \* \*

Though Indian production is far ahead of last year's figures, the excess only serves, says the *Englishman*, to supply the deficiency of the Ceylon crop, and consequently there is not actually more British-grown tea available to date than there was last year. Indian shipments to London are in excess of 1902 to same date by some  $7\frac{3}{4}$  millions the figures to 12th instant being 1903,  $87\frac{1}{2}$  millions, 1902,  $79\frac{3}{4}$  millions. Ceylon shipments to U. K. show to 5th instant, the latest available figures, on almost exactly corresponding deficit with  $80\frac{3}{4}$  millions gone forward in 1903 against  $73\frac{1}{2}$  millions in 1902. Thus the *status quo* in London is preserved and consumption having been more active the steady tone of the market is accounted for. It remains to be seen, however, how the remainder of the Indian producing season will affect these figures. Last year the flush closed down early, but as yet there have been no signs of an early close to the present season. Foreign and Colonial demand (except Australia) continues on the up grade. The Russian trade is doing remarkably well. The revised tariff on teas ruling European Russia direct is having the foreseen result of firing the article round by Dalny and the Siberian Railway, which was doubtless the Russian Government's intention in imposing it. The consequence of this development must be a quickening of demand direct from Calcutta and a cessation of the re-exporting business from London and so far is in favour of the local market. Green teas have been lower of late, but after the rains these are past their prime and quality in cup of recent invoices have not been equal to former offerings.

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**London Tea Market.**—Cabling to Colombo on the 15th instant Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, of London, reported a fractional advance. They quoted fair-liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong  $6\frac{1}{4}$ d., average for the week 8d. (up  $\frac{1}{4}$ d.). Reuter gave the average for Indian at 8d. also (up  $\frac{1}{8}$ d.). Of 15,000 packages Ceylon offered 14,000 were sold.

### NOTES.

#### Java Cinchona.

The shipments from Java for the whole of September were 1,237,000 Dutch lbs., as against 950,000 Dutch lbs. for the same month last year.

#### The Rubber Canker in Ceylon.

Mr. J. B. Carruthers, Government Mycologist, has been working at the Peradeniya laboratory for some time over the rubber canker, and lately proceeded to Kalutara to make an exhaustive study in the field. If necessary, Mr. Carruthers will devote three weeks to this work. Besides much rubber on privately-owned estates in this district, Government has an experimental plantation which is affected

#### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

Publié par J. Vilbouchevitch, 10, rue Delambre, Paris. *Aperçu du contenu du No. 27 (mis en vente à Paris le 30 Septembre 1903)*: 14 contributions inédites de : MM. Couturier, Judge, Estève, Cibot, Hecht frères et Cie., Borges Monteiro, Dr. Laveran, Ch. Rivière, P. des Grottes, Neuville, Malbot, Budan, Pedroso, Karpelès. Une ferme à

caoutchouc à Ceylan (av. 3 fig.).—Fermentation du thé.—Fumure du cacao.—Le palmier à huile au Dahomey.—La ramie à Formose.—La défibrage des feuilles de dattiers.—Préparation des galettes de manioc.—La science agronomique à Java.—Articles et notes diverses, sur la canne à sucre, la patate douce, le coton, l'indigo, la petite défibreuse Bøken, les moustiques, la mangouste, etc. . . —Etudes et informations commerciales sur le caoutchouc, la vanille, la lime acide.—10 analyses bibliographiques. (Zambézie, Sud-Ouest Africain, Etats-Unis, Philippines.—Cacao Coton, Indigo, Grand soleil.—Chèvre Angora.)

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Whether the object be retaliation for the exclusion of Russian sugar from our market or merely cussedness or something more diplomatically subtle, the fact remains that the Czar's advisers have by levying an increased duty on tea from India and Ceylon aimed a blow which it is intended shall be felt. The import duty on Indian and Ceylon teas imported into Russia by way of the European frontier and the Black Sea has been increased from "31 roubles 50 kopecks to 33 roubles." This means that the duty on Indian and Ceylon teas entering Russia by any other route than Dalny and the Trans-Siberian Railway has to pay a duty roughly of  $9\frac{1}{8}$ d. and 1s.  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. instead of 8d. and 1s.  $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. respectively, and amounts to a preference of  $1\frac{1}{8}$ d. per lb. to China over British-grown teas.

The Russian Consul-General in London, Baron Ungern Sternberg, denies that this duty is retaliatory in intention, or has any relation to the Sugar Convention. His explanations are that Indian and Ceylon teas are imported into Russia only in very small quantities. Russia is very anxious to encourage the Trans-Siberian Railway, and at the same time foster the town of Dalny, which at present, it may be explained, exists only in the shape of stone and lime, and, so far from wishing to retaliate against Great Britain, she only desires to admit by a quicker route an article which has recently grown greatly in favour in the country. "Russia," said the Baron, "only uses Indian and Ceylon teas for blending with Chinese teas because a better flavour is produced. "Besides," he added, "Russia wants a little money. That is all that it amounts to." This is the official explanation of Russia's action, but the conclusion is inevitable that the increased duty is retaliatory in intention and will be retaliatory in effect. Only teas re-exported from Great Britain or sent into Russia *via* the European frontier and the Black Sea will be subject to the increased duty. Teas going over the Trans-Siberian Railway are subject to no increase, and the import duty on China teas is not changed. China tea, in fact, obtains a preference over British-grown teas, and the latter are subjected to an impost amounting, roughly, to £100,000 a year, unless British exporters consent to use the Trans-Siberian Railway. It is impossible to say as yet what the effect of the new duty will be, but it is a significant fact that since 1901 the exports of Indian and Ceylon tea to Russia have grown considerably. In 1901 the quantity of Indian tea exported direct from Calcutta and re-exported from the United Kingdom was 6,540,356 lbs.; in 1902 it had risen to 8,488,528 lbs. From Ceylon the quantity exported to Russia was, in 1901, 17,726,824 lbs.; in 1902 it was 18,270,467 lbs. The City is optimistic, but it is scarcely to be expected that the figures for 1903 will show the same proportionate increase. Exporters point cheerfully to the fact that in the ordinance imposing the new duty nothing is said about tea sent *via* the Baltic, and in that direction they think they may be able to checkmate the Government of the Czar. Upon the question whether this new duty is a violation of the Anglo-Russian Treaty of Commerce of 1859 the Consul-General is emphatic in declaring that it is not. "The treaty," he said, "specifies that British goods are not to pay a higher duty than the goods of any other country, but Britain is the only European country, practically, that sends tea into Russia, and the treaty, therefore, does not apply in this instance."



The Foreign Office, we learn, has the matter under consideration, recognising its importance and the necessity for action. The *Daily Graphic* on this subject says: "We have inquired into the statement made by a correspondent in our issue of the 26th instant in regard to Russian retaliation for our exclusion of Russian sugar under the Brussels Convention, and we find that it is quite accurate. The Russian Government have notified their intention of levying an increased duty on Indian and Ceylon tea. The seriousness of this step does not lie in the amount of duty levied, but in the fact that it is a deliberate violation of the Anglo-Russian Treaty of Commerce of 1859, and, if persisted in, must lead to the denunciation of that Treaty. The Russian plea is that by our exclusion of Russian bounty-fed sugar we have already violated the Treaty, but on this point there is a difference of opinion, and the law officers of the Crown have advised the Foreign Office that the Russian contention is untenable. With regard to the penalisation of Indian and Ceylon tea by Russia there is, however, no difference of opinion. It is an act of tariff hostility on the part of Russia, and it is not pretended that it has any other meaning." The interest taken in the matter by those who are opposed to Mr. Chamberlain's policy is keen. If Russia's move is one of retaliation it serves to illustrate the new dangers to which we shall be exposed if Mr. Chamberlain's ideas were carried out, and the incident is made to point a moral. Commenting further on the subject, the *Daily Graphic* says: "Retaliation has come upon us sooner than we expected, but, unfortunately, we are not yet the retaliators, only the retaliated. . . . How is Lord Lansdowne going to meet this 'revolver' practice? So far as we can see there is only one course to pursue, and that is to denounce the Anglo-Russian Treaty. Of course that will not better matters, especially as Russia is negotiating a Treaty of Commerce with Germany at the present moment, and we shall lose our right to participate in all the concessions Russia will make to German industry in return for German concessions to Russian agriculture. Nevertheless, the denunciation is inevitable, for a treaty which is deliberately torn up has no longer any real existence. The incident is only a further illustration of the lamentable blundering which has characterised our whole policy in regard to sugar bounties."

It will be obvious to our readers that the importation into this country of a quantity of tea so bad in quality that it is condemned in the United States must go far to neutralise the good effect on prices achieved at considerable cost by the removal of several million lbs. of black tea from the London market by growers, and also equally so that if a practicable quality test has been found in America below which very poor teas are rejected (even if not dust), it must also be possible, if the Customs will only do so, to apply the same test in London. If this were done, then the remedy appears to be in the hands of the tea producers, as it is impossible to believe that the Customs have the least desire to assist the foisting on the public of such very low-grade teas, and all that in this case is necessary is to bring the matter, i.e., the nature of the abuse and its suggested cure as applied successfully in New York, before the proper authorities.

An American Consular report has recently supplied the State Department at Washington with a long statement on the tea industry of India, which gives ample details. This report says: "The area under tea in India at the end of 1902 was 525,252 acres, nearly two-thirds being in the valleys of the Brahmaputra and Surma, which contain as much as 339,640 acres. In Bengal the area under tea was 135,158 acres, or about 25 per cent. of the whole. Its cultivation is, therefore, to the extent of nine-tenths in the two provinces of Assam and Bengal, the other tenth being divided between northern and southern India. The area added to tea growing during the last five years was about 55,000 acres. Under the discouragement of low prices of tea, caused by placing on the markets more than their consuming capacity, endeavours have been made to restrict the cultivation and production and to supply a better quality in smaller quantity, so that the addition to the tea area in the last two years was only about 2,000 acres, considerable areas on which tea could not be grown with profit at the present range of prices having been abandoned. From Assam reports were received from 805 estates for the year 1902, with an area of 339,640 acres, the average area of an estate being about 420 acres. In Bengal 300 acres was the average for 452 estates and in Travancore the average for seventy-five estates was 337 acres.

In other localities the average of the estates is much smaller. These figures only refer to tea-bearing acres. While the area has increased since 1885 by 85 per cent., the increase in production has been 167.7 per cent. The actual production in 1902 is reported to have been about 190,000,000 lbs., which is 56 per cent. larger than the reported production of ten years previously in 1892. The tea produced in India is exported mainly to the United Kingdom, to the extent of nearly 97 per cent. of the product. The United States took, in 1902, 2,672,000 lbs. and Canada 5,554,000 lbs. exported direct, or nearly double that of the previous year; but a large quantity of Indian tea was probably transhipped to both countries from the United Kingdom. The production of tea in India and Ceylon has increased so much more rapidly than the consumption that there has been a heavy fall in price, and the tea industry in 1901 passed through a critical period, but now the prospects are brighter."

The report goes on to say: "The Indian tea is much stronger than the China tea, and it is claimed that if 1 lb. of China tea will produce 5 gallons of liquid tea of a certain flavour and colour, 1 lb. of Indian tea will produce 7½ gallons of a similar beverage. The average price per pound of Indian teas in Calcutta was as follows during the last two years:—

Description.			1901-02.	1902-03.
			Cents.	Cents.
Assam Valley	...	...	12.25	12.08
Surma Valley	...	...	9.25	9
Darjeeling	...	...	15	14
Dooars	...	...	11	12

The Indian Tea Association of Calcutta will have a pavilion at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, where they will have a large exhibit of Indian teas, and I have no doubt that when their excellent qualities are brought more to the notice of our people, in comparison with other teas, a much larger demand will be created for them in the United States."

It is proposed to inaugurate a propaganda in the United States in favour of coffee. The reasons, as given by the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of New York, are:—First, the largely increased output of the plantations, particularly in Brazil, which is now largely in excess of consumption; second, the active advertising campaign of a certain coffee substitute concern, in which coffee is alleged to be responsible for almost all the ills of humanity. This concern, it is said, has appropriated 1,000,000dols. to be spent in advertising during the current year, with the result that every daily paper and magazine of this, the greatest coffee-consuming country in the world, is filled with warnings against the use of coffee and gross misstatements as to its injurious effects. The growers of Central and South America are already looking for some remedy for the ruinous prices that have prevailed for a year or more. The governments of some of the coffee-growing countries are considering measures of relief, but so far have done nothing more than to assist in the publication of a monthly newspaper printed in Spanish for circulation among the growers. Obviously what is needed is to curtail the production or increase the consumption. The former is admittedly impracticable since the growers cannot be expected to destroy bearing trees, and even if some were willing to join in an agreement to destroy part of their trees it would be impossible to get the majority to carry out such a compact. The remedy lies, then, in increasing the consumption."

Our New York contemporary points out that "The conditions are very much the same as those confronting the tea trade some years ago, when production so far outstripped consumption that ruin threatened the growers, and importers and dealers found no profit in handling tea. The East India and Ceylon Governments then levied a small tax on tea, which it spent in advertising its merits and in spreading broadcast in England and Canada, the United States and elsewhere the proper method of brewing, etc. The results were immediate and satisfactory. The amount annually expended in advertising is said to be more than 500,000dols. The need that something of this nature be undertaken in the coffee interests is even more urgent. It is estimated that not half of the coffee-drinking families in the United States know how to brew coffee properly. They should be taught. But perhaps the greatest factor in arresting coffee consumption in the United States is the persistent newspaper advertising of cereal substitute manufacturers, in which coffee is pronounced injurious and



poisonous. Coffee growers, or the governments of coffee-producing countries, and those who import and distribute it should co-operate to bring the merits of coffee to the attention of the consumer, and to teach him how to prepare it. This might be done by each producing country levying a small export tax, or by all importers agreeing to contribute a fraction of a cent a bag on all importations for this purpose. This might be supplemented by an appropriation by the governments of the coffee-growing countries."

"It is some time since Mincing Lane exhibited so much life and enterprise as we have witnessed this week, and this change has come none too soon," says the *London Commercial Record*. "The prolonged inactivity was getting very serious, and was beginning to tell upon the general trade of the Lane. Shellac is maintaining its lead, remaining firm with a strong rising tendency, and it is probably due to the abnormal position of this market that others display improvement also. Many speculators have made money over their ventures in shellac, and they, feeling probably that values there have attained a somewhat dangerous altitude, prefer to invest some of their profits in articles which have so far escaped the attention of the speculative element, but which owing to their unduly low values lend themselves readily for a bull venture. Thus probably the movement in peppermint oil and quinine has been started and supported, and even cloves, we are inclined to believe, have benefited by the boom in shellac. Strange to say that an article like ginger has attracted no attention, although its statistical position strongly invites buying. Probably London speculators have not yet recovered from the effects of last year's fiasco, and they continue to regard the article as one to be left severely alone. Our American cousins are different; they like to look for their silver where they have dropped it, and they bear ginger no grudge. We hear that a fair business in new crop Calicut special sizes has been done to New York, and even brown rough Calicut has been purchased in limited quantities. D, we understand, has fetched 27s. and 27s. 6d. c.i.f., and rough 29s. c.i.f., New York. London, on being approached simultaneously, declined to give the business a moment's consideration. Our dealers and speculators are evidently under the impression that as the monsoon has been a good one, all crops in India must, as a matter of course, turn out bumpers, they forgetting that what is beneficial to one plant is harmful to another. It is by no means certain that the sanguine ideas entertained about the new East Indian crops will be realised. In the case of Tellicherry pepper, for instance, Continental buyers consider the present values low enough for speculative purchases, and they have bought very largely lately, and have at the first sign of firmness on the part of sellers immediately agreed to pay the advance asked. Business has been done as low as 53s. 6d. c.i.f. delivered weights, northern European ports, but 53s. 9d. has already been bid for January-March shipment. We should be glad to see pepper joining the number of articles now booming in the Lane; surely its position is favourable enough."

—H. & C. Mail.

## RUBBER PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE.

### INCREASE OF PRODUCTION.

There are already quite a number of instances of successful rubber plantations in various parts of the world, which quite suffice to show that rubber planting has, indeed, emerged from the stage of a mere commercial experiment. At the present moment considerable areas are under cultivation in some of the northern states of South America, Central America, Mexico, the Malay Peninsula, Ceylon, and Java, which have already begun to produce rubber, and the aggregate production of which within the next few years should attain to fairly large dimensions. The state of affairs is not so favourable as regards the African rubber production. Almost everywhere in Africa rubber-yielding trees and plants are exploited in a way which must lead to their not far distant extermination. The orders issued in the British possessions, as also by the Congo Administration, have largely remained a dead letter: as a matter of fact, it is highly questionable whether the orders issued by the last-named administration were ever meant to be more than a sop to public opinion. The planting experiments which have been made in various parts of Africa still leave some considerable doubt as to prospects, as well as to the best tree to cultivate.

### QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—DETERIORATION.

So far, the production of crude rubber has fairly kept pace with the increasing demands of the factories, but, while at the same time the prices have shown a continuous upward tendency, the quality has, in many cases, distinctly deteriorated. This, unfortunately, applies more particularly to the highest of all rubber qualities—Pará rubber. While fifteen years ago, fine Pará rarely showed a loss in washing exceeding from 10 to 12 per cent., this rose, within the last ten years, to from 12 to 16 per cent., and in the last five years has reached from 15 to 20 per cent. During the same interval, Colombia Virgen, at one time one of the finest brands of rubber, has practically entirely disappeared from the market. What little still occurs under that name is an altogether inferior product. All the numerous brands of rubber shipped from the Central American rubber districts have greatly shrunk in bulk, and enormously deteriorated in quality. The fine qualities of rubber, almost equal to Pará, which were formerly obtained from Madagascar, have likewise fallen off in quality and quantity, and the same is true of all the rubber grades of India and the Indian Archipelago. On the other hand, the quality of the African rubber grades has distinctly improved, largely owing to the exertions of the companies operating in the Congo district.

### "RECOVERED" RUBBER.—SUBSTITUTES.

During the last few years the use—and particularly the misuse—of substitutes has distinctly decreased, owing, no doubt, to the recognition that in recovered rubber we possess an incomparably better material for the reduction of the cost of the mixings. The recovery of india-rubber is based upon the fact that by heating ground vulcanised rubber waste, either with high pressure steam or with certain solvents, the rubber can be re-converted into a plastic mass which is capable of re-vulcanisation. This capability of re-vulcanisation is due to the circumstance that soft vulcanised rubber is still a largely unsaturated product, and as with increasing saturation of the rubber with sulphur its chemical indifference also increases, recovered and re-vulcanised rubber naturally possesses a higher degree of saturation than vulcanised native rubber. Hence follows the interesting fact that soundly manufactured rubber goods containing recovered rubber are invariably more stable products than goods manufactured from native rubber only. For this reason the use of recovered rubber for the cheapening of rubber mixings must be pronounced a most satisfactory expedient.—*India-Rubber Journal*.

## THE RUBBER INDUSTRY IN CEYLON MARKET.

### HAS IT COME TO STAY.

In view of the unprecedented demand that has sprung up in Europe and America during the past year and the interest that is now being taken by a large number of the planting community in rubber, the *Ceylon Independent* interviewed a gentleman, who has had considerable experience of this article, and from his replies we are led to conclude that the prospects of rubber in Ceylon are such as to encourage all those that have suitable land to plant up.

### THE QUESTION OF OVER-SUPPLY

was naturally one of the first put and here, although admitting that such an event was not impossible, our informant was of the opinion that the uses that rubber could be put to, were so varied that for many years to come prices would remain at a figure that would show the producer an extremely handsome return on his outlay. The real danger that threatened the rubber industry was the finding of a substitute, but even then it was a moot point whether the substitute when found could compete in price with rubber as Ceylon rubber could stand a lot of cutting down in price and yet show a good return. On the other hand, rubber obtained from South America and Africa was daily getting more difficult and expensive to lay down in Europe.

### THE EFFECTS OF UNSKILLED LABOUR.

Why it was that rubber was getting more difficult to obtain in America was due to the fact that those who had the task of collecting it did not trouble themselves as to whether the amount of latex that they extracted from the tree was more than it could stand, but acting on the idea that the more they could get, the more they would make, the trunks and branches were mutilated and hacked to such an extent that if not totally destroyed the trees were thrown back, and practically became useless for a long time



to come. In fact, those engaged in collecting acted very much in the same way as our average cooly would if he were placed in a field of tea and told that he would get so much for every lb. of leaf plucked and no restriction placed as to the quality.

In Africa, very much the same way of collecting is carried on and the expenses incurred in securing the article are extremely heavy, one of them being that the Europeans employed die so rapidly that beside big salaries they have all to be heavily insured by their employers for the benefit of their families. Taking these facts into consideration it was our informants' opinion that should the supplies increase so much in the Straits, Ceylon, and India, as to bring down prices, the first to feel the pinch would be the uncultivated areas of America and Africa from which the present world's supply is practically drawn. Beside this it is quite possible that the supply from these parts may be considerably exhausted long before this period arrives unless steps are taken to control the indiscriminate scramble that is now taking place to obtain rubber. In this case prices should remain much about what they are at present.

#### PLANTING IN CEYLON.

Rubber has been planted indiscriminately over the Island, but so far no one has come forward and volunteered much information as to the yield per tree, while experts are still at variance as to soil, elevation, etc. The ideal soil to this gentleman's thinking is a rich loamy one, but this is difficult to obtain in anything like large areas in Ceylon.

The rubber planted in Kalutara appears to have found a climate, if not soil, congenial to itself and small parcels that have been sold locally as well as at home have fetched high prices. At the same time the K. V. has been turning out a first rate article, while rubber planted as far down as Galle is reported as doing well. A good deal of discussion has been taking place as to whether Pará does or does not grow well at a higher elevation than 2,000 feet. With suitable soil I do not see why Pará should not grow to advantage between this and 3,000 feet, although the higher the elevation the longer perhaps it takes to yield. What is wanted is a forcing climate and given plenty of evenly distributed rain and heat, he considered rubber should do well even if planted away from marshy land which is by some considered to be the only suitable situation for rubber.

#### RUBBER VS. TEA.

It seems generally felt that by planting rubber amongst tea it means in the course of three or four years that the latter will go out. I do not see any ground to doubt this, but it stands to reason that when planting up amongst his tea the planter will choose that tea which will not effect him to any great extent if it has to be abandoned. The policy of planting over one's good tea seems a risky proceeding and not one to be ventured into with a light heart, but as a by-product he considered it one of the most valuable we have in Ceylon.

### SOLUBLE TEA.

#### MORE INTERESTING INFORMATION.

When Mr. John Roger, the representative of the Soluble Tea Company, returned recently from his business trip to India, a representative of the *Times of Ceylon* obtained from him all there was of interest about the new tea at that time. The industry has advanced some steps further since then, but can yet be considered only in its infancy. Yesterday, for the first time, soluble tea was

#### SOLD RETAIL IN COLOMBO

and we learn that there has been a ready demand for it. Oakes & Company, the Madras Agents, have also ordered a quantity, and, as has Already been stated, the military authorities at Simla, including Lord Kitchener, have expressed their entire satisfaction with the samples which Mr. Roger presented to them. There is the initial difficulty which is always met with when a patent process is first begun to be worked. The machinery is very complicated, and, as such machinery has never before been made, progress is slow; and, in fact, if the present machine got out of order, it is probable no Engineer in Ceylon would understand it. In short

#### EVERYTHING IS EXPERIMENTAL,

but from the results already achieved the shareholders of the Soluble Tea Company entertain the highest hopes of the patent tea. Shares are at a premium, and it is impossible, it seems, to

find sellers at any figure, which is a sure indication of the healthy state of the Company. We understand that at present about 1,000 lbs. of tea a week can be turned out from the Erroll Factory. The retail price per oz. (50 cups, or equal to almost a lb. of ordinary tea) is, in Ceylon, 68 cents; England, of course, is the market it is desirous to exploit. At present, owing to the prohibitive duty on "extracts," it would be unprofitable to attempt to open a market there; but, as we have already stated, it has only to be proved—and it is not a difficult matter—that soluble tea is of practical utility to the community in general, and the special duty will have to be removed. In previous articles we have referred to the great advantage which soluble tea possesses

#### FOR AN ARMY, OR ON BOARD SHIP.

It is reasonable to suppose that the conservative housewife will fight shy of the innovation for some time, because she will miss the tea leaves for tea carpets and dusty floors; but its convenience will soon outweigh all other considerations. It is hoped to place soluble tea on the English market at 1s. per ounce. Soluble tea is prepared from the very finest Ceylon tea—from Erroll Estate at Hatton—and only the best leaves are employed in its manufacture. Consequently the English housewife will be getting, in soluble form, the best Ceylon tea at practically one shilling per lb.; a fact which should appeal very strongly to her practical mind.

#### PROSPECTS.

Samples of soluble tea have already gone to America; but this immense market will have to be systematically exploited. In France the prospects are very favourable, and in proof of this it may be pointed out that one business-man on the Continent, even before he had been definitely appointed an Agent of the Company, sent a large order for soluble tea, which is a fairly good indication of what people think of the invention. The Colombo Agents believe that in a very short time it will be necessary to enlarge the factory accommodation at Erroll; and when the business has developed tea from other estates will have to be obtained. When the business is put upon a sound footing in India, a factory will probably be started in the Darjeeling district, and Indian tea will be used to make the soluble tea which will be sold there. A point which it is important to remember in connection with the new tea is the absolute cleanliness in the methods of manufacture. The leaf is never touched, and it is impossible, the Agents say, for any dirt or extraneous matter to find its way into the powder.

It will be seen from the foregoing that soluble tea starts its career with every prospect of success; and planters and tea-merchants may have no fear that its successful progress will injuriously affect the ordinary tea interests.

### NOTES ON TEA AND COFFEE.

#### Cup quality.

That is the first consideration in selecting tea or coffee.

Style is important in both coffee and tea, and if it can be had with cup quality a double hold is obtained on customers, but it ought not to be the first consideration.

It is because that combination is hard to find that fancy marks of tea and coffee generally command a premium over goods of ordinary grade.

Blends of either tea or blended coffee are the outcome of the desire to combine cup quality with style. To blend so as to tickle the palate is an art which is acquired by experience, but not difficult to one having a discriminating palate. Recently we had occasion to call a number of times upon a well-known New York retail grocer, and at every visit found him at a revolving round table testing tea or coffee; comparing the samples and studying their relation to the stock on hand.

He was bound to be the judge of the merit and value of the tea and coffee placed in stock; determined to know all about the goods sold and able to meet objections if made by a consumer.

He is an enthusiastic buyer of tea and coffee and prides himself upon the high character and uniformity of his brands. He knows that consumers soon acquire a taste for a certain sort of tea or coffee and are apt to take offence if the retailer fails to furnish uniformly the desired flavour, and hence it is absolutely essential that the tea or coffee offered should always be uniform in cup quality, and so designated as to insure to the customer the same sort at every purchase.



Flavour is a distinctive yet varying quality in coffee and tea, but one may soon educate the palate to detect the difference between the various sorts and so fasten the taste upon the memory that they can detect differences at once whenever called upon to make a purchase. The consumer becomes wedded to any flavour to which his palate is accustomed and rebels if something different is offered, either intentionally or by mistake.

An illustration of this was given by a grocer noted for having a large and profitable trade in coffee. He kept not only high-grade goods, but also a ground coffee containing coffee mixture, for which he had a large demand. One day a prized customer addicted to the mixture complained of the poor quality of the coffee sent, and said: "If you send me any such poor coffee again I shall stop trading with you altogether. The coffee you sent me was vile—not fit to drink."

Upon investigation it was found that the dissatisfied customer, whose palate had acquired a taste for the mixture had been given by mistake a fancy Java and Mocha blend, but its flavour was so different from that to which they had been accustomed that it made the impression that the quality was bad, and the result was a dissatisfied patron.

To avoid this retailers should designate tea and coffee by names or numbers, so that customers would always ask for the same sort every time a purchase was made.

Many retailers designate the different sorts of coffee carried in stock, partly as follows: Mo-kof-fee, American Breakfast, No. 41, Guadalajari blend, French Breakfast, Strong Rio, Royal Stuart blend, Cream Java, English blend, Turkish blend, Venetian blend, Golden Santos. This same policy is used to designate tea. We find listed: Royal blend, Orient blend, Ceylon blend, Russian Caravan, Salada, Tetley's, Lipton's (each sort bearing a different colored label), Formosa Tea Blossoms, Light of Asia, Ceylon, etc., etc. These names are fastened in the buyer's memory, and the distinctive flavour of the tea or coffee being impressed on the palate, the users are quick to detect any change in flavour and make complaint, although the merits of the article may be higher in price and regarded by experts as superior in flavour to that habitually used. Some price-lists go farther and specify the characteristics of the different sorts of coffee and tea listed. For instance:

Washed Mexican, heavy body; distinctive "acid" character. Best Maracaibo, smooth; thick, heavy body with popular flavour. Mo-kof-fee, a rare grade of coffee, of unique character, and intended for those who desire the very choicest coffee, regardless of price. A pleasing feature of Mo-kof-fee is that while it is the highest price coffee per pound, it is also economical, as it goes farther than ordinary coffee. Ceylon blend: Composed of the finest Ceylon tea, skilfully blended with pure and uncolored China and Japan teas, so that Ceylon character is agreeably modified to please the American taste. The advantages claimed for Ceylon blend tea are richness, strength, purity, quality, and flavour. Formosa Oolong: Exceedingly rich, flavoury, and fragrant. Especially cured and fired so as to produce a rare and mellow character. Foochow Oolong: Less "rosy" than Formosa; of a fine neutral character. Japan (green): Light amber liquor and with "toasty" flavour.

The consumer having found a tea or coffee the cup quality of which satisfies, is almost certain to cling to the sort chosen, and takes offence when served with something different. The retailer can always keep for reference and test the different grades kept in stock and use them for comparison in purchasing supplies, but cup quality must be the chief consideration if a profitable trade is to be secured.—*American Grocer.*

## A CENTURY OF PROGRESS—AND MORE.

HOWARDS AND SONS.

The announcement which we make this week that the historic business of Howards and Sons, of Stratford, has been converted into a limited liability company is, says the *British and Colonial Druggist*, a striking evidence of the hold which this system of trading has obtained on the commercial community. The firm, which has its foundation back in the 18th century, has always been justly regarded as the *beau ideal* of the best class of British houses and the adoption by so conservative an undertaking as "Howards" of company style will, no doubt, cause considerable interest in the trade. That Messrs. Howards and Sons contemplated taking this

step has been known to us for some time, but we have had to refrain till now from making an announcement on the subject owing to the fact that the information was confidentially communicated. We may say at once that the new departure on the part of the world-famous house will involve no change whatever in the general management of the business, the proprietary will remain in the hands of the present members of the firm, and the directors all bear the honoured name of "Howard." The Chairman is Mr. David Howard, D.L., F.I.C., F.C.S., President of the Institute of Chemistry, Ex-President of the Society of Chemical Industry, and the other members of the Board are Mr. Theodore Howard, Mr. Alfred Gravely Howard, F.L.S., F.C.S., Mr. David Lloyd Howard, F.C.S., Mr. Bernard Howard, and Mr. Geoffrey E. Howard.

The birth of the firm dates back to the closing years of the 18th century. At that time two young chemists, Wm. Allen and Luke Howard, were partners in the business in Plough Court, Lombard Street, which is now known as Allen and Hanburys, Limited. Both partners were Quakers—we may here pause to remark that a notable number of the earlier workers in pharmacy were members of the Society of Friends, and in this connection in addition to Allen and Howard the names will occur of Bell, Southall, Ransom, and many others. At the time of which we speak by far the larger proportion of medicinal substances were of vegetable and animal origin, the number of chemicals in use being comparatively few. But the demand for chemicals was growing and Allen and Howard determined to open a factory in which pharmaceutical chemicals could be prepared on a manufacturing scale, although the quantities turned out—large for their day—would seem almost microscopical to a present day maker. In 1797 a piece of land was acquired at Plaistow, and Luke Howard took over the management of the manufacturing branch of the business established there, while Allen retained the control of the more strictly pharmaceutical concern in the City. The venture was a success from the first, and by the beginning of the last century larger premises were acquired at Stratford. It was now decided to dissolve the partnership, Allen retaining the City pharmaceutical business, which has since developed into the well-known house of Allen and Hanburys, Limited, having premises in addition to the retail and distributing branches at Plough and Vere Street, London, at Bethnal Green and Ware. To Howard was reserved the Stratford business, the premises acquired there were known as the City Mills, and had previously been used as a distillery.

The business continued to grow, and many additions were made, until 1875 when a disastrous fire occurred, which destroyed a large portion of the buildings, but the offices of the firm and the old watermill, from which the whole takes its name, still retain, almost unchanged, their original external appearance. The entire character of the neighbourhood has, however, altered amazingly. Stratford Marshes, which, a century ago, was a great waste of undrained marsh, and bore but few dwellings, is now almost covered with houses, and what was then the haunt of the heron and the wild duck, has become a teeming centre of industrial enterprise. The arm of the River Lea, which brought fresh water to the Mills, has now been utilised as one of the sources of East London's water-supply, and wells have had to be sunk to provide for the firm's needs. Among the surroundings we have outlined, and which, although somewhat drear and uninviting, were admirably suited to the purpose, has grown up a business which ranks among the foremost chemical concerns in the world, and which, conducted on able business lines, coupled with unimpeachable integrity and scientific arrangements has made the name of "Howard" a hall mark of quality throughout the globe.

Like his former partner, Mr. Allen, with whom he retained a warm and close friendship to the end, Luke Howard was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and took a wide and active interest in the scientific progress of his time. He was a prominent member of the now defunct Askesian Society, to which almost all the leaders of scientific thought then belonged, and it is interesting to note that in 1800 this society carried out experiments into the anæsthetic properties of the then little known nitrous oxide gas. Further, it was before the same body that Luke Howard read his paper on "Modifications of the Clouds," which has remained the basis of the nomenclature of the subject to this day. Another point to which we can only briefly refer, but which is of interest as showing the part played by Howard in the scientific movements of his time, is his friendship with Dalton, and letters from the propounder of the atomic theory are still treasured by the Howard family.



We must here say a few words concerning a somewhat remarkable man whose work did much for the earlier days of the firm. Joseph Jewell began life as a farm hand, and at 28 years of age was working as a porter at Plough Court. He set himself to master the principles of chemistry as applied to manufacture, and having on one occasion succeeded in a process where two of the chemical workers had failed, he was transferred to the manufacturing department, where, although entirely self-taught, he became of such value that he rose to be works manager to and finally partner with Howard. Jewell retired after 40 years' service. It is a noteworthy fact, showing that with proper care for health chemical workers need not suffer from their employment, that a number of Howards' employees have lived far into the "eighties." The earlier articles for which the firm became noted were calomel, borax, camphor, and bicarbonate of soda, for all of which they established a reputation which is still retained unimpaired; but it is, perhaps, with quinine more than anything else that Howards' stand out most unmistakably as *facile princeps*. The manufacture was taken up about 1827, and still remains a prime factor in the operations of the house.

The work commenced by Luke Howard was continued by his two sons. Robert, the elder, entered the business in 1816, and his brother, John Eliot, seven years later. Both were keenly interested in scientific thought, and both assisted at the foundation of the Pharmaceutical Society. Robert was one of the earlier members of the Chemical Society, but his younger brother, was perhaps more famous, John Eliot Howard was a Fellow of the Linnean Society, and like his father an F.R.S. He was, in his day, the greatest of English quinologists and his ranks with the classic names of de Vrij, Hasskarl, and Junghuhn. In 1883 the year of his death he received the "Hanbury" medal, the previous award in 1881 having been to Flückiger. What he did for the cultivation of cinchona was detailed in the *B. & C. D.*, but we may say here that to him is largely due the honour of the introduction of the cultivation into India and Ceylon.

The firm of "Howards," while quick to improve their methods wherever new discoveries have pointed out the way, have always endeavoured to avoid unnecessary alterations, thus several of their machines are much the same as those in use a hundred years ago. The calomel apparatus is that patented in 1807, and except that the machinery in use is enormously larger than the first installation, no change of moment has been made.

Quinine manufacture still retains a foremost place among Howards' specialties, although the price, formerly as high as 21s. an ounce, touched low-water mark in 1897 at 7½.

Stratford, once so suitable for a manufacturing business, has latterly lost much of its special advantage, and some three or four years ago 33 acres of land were acquired at Ilford, on the banks of the "Roding," and large works have been erected, known as the Uphall Works. The giant chimney, nearly 200 ft. high, forms a landmark which can be seen for miles round. Hither, already, has

been transferred the making of citric acid, borax and boracic acid, and here will shortly be installed the quinine branch of the business.

Colonel Samuel Lloyd Howard, C.B., D.L., J.P., the son of Robert Howard, left the business in 1897 (he died in 1901), and Wm. Dillworth Howard, son of John Eliot Howard, retired about a year ago, so that the directors of the new company will consist of two grandsons and four great-grandsons of Luke Howard, the founder of the house—Mr. David Howard, Mr. Theodore Howard, Mr. David Lloyd Howard, Mr. Alfred Gravely Howard, Mr. Bernard F. Howard, and Mr. Geoffrey E. Howard; a glance at the following genealogical table will show the exact relationship of each member of the firm to Luke Howard and to his co-directors.

We have no doubt that this brief historical account of a house whose name has so long been intimately associated with the manufacturing chemical trade will be of interest to our readers, and, in conclusion, we cannot feel pessimistic of the future of British trade so long as it still retains among its most notable exponents, firms of the class of Howards and Sons. We feel that the best traditions of our commerce will continue to be upheld as they have been in the past by the famous Stratford and Ilford House.

### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated October 2nd, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

		Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904	...	433,903	416,718	36,717
1902-1903	...	450,043	462,688	30,508
45,484 pkgs. INDIAN	} Total 59,903 packages were offered in public auction this week.			
13,442 " CEYLON				
977 " JAVA				

The deliveries of Indian and Ceylon Tea last month were about one million lbs. less than during September last year. It is satisfactory however to notice that this decrease is not due to any falling off in the Home Consumption, as duty payments were in excess of last year, but to smaller exports. Foreign markets have not been buying more than actual requirements for some few months past, and it is therefore probable that the export trade is yet to be done, which is a feature in favour of sellers.

As has been indicated by recent cables giving exports from Calcutta, the imports into this country are considerably in excess of those of last September. However, notwithstanding this increased import, stocks of Indian Tea are still some two millions less than they were a year ago.

INDIAN.—The offerings have included a rather large proportion of teas of indifferent quality, and for these quotations have been

Agents for LEA & PERRINS'

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

**CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S LTD.**

By Special Warrant  
Purveyors to



His Majesty  
The King.

**CELEBRATED OILMAN'S STORES.**



## When you feel Limp and Languid,

When your head is dull and heavy, your tongue furred, your bowels costive, and you awake in the morning fagged and worn out, with no relish for breakfast and dreading your work, be sure your stomach and liver need help. Indigestion is poisoning your blood and sapping your strength. Mother Seigel's Syrup will cure you. It will purify your blood and restore vigour and tone to your system. Take it daily after meals.

# SEIGEL'S SYRUP

"I suffered for years from chronic indigestion and wind spasms," says Mrs. M. Moss, of 127, Quay Street, Ultimo, N.S.W. "After eating, I was tortured with terrible pains in the chest and beneath the shoulders. I lacked energy and was languid and weak, especially during the Summer. Four months ago I was induced to try Seigel's Syrup and when I had emptied only two bottles, all traces of indigestion had vanished."

**Will re-invigorate you.**

marked down another  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Other kinds have remained fairly steady.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 39,033 pkgs., av. 7·83d. 1902, 34,814 pkgs., av. 7·44d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 287,027 pkgs., av. 7·91d. 1902, 294,148 pkgs., av. 7·17d.

CEYLON.—The quality of many of the teas marketed this week has shown distinct signs of improvement, and this has resulted in rather better quotations and a slightly higher average price.

The official wire gives exports to U. K. during September as 5,500,000 lbs. against 6,750,000 lbs. same month last year, making the shipments from 1st January to end of the month 74,500,000 lbs., against 80,643,025 lbs. (revised figure) last year. It also estimates the shipments for October as seven millions, against an actual shipment of 7,000,000 lbs. during same period 1902.

Average for week 7·58d., against 6·60d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 793,316 pkgs., av. 7·45d. 1902, 890,158 pkgs., av. 6·68d.

JAVA.—Javas met with fair competition at a small decline, similar to that noticed in Indian Tea. Since 1st June 31,313 packages on Garden Acct. realised an average of 6·59d. per lb.

### COFFEE.

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co. write:—"After last week's adverse crop news from Brazil, markets were treated on Monday to reports of quite an opposite nature from Messrs. Pinto & Co., Rio, as follows: 'The present reduced receipts are the result of adverse weather up-country. Rio and Santos crop accounts are good, Santos flowering is exceptionally luxuriant, and gives promise of a large crop.' On Wednesday other news arrived, Messrs. Hellweg & Co. cabling: 'Santos crop progresses unfavourably; drought doing harm.' Messrs. Rose and Knowles: 'Receipts

are in no way retarded by rains; on the contrary, they are large, considering the reduction in interior stocks. Estimate the present Santos crop at 6,500,000 bags.' On Thursday Messrs. J. W. Deane & Co., Santos, were reported to have cabled: 'Crop prospects unfavourable; rain wanted'; but it may be that this news applies to Rio, concerning which province no news of drought has hitherto been received. From the above it will be seen that this week's crop news is decidedly conflicting. Receipts are rather larger this week in Rio, and 1,000 bags larger than last week in Santos; but it is still too early to figure on the probable total for this season. The October movement should, however, throw some light on it. The Havre *Bulletin de Correspondence* writes this week that private advices received both by mail and cable from Santos predict that in October receipts will fall somewhat under 1,000,000 bags, a total smaller than has been since the season 1899-1900. Rio receipts this week, 116,000 bags, against 127,000 bags last year and 169,000 bags in 1901. Santos receipts, 280,000 bags, against 294,000 bags last year and 389,000 bags in 1901. The market in Santos was again firm and dearer, and we quote good average 29s. c. and ft. This time last year the price was 30s. c. and ft. London futures have ruled irregular, an early decline of 6d. to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., followed by an advance of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from the lowest prices accepted on Tuesday, closing steady. Compared with our last, we note the following changes: London futures, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3d. advance, Havre unchanged  $\frac{1}{4}$ f. advance, Hamburg  $\frac{1}{4}$ pf. higher to unchanged. New York is unchanged to 15 points higher on the week."

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon's Monthly Market Report dated Rotterdam, September 30th, 1903, says:—

Two months of depression led to a reaction, the more natural, as crop reports were less favourable and trade demand better.

In the Trading Company's sale of 8th September better values were realized, good ordinary Java 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2cts. higher than in the



June sale. Preanger 3cts., Tagal 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cts. dearer, whilst Liberian shows an advance of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3cts. since June. Next sale to be held on October 27th, being the last one this year.

Importers met the market freely and fair progress has been made with the liberal supply, consisting chiefly of Java Plantation. Values however had to give way about 2cts. for fine highgrown and medium kinds. Liberian has been offering sparingly, values fully 1ct. dearer for the month.

Present arrivals from Santos are giving more satisfaction, leading to a good turn over at hardening prices. New crop coffees, although of smaller size, seem to be better roasters. Closing quotations are about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. dearer, prime beany even more.

Arrivals with us were rather moderate, 48,000 bags from Java, and 68,400 bags from Santos. Deliveries of the latter amount to 89,000 bags, reducing our stock from 827,700 bags to 807,100 bags.

Terme was firmer and values 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. dearer in consequence of rather unfavourable crop reports, closing quotations being 17cts. per December, 17 $\frac{3}{8}$ cts. per March, 17 $\frac{5}{8}$ cts. per May, and 18cts. per September. Dealings amount to 92,500 bags or 673,000 bags since 1st January. September contracts 240,000 bags, whilst 77,500 bags were tendered.

According the Colonial budget, there will be sold for Government account during 1904.

145,000	Piculs in Holland, estimate	28cts.
100,000	" at Batavia, "	f 32.—per Picul.
40,000	" " Padang, "	" 45.— "
1,000	" " " (broken) estimate ...	" 15.— "

Central American crops are reported smaller than those now ended, especially so in *Costarica* and *Guatemala*. Haciendas which last year, have most suffered from the volcanic eruptions, to the extent of about 160,000 bags, will probably yield no crop this year, the buds not having set.

Markets have been favoured with a batch of crop reports, as usually during this time of the year. Commissarios estimate the present crop at 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  million bags, whilst some private reports even mention 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  million bags as a probable outturn. Little importance can be attached to any of these figures, although it may be

taken for granted that last year's frost has done some damage to the crop now in course of shipment. Going by facts and not by opinions, receipts are closely watched and are ruling the market more than anything else. Public opinion is now adhering to about 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  million bags as a probable outturn for Rio and Santos, instead of 12 million bags and this in some way accounts for the advance experienced during the month. Regarding next crop, the September blossoming is reported to be satisfactory, but rain to be badly wanted.

European stocks were again 3,050 tons less at the end of August, whilst the visible supply was 40,830 tons more, but it looks as if the maximum should be reached sooner than usual.

### TEA.

Messrs. George White & Co., in their Report, October 1, say: Sales have passed with a fairly steady tone. A quotation has been made for low common leaf at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., but this is mostly due to quality, which in several instances, particularly in the case of Bheel gardens, is the poorest we have seen since the big crop of 1900. Fine and finest have been strongly competed for, suitable leaf kinds being in request for Russia, while the best Broken Pekoes with a good show of tip have met a keen demand for the home trade, and mark an advance. Common to ordinary medium descriptions have been a quiet market throughout, and close easier, especially for Pekoes. Our recent remarks that the prospect of anything approaching excessive supplies is improbable are confirmed by a private cablegram estimating the excess over last season available for United Kingdom at about 12,000,000 lbs. Should this prove to be approximately correct the crop will be easily dealt with, and does not afford grounds for anticipating any undue depression if supplies are judiciously controlled. The exports from Calcutta to foreign markets up to 7th ultimo show an increase of  $\frac{3}{4}$  million lbs., indicating moderate, though on the whole satisfactory progress, and at a slight decline in values for common and ordinary descriptions a further expansion in the off-take may be hoped for. Our attention has been drawn to a Calcutta circular under date September 10, which states that out of 31,300 packages sold there up to June 19, only 9,700 had re-appeared in the Mincing Lane sales up to August 21, and the inference has been deduced that less than one-third of the Calcutta

# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$  & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



sales reached London. This, unfortunately, is not the case, as exports show that not more than half the sales have so far been diverted from London. What is really disclosed by the figures alluded to above is the increasingly large proportion of the Calcutta sales shipped to London to be dealt with here privately, this phase being in a great measure due to the fact that home distributors have lately become large buyers on that side for their own trade at such times as the market suits. For 38,800 packages on estate account 7½d. per lb. was realised contrasted with 7½d. per lb. for 34,300 and 8½d. per lb. for 41,300 in the two foregoing seasons.

### CINCHONA.

At the auctions to be held at Amsterdam on October 8, 7,448 bales and 421 cases will be offered, containing 35,126 kilos., or 1,229,410 oz., quinine sulphate, or an average of 5.42 per cent. for the manufacturing bark against 5.06 per cent. for the auction in September last, and an average of 5.51 per cent. for the ten auctions held at Amsterdam in 1902. The shipments from Java during September amount to 1,237,000 Amst. lbs., against 950,000 Amst. lbs. last year and 1,182,000 Amst. lbs. in 1901. The total shipments for the nine months are 9,298,000 Amst. lbs., against 9,232,000 Amst. lbs. last year and 8,623,000 Amst. lbs. in 1901. In the drug auction 6 cases of thin long quill Java were limited at 9d. per lb., and a case of red bark sold without reserve at 5d.

### QUININE.

There was a decline in the second-hand market towards the close of last week, about 30,000 oz. for December delivery selling at 11½d.; but on Monday sellers in this position asked 1s. 0½d. for good

German sulphate, and subsequently some 40,000 oz. changed hands at this price. January delivery has also been sold at 1s. 0½d. to 1s.; and February at 1s. 0¼d. To-day 1s. 0½d. has been paid for January, and on the spot there are sellers at 1s. It is reported that the article is being pressed for sale by speculative brokers.

### CARDAMOMS.

Cardamoms sold at about steady prices, although for decorticated Seed 1s. 1d. per lb. was willingly paid. The following prices were paid for the pod: Ceylon-Mysore, extra bold pale, 2s. to 2s. 1d.; dull ditto, 1s. 9d.; bold pale good, 1s. 7d. to 1s. 9d.; fair medium and bold pale, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; small and medium pale, 10½d. to 11½d.; medium palish lean, 9½d.; fair splits, 11d. to 11½d.; brown splits and pickings, 8d. to 8½d.; peas, 8d. to 9d. Good bold pale picked well-bleached cardamoms were highly limited at 2s. 5d.; and a bid of 2s. 1d. was refused.

### VANILLA.

At auction on Friday about 1,100 tins were offered, of which about half sold at a decline of from 1s. to 2s. per lb. for good and fine, common being about steady, while mouldy beans were firmer. The following were some of the prices paid: Seychelles, Mauritius, etc., fine chocolate, 8½ to 9 inches, 18s. 6d.; 8 inches, 12s. to 13s. 6d.; 7 to 8 inches, 8s. 9d. to 11s.; 6½ to 7 inches, 7s. to 7s. 6d.; 4 to 6½ inches, 6s. to 6s. 9d.; and 4 to 5 inches, 5s.; brownish to fair, 8 to 8½ inches, 11s. to 12s.; 7 to 7½ inches, 7s. 9d. to 8s. 6d.; 5½ to 7 inches, 5s. 3d. to 5s. 6d.; 4½ to 5½ inches, 4s. 9d. to 5s. 9d.; 3 to 4 inches, 4s. 6d.; common to good dry brown, 3s. 6d. to 6s.; splits, 2s. 9d. to 7s. 9d. per lb.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING SEPTEMBER FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

		IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	22,008,021	17,390,386	12,370,913	13,125,185	10,451,915
	{ Green	...	76,404	...	27,296	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	6,187,304	6,691,157	8,668,748	8,948,979	8,982,382
	{ Green	...	58,848	...	30,856	...	...
Total lbs.		...	28,380,577	24,081,543	21,097,813	22,074,164	19,434,297

### FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF SEPTEMBER.

		IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	44,816,653	40,845,594	48,564,432	44,783,163	35,722,358	38,067,867	40,219,501	44,664,441
	{ Green	...	270,662	...	38,434	...	...	242,392	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	34,276,452	37,675,626	33,547,542	33,696,804	35,239,081	22,153,392	24,740,849	24,607,829
	{ Green	...	331,572	...	235,648	...	...	320,548	...	...
Total lbs.		...	79,695,339	78,521,220	75,044,466	82,535,318	80,022,244	70,405,328	60,784,199	69,272,270

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.83d., OCTOBER 2ND.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	208	6.85												
COA	64 p	6½			27	6½	20½c	6½					17½c	6½
Kodanaad	128 p	7½	62 p	+6½ 9½	66 p	6½ 7½								
Springfield	16½c	5½	16½c	5½										
Travancore	1216	6.13												
Ellangy	112	5½			98	+5½	15	5½	39	+5				
Kan D H T Co P	193 p	6½	69 p	6½ 7	39	6½	11½c	7½	70	5½			4½c	6½
Ladrum	110	6½	20	6½	46	6	34	7½	8	5½			2	5½
Poonmudi T Co B...	149 p	6½	61 p	+6½ 7	50	6½			31	5½			7½c	5½
S T T Co Venture...	140 p	6			58	6	65	6 6½					17½c	5½
Wynaad														
Wynaad T Co Per	117 p	6½			46	6 6½	51½c	6½ 7½			20	5½		

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1903.

[No. 43.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 6th proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—N.-E. monsoon with very heavy showers on now, the rain this year has been far too much. *Coffee* looking grand. *Supplies* brightening up. *Works*—Weeding, handling, digging. *Interesting* on Sukrawarsante—Kodlipett and the Kodlipett Balol roads conglomerate pudding stone is being put down, it can be crushed with the little finger, of what use is it?

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 28th October.*—*Weather*—Heavy North-East showers at intervals of 2 or 3 days. Last Saturday over 2½ inches in the 24 hours. *Plant diseases*—Individual trees bad with leaf-disease; but coffee, on the whole, looking very fine. *Crop*—There is not the least sign of crop ripening. Fly-picking used to be begun by this time usually. *Labour*—Plentiful. *General health*—Fair. Plague is in abeyance at Gonicopal. Several cases are still occurring on one estate in our midst.

### EXPERIMENTAL PLANTING.

It has been suggested, we believe, that an experimental farm should be established in Southern India, with a special view to conducting experiments with planting products, as distinguished from the grains, etc., grown by the ordinary Indian agriculturist. There is in this suggestion the germ of something really useful. Yet there are many difficulties to be overcome and many points to be considered before any proposal of the kind can be put into shape in such manner as to permit of its being laid before the Government or Governments concerned. Emanating from Mysore, the suggestion may be presumed to have special reference to

Coffee and, in a minor degree, to Cardamoms and Pepper. But what about the Tea industry? Whether we take the Coffee and Tea industries together or either of them separately we have to deal with various districts and various Governments. For example, Tea is produced in Southern India in the Nilgiri and Wynaad Districts of Madras, and in Travancore, under the Government of that State. Coffee is grown in the Travancore, Cochin and Mysore States and Coorg as well as in the Madras Presidency. If the idea is that one farm should deal with both Tea and Coffee, such farm must be located in Travancore or in the Madras Presidency, as Tea is not grown in Mysore or Coorg, and has not achieved any success in Cochin. If for Coffee alone, the selection of site might be made within a wider area. It is questionable however, if a really "typical" site could be selected, and if it were, the question would arise, whether each of the Governments interested would contribute towards the cost of its upkeep, and whether both Madras and Mysore scientists would be free to share the control, when the farm was situated in territory belonging to one Government alone. It stands to reason that the farm must be so situated. If in Mysore, will other Governments take a practical interest in it? If in the Madras Presidency, will other Governments give assistance? The Governments concerned are those of India (Coorg), Madras (Nilgiris, Wynaad, Shevaroy, and Anamallais), Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin—five Governments in all.

Even assuming that all these Governments are willing to co-operate in regard to a farm situated in the territory of any one of them, how is one farm to be made of value to all the diverse interests involved? Taking Coffee alone, to simplify the argument, we need scarcely lay stress on the well-known fact that soil and climatic conditions vary greatly in the different districts that produce coffee; that even the methods of cultivation differ in various districts. It seems to us that these circumstances would greatly militate against the successful working of any one farm, and that, in fact, no one farm could be of real use to all the districts concerned. Possibly, if a farm were established in Mysore or in Coorg, it would serve both Mysore and Coorg. If one were started on the Nilgiris or the Anamallais, its work might be of use to all the coffee-producing districts in the Madras Presidency. But, as far as we can judge, two farms, at the least, would be necessary,



and if the Tea industry is to be aided, three—preferably one on the Nilgiris, one in Mysore, and one in Travancore. This widens the suggestion referred to very materially and opens up the question of expense, in regard to which all Governments are apt to raise the cry of *non possumus*. The main point is, however, that if one farm is started, or more, each such farm must be so situated and so worked that it may be useful to the planter. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to elaborate a scheme of this kind, and to present it in a form likely to command the respect of the various Governments, or to at least induce them to give it consideration.

Possibly we are pessimists in regard to this matter. At any rate, our view is that if planters want help from Governments in regard to it they must first show signs of doing something on their own behalf. Time after time it has been urged that every planter should lay out a few experimental plots and keep a careful record of results. The Agricultural Chemist in Mysore has volunteered help, in the way of advice beforehand and advice when progress is reported to him. How few are the planters in Mysore who have seriously availed themselves of this offer! More have started such plots than are now maintaining them; the latter might probably be counted upon the fingers of one hand. We can quite believe that one central farm, under the control of a scientist; might be made very serviceable if it were backed up by the systematic upkeep of experimental plots on private estates; but unless these plots are maintained we do not think that a State Farm could render any assistance commensurate with the cost of its upkeep. If this view appears too gloomy, the way to brighten it is for some one or more of our readers to enlarge upon the suggestion to which reference has been made, to add a little substance to the skeleton, to fill in the all too obvious gaps. Unless a definite and clear and practical scheme can be drawn up, no Government is likely to give the matter serious attention. Nor do we think that, in any case, good can come of a suggestion that would have experiments conducted in Mysore for the benefit of planters in the Madras Presidency or in that Presidency for the advantage of planters in Mysore and Coorg. If scientists from both Madras and Mysore were to assume a sort of joint control, there would be at once introduced a dangerous element of divided responsibility, which might easily wreck the whole project.

### THE COFFEE POSITION.

Among our "Coffee Notes" we give statistics of the World's Visible Supply on the 1st instant. The total is very large, but there is some little comfort to be derived from the fact that, comparing October figures with those of September, 1903 returns show a smaller increase *proportionate* (and with the sole exception of 1899), a smaller increase *actually* than in any year in the quinquennium 1899—1903. It is cold comfort at best, but it is something. As regards stocks, in the eight principal markets of Europe these are almost double what they were in 1899 and 1900, as the following figures will show:

October 1st, 1899	...	...	...	223,200	Tons.
" 1900	...	...	...	223,050	"
" 1901	...	...	...	240,050	"
" 1902	...	...	...	375,650	"
" 1903	...	...	...	436,050	"

The position in the six principal markets of the United States of America is similar:

October 1st, 1899	...	...	...	70,058	Tons.
" 1900	...	...	...	46,000	"
" 1901	...	...	...	94,823	"
" 1902	...	...	...	163,000	"
" 1903	...	...	...	145,058	"

Yet it will be seen that 1903 compares very favourably with 1902 in the States, though not in Europe.

It must be added that while supplies have increased, deliveries have been by no means stationary. The following figures for the first nine months of each year tell the tale of the development of deliveries—

	EUROPE.	U. S. A.	TOTAL.
1899	356,970	271,820	628,790
1900	386,530	233,290	619,820
1901	389,590	279,467	669,057
1902	384,690	285,057	669,747
1903	426,850	311,589	738,439

How far the sudden increase between 1902 and 1903 represents increased *consumption* is a point that cannot be stated with accuracy, but there is of course, some probability that the low level of prices has induced dealers to purchase in anticipation of requirements lately, not merely from hand to mouth.

### COFFEE NOTES.

Messrs. Rose and Knowles, Santos, state that receipts of coffee are not retarded by rains and that the present receipts are large, and estimate the present Santos coffee crop at 6,500,000 bags.

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The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* (New York) says that Porto Rico coffee-growers have failed to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them. They have done nothing to place their coffee before the eyes of the people, that they might be. This is just what we have said about coffee-planters in India, though the blame that should fall on them is modified by the fact that American buyers are *not* predisposed in favour of their product as they are in favour of Costa Rican coffee.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The market for both actual and coffee contracts is steadier and prices scored further advances, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of September 29th. The strengthening factors have been the small receipts of coffee at Rio and Santos and the bullish crop cables from Brazil noting unfavourable weather for the growing crop as a result of the continuance of the drouth. As was pointed out in our last report, the continued decrease in the crop movement is having a good influence in the trade and the general belief that the outturn of the present Brazil crop will not exceed 11,500,000 bags is gaining more ground. The rumours which have been prevalent here, to the effect that certain large known coffee factors who have been bears in the coffee market for several years are about to take the bull side, is considered by well-known local authorities as absurd. The metal interests had their turn at it several years ago and have ceased to prosecute their bull movement, having lost a large sum of money. The above interests have an enormous capital, but even at the present low prices they prefer to let the market alone. The world's tremendous visible and invisible supply is too large a burden and serves to cripple speculative dealings in futures on an extensive scale.



Trading in the local market in spot invoices continued to be light and sales during the week embraced 1,000 bags Santos No. 4 at 6½c., 5,000 bags Rio. No. 7 at 5¼c., 2,000 bags Rio No. 4 at 6½c., 1,000 bags Bahia No. 7 at 5½c., and 3,000 bags Rio Nos. 2 and 4 on the basis of 6½c. for Rio No. 4. Firm offers from Brazil were slightly lower during the week and included Rio No. 4 at 5·90c., Santos No. 4 at 6·40c., Rio Nos. 6 and 7 at 5·45c., Rio No. 4 at 6·10c., Rio No. 2 at 6·90c. and 6·95c., and Santos No. 3 at 6 ⅙c. and 6¾c., all cost and freight for shipment to New York. Business transacted on cost and freight terms included 1,500 bags Rio No. 8 at about 4 ⅙c., 3,500 bags Santos No. 3 at about 6½c., 2,000 bags Bourbon Santos No. 3 at 6½c., and 2,000 bags Santos No. 4 at 6¾c. The demand from the interior continued to be moderate and only a hand-to-mouth distributing business was done. Prices closed steadier and holders of spot invoices named 6½c. to 6¼c. for Rio No. 7, 6½c. for Santos No. 4, and 5½c. for Rio No. 8.

Speculative interest in contracts lacks animation, but some interest is being displayed by outsiders. Prices are steady and show an advance of 15 to 20 points for the week, which is attributed to bullish crop cables from Brazil and smaller receipts of coffee at Rio and Santos. The buying has been distributed and trading in the forward months is apparent. Operators are cautious as a result of the world's unprecedented visible and invisible supply. At times during the past week tired holders sold in order to realize profits. The total sales for the week amount to 200,500 bags.

The market for mild coffee has been fairly active and large sales in spot parcels and in sizable lots to arrive have been made at full prices. Transactions in West India growths included about 10,000 bags Maracaibo, 800 Guatemala, 2,000 bags Central American, and 6,000 bags Bogota. Good Cucuta brought 7¾c. and fair 7c. Prices are firmer and closed with the tendency upward. In the East growths there is little doing and transactions for the week have been light. Sales reported are 400 mats of Padang interior, pale bean, at 15¼c. and 200 mats Kroe at 14¼c. *ex store*. The country demand has been slow.

\* \* \*

From the monthly returns for September it appears that the total landings of Tea at the Port of London amounted to 31,575,800 lbs., as contrasted with 26,515,850 lbs. in the same month last year, so that with deliveries comprising only 24,273,700 lbs., or barely equal to those in 1902, a material addition was made to the general stock, which on the 30th ultimo approached much nearer to that in the previous year, though still exhibiting a deficiency of nearly 8,279,000 lbs.

\* \* \*

The American Supreme Court handed down a decision in favour of W. H. Crossman & Brother in the suit instituted against them by H. Labaree Company to compel the former to make a delivery of coffee on contract, the steamer carrying the cargo having cleared from Santos when the bubonic plague prevailed there. The Local Board of Health refused to permit the landing of the green coffee, and the Court holds that under the circumstances there had been no arrival.

\* \* \*

**Brazilian Crops.**—A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro reporting that the returns give the amount of the coffee crop for the year ended June 30, 1903, as 12,993,559 bags,

showing a decrease of some 20 per cent. as compared with the crop of 1901-02, and an increase of some 14 per cent compared with that of 1900-01. The world's visible supply on June 30 last is given as 11,857,000 bags as compared with 13,233,000 on November 30, 1902. The average prices of coffee during the three years ended June 30 were as follows :—

	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Rio No. 7 ... per 10 kilos.	6\$ 524 (6 7)	4\$ 773 (4 8½)	4\$ 377 (4 4)
Santos ... " 10 "	5\$ 745 (5 8)	4\$ 722 (4 8)	4\$ 114 (4 1)
New York spot No. 7, per lb.	7·53cts.	5·99cts.	5·34cts.

The maximum and minimum prices during 1902-03 were :—

	Maximum.	Minimum.
	s. d.	s. d.
Rio No. 7 ... per 10 kilos.	4\$ 902 (4 10½)	3\$ 813 (3 9½)
Santos ... " 10 "	5\$ 100 (5 1)	3\$ 500 (3 6)
New York spot No. 7 ... per lb.	5·96cts.	5 06cts.

Coffee shipments for the three years were :—

	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.
For foreign ports ... bags.	10,893,969	15,273,451	13,012,353
For Brazilian ports .. "	252,806	289,364	360,843
Total bags ... "	11,146,775	15,562,815	13,373,196

H.M. Consul at San José, in a report to the Foreign Office, states that the coffee crop of Costa Rica in 1901-02 was a reduced one, 236,037 bags, as against 320,934 bags of the previous crop, or 26·45 per cent. less. On the other hand, the average price realised abroad was considerably better than in 1901; but, although this has been an encouragement to the planters, there has been no increase in the area planted, and the export of coffee is likely to remain at between 250,000 and 300,000 bags per annum. The export to the United Kingdom amounted to 73 per cent. of the whole crop, as against 66 per cent. in 1901.

\* \* \*

Porto Rico coffee requires high roasting to bring out its best quality.

\* \* \*

Coffee may look nice in the bean and taste anything but nice in the cup. The cup test is as necessary for coffee as for tea, if the buyer is to get a uniform grade every time.

\* \* \*

Some Mexican coffees are said to have a decidedly unpopular 'twang.' Some Mexican coffee is said to be of superb body and flavour and will equal any East India coffee ever seen on the New York market.

\* \* \*

**Coffee in Hayti.**—Prices of coffee varied during 1902 from 7 to 12c. currency per lb. and do not seem to have shown much dependence on the European quotations. Nearly the whole export goes to Havre. Of a total of 64,428,104 lbs., Port-au-Prince exported 13,266,054 lbs.; Jacmel, 12,804,771 lbs.; Cape Hayti, 9,546,144 lbs.; Aux Cayes,



8,115,061 lbs. ; Gonaives, 6,614,890 lbs. ; Jeremie, 5,865,847 lbs. ; Petit Goave, 5,042,490 lbs. The remaining 3,172,847 lbs. were exported from St. Mare Port-de-Paix, Miragoane and Aquin. The latest harvest, October 1, 1902, to January 31, 1903, yielded for export 20,763,158 lbs., as compared with 33,882,314 lbs., in the corresponding period of the year before.

From Brazil came lately a variant of the old, old pessimistic forecasts. The flowering of the coffee trees on Santos was admitted to be good, but drought was said to be affecting the fructification of the blossoms, and it was reported that the trees had been weakened. It would be of interest to know, however, how many fresh trees are likely to be coming into bearing for the first time in each of the next few years. In the meantime the supply everywhere is still very heavy.

An American paper remarks:—"It is strange that coffee should have done so well in the new world, since it is indigenous to the old world. Its cultivation on this hemisphere goes back to 1,725 or 1,730." In the same paper we read:—"The poorest grades of coffee from the Philippines formerly brought a higher price than Javas in some parts of Europe. When is this market to get the lion's share of the Philippine coffee?"

This comes from New York:—"In South America the odor of the blossom of the coffee trees is so powerful that when the plantations are near the coast, sea-captains miles from shore can smell the perfume. Coffee trees, like fig trees, bear fruit, leaf, and flower at the same time." Were it not that Indian Coffee is of the "mild" description, obliging "sea-captains" might be found who would swear that they smelt the coffee-plantations of Coorg as they safely found their way outwards from the Gulf of Aden!

### Visible Supply of Coffee

on October 1st		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets	afloat — Brazil ...	436,050	375,650	240,050	223,050	223,200
	to loading — do. ...	68,700	52,340	49,840	43,520	55,840
	Europe { afloat — the East...	10,120	5,590	1,760	1,760	...
	do. — U S. A. ...	3,580	3,630	2,040	4,720	4,380
		470	1,940	230	470	240
		518,920	439,150	293,920	273,520	283,660
Stocks U. S. of North America	afloat — Brazil ...	145,060	163,000	94,820	46,000	70,060
	to loading — do. ...	34,530	18,880	47,410	25,530	33,410
	U. S. A. { afloat — the East..	3,060	4,180	9,590	7,530	...
	do. — U S. A. ...	60	1,350	880	700	760
		701,630	626,560	446,620	353,280	387,890
Stocks in Rio ...		36,290	41,760	34,410	14,000	17,470
Do. Santos ...		78,700	95,820	71,880	61,820	63,000
Do. Bahia ...		2,060	3,350	3,290	1,410	1,700
Total ..		818,680	767,490	556,200	430,510	470,060
On September 1st...		779,900	724,030	506,450	389,420	445,700

### TEA NOTES.

Monsoon conditions are disappearing, in the Northern Tea districts, and cold weather is setting in, though there are no signs of the early closing of manufacture.

At the Colombo Tea sales on the 21st ultimo 15,465 packages = 1,235,627 lbs. were offered, of which 12,891 packages = 1,023,736 lbs. were sold. The market was

strong and active, and, with the exception of the better kinds of Broken Pekoe, a general advance took place. Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs, as well as common Broken, were about two cents dearer, while other kinds shared more or less in the rise in spite of the poorer quality. Green teas were steady, the demand being chiefly for good invoices.

A correspondent writes to the *Times of Ceylon*:—"As was expected, the temporary reduction in freight to Australia from Rs.35 to Rs.15 created a better demand for common to medium teas for the Australian market at to-day's sale, and prices advanced. The Russian buyers found more competition than usual." This has reference to the sale of 21st ultimo and the reduction of Colombo freight (to Australia) to Rs.15, as against the Calcutta rate of 50s.

A Passara correspondent, writing on October 19th to the *Times of Ceylon*, says:—"The North-East monsoon is well on us now. It marked its presence amongst us on the 15th by more than a capful of wind, and an exceptionally heavy shower of rain which commenced at 5-55 p.m. finishing off a little after 10 p.m. It has been regularly wet since then. The total rainfall for October to date is 9.26 inches short of October, 1902. Tea is flushing magnificently, and nearly 80 per cent. of the estimate is already in. The balance ought to be easily in by the end of the year at the present rate of yield.

**Ceylon Tea in Canada.**—There has been a better demand recently for Ceylon and India blacks, and the market has improved locally as well as in London and primary markets. Pekoes and Orange Pekoes are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1d. higher and there has been a keener demand for lower grades. In Japan there has been a good demand for teas from 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 20c. There has been rather a falling-off in Japan, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 16c., as Young Hysons are reported as showing so much better value at same figures. No change in China blacks. Ceylon and India greens are being picked up quite freely and the demand is on the increase. The market generally has been active during the past week, some very good lots of Ceylon and India greens having been sold, these being on invoices from garden outputs. We quote:—

Good to medium Japans	...	...	0	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	20
Fine to choice Japans	...	...	0	23	0	26
Ceylon greens	...	...	0	14	0	18
Indian greens	...	...	0	16	0	19
Japan style China congous	...	...	0	08	0	10
Pealeaf Gunpowder	...	...	0	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	23
Common Gunpowder	...	...	0	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	15
Ceylon blacks	...	...	0	14	0	18
Indian blacks	...	...	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	20

—*Canadian Grocer*, September 18.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The stronger and higher cables from the markets of production served, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 29th ultimo, as a strengthening factor in this market, and prices particularly of desirable grades of Pingsueys and country greens are very strong. Cables from Shanghai note a higher market, owing to the sharp advance in the rate of exchange, and country greens as well as Pingsueys are now quoted  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per pound higher. The movement in the local market, in invoices has been slow, but a large business has been done in Pingsueys and country greens, which are due here shortly by steamer. The spot supply of green teas of fine quality is exceedingly light, and prices are tending upward. About 3,500 packages of common



Congous have been sold at private terms for export to London. The price paid, it is believed, is in the neighbourhood of 8 cents per pound. Transactions in India and Ceylons are fairly good, and there has been a good call for the good and medium sorts. Sales of several large-sized parcels of India Pekoe and Pekoe Souchong have been made at about 14 cents, *ex store*. Parcels to arrive have also been sold at private terms. The distributing business has been slightly better and indications point to a fair movement of supplies into consumption, during the balance of the year. No large transactions, however, are expected to be made, as the interior buyers, according to latest reports from travelling salesmen, have ample supplies to meet their requirements for some time to come.

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The quality of recent offerings of South Indian Tea in the London market is described as "rather unattractive."

\* \* \*

Settlements of Japan tea at Yokohama to and including August 21, and Kobe, August 23, 281,126 piculs, against 244,710 piculs for corresponding time in 1902.

\* \* \*

July imports of tea at all American ports, 10,399,611 pounds, against 8,412,638 pounds in July, 1902. For seven months ending July, 37,632,718 pounds, against 35,821,304 pounds same month 1902; 28,534,296 pounds July, 1901.

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**London Tea Sales.**—Cabling to Colombo on the 22nd instant Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton reported a fractional advance in the tea market, teas for price being dearer. The average of Ceylons was unchanged, at 8d. Reuter reported similarly, and stated that 14,000 packages Ceylons had been sold out of 15,000 offered. Of Indian teas 45,000 packages were offered, 40,000 sold. Average 8d.

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**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—Reuter's London telegram reached Calcutta on Friday morning quoting the Mincing Lane market  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. higher for common and medium teas and strong for good to fine grades. In the face of this information it is not surprising that the auctions evinced a very strong tone for all descriptions. The sale opened with a good general demand and brisk bidding which was maintained throughout. Leaf grades up to six annas were in chief request and closed 2-3 pie above last week's rates. Medium and better classes were also well supported and realised in every case fully previous prices. Of fine teas there were none but where Assam offerings showed rather better quality buyers were not slow to show their appreciation. Dusts were in rather stronger demand than of late and sellers on this market of those descriptions have reason to congratulate themselves on results. Outside markets continue to operate with freedom and a fair quantity was again secured for the Bombay and Gulf demand. More interest was shown in green teas and better prices were forthcoming in most cases only a small quantity being withdrawn. Of 22,432 packages offered, 21,190 were sold.

Somewhat of a blow, however, has been experienced by India's Colonial trade direct by the reduction of freight from Colombo to Australian ports to Rs.15 per ton last week, Calcutta freight still remaining at 50 shillings. This unless met will end in a further reduction of our Australian trade.

Both in Calcutta and in London there has been a decided fillip to buying recently, and it looks at present as if a prosperous time were in store for sellers. The situation generally remains unchanged so far as supply is concerned, shipments of Indian tea to United Kingdom being still well in advance of last year's, and it being generally known that this season's Indian crop will be a large one. The improved position of the article must therefore be put down to better demand owing to increased consumption, and the policy adopted by the Indian Tea Association of fostering demand instead of artificially restricting production therefore stands fully justified. The large Indian crop, however, undoubtedly stands to be helped off by the shortage from Ceylon, but as the island planters have converted the proportion of leaf thus withdrawn into green tea for the States, the general aim of increased consumption has been maintained throughout. Green tea has indeed both in India and Ceylon carried off just that proportion of production that might otherwise have proved embarrassing.

\* \* \*

A new problem in regard to the classifying of tin canisters as a dutiable article, is a puzzling one to the custom officials in the United States, because, in the case of the Southern Pacific Company at San Francisco, the Court held that the canisters were unusual and therefore subject to a duty of 45 per cent.; whereas in Chicago they were held by the Court as usual and entitled to free entry.

Conflicting opinions were handed down in the United States Circuit Courts at Chicago and San Francisco, again brought up before the Board on Classification of the United States General Appraisers by the protest of Wm. J. Howland, Chicago, and heard on September 28th before the Board. From the testimony taken at the hearing it became apparent that Eastern tea interests are considerably involved with those of the West, where the coverings in dispute are almost entirely used, principally, it is stated, for the purpose of advertisement, there being strong competition for Western trade.

This case was brought up by the Treasury Department's action in instructing the Collector of Customs at Chicago to classify the coverings as "unusual," and it is their intention to carry the case to the Circuit Court. The Board of United States General Appraisers rendered a decision some time ago on the protests of a number of importers, in which the Board necessarily followed the Court's decision and held that the canisters or tea caddies in question were usual coverings and therefore not dutiable. The Department did not then appeal from the Board's decision.

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**Mr. Larkin on Ceylon Tea in the States.**—A representative of the *Grocer* had the pleasure of meeting Mr. P. C. Larkin, of the Salada Tea Co., on Saturday last at his office in St. Paul Street, Montreal. Mr. Larkin was on his way to Toronto from an extended inspection trip through the Eastern, Middle, and Southern States. Interviewed as to the progress the introduction of Ceylon and Indian teas in the United States was making, Mr. Larkin said: "Last year there was consumed in America 27,000,000 lbs. of Ceylon and Indian teas out of the annual consumption of 100,000,000 lbs. of all grades and kinds. This figure is remarkable when it is considered that it is only within the last few years that these teas have been introduced to the American public. The Salada Tea Co. has set itself the task of drawing the attention of the American housekeepers to the superior qualities of the teas of Ceylon and India, and, though the missionary work has been hard, I can already see a remarkable change in favour of the teas of Ceylon and India. The volume of business turned over by the



Salada Tea Co. is enormous, and my tour among the different agencies south of the line has shown me that the business is but in its infancy. All of our agencies show marked increases in business, some of them exceptionally so, and the future prospects are most encouraging. 'Salada' tea will be a household word in the United States as it is in Canada, and as the Ceylon and Indian Governments are going to spend a large sum in erecting a magnificent bungalow at the St. Louis Exposition, the quality of the teas of those countries will be demonstrated to the citizens of the great Central and Western States. 'Salada' tea representatives will be found there during the entire exhibition."—*Canadian Grocer*, September 25.

### NOTES.

#### Cocoa in Hayti.

The harvest of cocoa in 1902 was small, and prices were too high to make exportation profitable.

#### Italian Fertiliser-manufacturers.

A syndicate of Italian firms who produce artificial fertilisers has been formed, with a capital of £600,000.

The objects are to amalgamate Italian factories which produce fertilisers and allied chemical products, and to regulate prices and production. Some important firms are outside the syndicate.

#### Plant-protection.

An association of geographical and systematic botanists was formed at Berlin on September 17 for the purpose of protecting the natural formation and individuality of plants. Professor Engler was appointed President, and Herr Pfitzer, of Heidelberg, Vice-President. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Stuttgart in August 1904.

#### Phosphates in Japan.

A British consular report states that deposits of phosphates have been discovered at the village of Kaino in Japan. The quality of the deposits varies a good deal, but the average is about 10 per cent. phosphoric acid. Exploration so far made shows that there is a considerable quantity of the phosphate. The mine is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the port of Funatsu, on the Bay of Toba, so that shipments can easily be made.

#### Java Quinine.

The exports of quinine from Java during July amounted to 502 cases (200,800 oz.), of which 174 cases were shipped to the United Kingdom (probably in transshipment for Holland or New York), 20 cases to Genoa, and 308 cases direct to New York. From January 1 to July 31 the exports have been—

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Cases ...	1,148	583	1,141	1,037	933

#### The Java Cinchona Combination.

It is authoritatively stated, says the *Batavia Newusblad*, that the Java Trading Company in Holland has decided to support the combination of the Java cinchona-planters, and consequently to maintain the Amsterdam unit of Government bark at 6c. during 1904. Now that the Government has intimated its approval of the combination, it is to be hoped, says the *Batavia Newusblad*, that the remainder of the planters will join the combination.

#### Rubber in Ceylon.

Writing of Rubber cultivation in the Kalutara District, a Ceylon paper says:—Rubber cultivation is going on rapidly in this district, and, if the industry turns out all that is promised, the lucky

proprietors have good times ahead of them. Sorana, Knutsford, Heatherly, Hattangalla, Ellekande and Culloden, are having rubber planted among the tea, which will mean a falling-off in the tea outturn of the district in a year or two. A syndicate, of which a well-known expert on rubber is the head, are putting in a clearing of 300 acres.

#### The St. Louis Exhibition.

It has been decided to open a Commercial Sample Room and an Enquiry Bureau in the Ceylon Court at the St. Louis Exhibition. It is no secret that this idea was inspired by Mr. Stanley Bois, the Ceylon Commissioner, before he left Ceylon, and Mr. Peter de Abrew, the well-known broker of Messrs. Volkart Bros., is said to have been appointed to take charge of the sample room on a remuneration of Rs.500 per month. It is evident that Ceylon means to work this Exhibition for all it is worth.

#### Banana Coffee.

It is said banana coffee is the richest, most aromatic substitute for the real thing of the kind. The manufacturer is a fruit evaporator of British Guiana. This is how the idea of banana coffee was born. A coffee tester and expert in New York was inspecting samples of evaporated fruits and vegetables, in which was a package of evaporated bananas. With his sensitive smell he detected a rich, natural coffee flavour from the evaporated bananas, and remarked it. This was a tip for the owner, and at once he made some experiments, which astonished him, giving the coffee a most delicious flavour. He did not stop there, as he was fully convinced from experiment that he could produce from bananas a perfect substitute.

#### Java Cinchona.

The following are particulars regarding the shipments from Java :

September.			
Year	Amst. lbs.	Year	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	1,397,000	1897 ...	1,051,000
1902 ...	958,000	1896 ...	1,389,000
1901 ...	1,200,000	1895 ...	816,000
1900 ...	1,366,000	1894 ...	1,071,000
1899 ...	1,232,000	1893 ...	500,000
1898 ...	790,000		
January—September.			
Year	Amst. lbs.	Year	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	9,517,000	1897 ...	5,982,000
1902 ...	9,354,000	1896 ...	7,418,000
1901 ...	8,724,000	1895 ...	5,829,700
1900 ...	7,090,000	1894 ...	6,625,000
1899 ...	8,462,800	1893 ...	5,876,000
1898 ...	7,926,000		

#### The Rise in Rubber.

At the beginning of this year the price of fine Pará in an active market stood at 3s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound. In the first week of this month it was 4s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.—a figure that has not been touched since the third week in January, 1900, when it was 4s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. In comparison with these figures, Pará rubber throughout last year was low. It opened at 3s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and, touching 2s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in February, varied between this and 3s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. until September, when it rose to the starting price of 1903. The 1901 and 1900 figures may also be chronicled. In the first-named year it started at 3s. 11d., declined in March to 3s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., rose to 3s. 11d., and then fluctuated to 3s. 7d. at the end. The year 1900 found Pará at 4s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., and it then advanced to the



maximum figure mentioned above, followed by a decline in May to 3s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. A recovery ensued—4s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in June, 4s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in September—and then a decline again, but it did not get below 3s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. As to whether the price of the raw material will advance still further in the few remaining months of this year, we can only rely on the experts, some of whom prognosticate that 4s. 8d. will be reached within the next few weeks, followed by a drop to 4s. 4d. before Christmas.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### THE N. P. A. AND THE LABOUR LAW.

To

THE EDITOR,  
*Planting Opinion.*

SIR,—Have just seen your issue of 17th October, 1903, with Proceedings of the Nilgiri Planters' Meeting of the 23rd September.

How is it that the Honorary Secretary, in submitting the names of those present both in "person" and "proxy" very *carefully* leaves out the "name" of the "proxies" put in by him? I ask, because it was the "proxies" produced by him "*as his own subscription*" that caused the equal vote on the "Labour Act." The Honorary Secretary put in 7 proxies, if I remember, and it would be interesting to know what "area" they represent and also whether the absentee proprietors represented by them had been consulted as to their views on the Act.

ONE OF THE NILGIRI ASSES.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

Tea, coffee, and sugar-planters will note with interest that Mr. Chamberlain's proposals as set forth at Glasgow involve remission of taxation as follows:—1. Three-fourths of the duty on tea. 2. Half the duty on sugar. 3. Substantial preference on colonial wines. In the first instance the abolition of the tea duty was mentioned as one of the features of his proposals, but this has evidently been modified.

The *Daily News* has been gathering some trade opinion about the proposed remission of the duty on tea. When asked the probable effect of the remission of 75 per cent. of the duty, one of those questioned stated that "it would only put up the cost of the tea." "Put the cost of tea up?" exclaimed the inquirer in astonishment. "Yes, that is my honest opinion, and for the same reason as it was put up two years ago; that is to say, by combination of growers and shippers." Mr. Lough, M.P., was asked: "Do you think the reduction of tea will compensate for the rise in the price of bread?" To which he replied, "No; the buyer of bread will not be compensated by the reduction on tea, but there is not likely to be any prospective rise in the price of tea after the remission of duty. It would be ridiculous to leave any duty at all on coffee or cocoa, because it produces so small a sum. All those duties should be swept away, and the money should be found by the reduction of expenditure and the taxation of ground rents." Asked further as to tea, Mr. Lough continued: "The present duty is 6d., which produces £1,000,000. To take off three-quarters would be most inconvenient, because one-quarter is not worth retaining."

In his latest pamphlet, to which reference is made in another column, Mr. Chamberlain says:—"Our free food friends will have to be a little more definite and a little more accurate. They will have, for instance, to explain why a transfer of taxation, say, from tea to bread, would be disastrous." This is too much for the feel-

ings of some of the papers who oppose Mr. Chamberlain. One of them says: "Bread is the staff of life, and tea is not the staff of life. A working man and his family could subsist on bread, but they could not subsist on tea."

The working man and his family might find it difficult to subsist on tea alone, but some of these journals which now see so wide a difference between tea and bread as articles of diet used at one time to tell us that tea was nearly as important to the working classes as bread. But that was when an argument was needed to show the wickedness of a Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer who—and here we were in full sympathy with those journals—had, with that characteristic audacity of Chancellors of the Exchequer, gone and increased the tax on one of the necessities of life, *viz.*, tea. Mr. Chamberlain is, therefore, not so very far out in his argument.

The *Grocer* says:—Excluding Indian and Ceylon tea helps M. De Witte's economic projects in two ways—(a) by encouraging the use of the Russian tea which he is trying so hard to grow in the Caucasus, (b) by providing additional tea traffic from China along the whole length of the Trans-Siberian Railway. These developments were bound to come on some pretext or other, and it is just such developments as these that the 'new fiscal theorists' are trying to meet by taking Time's forelock instead of waiting to clutch at his hinder parts when past. At the same time, 'it is an ill wind that blows nobody good'; and it should not be forgotten that if Indian and Ceylon teas are thus to be returned on our hands from a hostile market the effect ought logically to be to benefit the British consumer of such tea, if not the Indian and Ceylon producers."—*H. & C. Mail.*

## THE CONSOLIDATED ESTATES COMPANY, LIMITED.

### REMARKS ON TEA PROSPECTS.

The twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Consolidated Estates Company, Limited, was held at the offices, 34, Great St. Helens, E.C., on Wednesday, October 7.

Mr. H. Gough Arbuthnot presided.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditor's certificate having been read.

The Chairman said: This is the twelfth Annual Meeting of the Consolidated Estates Company, and it is also the twelfth successive year that I have had the pleasure and the privilege of addressing you from this chair. . . . Those who were present last year may remember that on that occasion I mentioned that by the returns we had received up to September 27 the crops were turning out extremely satisfactorily, and that then we had actually harvested nearly 50,000 lbs. more than we did during the corresponding period of the previous year. Unfortunately that was the high tide of our good fortune, and immediately afterwards it began to ebb, and for nearly the whole of the remaining nine months the weather was more or less adverse, so that not only did the 50,000 lbs. surplus disappear, but a deficiency of nearly 100,000 lbs. was substituted in its place at the end of the twelve months. However, happily this was more than counteracted by better prices, so that the net result of the season's campaign has been decidedly more favourable than that of the previous year, though the cost of production was a little more, owing to the fact that the crop was so short, for, as you will understand, many charges, such as management and salaries, are just as high when the crop is small as when it is large, and that increases the cost of production on a short crop. Otherwise it was about the same. . . . Of course I need not say that in this company tea is, if I may use the metaphor, the backbone of our products. Nevertheless we are most anxious to do all we can to encourage other products, and we have been to a very fair extent successful. I have before me the particulars of the amount actually realised for these products in addition to tea, and it may interest you to know the details. Cinchona bark realised £585, cardamoms £578, cinnamon £153, cocoa £40, pepper £86, and Areca nuts the handsome sum of £3 18s. 5d. I am afraid that this last is not a product which will be of much advantage to this company. But there are others now coming forward, which we hope will eventually increase our income. Thus, for instance, next year we hope to get about £50 or £60 from rubber. We have at present about 40,000 trees on the Tallagalla and Sorana estates,



from which in a few years' time we hope to receive a considerable income. They will be very useful, and will, we hope, in some measure compensate for the falling-off in bark; but in the meantime, as I explained last year, we can hardly look on the bark as ordinary revenue, and we, therefore, thought it advisable again to put £500 of the proceeds to the reserve fund, which will then amount to £2,500. . . . But the question in which the shareholders are mainly interested is that of the prospects for the current year. As regards crop, the returns which we receive weekly are, so far, decidedly satisfactory. The return which we received the day before yesterday from our Ceylon managers shows that we had a thousand pounds more of crop harvested than we had at this time last year. As I explained to you just now, last year's outturn for the first three months was particularly good, showing as it did an advance of 50,000 lbs. on the return for the corresponding period of the previous year. We shall now begin to compare with the lean nine months of last season, and I have every hope that the comparison will show up very favourably. The question is, will the present good prices be maintained? and I think we may fairly expect an affirmative answer. For a good many years past very little extension of tea cultivation has been entered upon, either in Ceylon or in India, so that we need not fear any great increase of supply, apart from the ordinary contingencies of good and bad harvests, while the consumption of tea seems to be gradually but steadily increasing. I need not say, gentlemen, that this is not the place for a political discussion, except in so far as the direct interests of the company are affected thereby. You will no doubt all have read the speech delivered by Mr. Chamberlain last night, which had been looked forward to with so much interest all over the country as defining his Fiscal proposals. You will have seen that he proposes to conciliate the colonies by putting a tax on foreign corn and other food, while colonial produce is admitted free. He recommends as a set-off to the tax thus imposed on our home consumers to take off a corresponding or even greater amount of the existing taxes on food, and among other things to reduce the duty on tea from 6d. to 1½d. per lb. Theoretically, when any new tax is imposed it is considered that such tax is paid by the consumer, and similarly when a tax is reduced, that the reduction goes into the pocket of the consumer, but practically the producer is pretty sure to benefit by the reduction, more especially in such a case as that of tea, on which the duty is so enormous relatively to the value. At present it costs us 4½d. per pound to produce excellent tea on which the duty is 6d., or more than 100 per cent., and it stands to reason that when the cost of tea to the producer is reduced, as is proposed by 4½d. per pound, the consumption is sure to be largely increased, which, of course, means an enhanced value to us; and even if we can only secure ½d. per pound out of that 4½d. which it is proposed to take off, it would mean a difference to this company of £3,500, which is equivalent to an additional dividend on the ordinary share capital of about 9 per cent. But it may be said that Mr. Chamberlain is not in power, and that this reduction may be a long way off. But the only thing to be said is that, whether we have Mr. Chamberlain's party in power or the Radicals, I think it is perfectly certain that the tea duties must be reduced. The Liberals are pledged to a reduction of expenditure and, therefore, of taxation, and whether the Unionists or Radicals are in power, the reduction in duty is pretty certain, and we shall accept it with the greatest satisfaction, from whichever party it comes. I think, therefore, that on the whole we may take a favourable view of the future. . . . With regard to the Albizzia Moluccanas or leguminous plants which I referred to in my speech last year, I think you will be interested to hear what the company's Ceylon agents write to us on the subject. The following is an extract from a letter which we received from them the day before yesterday: "As regards Albizzia Moluccanas, it may be mentioned that these trees are being planted on Rutland as well as on all the other estates of the company. They afford good shade where that is wanted, besides improving the soil in which they grow by the collection in their roots of atmospheric nitrogen. They also provide a good deal of useful matter in the way of green manure." We quite hope, as I explained to you last year, that these trees will eventually help us a little by reducing the amount of manure that will be necessary, though, of course, it is not expected that they will in any way take the place of manure, which, so far as we can see at present, will always be required. Therefore we must make up our minds for a considerable expenditure on manure, though I firmly believe we shall be fully compensated by abundant and continuous crops.

## THE ARAMINA FIBRE.

It will no doubt be remembered that a Scientific and Technical Department exists in connection with the Imperial Institute in London, with laboratories attached for the purpose of investigating new or little known products, with a view to their utilisation in British commerce, and also to provide trustworthy scientific and technical advice on matters connected with the trade and industries of our Colonies. In the current *Bulletin* issued by the Institute an interesting account is given of a fibre which, it is thought, may possibly compete with jute for some classes of goods. It is derived from the "Carrapicho" plant of Brazil, and was mentioned by Mr. Consul-General Rhind in his report on the trade of Rio de Janeiro for the year 1899. In his despatch Mr. Rhind quoted the opinion of Dr. Silva Tolles, of the Sao Paulo Polytechnic School, to the effect that the fibre, which is probably derived from "Urena lobata," is likely to be of great value for cloth-weaving, spinning, and other purposes being more silky and stronger than jute, and comparable with the best kinds of hemp. It was stated that information as to the cost of production and price could not be given, as systematic cultivation was only in an experimental stage. It was, however, known that the plant was easily grown, and the cost of production would probably therefore be very low. A sample of this fibre has lately been subjected to investigation by the Department above mentioned, but as it was rather small, a decisive opinion as to the value of the material is reserved until a larger quantity has been examined. The specimen consisted of fine silky fibre of great length in staple, having in general the characteristics of the best jute, but very much less lignified and of good colour. On chemical examination, it was found to contain a high percentage of cellulose, the results being very similar to those obtained from jute of the best quality. A portion of the sample was afterwards submitted, with a statement of the results of its chemical examination to a well-known firm of fibre-brokers, who reported that it could be employed for the same purposes as fine jute. Its value was estimated approximately at from £17 to £18 per ton. The brokers stated, however, that it was impossible to give the precise value of the fibre until a much larger quantity had been examined with special reference to its behaviour during spinning, weaving, and other processes to which it would be submitted. They suggested that a hundredweight or two should be sent in order that these further trials might be made. In his report upon the trade of Rio de Janeiro for 1901 the Consul described the steps which have since been taken to utilise this fibre locally. Numerous experiments have demonstrated its excellent qualities, samples of rope and other woven materials were manufactured from it, and an exhibition of these products was held in the City of Sao Paulo. The plant is now being extensively cultivated, and a factory has been erected at Sao Paulo exclusively for the manufacture of goods from Aramina fibre. The price paid at the factory for the clean fibre is about 1d. per lb.—*Textile Mercury*.

## FUTURE COFFEE TRADING AT NEW ORLEANS.

The Board of Trade of New Orleans has adopted the rules formulated by the Special Committee appointed to look into the matter of future trading in coffee. Section 14 provides for a meeting of the Committee on Revision of Differences between Grades on the Thursday following the second Wednesday of November at 10-30 o'clock a.m. At this meeting the differences between grades will be established for the year, and Thursday was chosen because on the Wednesday previous the New York Committee meets.

The regulations provide for a board of Managers, to have authority under the directors of the Board of Trade of the Coffee Department. The Managers shall be nine in number, five to constitute a quorum at a Board meeting. The term of office shall be one year. After the first board, election shall be by members registered as dealing in coffee.

Members of the Board of Trade desiring to trade in coffee must register their names and pay a fee of fifty cents for each contract of 250 bags.

The Committees are: Trade and Statistics, five members; Spot-Quotation Committee, five members; Quotations of Futures, five members; Adjudication, three members; Revision of Differences.



between Grades, nine members. The Committees shall hold office for a year.

A very important rule is that regarding the Committee on Revision of Differences.

The trading in coffee options on the Board of Trade shall be for the growth on the North and South American continents, Central America, Mexico, and Porto Rico.

No artificial colored coffees shall be delivered on contracts for options.

The grades are those established by the Committee or Board of Managers of the Coffee Department of the New Orleans Board of Trade, say, number from one to nine. All transactions to be based on the New Orleans Board of Trade, type No. 7, and any of said grades may be delivered at the differences existing at the time of delivery as established by the Committee on Revision of Differences between Grades.

The coffee to be of any grade, from No. 9 to No. 1 inclusive, provided the average grade shall not be below type No. 8.

Contracts shall be for 32,500 pounds in about 250 bags.

All offers to buy or sell coffee for future delivery shall be in cents and decimal fractions of a cent., and no transactions in contracts shall be permitted wherein the difference in price shall consist of a smaller fraction than five-hundredths of 1 cent per pound for each pound of coffee represented by such contracts or contract, nor shall any additional moneyed consideration whatever be allowed.

## THE LEEMING SYSTEM.

*(From a Planting Correspondent.)*

Signs are not wanting, not only in India but almost all over the world, that there is to-day an awakening to the need of science in agriculture and horticulture. Some nations are especially enterprising in organising Experimental Stations for scientific research; others, again, are quick to take advice in matters in which they have failed to originate. It has been said that the more we know of the way in which the plant lives and of the manner in which it carries out its life's work, the fuller our knowledge of the conditions and limitations under which these operations are carried on, the greater will be our success as practical men. Ordinary routine work well carried on ensures a large measure of success, but it affords no hope of advancement, no chance of breaking new ground, and no power of adapting ourselves to unforeseen conditions.

What has been found to be true of agriculture and horticulture generally is especially the case with coffee cultivation. Coffee-planters in Southern India were very prosperous some seven or eight years ago. Profits on most estates were high and men could afford to cultivate highly. Then when conditions changed and the unforeseen conditions of over-production and consequent low prices, as well as deterioration in the coffee produced, had to be faced, how many were able to adapt their methods accordingly? Many men who had to cut their coat according to their cloth enforced most stringent economy in the working of their estates, but it was mostly at the expense of labour or manure that could ill be spared. One planter only, I believe, studied the coffee plant scientifically and introduced a system whereby he made certain of reducing his expenses to the lowest possible figure, and, at the same time, thought to improve both the yield and the quality of the produce of his trees. Needless to say I refer to Mr. Leeming, about whose system much has been written, but of which much is yet imperfectly understood. It is in the hope of correcting existing misunderstandings that the following notes have been written, and of enlisting on behalf of the system the attention of those who so far have not thought fit to give it trial. Those who can "make coffee pay" under present conditions may be wise to "let well alone." Even they, however, could do no harm by experimenting with the system on a few small blocks. They might obtain even better results than they obtain now. In agriculture, as in most things, there is no standing still. We must advance or, sooner or later, go backwards. To those, on the other hand, who cannot at present prices make coffee pay, but hope on for better times in the assurance that "it is a long lane that has no turning," I would say "try Leeming," because there seems very little chance of any turning being encountered for a long time yet.

The first stages in the evolution of Mr. Leeming's system date back many years. He first gave up pruning and handling because he saw no good in forcing new wood to grow to be eventually cut off again, and because he found it did not pay him to continue these works. The money he saved thereby he put into manure and into labour, with the result that his trees grew matted, and it was evident that they suffered from too little space within which to develop. Mr. Leeming was led by this fact, and by the appearance of old coffee trees grown on neighbouring estates and in the neighbourhood of the Malayalis' villages which were at least 15 ft. in diameter, and by what he had read of coffee-growing in Brazil and Central America, to cut out half his trees diagonally throughout a plot of two acres. The 600 trees per acre which were left he allowed to grow as they would, without even removing the suckers. This was in 1894. He was so pleased with the result both in the crops obtained and in the appearance of his trees that in 1898 he treated 25 acres similarly; and he has continued the process ever since, till now it has been adopted all over his estate of "Scotforth," on the Shevaroy Hills. This estate is composed of the following gardens:—

1. 64 acres old coffee planted 6' x 6'. The whole of this block (except 10 acres which contain 600 trees to the acre) has been cut out now, for the second time, leaving 300 trees to the acre.

2. 25 acres planted 6' x 5' in 1888. First cutting out was done in 1898. Second cutting out was commenced in 1900, carried on in 1901 and completed in 1902, leaving 350 trees to the acre.

3. 3 acres planted 6' x 6' in 1891 and 1892. First cutting out was done in 1899, and second cutting in 1901.

4. 35 acres planted 8' x 8' in 1895. These have only been cut out once, in July of this year, leaving 325 trees per acre.

5. 45 acres planted 8' x 8' in 1896. These have only been cut out once, in June and July of this year, leaving 325 trees per acre.

6. 17 acres planted 8' x 8' in 1899, 1900, and 1901. These have not been cut out at all as yet.

The total area planted was thus 189 acres, from which must be deducted 40 acres entirely destroyed by borer (30 acres of 1895 and 1896 plantings and 10 acres from rest of the estate) leaving 149 acres of old and young coffee in good order.

These 40 acres destroyed have since been "supplied," and concerning them a Mysore planter who has just visited "Scotforth" writes:—"I should never have believed you could have eradicated borer as you have done after what I did see two years ago. . . . The old coffee is looking wonderfully vigorous and healthy compared with when I saw it last and the improvement in the patches, which were bored, struck me especially."

The following returns from three fields, longest under "the system," may prove of interest:—

Field No. 1, cut out first in 1898. Second cutting out commenced in 1903, continued in 1901 and completed in 1902, so that there now remain 25 per cent. of the original number of trees. It yielded 1,343 bushels of cherry per annum for four years previous to cutting out and 1,217 bushels after cutting out,—a loss of 129 bushels. There is little doubt, however, that the loss would have been turned into a gain had the second cutting out not been commenced, and continued, so soon.

Field No. 2, cut out in 1899 and again in 1901 (leaving the trees 14' x 14' apart) yielded 288½ bushels of cherry per annum for four years previous to cutting out, and 333 bushels after cutting out,—a gain of 44½ bushels.

Field No. 3, cut out in 1899 and again in 1901 (leaving the trees 12' x 12' apart) yielded 93 bushels of cherry per annum for four years previous to cutting out, and 162 bushels after cutting out,—a gain of 69 bushels.

Coffee trees may be seen in all stages of development at "Scotforth," and two noteworthy points in connection with the system are (1) that the results of cutting out have in each case been so conspicuous as to induce Mr. Leeming to persevere with the same treatment with the remaining blocks and in no case has he regretted doing so, and (2) that the whole system is still only in the experimental stage and therefore no final results have yet been obtained.

As regards the distance at which the coffee should be finally left, Mr. Leeming says that all depends on circumstances. For instance, his practised eye will tell him whether the blocks which now contain coffee 14 ft. x 14 ft. will be allowed to remain at that distance or whether they will require yet more space. Similarly with regard to that at 12 ft. apart and with the young coffee at 8 ft. x 8 ft., the growth of the plants will enable Mr. Leeming to decide when the time has arrived for giving them more room. No definite rule can



be laid down. It is in this particular more especially that Mr. Leeming's experience stands him in good stead, and where those who would profit by his example would do well to enlist his services. Coffee trees, if left too close together too long, receive a check, Mr. Leeming finds, from which they will not recover sometimes for years. Some express surprise that Mr. Leeming undertakes the second cutting out at such an early period, but practical experience and results obtained from experimental blocks show that he has made no mistake in acting as he has done. The crops are larger and in spite of increased bearing, the trees withstand, and recover from, the effects of leaf-disease in a way that they never used to do before.

As regards the experimental stage in which the system is at present, it will be seen that only a small portion of the older coffee of the "Scotforth" estate has been left alone since 1900. By far the greater area has but lately received its final thinning out. Now Mr. Leeming considers that for the full benefit of thinning out to accrue four years at least must elapse. It will thus be seen that it is too early yet to gauge the efficacy of the system by the crops which have been picked, and that several years must first elapse. Mr. Leeming acknowledges that had he been aiming at large and immediate returns per acre, irrespective of quality, he would have left at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. a considerable portion of the estate which he has since cut out to 12 ft. by 12. Had he done so, however, he estimates that his trees would have got a bad attack of leaf-disease and would have received a check, from which they would have taken a long time to recover. Asked what results he had obtained from the gardens which first received attention, Mr. Leeming said that an acre or so had given him an average of two-thirds of a bushel per tree, and that when they were more fully developed he thought he would have no difficulty in getting one bushel per tree in alternate years. Asked whether he would not prefer to have half a bushel only per tree and have it each year, Mr. Leeming said:—"Yes, but that is not Dame Nature's way." He is content, therefore, to take what Nature provides even if only in alternate years, and he expects the average will work out at least 8 cwts. per acre per annum.

So far we have dealt with Mr. Leeming's expectations as regards crops. He has had, however, two far more important objects in view than bumper crops. They are (a) improving the quality of his produce and (b) cutting down expenses. As regards (a) Mr. Leeming, who has had some practical experience of the London market, holds very decided views as to deterioration in the quality of coffee being due to leaf-disease, and his system is directed to checking leaf-disease more than to anything else. He has found, as a result of his methods, the most extraordinary development in the size of the bean his trees produce in spite of a big crop. The figures as regards the different grades of the "Scotforth" crops during the last four seasons, as given in the following table, show more clearly than can any description of mine the remarkable results which Mr. Leeming has achieved:—

SEASONS.

Size of Coffee.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.
A. ...	6.45 %	17.59 %	19.86 %	38.73 %
B. ...	49.76 "	43.48 "	49.57 "	37.40 "
C. ...	23.84 "	15.26 "	18.74 "	8.27 "
P. B. ...	13.55 "	11.67 "	7.16 "	7.69 "
T. ...	6.07 "	11.73 "	4.27 "	7.60 "
R. & B. ...	.33 "	.27 "	.40 "	.31 "
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

During the same period the number of bushels (struck) of cherry required to produce a ton of crop was as follows:—In 1899-1900, 266; in 1900-01, 260.80; in 1901-02, 238.20; in 1902-03, 244.60. The figures for 1902-03 would, Mr. Leeming is convinced, have been better than for any previous season had October, November, and December last not been so abnormally wet. Mr. Leeming attributes this extraordinary improvement to the elimination of the evils of overcrowding, viz., leaf-disease, drying up at the end of the branches, *bili hunnu* or white ripe fruit, and inability to ripen the crops; and the greatest of these is leaf-disease.

As regards (b), cutting down expenses, Mr. Leeming has modified his system somewhat in the last year or two. He has given up all attempts to grow green manure and prefers to aim rather at obtaining the natural mulch which Dr. Lehmann recommends so highly, and to the latter he expresses great

indebtedness for pointing out to him the difference between natural and artificial mulch. Mr. Leeming has accordingly given up trenching and digging in any form, relying on drains which he has had dug to a depth of three feet all over his estate, at intervals of about 20 feet. He has found by experience that they accomplish all that is required in the way of aeration of soil and that in land so treated his trees always looked fresh, however dry the weather. For shade, which a bad attack of borer in 1901 led Mr. Leeming to attend to without delay, he prefers *Erythrina*, it being a quicker grower, more leguminous and therefore richer in nitrogen, and less liable to the attacks of insect pests than the indigenous forest trees. Excluding the work of planting shade and digging drains, which Mr. Leeming considers should be charged to capital account, his ordinary expenses are divided between weeding and manuring. Ten weedings at a cost of Rs.8-8 per annum per acre in the aggregate he finds to be necessary (but this item as the shade and coffee trees close up and cover the ground more and more will in the future be probably reduced); and an application of 450 lbs. per acre of poonac at a cost, including application, of Rs.11 to Rs.12 per acre. All such works as pruning, handling, topping, etc., are absolutely tabooed, the trees being left free to grow entirely as they like.

The chief arguments which have been brought against the system are the following:—(1) That the trees will yield two large crops under it and nothing afterwards. (2) That the amount of manure required per acre will be as much as under the old system. (3) That though it seems to answer on the Shevaroy, yet it may not be equally suitable for other Districts. Now, as regards the first of these allegations, one may ask if the men who make this assertion have ever given a reasonable explanation of their statement which, from Mr. Leeming's experience, is quite contrary to facts.

As regards (2) one can safely reply that planters used to give their trees, if the analyses were worked out, far more food than should have been necessary. In other words they made little or nothing out of the soil, which was hardly satisfactory from a monetary point of view. So far Mr. Leeming has found 450 lbs. [i.e.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per tree at 300 trees to the acre] of the manure he applies to be sufficient per acre and the analysis shows that he is even then allowing a good margin for safety. This can only be explained by the assumption that, owing to a more healthy root development, the trees at "Scotforth" are now in a position to extract some of their food from the soil which they were, apparently, unable to do before. The third allegation may be true. However, the principles of "the system" surely remain the same though they may require altering to suit local conditions. Otherwise, how is that they answer so admirably in such an enormous area [as compared with Southern India] in Central and South America?

That the Leeming system in the main is the right way to grow coffee appears to admit of less and less doubt, and its introduction into the several coffee-growing Districts of Southern India is gaining ground year by year. By the words "in the main" we refer especially to giving the tree freedom and space within which to expand, which is the rule in most of the countries of the world which grow coffee. That many of the methods which Mr. Leeming finds to answer best will require modifying and adapting to other localities is, however, equally certain. On some estates, for instance, 3-foot drains may not be necessary; on others indigenous shade may be found most suitable; and on all, the particular requirements of the soil must be ascertained before any hard and fast rule as regards manuring can be laid down. The need of experiment, therefore, in Districts where the conditions are different to those of the Shevaroy cannot be too strongly urged; and Mr. Leeming's experience affords the best example of the lines upon which to work. Fortunately for his brother-planters that gentleman has shown himself hitherto most willing to show enquirers round and answer their questions on his estate; but not, he says, by correspondence. If he could be induced to visit other localities and give would-be disciples the benefit of his advice *in situ* we cannot but think that the best results would ensue, it being as necessary to ultimate success for the system to be begun correctly as it is subsequently for it to be continued thoroughly.

To sum up, Mr. Leeming may be said to have done for coffee what men of science are trying to do for agriculture and horticulture everywhere. By the aid of long experience and persistent effort he may fairly claim to have made two beans grow where only one grew before; and, moreover, beans of a better quality.—*Madras Mail*.



## LORD AMPHILL AND ANAMALAI PLANTERS.

In pursuance of his policy of endeavouring to get to the root of local "grievances" by informal discussion with the persons immediately affected, in preference to hearing them set forth in a formal address, His Excellency the Governor during his recent visit to the Anamalai Hills met several of the planters at the Monica Bungalow on the 13th instant, and had a long and interesting talk with them about their prospects and wants. The planters were represented by Messrs. Windle, Marsh, Walsh, Congreve, Duncan, Watt and several others. They seemed to be very hopeful and confident of the success of their newly-developed District. Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co. are putting up expensive buildings and machinery; the Monica estate is employing Cinghalese workmen to build a tea factory; while one of the planters has constructed at considerable cost a wooden bungalow in the style of a Swiss chalet. Several estates have been opened up and cultivation has already made a considerable advance. In 1902-03, 74 tons of coffee were harvested, as against 10½ tons in 1901-02, and the crops now on the trees are estimated at 136 tons. Cardamoms are expected to yield 34,500 lbs. this year; last year the yield was 18,515 lbs. This year's crop of tea is estimated at 50,000 lbs., and the following crop at 150,000 lbs. All this looks like development and prosperity, and if better times are in store for coffee, the Anamalai District, with its newly-planted soil and favourable climate, ought to do well.

The first and principal request put forward by the planters was that certain branch roads should be constructed. This request was preferred in an Address presented to His Excellency at Coimbatore last year; and His Excellency, while promising to give his attention to the subject, which was undoubtedly important from the point of view of the expansion of planting, pointed out that the construction of the Ghaut Road had cost a great deal more than was originally anticipated, and expressed a fear that it might not be possible to provide money for the construction of branch roads as fast as the planters wished. The branch roads more particularly asked for on the present occasion were:—

1. A bandy road from Peralai to Monica, a distance of 7 miles, to serve Puthentotam estate (400 acres under cultivation), Stanmore (795 acres under cultivation), and Castlecroft (285 acres under cultivation).

2. A bridle-path from Stanmore to where the Serabundera bridle-path now stops, a distance of 4 miles. This would serve Serabundera, which has 100 acres under cultivation and is 4 miles from the Ghaut Road.

3. The conversion into a bandy road of the existing bridle-path from Monica to Karangamudi, a distance of 4 miles. This would serve the Karangamudi estate, which has 400 acres under cultivation and is 4 miles from the Ghaut Road, and also enable cultivation in two other blocks to be extended.

Mr. de Winton, C.I.E., Chief Engineer, who was also present at the interview, thought that the roads and bridle-paths could be made for about Rs.35,000. His Excellency could not give any definite promise that these roads would be constructed by Government, but promised to consider the request carefully on his return to Madras, and expressed a hope that it might be found possible to meet the planters' wishes in the matter. The question of the maintenance of the Ghaut Road was then discussed. The planters were anxious that it should be maintained by the P. W. D. as the District Board has not the requisite funds to spare for the purpose. His Excellency promised to refer the point to the Departments concerned for consideration.

The next point raised was the revision of the terms of the leases, so as to enable planters to cut and trade freely in the timber growing on their lands. His Excellency considered such a request quite inadmissible, as also the next one, that the Section of the leases which prohibits planters from trading in minor forest produce should be expunged. It appears to be true enough that the Kaders (local hill tribe) trespass on the estates and commit theft of minor produce; but the point was fully considered at the time the leases were drawn up, and the Section was deliberately inserted in pursuance of a promise made by Government to the jungle folk.

The last request made was that rubber might be included in the schedule of plantation products. This seems reasonable. Rubber is not indigenous on these hills, but has been imported and cultivated by several of the planters. No hardship would, therefore, be caused to the Kaders by its being classified as a plantation product. The Conference ended with some discussion about the applicability of the Planters' Labour Act to the circumstances of the Anamalai Hills.—*Madras Mail*.

## THE INTELLIGENCE OF PLANTS.

Between the older belief that the actions of all living creatures but man are entirely automatic, and the modern idea of certain popular writers on natural history that beasts think, feel, and reason precisely as man does, lies the scientific attitude that sees in the doings of the lower creatures a manifestation of many different grades of intellect, all lower than ours, and growing simpler and simpler as we get farther away from man. Where, then, shall we draw the line? In an article on "Plant and Animal Intelligence," in *Harper's Magazine*, Prof. N. S. Shaler asserts his belief that it is unnecessary to draw it anywhere. He follows the manifestations of intelligence down through the organic scale to the lowest forms of animal life, and is even of the opinion that we can trace them in the plant world—whence his title. Says Professor Shaler:

"To those who have not followed the studies of modern botanists which bear upon what we might term the animal-like habits of plants it will be difficult to convey an adequate idea of how like are the actions of these apparently remote creatures. Moreover, any effort to set forth the facts in illustrative detail would require space not here admissible. Taking, however, certain familiar instances, we may cite the growth of plants in darkness toward the light, and the movement of tendrils in the direction of a support which they seek. There is a host of similar actions which may conceivably be automatic if we are willing to introduce the conception of the automaton wherever it is needed, though without proof that it is present, much as the ancient astronomers dealt with the notion of epicycles when they found their computations called for it. In effect, the automaton hypothesis, though in a way legitimate, now appears to be in many instances more objectionable than that which accounts for the action of plants by the operation of some mode of intelligence. The question is one of great difficulty, for the means whereby critical tests may be made are not in our hands; the best we can do is to approach the problem with an open mind and with the conviction that on its solution may depend the view we are to hold as to the nature of the control which shapes the world.

"In approaching the question as to the existence of intelligence in plants the student has but one available resource. He must contrive to build a series, or a kind of a ladder, reaching from the clearly determinable, step by step, over the unknown to the point he is to determine. In this instance the first step of the ladder must rest on human nature, on the intelligence we know in ourselves, and thence the successive steps of the series lead by way of the animals downward until we attain to the grade of creatures not above the plants in complexity; then by comparison between the earlier animals and the plants we may obtain a basis for a judgment—as we shall see, a fairly well-affirmed foundation for belief.

"Even the automatonists have to acknowledge, apparently to their sorrow, that intelligence exists in man, but they hold this to be an eminent peculiarity of this aberrant species. Moreover, they hold that even in man the automaton is the greater, the basilar part, the intelligence being no more than a light upon the summit of the structure, which as a whole is essentially mechanical. This view as to the nature of man appears to be based on a confusion of the intelligence which is conscious of itself and that which is below the plane of that peculiar mode of mental action. One of the most important results of modern psychology has been to establish the fact, long fairly evident, that a large part of our mental processes, as truly intellectual, save for the peculiar illumination of self-consciousness, as any of our mental work, goes on without our knowledge. . . . In a word, we may accept the statement that our higher intelligence is but the illuminated summit of man's nature as true, and extend it by the observation that intelligence is normally unconscious, and appears as conscious only after infancy, in our waking hours, and not always then."

Besides this, we are reminded by Professor Shaler, our knowledge of other men's intelligence is based only on inference from their actions—we have no such direct knowledge of it as each man has in his own case. Remembering then that intelligence is not necessarily conscious, and that its existence must be inferred from action, Professor Shaler sees no reason to limit it to man. Actions that imply it occur in the whole animal series from the higher forms to the lower. Even in the jelly-like amebæ and other



protozoa, motion, feeding, choice of position, etc., are not essentially different from similar actions in the higher vertebrates. Even the fact that the so-called intelligence of insects is so radically different from that of vertebrate animals suggests that the two forms may have developed from a common foundation that "contained the germs of mind." Now, granting all this, have we any right to stop here? May we not carry our observations and conclusions down into the plant world? Professor Shaler thinks that we can. He says:

"If we may regard it as established that the animal series from the lowest to the highest forms are in some measure influenced by intelligence—the evidence seems to me to compel this opinion—the question arises whether there is any reason why we should limit the action of mind to this kingdom, allowing it no place in the vegetable. On this point it may be said that while the ancient views as to the strong demarcation between plants and animals have had to be revised, there remain certain physiological differences, which serve in a general way to separate the two groups. Thus the plants are so ordered that they are all able to obtain food directly from inorganic matter, while animals have that ability in very small measure. Plants have also the capacity to break up the compound of carbon and oxygen, commonly known as carbonic acid, which is not characteristic of animals. Yet when these differences are weighed they do not lead us to believe that the two groups are anything like as distinct as they are commonly supposed to be. The most reasonable view is that they both are derived from some common ancestral form which could not well be termed either animal or plant, but was merely organic, and from this primitive stage of life diverged the two series: the plants to keep a close relation to the mineral kingdom, and to develop toward structures not greatly affected by intelligence; the animals, to take their food from plants, and to push up toward structures destined to afford habitations for mind.

"Looking toward the organic world in the manner above suggested, seeing that an unprejudiced view of life affords no warrant for the notion that automata anywhere exist, tracing as we may down to the lowest grade of the animal series what is fair evidence of actions which we have to believe to be guided by some form of intelligence, seeing that there is reason to conclude that plants are derived from the same primitive stock as animals, we are in no condition to say that intelligence can not exist among them. In fact, all that we can discern supports the view that throughout the organic realm the intelligence that finds its fullest expression in man is everywhere at work."

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club on October 21st, 1903. **PRESENT:**—Messrs. Armstrong, Atzenwiler, Behr, Day, D. J. Duncan, Mackinlay, J. R. Malcolm, Nicolls, Powell Jnr., Rithelmann, Romilly, Taylor, Trollope, Waddington, West, and B. Malcolm (*Honorary Secretary*). **By Proxy:**—Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Capt. Carslake, D. Jackson, D. Mackenzie, Parry & Co., and R. K. Walker. **By Managers:**—The Panora Company, Mr. H. Parry, and the Wynaad Tea Company. **Visitor:**—Mr. P. Guard. Mr. George Romilly in the Chair.

1. **Proceedings of the last Meeting.**—The Honorary Secretary pointed out that under "Labour Law" (b), the words "carried unanimously" had been inadvertently omitted after the resolution proposed by Mr. Behr and seconded by Mr. Powell, Jnr.—*Resolved*, that the omitted words be added.

2. The Chairman proposed that the Association record with deep regret the death of one of its oldest members, the late Mr. E. C. Mitchell; and that the Honorary Secretary write to Mrs. Mitchell conveying the sympathy, and expressing the regret of the Association.—*Carried unanimously*.

3. **Roads.**—Read the President District Board's reply to letter of September 21st, 1903.

The District's member on the Board, stated that he had had a long conversation with the President, who had said that he was personally looking into the matter of the work on the Chundale-Choladi Road, and would do his best in the matter.—*Recorded with satisfaction*.

4. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Executive Engineer, P. W. D., Calicut, asking if there was any necessity for metal being laid so far ahead of the rolling as is being done between Lakadi and Chundale, as the unrolled metal caused considerable discomfort and loss of time to traffic.

5. Read letter from Mr. Jaffer Mahomed Sait on the matters of Roads and Assessment. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to reply pointing out that action had already been taken in the matters referred to and suggesting that if he wished to keep in touch with Association affairs he should become a member.

6. **Coffee-Stealing Act.**—Read Government Order No. 1319 of September 11th, 1903, by which the date of submission of statement B of Coffee Cultivation and Crops is altered to 1st April from 1st March.

7. **Tea Cess and Marking of Chests.**—Read letter to the Indian Tea Association.—*Recorded pending reply*.

8. **Mr. Maxwell Lefroy.**—Read letter from Honorary Secretary, Nilgiri Planters' Association—*recorded*. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to send Mr. Maxwell Lefroy copies of the proceedings of the Association as requested.

#### 9. Labour Law—

(a) **Voting Power.**—Proposed by Mr. J. S. Nicolls and seconded by Mr. B. Malcolm, "that the voting on 'Labour Law' be on a coolly assessment of—

1½	per acre for Tea.
1	" " Coffee.
½	" " Pepper."

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Waddington and seconded by Mr. Atzenwiler—

"That the voting on the matter of the introduction or otherwise of the Madras Planters' Labour Act be by personal vote of each member as has been the custom heretofore on all other matters, the voting power being by subscription of Rs.18 per annum, each vote of Rs.18 to be given by the member or his accredited agent."

The amendment was put to the vote and carried. The original resolution was then put and lost.

(b) **Madras Planters' Labour Act I. of 1903.**—Read letter to the Collector of Malabar enclosing a copy of the resolution passed at the last meeting of this Association.

Read reply from the Collector of Malabar dated October 11th, 1903, with the request "that you will be good enough to inform me whether the Association thinks it desirable that the provisions of the 'Madras Planters' Labour Act of 1903' should be extended to the Wynaad and if so, the Association is requested to send its own proposals regarding forms and rules."

Proposed by Mr. B. Malcolm and seconded by Mr. Taylor—

"That this Association considers that the 'Madras Planters' Labour Act I. of 1903' should be put in force in this District as soon as possible; and that its members are willing to give the Act a trial for one year provided that the rules and regulations are such as are approved of by the District; but at the same time it wishes to place on record, that however well the Act, as a whole, may suit some Districts the sections referring to the employment of local labour are totally unsuited to this District, and the Association hopes that the Government will take the earliest opportunity of amending such sections of the Act, on proof being forthcoming that they are unsuitable."

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Waddington and seconded by Mr. Mackinlay—

"That this Association does not consider Act I. of 1903 suitable to the conditions of labour in this District and would ask the Collector that it be not brought into force in Wynaad."

The amendment was put to the meeting and lost by 12 votes against and 11 for it.

The original resolution was then put to the meeting and carried by 13 votes for and 11 votes against it.

10. **U. P. A. S. I., St. Louis Exposition.**—Read letter to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and reply.—*Recorded pending further information*.

Mr. Taylor suggested that the Committee be asked to consider the advisability of having the business of selling the coffee, after



advertisement at the Exposition, entrusted to reliable business firms of standing.

**French Import Tariff.**—Read U. P. A. S. I. circular drawing attention to the proposed increase of import duty on Coffee going into France as from January 1, 1904. Read Honorary Secretary's letter to the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. on the matter, and his reply stating that the U. P. A. S. I. were addressing the Government of India and Madras Chamber of Commerce "with the hope that H. M.'s Government will be watchful in this respect as any preference to Brazil or any other coffee-producing country would be ruinous to our already crippled industry."—Recorded.

**Madras Industrial Exhibition.**—Read U. P. A. S. I. circular and also Circular No. 4 of the Exhibition Committee. *Resolved*, that exhibits be sent from the District and that Messrs. M. D. Taylor and B. Malcolm do form the Committee for carrying out the necessary arrangements.

**Experimental Farm for Coffee Cultivation.**—Read U. P. A. S. I. circular containing a resolution of the South Mysore Planters' Association suggesting the establishment of an experimental farm.

*Resolved*, that in the opinion of this Association this is a scheme that should be carried out by the Government as is done by the Governments of other countries such as Java and the United States of America.

**Postal and Money Orders.**—Mr. Taylor drew attention to the difference in the cost of transmitting money by Inland as compared with Foreign money orders. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask the U. P. A. S. I. to take the matter up.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the proceedings.

Papers on the table—

Planting Opinion.

Indian Planting and Gardening.

Indian Tea Association Circulars.

(Signed) GEORGE ROMILLY,  
Chairman.

( " ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
Honorary Secretary.

## COORG.

Minutes of a Quarterly General Meeting of the Coorg Planters' Association, held at the North Coorg Club, Mercara, on Thursday, October 15th, 1903. **PRESENT**:—Messrs. C. E. Murray-Aynsley, A. B. Chengappah, H. F. Davy, T. W. L. Hext, M. I. Maudannah, C. M. Nanjappa, E. Richter, R. D. Tipping, A. J. Wright, W. R. Wright, H. C. Wood, and G. K. Martin (*Honorary Secretary*). **Visitors**:—J. Green-Price and E. J. Cockerton.

Read telegram from the President regretting he was unable to be present at the Meeting.

Mr. C. E. Murray-Aynsley was thereupon unanimously voted to the Chair.

### BUSINESS.

1. **St. Louis Exhibition.**—Mr. Martin, as member of the "Coffee Committee," spoke at length on the subject.

He explained—as far as was at present known—the details of the arrangements which were under two headings.

(1) As regards exhibits, and service of coffee in the cup.

(2) As regards subsequent action, to back up with supplies, the demand that may be created by No. 1.

In the matter of No. 1, he said it was proposed to leave all details of arrangements and responsibility to the I. T. A. Commissioner—

(a) as regards the show-case and purchase of samples to be exhibited therein;

(b) the purchase of coffee for service in the cup, together with tea. These purchases, he was sure, would not be made without first consulting with, and taking the advice of competent authorities on the subject: he thought probably one of the leading Coffee Brokers or Agents in London. Samples for show of cardamoms and pepper would also be selected by advice of experts in those lines.

In fact he was sure the best would be done to present a fair and attractive show of these products.

By these means he hoped that a demand would be created (especially of coffee) such as arose at the Paris Exhibition, and this brought him to

No. 2. It was very necessary that the lesson afforded by what happened at the Paris Exhibition should be profited by, and he urged everyone present, who was in a position to do so, to support the movement by arranging to send coffee to back up a possible demand. He gave some details of the probable arrangement that would be made by the Coffee Committee in the matter. He was not, however, able to say much about this, as the Committee were in consultation and hoped soon to issue a circular on the subject.

The sense of the Meeting was generally in favour of the whole scheme, and a hope was expressed that full details would be issued as soon as possible.

2. The next subject discussed was the proposal emanating from the S. Mysore Association for the establishment of an experimental farm in a suitable locality in S. India. No details were forthcoming, and the discussion was, therefore, very perfunctory. The idea, however, met with approval, and the following Resolution was carried unanimously:—

Proposed by Mr. R. D. Tipping and seconded by Mr. G. K. Martin, "that the scheme of an experimental coffee garden which shall have the benefit of the advice of the various Government Scientists, is one which should receive the support of our Association, pending further details."

3. **Railway to Coorg.**—The Honorary Secretary said that this subject was placed on the Agenda at the request of the President who was of opinion that it was a question that should always be to the fore.

He then read a letter from Mr. John Logan giving particulars of a conversation he (Mr. Logan) had with an Engineer in Mysore of much experience in railway matters, and who had suggested that as it seemed impossible to get a railway to Coorg constructed in the ordinary manner, it might be possible to get one made on cheaper principles that would be sufficient for our wants as a beginning.

The letter went on giving details of a scheme by which the railway might be constructed, and worked at one-third of the cost of a permanently built line. A scheme of this sort had already been worked out for the Mysore State and the details might be obtained if applied for.

A letter from Mr. H. G. Parsons was also read in which he gave reasons for thinking that the Madras Railway authorities should be addressed on the subject, and offering to do all he could for us in the matter whilst in Madras.

The Meeting was of opinion that it was desirable to keep the question of the railway always to the fore, and the Honorary Secretary was directed to write and ascertain the views of the Agent to the Madras Railway Company on the subject. Also to enlist the assistance of Mr. Parsons in representing the matter.

4. **Remission of Taxation.**—This question was one that had come before the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in August last, when a Resolution was passed, "that the Government of Fort St. George be addressed by this Association with a view of obtaining a remission of assessment on all coffee plantations, as owing to the crisis in the coffee markets the land is being worked at a loss, and is unable to bear the charge of taxation \* \* \*." In connection with the above it was thought advisable that Districts which were members of the U. P. A. S. I., but not connected with "the Government of Fort St. George," should support the action of the parent Association.

Moreover, it was thought possible, that according to certain provisions to be found in the Coorg Revenue Manual, the Local Government would have the power to grant considerable relief in that direction without having to set any great machinery in motion.

Mr. R. D. Tipping read to the Meeting certain sections of the Manual in question bearing on the point, and Mr. C. M. Nanjappa was of opinion that it was quite within the power of the Local Government to grant such relief even to the extent of total remission of taxation for a certain period on any industry or product that could be shown to be suffering from a depression owing "to calamity of season or other cause," by which "the profits of the Estate have been materially reduced."

It was resolved that the Commissioner of Coorg be addressed on the subject of a remission of the present taxation on Coffee lands and the matter be represented strongly. While on the subject of



taxes Mr. H. F. Davy desired to know what was the outcome of the representation by deputation that was made on the question of remission of taxes on uncultivated wet lands, and on unopened jungles forming parts of Estates—the opening of these jungles being deferred on account of hard times and low prices. He (Mr. Davy) was under the impression that the matter had met with favourable consideration from the Chief Commissioner. The Honorary Secretary said that no further communication had been received on the matter. It was thereupon resolved that the Commissioner be addressed on this subject also.

5. **General.**—Mr. Martin, as a member of the District Board, announced that a grant of Rs.1,000 had been obtained towards the improvement and upkeep of the Pollibetta-Gonicopal Road, a condition being made that the owners of land along that road should be willing to concede sufficient space on either side to allow off the full width of roadway, as well as for stacking metal, and obtaining earth for the purposes of construction and maintenance.

Mr. Tipping thought there would be no difficulty in obtaining the required concessions.—Recorded with satisfaction.

A letter from the Commissioner of Coorg was read enquiring whether, in the opinion of the Coorg Planters' Association, it is desirable to move the Local Government to extend to this province Act II. of 1900 containing provisions amending Act VIII. of 1878 (Madras Coffee-Stealing Prevention Act). Resolved, that a Sub-Committee be appointed to look through the Acts in question and reply to the Commissioner's letter. Messrs. C. M. Nunjappah and G. K. Martin were appointed for the purpose.

Read correspondence from Mr. Lefroy, Entomologist to the Government of India, re insect pests, and informing the Association that he was about to issue a preliminary report on the pests of coffee, and a detailed account of the "Mealy bug"; also read a letter from the Honorary Secretary, Nilgiri Planters' Association, who wrote by request of Mr. Lefroy, to say that he (Mr. Lefroy) hopes to return to South India in April next, and will bring with him spraying machines and the necessary material for spraying, and desires to be posted in the various insect pests prevalent in our District. He would be glad to receive any specimens for examination and classification, together with details as to elevation, climate, aspects, etc., of each Estate on which they are found.—Recorded with appreciation.

The visit of Dr. Butler, Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India, was much looked forward to, and a question was asked why his proposed visit to Coorg had not been carried out.

The Honorary Secretary said that in accordance with the intimation he had received through the Commissioner of Coorg, in August last, he had sent out circulars informing all members that Dr. Butler would visit Mysore and Coorg in September. Mysore had been favoured, but no further information had been received as to his proposed visit to Coorg. Resolved, that the Commissioner of Coorg be asked to invite Dr. Butler to visit this province at an early date, in order to investigate leaf-rot, leaf-disease, stump-rot, and other cryptogamic pests that are very prevalent in Coorg.

Dr. Lehmann's letter to Mr. Lambert was read in which he regrets not being able to visit Coorg this year, as he hopes to go Home on leave in March and will be very busy until this.—Recorded with regret.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Honorary Secretary, and to Mr. Davy for recording the Minutes of the Meeting.

(Signed) G. K. MARTIN,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Coorg Planters' Association.

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee on the 13th October.

The principal subjects dealt with in the correspondence with the Indian Tea Association, London, were:—

(a) *The Louisiana Purchase Exposition.*—In the letter of 24th September it was stated that the Secretary to the Royal Commission for the St. Louis Exposition had applied for space in the Department of Agriculture and had promised to provide India with the necessary space for her Exhibit. This official had also promised to do all in his power to assist in promoting the success of the

Indian Exhibit and to locate it in a convenient position, so that all the Colonial Exhibits might be in close proximity to each other.

Application had also been made to the Director of Concessions, St. Louis, for a suitable site for erecting a Tea House in proximity to that to be built for Ceylon and also for the privilege of selling tea on similar terms to those given to Ceylon.

Negotiations were also proceeding with Mr. R. Blechynden, who acted as Commissioner for the Indian Tea Exhibit at the Chicago Exhibit in 1893, regarding terms for similar services in connection with the Association's Exhibit at St. Louis.

(b) *Proposed Manufacture in India of "Oolong" Teas.*—With the letter of 11th September were forwarded three samples of Formosa Oolongs which, it was stated, had been recently sold in the London market at 1s. 11d., 2s. 2½d., and 2s. 4½d. per pound respectively. The Brokers, Messrs. Stenning, Inskipp & Co., advised the making of only small quantities of this class of tea for trial shipments so that experience might be gained in the manufacture.

The samples referred to were too small to admit of their distribution among enquirers and the Secretary was instructed to ask for larger samples.

(c) *Russian Import Duty on Tea.*—Reference was made in the letter of 11th September to the increase in the Russian Import Duty on British-grown teas from 31 roubles 50 copecks per pound to 33 roubles per pound, equivalent to an increase of about one penny per pound. It was hoped that the small increase of the duty would not adversely effect the trade.

It appeared to the General Committee that as the increase was understood only to affect teas imported into Russia over the European land frontiers and by the Black Sea, the real object of the increase was to divert the traffic *via* Dalny to the Siberian Railway. In any case it did not appear to the Committee that the increase would seriously affect the trade since, apparently, no increase on duty on tea *via* Dalny was contemplated. The London Committee, it was mentioned, had addressed a representation to the Secretary of State for India in connection with the matter.

(d) *British Import Duty on Tea.*—In compliance with a request from the United Planters' Association of Southern India, a copy of a Resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting of that body, drawing attention to the urgent need of a reduction in the British Import Duty on Tea, had been forwarded to the London Committee for such action as they might see fit to take in connection therewith.

It was stated that the matter would receive due consideration, but the political situation at the moment was not opportune for sending in a petition as the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer had just been vacated by Mr. Ritchie. It was therefore very unlikely that any change in the rate of duty would be made before April next.

The Secretary was instructed to advise the United Planters' Association accordingly. It appeared to the General Committee that the matter was certain to be taken up at Home in due course as the tariff question was now so prominently before the public. The London Committee were to be asked to take the matter up in good time before the introduction of the Budget.

### MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated October 9th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	474,077	434,968	37,853
1902-1903 ...	494,957	482,731	32,062
40,174 pkgs. INDIAN	Total 59,560 packages were offered in public auction this week.		
18,250 " CEYLON			
1,136 " JAVA			

Although imports of all tea since the 1st June were three millions ahead of last year, deliveries showed an increase of over four million, and the stock at the end of September was reduced to 75,620,539 lbs. against 83,899,320 last year.

INDIAN.—The general tone was distinctly steadier and last week's prices were readily obtainable, good teas selling well while common kinds were in somewhat better demand.



Exports to U. K. from Calcutta and Chittagong for second half of September 10,810,000 lbs. against 13,390,000 lbs. same period, 1902; from 1st April 78,072,000 lbs., against 74,620,000 lbs. in 1902. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Rungmook,"  $1/3\frac{3}{4}$ ; "Con. T & L Powai," "Deamoolie T Co.," and "E M P Namgaon,"  $1/-$ .

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 34,518 pkgs., av. 7.75d. 1902, 39,009 pkgs., av. 7.01d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 321,545 pkgs., av. 7.89d. 1902, 333,157 pkgs., av. 7.15d.

CEYLON.—Another moderate auction, combined with improving quality, imparted a better feeling to the market and produced a welcome advance in quotations, good and fine teas especially being rather dearer, while for common descriptions prices were fully firm.

Average for week 7.69d., against 6.78d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 810,312 pkgs., av. 7.45d. 1902, 908,698 pkgs., av. 6.68d.

JAVA.—Nearly everything was sold in the auction room with good all-round competition, prices tending to show some improvement on recent quotations. Since 1st June 32,427 packages on Garden Account realised an average of 6.59d. per lb.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta  $1/4\frac{5}{8}$ . Colombo  $1/4\frac{3}{16}$ .

### COFFEE.

The principal sales by auction have comprised 3,100 bags Dumont Santos, of which two-thirds Unwashed went at very full rates, small at 29s. 6d. to 30s., medium at 32s. 6d. to 33s., bold at 35s. to 37s. 6d., and peaberry at 35s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; the remainder Washed being taken at 33s. to 41s. for small and medium, and at 40s. to 47s. 6d. per cwt. for peaberry. Beyond which the week's supply in public sale has been composed of merely odd and second-hand parcels of Central American and plantation East India of uncurrent

and indifferent qualities, which have been taken off at relatively good, if not actually stiffer, prices. The market for Futures, influenced by encouraging Continental advices, has preserved an upward tendency during the week, and sales that have transpired have been on advancing terms, good Santos, deliverable between now and July next, having been contracted for at 28s. 6d. to 30s. 9d. per cwt. The deliveries of Java Coffee by the Dutch Trading Company in Holland during September amounted to 20,530 bags, against 15,060 bags last year, and 11,500 bags in 1901. For the first nine months of 1902 the total reaches 122,300 bags, in comparison with 90,600 bags in 1902 and 97,800 bags in the preceding year.

### TEA.

Messrs. Wm. Jas. and Hy. Thompson, in their Report, October 8, say: It is satisfactory to note that the public are not unaware of the altered condition of the Tea industry, the figures of the values of 45 companies, as indicated by Mr. George Seton's tables, showing an advance of £50,000 during last month and £1,500,000 over September, 1902—an appreciation of 25 per cent. This is remarkable as affording evidence of a general return of confidence in the future. The foreshadowing in Mr. Chamberlain's speech last Tuesday night at Glasgow of a 75 per cent. reduction in the Tea duty deserves more than passing notice. Were such a proposal to come into operation, it should prove of substantial advantage to planters in India and Ceylon as well as to consumers at home. Deliveries should be stimulated by increased and less economical use, and demand should be thrown more on the produce of those countries and districts manufacturing the better qualities, rendering less dangerous competition from places outside the British Empire. The offerings this week have been on about the same scale as previously, 40,300 packages being brought to auction, making the total sales of this season's tea to date 344,500 packages, against 388,500 packages last year. Prices on Monday showed but little change from the rates ruling last week, common tea being steady

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**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price  $1/1\frac{1}{2}$  &  $2/6$ .

# CONQUERS PAIN





at the recent decline in values: medium leaf grades between 7d and 9d., however, were subject to irregularity; in some cases being quoted slightly easier. Following the brisk market for Ceylons on Tuesday, a better tone prevailed at Wednesday's auctions, competition for all grades being good. Fine teas, Brokenes especially, continue to realise satisfactory prices, and the market closes with a more cheerful feeling. Some of the teas now coming forward from Darjeeling are showing improved quality, and judging from musters received of teas made in Assam the early part of last month it seems probable that we may also from that district look for improvement in flavour. This should relieve our market and lighten the present over-supply of ordinary medium quality. Referring to last month's figures, it is satisfactory to note that the actual entries for home consumption are slightly in excess of last year, though the falling-off in re-exports makes them appear at first sight disappointing. Shipments during the last fortnight in September were lighter than was expected—10,810,000 lbs.—thus reducing the increase in exports over last year to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions; by wire from the gardens we learn that manufacture towards the close of last month fell off in quantity. For next week about 42,000 packages are in print. There were no sales in Calcutta last week on account of the Poojah holidays. For next Friday 22,000 packages are advertised.

### IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, *October 2nd.*—The tea market suffered neglect, purchases being almost entirely confined to small parcels of Ceylon and Indians. Buyers were operating up to about  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ., or possibly 9, for Ceylons, beyond which it was difficult to do business.

MELBOURNE, *October 5th.*—The market is dull, the principal inquiry being for Indians for quality. Sales reported consist of

50 chests Ceylon at up to 8d., 50 chests Indian at 7d., and 100 quarter-chests medium S. O. Pekoe (China). *LATER, October 7th.*—Transactions in tea covered 50 chests of good common Indian, 50 half-chests of medium Panyong, and 250 half-chests of medium Hankow, all for shipment, and 150 packages of Ceylon was sold locally, up to  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d.—*Australian papers.*

### CINCHONA.

At the auctions of cinchona held at Amsterdam on October 8th 7,869 packages were offered (weighing 712,485 kilos.), compared with 10,899 packages offered at auction on September 3. Of this quantity 7,729 packages were sold at an average unit of 7.45c. per half-kilo., as against 9.90c. per half-kilo. paid at the previous auction. The approximate quantities of quinine sulphate purchased by the principal buyers were as follows: The English and American factories, 9,727 kilos.; the Brunswick factory, 6,367 kilos.; the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories, 9,177 kilos.; the Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories, 4,032 kilos.; and various buyers, 5,562 kilos. The prices paid for the manufacturing-bark ranged from 7c. to  $70\frac{1}{4}$ c. per half-kilo., and for druggists' bark from  $12\frac{1}{4}$ c. to  $52\frac{1}{4}$ c. per half-kilo.

### QUININE.

The market has shown more activity in second hands this week, at advancing prices, a large speculative business having been done on the spot (estimated at about 500,000 oz.) at from  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. up to 1s.  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for good German sulphate, and December delivery at from 1s.  $0\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1s. 1d., and March 1s.  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1s.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. To-day 1s.  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d. is quoted for spot.

During September the landings amounted to 2,000 oz., and the deliveries to 86,592 oz., leaving a London stock on September 30 of 3,109,456 oz., against 3,417,120 oz. in 1902.

#### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING SEPTEMBER FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

		IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	22,008,021	17,390,386	12,370,913	13,125,185	10,451,915
	{ Green	...	76,405	...	27,296	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	6,187,304	6,691,157	8,668,748	8,948,979	8,982,382
	{ Green	...	58,848	...	30,856	...	...
Java	...	...	547,050	347,340	737,310	476,400	505,050
China, etc.	...	...	2,698,151	2,086,973	2,438,606	2,145,194	1,529,842
Total lbs....		31,575,779	25,515,856	32,123,983	24,273,729	24,695,758	21,469,189

#### FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF SEPTEMBER.

		IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.		
		1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	44,816,653	40,845,594	41,496,924	48,564,432	44,783,163	35,722,058	38,067,867	40,219,501	44,664,441
	{ Green	270,663	...	...	38,434	...	...	242,392	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	35,276,452	37,675,626	33,547,542	33,696,804	35,239,081	34,683,270	22,153,392	24,740,849	24,607,829
	{ Green	331,572	...	...	235,648	...	...	320,548	...	...
Java	...	2,369,780	1,856,750	1,600,970	2,833,850	2,172,640	1,827,490	876,400	1,004,730	994,840
China, etc.	...	11,994,865	11,663,948	9,217,805	9,114,850	7,982,940	5,726,497	13,959,940	17,934,249	14,609,123
Total lbs....		95,059,985	92,141,918	85,863,241	94,484,018	90,277,824	77,959,315	75,620,539	83,899,320	84,876,233

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.75d., OCTOBER 9TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	678	6.55												
Kan D H T Co K	20	6 $\frac{1}{2}$												
„ Periaurrai	221 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...
„ Yellapatty	174 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	28	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	6	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Letchmi	263 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	45	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
									37	6	...	...	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1903.

[No. 44.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 13th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 4th November.—

*Weather*—It has been fine, clear and

hot during the days and chilly of nights and it seemed as if the cold weather had set in; but yesterday it clouded up heavily. Nothing however came of the "demonstration." This morning the face of the sky is entirely overcast and there may be rain inside the next 24 hours. *Crop*—It will probably be early next month before we are in the full swing of crop-picking. There are as yet very few trees with ripe crop on them. *Plant diseases*—The recent fine weather has been of great benefit to coffee. There is still a good deal of leaf-disease about; but coffee, as a whole, is looking very fine. *General health*—Plague does not appear to be spreading.

#### CHINA'S TEA TRADE.

SOME interesting information regarding China's Tea trade is furnished in the British Consular report on the Foreign Trade of China for the year 1902. Naturally, the statistics dealt with are now somewhat stale, but they indicate that at least one important change has come over the trade, and there is more than a hint that other changes are likely to follow. Whatever may be said of the world's markets generally, China Tea still occupies a good position in the United States and in Russia. It has not yet been entirely ousted from the United Kingdom, and there have lately been signs that foreign traders in China have no intention of letting Tea exports languish, but are bent upon bringing

about an increase in them, if this be possible. During the last ten years the average annual export of tea from China has been 215,043,000 lbs. In the course of last year she exported 202,561,600 lbs. This, though below the average, showed an increase of over 48,000,000 when compared with 1901. According to British returns the United Kingdom took 17,365,300 lbs. The principal advances were made in green and brick tea; but black tea increased by 2,905,200 lbs. while tabloid tea remained stationary. One very significant feature of the trade returns should be specially noted in view of the efforts of the tea-planters of Ceylon and India to get their own teas taken in the United States in lieu of Chinese leaf. It will be remembered that they first pushed Black teas; latterly more attention has been given to Green. Well, of China's black tea the United States took 22,466,700 lbs. in 1902, against 12,909,340 lbs. in 1901, and of her green tea 16,826,133 lbs., against 11,566,000 lbs., Ceylon at the same time raising her exports of green tea to America from 797,796 to 1,968,456 lbs. Stocks in the United States had been allowed to run down in anticipation of the special war-tax of 10c. (5d.) per lb.; and the above figures show how, when replenishing, American dealers still gave the preference to China leaf.

The following figures relating to Green and Brick tea exports show how these branches developed:—

	1901. lbs.	1902. lbs.
Green Tea	25,257,200	33,834,400
Brick Tea, black	32,608,800	64,414,000
„ green	6,527,600	11,590,800

From the ports of Canton and Amoy come the customary complaints regarding the moribund condition of their trade in tea; but Foochow, Hankow and the districts whose produce is shipped *via* Shanghai, had little reason to grumble last year. Another interesting point is touched upon by Mr. J. W. JAMIESON, Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Legation at Peking. Reporting on the trade of 1902 he remarks:—"The export duty on tea was last year lowered from a specific duty of 2½ Haikuan taels per picul to an *ad valorem* rate of 5 per cent., but, dissatisfaction having been expressed with the working of the scale, it was altered to a specific duty of 1.25 Haikuan taels per picul. In how far this reduction of duty, which still presses heavily on low-class tea, it being in some cases equal to 12 per cent. *ad valorem*



combined with low exchange has stimulated exports it is impossible to estimate." Unfortunately, Mr. JAMIESON's allusions to exchange are not as clear as they might be. Apparently referring to *Silver* exchange he remarks that the average rate of exchange ruling throughout the year was lower by some 12 per cent. than the average rate of 1901; but very little is said about variations of the ratio between silver and copper. The importance of this latter metal in regard to China's internal currency was discussed in our columns a couple of years or so ago. Whether Chinese produce profited by low exchange or not, there is a warning for Indian and Ceylon planters in Mr. JAMIESON's statement that fears are entertained that the profits made by the producers of *Green* tea last season will lead to over-production this (1903) season, and consequent loss.

In explanation of the following table of comparative prices during 1902 it may be remarked that 1 picul = 133½ lbs., and that the average value of 1 Haikuan tael for the year may be taken at 2s. 7-2d.

		AVERAGE PRICE.	
		1902.	1901.
<i>Black Tea—</i>		Hankow Taels.	Taels.
Hankow	...	16	19
Kiukiang	...	28	26
Dust	...	7	9
Brick	...	10	11½
		Shanghai Taels.	
Shanghai	...	14	15
<i>Green Tea—</i>			
Country	...	36	27
Shanghai packed	...	28	24
Pingsuey	...	34	26

The above figures show a decline in the value of black tea of 6¼ per cent. and an advance in that of green tea of over 25 per cent. Canton reports that all round about 2 taels per picul more were paid in 1902, giving a percentage of 7 to 12 per cent. Improved harbour accommodation at Kelung and direct shipping facilities from there to the United States will soon deprive Amoy of the transit trade in Formosan Oolongs, and an attempt is being made by a British firm to see whether or not it would be possible to grow teas, suitable to the European and American markets, in the country round about that port. Finally, it is stated that a scheme to resuscitate the Chinese tea trade by means of advertisement has broken down, owing to scepticism on the part of exporters in Central China as to its practical value.

## BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

SEPTEMBER 1903.

**Cocoa (raw).**—During September the movements of this article in the United Kingdom were without much significance, though the bonded stock on the 30th ultimo showed a surplus of 544,000 lbs.

In the first nine months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	41,812,674	45,861,701	43,691,019
Home consumption	..	31,026,423	36,065,866	32,749,077
Exports	...	9,035,525	10,423,400	8,428,905
Stocks in bond	...	12,219,000	11,675,000	18,867,000
Value of imports	...	£1,174,132	£1,331,085	£1,314,364
Do. exports	...	264,035	291,688	260,043

**Cocoa (prepared)** bears evidence of an augmenting trade as regards the home demand and foreign supply.

In the first nine months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	7,708,634	6,324,417	6,114,544
Home consumption	...	7,319,041	5,827,330	5,695,721
Exports	...	330,991	533,438	626,715
Stocks in bond	...	108,000	173,000	160,000
Value of imports	...	£763,939	£647,585	£630,769
Do. exports	...	38,850	57,382	68,134

**Coffee.**—Light imports and heavy clearances brought the stock down somewhat, but there was still a notable excess in the latter over that in 1902.

In the first nine months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	997,043	793,078	838,259
Home consumption	...	206,865	225,912	254,355
Exports	...	514,485	271,997	543,802
Stocks in bond	...	795,000	533,000	321,000
Value of imports	...	£2,814,599	£2,324,195	£2,713,356
Do. exports	...	1,284,957	797,335	1,577,296

**Chicory.**—Only scanty amounts are to be recorded here for 1903, and the stock in bond is almost ridiculously small.

In the first nine months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports	...	61,874	75,116	76,737
Home consumption	...	56,581	63,374	59,554
Exports	...	173	440	504
Stocks in bond	...	4,000	12,000	21,000
Value of imports	...	£28,147	£33,967	£34,799
Do. exports	...	181	492	515

**Tea.**—Under this head the receipts were considerably augmented, and notwithstanding good duty-paid entries, the bonded stock was swollen so as to show a much narrower discrepancy than before existed.

In the first nine months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China	...	15,364,282	14,611,209	11,676,255
Do. British East India	...	86,523,492	86,491,980	88,541,851
Do. Ceylon	...	75,224,813	85,219,594	83,236,879
Do. Other countries	...	15,313,709	10,106,595	7,473,347
Total imports	...	192,426,296	196,429,378	190,928,332
Home consumption—China	...	11,428,429	9,060,395	6,914,613
Do. do. B. E. I.	...	109,060,316	109,378,016	108,971,404
Do. do. Ceylon	...	59,741,997	64,004,989	69,689,914
Do. do. O. C.	...	8,691,518	6,821,806	4,993,040
Total	...	188,922,260	189,265,206	190,568,971
Exports—China	...	8,707,421	8,881,349	8,162,878
Do. British East India	...	7,168,041	10,360,532	9,645,479
Do. Ceylon	...	11,906,132	13,075,652	13,304,952
Do. Other countries	...	898,116	1,039,357	993,366
Total	...	28,679,710	33,356,910	32,106,675
Stocks in bond	...	81,930,000	88,047,000	88,878,000
Value of imports	...	£2,780,451	£5,990,351	£6,059,114
Of which British Indian	...	2,355,172	2,735,824	2,892,019
Do. Ceylon	...	1,240,554	2,538,270	2,568,312
Value of exports	...	1,240,554	1,332,368	1,249,591



## COFFEE NOTES.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—A broader market, higher and fairly active, are the salient features in coffee, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 6th ultimo. Reduced coffee receipts in Brazil, and reports of severe injury by drouth on the crop now in blossom have stimulated attention and business in the trade. It develops that the lugubrious reports in past years of drouths and frosts have had substantial basis in fact, to the subsequent acceptance now that the cables of to-day deserve attention rather than contempt, as has been the disposition to receive them. If present receipts in Brazil continue, it will prove that the frosts of one year ago were not exaggerated, and that the crops that will be marketed will be only 11,250,000 bags instead of 14,000,000 bags, as expected two months ago. Should the the Brazil crop now growing be only as large as this one, the chances are that the crops of the next two years will be considerably less than the world's consumption, and the present over-supply will suffer a proportionate reduction. Enhanced prices will therefore be in order and justified, and the market has been quick to respond. In a month option prices have advanced one cent, and actual coffee one-half cent. It is not likely that there will be an immediate return to the low basis of values that obtained in the Spring and Summer, however much reactions may occur. They are to be expected, and are natural, and even a healthy sign. Indeed, the market closed reactionary; but it is safe to say there will be a recovery and a further advance, followed by another reaction; but the lowest basis reached will be above the lowest one reached previously, and in this seriated movement the continued upward tendency of the market will disclose itself. Our predictions in the Summer of just such a market are being realized.

In consequence of the halt in the advance in options, both at New York and in Europe, the market closed last week a trifle easier, which extended even to Brazil. Santos, Nos. 3 and 4, was considered at  $6\frac{3}{4}$  c. & f. In the week term offers were Santos, No. 3, at 7 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  c. & f., and Santos No. 5 at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  c. The firm offers have generally been above the basis of values ruling locally. In spot invoice the market closed  $5\frac{3}{8}$  c., for Rio No. 8,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  c. for Rio No. 7,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  c. for Rio No. 4, and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{3}{4}$  c. for Santos No. 4. Some sales in the week were 2,500 bags Rio No. 7, spot at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  c.; 3,000 bags Rio No. 6, spot at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  c.; 1,000 bags Rio No. 7 at  $5\frac{3}{4}$  c.; 1,000 bags Bahia at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  c.

Jobbing is reported as fairly active.

In the option market the sales have been on an extensive scale. They were mostly prompted by the desire to realize profits. Not a few have made considerable money. In the course of the week the market jumped from 10 to 15 points at a time. November is now at hand. In the course of the year trading in this month has been on such an extensive scale, on a gamble that there will be a change in the grading of coffee, that the liquidation is sure to be heavy.

The market in mild coffee has been active and on a higher basis of values. Some of the transactions have been very large, recent sales reported including 30,000 bags of Maracaibo, 27,500 bags Savanilla, 5,300 bags Guatemala, and 3,500 bags Mexican. Importers' stocks have been reduced by this free buying, inducing a better tone in the market with holding by sellers for higher prices. Good Cuzcuta is 8c. East India coffees are firm.

The market on Monday, October 5, experienced a considerable decline, options showing a loss of 20 to 25 points, chiefly on reports of rains in Santos and liquidation. Actual coffee eased in sympathy, milds excepted. Firm offers from Brazil were easier but not attractive to buyers and spot closed  $5\frac{1}{2}$  c. for Rio No. 8,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  c. for Rio No. 7,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  c. for Rio No. 4,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{3}{4}$  c. for Santos No. 4.

**Brazilian Review's Coffee Estimates.**—The *Brazilian Review* is credited with estimating the yield of the Rio coffee crop now being marketed at 4,000,000 bags, and that of Santos at 7,250,000 bags, a total of 11,250,000 bags, or a million bags less than the total realized in 1902-03.

**Costa Rica and Mexican Coffee Advices.**—Advices from Costa Rica point to a considerably smaller crop than the last one, but the reports from the different districts vary very much, amounting, in some parts, almost to a complete failure, whereas in the higher parts a good crop is expected. It is, however, feared that the size of the bean will only be moderate. From Salvador the Santa Ana and Oriente districts promise a good crop, but not so large as this year, which was exceptionally large. Around Salvador City the prospects are not so good. Guatemala advises that the estates which last year suffered so severely from the eruption of the Santa Maria volcano, have greatly recovered in appearance. They will, however, yield no crops this season, for, although there have been signs of flowering, the buds have not set. The shortage this season from these estates amounted to about 200,000 quintals. From Mexico come complaints of too much rain in the higher districts (Orizaba, etc.), whereas a good crop is expected in the lower ones (Tapachula).

**Rain in Santos.**—Schmidt & Frost, Santos, cabled Monday, October 5: "Prospects of smaller crop than last year. Too early to estimate crop yet. It entirely depends upon weather. In no case a record crop. Crop reported damaged by drouth. Actually raining; not enough. Crop will be later than usual coming to market."

**Brazil Crops.**—The cables from Rio and Santos have been hot with messages of gloomy news regarding the growing coffee crop. It is said to be in a rather bad way from the blighting effects of bad weather. Such reports are usual and popular at the present time of the year, and are meeting with considerable attention and credence, owing to the experience now being realized that the reports of drouths two years ago and of frosts one year ago, had considerable substantiation in fact, affecting the growing crops of those years considerably, compared with the bumper realizations of the crop market in 1901-02. Following are some of the cables:

De Couto & Co., Rio: "Growing crop badly damaged."

John Moore & Co., Rio: "Crop prospects unfavourable; rain much needed."

Hellwig & Co., Santos: "Reports from the interior very unfavourable."

Prado, Chaves & Co., Santos: "Weather unfavorable for growing crop."

The Santos Agricultural Bureau reports: "Worms attacking roots in Sao Carlos de Pinhal doing damage."

The *Brazilian Review* says: "In the following States the August and September blossom is lost—Juiz de Fora, Porto Novo, Itacoara and Palinas in the State of Minas, and Cardenas in the State of Rio; partially lost Itacoara. Rain much needed for October blossom."



Total stock in United States October 1, 2,465,686 bags against 2,771,000 bags October 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States October 3, in store and afloat, 2,624,341 bags against 2,851,827 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 397,500 bags, against 254,771 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York October 3, 1,811,530 bags. Stock in other coffees, October 1, 329,329; in San Francisco, 59,396 bags, and in New Orleans, 8,775 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, October 1, 13,770,429 bags.

Brazil stock in Baltimore October 3, 62,363 bags; in New Orleans, 152,671 bags.

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Green coffee imported into the United States from Hawaii during the last seven months ending in July was 1,002,635 pounds, against 544,375 during the same period in 1902; the respective values were \$131,286 and \$60,233.

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New Orleans has, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, thoroughly entered upon its purpose to have an option market in coffee of its own, and how all sufficient the preliminaries are has doubtless been gleaned from the reports as stated in our issue of last week. The city thinks very well of itself as a coffee centre, and already sees New York—until the present time the unchallenged coffee emporium of America—trailing far behind, a bad second to the Southern metropolis on the Mississippi. The newspapers are especially optimistic, the most exultant of them all being the *Times-Democrat*, which says that in coffee "New Orleans as a port is fast taking away the laurels of New York," and that "shippers are discovering that New Orleans is closer to the coffee countries than New York, and this valuable discovery, in addition to the fact that the railroads have been making distribution cheaper, has been the means of forcing New York to the background." Inasmuch as stocks in New York in Brazil coffee alone are on the average 2,000,000 bags, and those in New Orleans 150,000 bgs, and deliveries in favour of New York in the ratio of 80 to 3, it is to be surmised that as a matter of fact, New York still leads the procession, with no one near enough behind to produce uncomfortable feelings. It is to be feared that New Orleans shares with the rest of the country an inaccurate press, and the coffee-men there would do well to set it right in the matter of statistics, so that the city may start on its coffee embarkation with no misconception respecting its bearings. But no doubt New Orleans intends, and is going, to become a more considerable coffee port, and the zeal and expansion noted down South is to be welcomed as a factor, enlarging the field of coffee, and therefore tending to assist the prosperity of the industry. As financiers, New Orleans men have demonstrated themselves shrewd and efficacious manipulators of options, and if these same mental qualities and money resources are to play their part in a coffee pit in New Orleans, we are sure the similar pits at New York, Hamburg, and Havre will feel the influence, and have something substantial to think about; but whether as lambs in the maw of the bull, or the bear enjoying the lamb, we are unable to divine, for we have heard that New Orleans men are voracious bulls, whereas not a few of these animals have been entirely consumed in the pit of the New York Coffee Exchange. Here many bears are stalking about exceedingly fat, yet not averse to take on more weight, and we are sure they would risk some tossing. So, whether or not the New Orleans Board of Trade men shall prove invincible in coffee tauromachy, its pit will not be met at the outset with jealousy at New York, whatever may be the imprecations at large in the world of actual coffee.

#### TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—A brisk fall trade generally is reported in tea, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of October 6, and the market is firm, with a realization of full values in the desired kinds, the better selections, especially the greens and Japans. Indications are that present conditions will be maintained for some time to come, as supplies are not being rushed to market, and are even below normal importation. The consuming demand is steady, conceding as a rule the values demanded; and jobbing is reported as having spirit. Sales of the week included 1,000 packages

Foochow, 500 packages Congo, 1,500 packages of Japans, 1,500 packages of Formosa, 4,000 packages of Pingsuey, 1,000 packages of country greens. The Eastern markets remain firm and unchanged, excepting low-grade Formosa, which is said to be difficult to secure at previously quoted rates, and therefore firming up for an advance. Indians and Ceylons are firm. The greens are said to be in good request, especially in Canada, which reports a good demand in all grades of all kinds of teas in favour there.

London advices are that in Indian teas the demand is somewhat slow at irregular prices. Common again rules in favour of buyers. Medium, however, is in steady request at previous rates. Ceylon teas meet with a fair demand at generally steady prices. Common brings barely previous rates. Medium continues to show some irregularity, especially Pekoes. Good to fine, however, are in good request, and very steady prices realized. A fair demand continues to prevail for China teas, most noticeable in the lower grades. Scented Caper continues in demand up to 7½d.

Well-founded reports of more exports from New York to London, of Congous, were heard yesterday. 2,500 packages, it was said, will be shipped.

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**Ceylon Tea Exports.**—In his Address at the opening of the Legislative Council of Ceylon on 26th ultimo Sir J. West Ridgeway remarked:—As regards the exports of the Colony, in the first seven months of the current year there were exported 91,263,746 lbs. of tea, against 96,231,924 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1902, the exports being distributed as follows:—

	1903. lbs.	1902. lbs.
United Kingdom .. ..	63,459,470	68,525,612
British Colonies .. ..	14,582,645	14,782,080
Foreign countries .. ..	13,221,631	12,924,232
	91,263,746	96,231,924

A feature of the year as regards the tea industry is the increase in the export of green tea, especially to the United States of America. The amounts were 1,303,329 lbs. in 1902 and 3,576,682 lbs. in 1903, the United States alone taking 487,958 lbs. in 1902 and 2,144,204 lbs. in the present year.

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**Japan at the St. Louis Exhibition.**—According to the *Japan Times*, the Central Chamber of Tea Guilds has devised a plan designed to increase the attractiveness of the Japanese tea-house, 10 by 6 yards, at the St. Louis Exhibition. Magic lantern views of famous Japanese gardens will be displayed, and the girls who pick the tea-leaves will be represented in effigy. The estimated cost of the scheme is 3,000 yen. The Rs.15 per ton freight on tea from Colombo to Australia did not last long. Competition having been crushed, the Australia Conference liners quickly raised the rate to Rs.35 again.

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**Colombo Tea Sales.**—At Colombo on the 28th ultimo the market was strong for "leaf" teas, particularly common to medium Pekoes, and prices were steady all round. Broken Pekoes were in less demand and somewhat weaker, except for the more tippy kinds. Green teas were unchanged.

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**The Russian Import Tariff.**—London Tea merchants do not appear to regard the raising of the Russian import tariff in regard to teas entering the country from the Europe



and Black Sea sides as likely to seriously prejudice their trade with the country. Lower grade teas may be interfered with to some extent, but not higher grades. The London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon* recently pointed out that in one respect London has a great advantage over Colombo for Russian buyers. Samples of suitable teas are sent to Moscow on Wednesday; the buyers there taste there and wire back their limits in time for the next Tuesday's sale. In Colombo, on the other hand, they must buy on type, and, in the time that must elapse before teas can reach Russia *via* Dalny, many changes may occur. These considerations would not affect common teas to a great extent, but they would come in when fine teas were in question, partly because more money is at stake and partly because fine Ceylon teas lose their delicate aroma very rapidly.

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Mr. R. G. Coombe gave at a recent meeting of the Haputale P. A., Ceylon, an account of some of his experiences with the shot-hole borer. 'A fine field of tea yielding about 600 lbs. an acre was attacked,' he said. "I took the precaution every month of going through the field, cutting out the branches where the borer was seen at work, and burning them at once. The field next to this one, belonging to another estate, was pruned; borer was pointed out to the Superintendent and he was asked to move in the matter, but with no result. Our experience is that, if prunings are not burnt or buried, the borer comes out of the pruned branches after a time, and enters the stem of the bush; it is then almost hopeless to try and get rid altogether of the pest. I maintain, however, that it can be kept in check to a considerable extent if prunings are buried or burnt. I mentioned at the beginning of my speech (I think) that we lose on our affected acreage 100 lbs. of made tea an acre, which is, I venture to think, just the difference between profit and loss to several estates in this district."

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**Evolutions in the Tea Trade.**—On Wednesday last, says the *Grocer* of 10th ultimo, when 1,059 chests Sylhet tea were offered at public sale on account of the importers, biddings to advance  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. were printed and accepted instead of the customary  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Several years ago a catalogue was issued under similar conditions, but the experiment was not repeated. On the present occasion most buyers appeared to regard the innovation with lively satisfaction, and with the exception of one lot the entire invoice was disposed of at the current value. Contrary to the general rule the names of the tea estates in the various lots were omitted from the catalogue, while each break, irrespective of size, was restricted to one line, whereas hitherto in the case of large breaks of, say, about 100 chests, the rule usually adopted has been to divide the lot into two lines, thus giving the buyer the option of "dropping." We have on more than one occasion drawn attention to the uncertainty and friction caused by doubts as to whether bids of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. should be permitted, but the question still remains for settlement. Most importers seem indisposed to countenance the change, while among brokers all kinds of decisions have been given when "in the box;" and whether biddings of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. will eventually be accepted it is difficult in the present state of affairs to determine.

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**London Tea Market.**—According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Report, dated the 29th instant, states that competition is general and well distributed.

The market for medium-liquoring Pekoes shows a fractional advance. The market for teas for price is dearer. The average price of Assam and Indian tea sold on garden account this week was 8d. and 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., respectively.

Private telegrams of 29th ultimo from London to Colombo report common to medium qualities rather dearer. During the week 16,000 packages of Ceylons were offered and 15,000 sold. Fair Pekoe Souchong 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and the average 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Of Indians, 42,000 packages were offered and 39,000 sold, average 8d. Competition is said to be general and well distributed.

Telegraphic advices from London last week indicated a rise in the average. The market is declared to be firm; broken Pekoes are very firm; and Pekoes and Pekoe Souchong are firm and dearer for all kinds.

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During 1902 Morocco imported Tea to the value of about £137,000, an increase of over 35 per cent. as compared with 1901. The Tea was mostly from the United States. An inferior green tea is drunk in large quantities by the natives.

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Damascus consumed in the year 1901, 500 chests of Indian tea, each chest containing forty kilogrammes or 88 lbs. and paid three francs seventy-five centimes per kilogramme. In 1902, one thousand chests, of the same size and at the same price, were drunk in the same town. This increased consumption was consequent on the Government advice to drink tea as a healthy beverage during the cholera epidemic.

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**The Tea Duty.**—Mr. Ernest Tye writes to the *Home and Colonial Mail*:—In view of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals to reduce by 75 per cent. the duty on tea, which is now 6d. a lb. to which figure it was raised from 4d. in April, 1900, owing to the war in South Africa, it may be of some interest to your readers to note the extent to which duty is levied in other countries on this most necessary article, especially as tea is such an important British industry. The crop from India and Ceylon last year reached 330 million lbs.—*viz.*, 180 millions from India and 150 millions from Ceylon.

Portugal levies the high duty of 2s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb on tea.

Russia on her Western Frontier levies on Indian and Ceylon tea 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., and on China and Java tea only 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., while on her Eastern Frontier the duty on all tea is 1s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. Norway levies 1s. per lb., France 9d. to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., Germany 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., Holland 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., Switzerland 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

In the United States, Canada, Australia, Tasmania, Belgium, and the Straits Settlements there is no duty on tea.

In the Cape Colony and Natal 4d. is levied, and in New Zealand 2d. per lb.

It will be noticed that in the most protectionist of all countries, *viz.*, the United States of America, no duty is levied on tea. By legislation enacted in May, 1897, a Pure Tea Law was passed by which the American public are most carefully protected from any inferior tea, a series of standards being fixed as tests. The only provision in this country against the rejections of other markets is the provision contained in the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, which was found on a recent occasion to be of no avail to prevent the importation of some 600,000 lbs. of so-called tea which had actually been rejected by the New York authorities as unfit for consumption.



**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the auctions on the 30th ultimo the demand was again strong and the sale passed with spirit for all classes. Pekoe Souchongs with fair leaf and liquor in the range of 5/3 may be quoted 1—2 pie dearer, but common kinds here and there inclined to weakness, though no actual decline can be quoted. Medium grades were in greater request and met with good competition, in many cases establishing a rather higher range of prices. Darjeeling teas, although possessing only fair quality, realised full rates. Dusts continue to be taken freely for the Russian demand, and results must prove very satisfactory to producers. Outside markets as usual secured a fair proportion of the offerings, but although Bombay buyers were keen to operate prices often proved in excess of their limits. Green teas are in small supply, as must now be expected, and offerings of those classes will probably become smaller every week. Quality is again here and there a touch better, some of the Dooars kinds having rather more flavour. Assams too in many cases show better quality. Other districts remain without material alteration, though sometimes being slightly improved in cup the leaf shows a corresponding falling off. Garden advices continue satisfactory all round, and outturn taken on the average appears to be well ahead of last year, though not excessively so. Reports from Assam advise good weather for growth and manufacture. It is expected that a much improved quality will be seen from that district in the near future.

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**Tea District Reports.**—The tea districts reports are as follow :—

CACHAR—Dry cold weather ; leaf scarce.

ASSAM—No rainfall ; leaf moderately good.

SYLHET—Leaf scarce ; indications of an early close.

DARJEELING—Season closing up ; leaf moderate on several gardens ; bushes are flushing slowly.

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A correspondent writes to the *Civil and Military Gazette* from Ceylon :—Soluble tea is now on the market. The idea is most ingenious. The first stages of preparation are the same as for ordinary tea ; then an infusion is made and passed through an apparatus like a cream separator where it is filtered. In this stage it is hot. It is next passed over corrugated sheets of metal, and the temperature reduced to about freezing point. Then it goes into another separator machine where the tannin is thrown out of solution owing to the reduced temperature. This forms a sort of chocolate cake all round the sides. The liquid then goes into a vacuum and is evaporated and the powder that remains is soluble tea, containing all the soluble properties of the ordinary tea. The advantage for travellers and expeditions is obvious. No teapot is required ; it dissolves in hot or cold water and takes up so little space that enough for 100 cups can be carried in one's waistcoat pocket, whereas a pound packet of tea gives about 35 cups. The idea has gone up for Lord Kitchener's approval, but the result has not been heard yet.

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**The Tea Trade during 1902-03.** AN INTERESTING REVIEW.—Messrs. Brooke, Bond & Co., of London, write under date the 8th ultimo :—

To some members of the tea world the cheerful view we took last year of the outlook may have seemed somewhat optimistic. The event has, however, justified the opinion we then expressed that "the prospects of the trade, which had been very depressing a year

ago, are brighter." This year, to quote Lord Curzon, we "seem to see a silver lining in the dark cloud which has hovered so long over the tea industry." The silver lining is the fact that consumption has at last overtaken production.

This improvement is due to three main causes :—First, lessened production ; secondly, the manufacture of green tea instead of black ; thirdly, the most important of all, the exploitation of new markets for British-grown teas.

The lessened production was owing partly to climatic causes, partly to the labour difficulty, partly to finer plucking, and partly to the fact that much less land has come into bearing during the last two years than during the previous three. The manufacture of green tea has been taken up so vigorously that Ceylon estimates to displace black tea during the current year to the extent of 12,000,000 lbs. The manufacture is also carried on with great success in India, though not to the same extent as in Ceylon. The opening up of new markets is, however, the chief cause of the improved outlook. This course we have advocated by letters to the Press, and have endeavoured to help forward for a long time past. It is now generally recognised as the only way to enable the industry to preserve its prosperity, the only way, in fact, for the planter to preserve his existence.

Great efforts are being made to push the sale of British-grown tea in countries where until lately it was almost unknown, notably in India itself. The endeavour to popularise the drinking of Indian tea among the natives of India, which was the principal subject of a letter, "Indian Tea for the Indians" which we wrote to the *Times* and other papers a year ago, has been vigorously carried on. The Indian Tea Markets' Expansion Commission continues its work, with the satisfactory result that tea is becoming popular among the poorer classes and that there is an increasing demand for good tea throughout the country, as the consumer is being educated to like sound tea, and therefore refuses the rubbish sold by the irresponsible native hawker.

The Report of the two years' work of the Commission is extremely interesting. The principal method adopted for inducing the natives to drink tea, as we explained last year, is the sale of packets of dry tea and of cups of brewed tea at one pice ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) each. The sale of the packets and cups increased enormously during the first 18 months of the Commissions operations. During the last six months the sale slightly decreased, but not because tea was not growing in favour. On the contrary, the decrease was due to the fact that many small traders, after selling packets for a time, ask for the same class of tea in bulk and retail it. This shows that the habit of tea-drinking has taken root.

The Commission took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the immense assemblage of persons of all ranks and many nations at the Delhi Durbar to bring Indian tea prominently forward. Depôts were opened in several of the camps and in the city, where very large quantities of tea were sold. It was also hawked about the streets. At the restaurants in the Fine Arts Exhibition and the Polo Club nothing but pure Indian tea was sold.

In addition to the work done by the Commission, a similar system is being carried out in the city of Madras and in other parts of South India. In Madras, hawkers go round with kettles of prepared tea morning and evening, and supply the native population at a pice a cup. They also visit the officials in the various public offices during tiffin time. The sales of brewed tea and of tea in packets are going up every month.

These efforts of private enterprise are now assisted by what is known as the tea cess, which is a voluntary tax of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a pie (equivalent to 1.48 of a penny) levied on every pound of tea exported from India. The money thus raised is devoted to exploiting new markets for Indian tea.

Turning to the consideration in detail of the world's consumption of British-grown tea outside the land of its production during the year 1902-03, we find that the United Kingdom is still the largest customer ; Australia, America, and Russia following in order.

The uncertainty as to the duty on tea in the United Kingdom naturally greatly affected the trade during the earlier part of the year ; no more tea was imported than was absolutely necessary. It does not appear, however, that less tea was drunk. There was already a large quantity in the country, which supplied the deficit. On May 31, 1903, this stock was 12,000,000 lbs. less than on the same date in 1902. The consumption per head has not declined. As the lessened production is owing greatly to finer plucking, the diminution of supply has been chiefly of low-priced teas. It is



impossible now to supply good tea at as cheap a rate as heretofore. Tea is not really dearer, as the higher-priced teas go a great deal farther, than the so-called cheap ones. Consumers are beginning to realise that a pound of 2s. tea makes twice as many cups as a pound as 1s. 4d., and that the higher the price paid the smaller is the proportion absorbed by the tax and the larger the proportion really spent in tea. Those persons who insist on having low-priced tea may find they are using what has been rejected by foreign markets.

Australia has taken rather less tea during the last two years than during previous years, owing, doubtless, to the depression in trade caused by droughts.

Until lately America has been a coffee-drinking country, and of the small quantity of tea she consumed the black came almost entirely from China and the green from Japan. Now tea is becoming popular, and imports of British-grown tea have risen in a few years nearly 100 per cent. Two clubs in New York make a feature of afternoon tea. Men who drink it are not laughed at, even by their enemies. There are very few villages, no matter how small, where it is not possible to get good tea. These changes are owing almost entirely to the enterprise of certain tea-producing firms in India and Ceylon. The utmost pains, assisted by wonderful machinery, are devoted to preparing tea, particularly green tea, for the American market. Green tea has always been more drunk in America than black. Therefore Ceylon planters have taken up the manufacture of green tea, and turn out blends equal to the best Japanese productions. As it is found that the same kind of tea does not suit all parts, samples of water from all the great cities in North America are sent out and tea is manufactured to suit them. The sale of the tea is also vigorously pushed by good advertising and by demonstrations. Both in the United States and in Canada people are learning that a pound of British-grown tea produces two or three times as much beverage as a pound of China or Japan tea, and also that the strong Indian and Ceylon teas are as sustaining as coffee, which the weaker growths from China and Japan are not. The removal, in January, of the 10-cent (5d.) tax on tea doubtless increased the demand in the United States.

Exports to Russia of Indian tea have more than doubled during the year. The Russian Government has lately increased the duty on British-grown teas, leaving the duty on China tea unchanged. The intention doubtless is to check the growing trade in Indian tea, and encourage the import of Chinese tea by the new Trans-Siberian Railway. It is quite certain, however, that the Russian merchant, who is a very business-like man, will buy the tea he prefers wherever he can get it cheapest. If he finds that Indian tea suits his purpose best, Indian tea he will have. Russia consumes more liquid tea per head than any other country; but the people take it very weak, generally making five brews from one spoonful of dry leaf. This fact makes Indian tea very valuable to the Russian blender, as no other growth will bear so much watering. A proposal is under consideration to use the Trans-Siberian line for the purpose of importing British-grown tea, which will be sent from Calcutta, *via* Shanghai, to Port Dulni (Arthur), and thence to Moscow, so that instead of retarding our trade with Russia the new railway may help it. If Indian and Ceylon planters will study the Russian market, they may feel sure of securing a very valuable and increasing trade with that country.

Tea-drinking is also gaining ground in Turkey in Asia. The British Vice-Consul at Adana says that thousands of Circassians drink tea, though he himself considers there is no drinkable tea to be had in Turkey. What there is comes from Russia, and though very inferior commands a very high price.

Exports to Western Europe are steadily increasing. Afternoon tea is rapidly becoming an institution in Paris. In Rome, also, English tea-rooms have been opened. Ceylon tea is sold in over 1,300 shops in Switzerland and in many towns in the south of France. In Germany, Austria, and Scandinavia consumption is increasing.

The above remarks show that the demand for British-grown tea is steadily growing, and that the prospects of the trade are better than they have been for some time past. There is every reason to hope that the improvement will continue. Very little land will come into bearing during the next few years, so that, unless planters revert to the fatal system of coarse plucking, consumption and production will be fairly balanced.

We may hope that the "silver lining" will shine more and more brightly till at last the "dark cloud" will entirely disappear.

**Ceylon Tea for Turkey.**—A NEW MARKET.—The quantity of Ceylon tea which at present finds its way to Turkey, either directly or indirectly, is probably infinitesimal; yet there are immense possibilities there. The first to make a serious attempt to introduce Ceylon tea into the land of the Unspeakable one seems to be the French firm of M. Landau & Son, who have their headquarters at Constantinople. One of the members of that firm, M. Landau, is now in Colombo for the purpose of buying Ceylon tea for the Turkish market. To a *Times of Ceylon* representative he gave some interesting facts about the consumption of tea in that much-discussed quarter. It appears that, so far, China tea has had a monopoly, and about 10,000 lbs. a month of China tea were imported by M. Landau & Company, about one-third of this amount being green tea. Most of the tea consumed in Turkey was imported from London and not direct from China. M. Landau, in fact, claims that two years ago he was the first to ship direct from Hankow to Turkey.

Both the Turks and Persians are inveterate coffee-drinkers, but they are being educated to drink tea, which M. Landau says is daily growing in favour. The chief centres of the business are Constantinople, Smyrna, Salonika, and a few of the other principal towns. There is an 8 per cent. duty on tea imported into Turkey, and the retail price for medium tea—that is tea which can be bought in Colombo for about 40 cents—is nearly 2 francs a lb. or 1/7d. The Turkish Custom officials, M. Landau says, have a curious way of getting the 8 per cent. duty at their own valuation. Tea is sometimes imported which they think should be priced much higher than it is; and then they must either take the 8 per cent. of the face value of the tea, or the duty in kind. For instance if 100 chests of tea are imported, and there is any dispute, they must take 8 chests if the importer so desires.

M. Landau thinks that Ceylon green tea will find favour with the Turks. They are fond of very strong tea and drink it principally with lime; though some use milk. Sugar is rarely used. He has not yet commenced buying, but hopes to send his first shipment by the end of the month. The tea will probably go by the N. D. L. steamers, being transhipped at Port Said. M. Landau had at first thought of sending his tea by the ships of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, but they want shipments of at least 50 tons, he says; while at present he contemplates sending only about 150 chests in each shipment.

\* \* \*

**Over-supply of Tea in Australia.**—The immediate effect of the important reduction in the freight from Ceylon to Australia was the increase in the quantity of tea which buyers purchased for that market. A tea-man who has had considerable experience in buying for that market, and who knows the way things go down there as well as any one in Colombo, wishes to emphasize our recent remark that there would be some over-supply to take advantage of the lowest freight. These sudden changes of freight are, of course, objectionable—they are better than the previous iniquitous Rs.50 per ton, that is all.

"After all," said the gentleman referred to; "Australia is a very small market, and it is easy to swamp it, and there will be a tremendous reaction. I have known the time when it was impossible to give the tea away. My firm in China, perhaps, have sent to me a cable saying 'Sell without reserve,' and I have put up every chest of tea at public auction. I got no offers, and cabled to them to that effect, and in reply—there was no mistaking the orders this time, for plain English was used—I was directed to sell it anyhow, and I found it impossible. You will find the same thing happen again if the Australian market is again flooded. Ceylon tea will be upon the dealers' hand in such quantities that they will find it impossible to sell all they have. It will be kept in stock, and, naturally, it will deteriorate; and, when they want to dispose of it, they will find they can't give it away." Our informant further added that he had abstained from buying more tea than usual for the Australian market, and that he had written to the firm for whom he bought giving the reasons quoted above.

\* \* \*

Editor Small protests his disappointment that the National Tea Association of the United States has so far not risen to the full measure of his expectations and revolutionized the manner and method of tea dealing and tea philosophy. He discourses with acerbity on the seeming lack of strenuousness in the Association, and implies that unless some life is shown, it might as well get some one to say that there is none. The editor—and probably some others with him—does not understand the situation. It is said



that great bodies move slowly, and by this general truth the Association is most naturally swayed, for its membership is scattered over the entire territory of the United States, and even beyond, and it is the policy of the Association to permit all its members to assist in shaping its essential operations. This may seem a cumbersome procedure, but the corps of tea-men is such that what is done has to be done with a very fine regard to the customs and proprieties of the trade, else all is lost. Much time is therefore consumed in getting the sense and consent of the members to plans and acts of the body, and moreover, it is far from the intentions of the Association to parade to the tune of cymbals and tomtoms what it has in mind to do and is doing. It makes its announcements when a finished product can be offered, abiding its own time. It might as well be understood that much of the looked-for tea propaganda will be asserted through the members working individually, but concertedly, rather than through the Association acting officially; and if anybody expects the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars in advertising, he may dismiss this expectation, if we understand the purposes of the Association. At such times as it will be necessary for the Association to act in a body this will be done, and when done, effected invincibly, and with such hurry as the occasion may require, and almost never is the tea world in a hurry.

### NOTES.

#### Rubber Sickness.

tour of inspection.

Mr. J. B. Carruthers, the Government Mycologist, Ceylon, has completed his

#### Union is Strength.

establishing a Planters' Association.

Planters in British Central Africa are urging the necessity for es-

#### Java Cinchona.

The exports from Java during the first half of October amounted to 568,000 Amst. lbs. against 1,070,000 Amst. lbs. last year.

#### German Quinine, etc.

months ending July were as follows :

The exports of quinine and quinine salts from Germany during the seven

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Kilos. ... ..	123,000	109,000	92,000

#### Java Quinine.

The result of the tender held at Batavia on October 14 is as follows : Of 3,279 kilos. Ed. II., 120 kilos. were sold, at an average of 19½f. per kilo. (about equal to 7½c. Amsterdam unit), against 17·30f. per kilo. paid at previous tender. The next tender to be held at Batavia will take place on November 18.

#### The St. Louis Exhibition.

We are glad to learn that the Indian Tea Association have received a contribution of Rs.75,000 from the Imperial Government towards the representation of the tea, coffee, and allied industries of the country at the St. Louis Exhibition. The donation is a handsome one and worthy of the Government.

#### Chinese Labour in Ceylon.

With the preparation of green tea in Ceylon, says a Colombo paper, a few Chinese hands have been employed locally as they are reported to be adepts at the work, and of late the number of Celestials in our midst has increased. Chinese labour is wanted in the Transvaal and we wonder if with the arrival of Sir Henry Blake, our new Governor, John Chinaman will come over to Ceylon in larger numbers.

#### Ceylon Tea for Turkey.

It is a healthy sign for the industry that a new buyer has entered the Colombo market in the person of M. Landau, a representative of the French firm bearing that name who have their headquarters at Constantinople. He says that the Turks and the Persians are inveterate coffee-drinkers, but they are being educated to drink tea and he is of opinion that Ceylon green tea will suit them well. M. Landau will not buy largely at the start and will forward his shipments by the German steamer. This firm has the credit of being the first to introduce our staple into Turkey and we are confident all will wish further effort to popularise Ceylon tea every success.

#### Quinine.

The sale of quinine—the product of the Government cinchona plantations in Bengal and Madras—through the agency of Post Offices in the country continues to shew remarkable progress, as each year's work comes under review. In 1902-03 the total number of packets (5 grains each) so disposed of to the public amounted to the huge figure of 7,192,309, or an increase of 1,061,540 packets over the sales of the preceding year. The increased demand was mainly in the Madras, Bengal and Central Provinces circles. Evidently the native population have now come to seriously appreciate the Post Office channel of securing the indispensable drug at prices within their means and hence the yearly expansion in the sales.

#### Ceylon Produce.

Addressing the Legislative Council of Ceylon on the 26th ultimo Sir J. West Ridgeway observed *inter alia* :—Of cinchona, the

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quantity exported fell from 247,173 lbs. in 1902 to 123,359 lbs. in 1903. Cacao shows an increase in quantity of 7,736 cwt. Cinnamon (plantation and wild) shows an increase of 5,092 cwt. Cocoanuts have decreased from 8,779,961 nuts to 6,639,860 nuts. Considering the products of the cocoanut palm as a whole, there has been a remarkable increase in value as compared with 1902. The value of exports in the seven months January to July, 1902, was Rs.9,476,268: for the corresponding period of this year the amount is Rs.14,274,203. Cardamoms show an increase in quantity of 809 cwt.; coffee shows an increase in quantity of 231 cwt.

#### Crude Saltpetre as Manure.

Some interesting experiments to test the value of crude saltpetre—which contains about 60 per cent. of nitrate of potash—as a manure, and of *sitta* (impure saltpetre salt) as food for cattle are being carried out under the direction of the Inspector-General of Agriculture in India. Consignments of the former have been supplied by the Government Salt Department of Upper India to Government Farms in Bombay, the Central Provinces and Bengal, while the “food salt” has been sent to some half-a-dozen Government cattle farms for trial as cattle food. Experiments of this nature are of considerable economic value and the more they are tried the better it will be for the agriculture of the country. For instance, the production of a really cheap cattle salt would prove of inestimable benefit to the cultivator, who would shower down blessings innumerable on the “Sirkar” for his latest miracle.

#### Canker in Rubber.

On the 31st ultimo Mr. J. B. Carruthers, the Ceylon Government Mycologist, delivered an interesting address on Canker in Rubber, which he has been investigating, before a well-attended Meeting of the Kalutara Planters' Association at Tebuwana. The disease, he said, was first noticed two years ago; but not till five months ago was his attention called to it. He visited fifteen or more estates in Kalutara. The proportion of diseased trees in Kalutara was about one in two hundred. Yateporua and Edengoda estates were not included in the estimate. If they were included it would be about double the figure. The canker had been on these two estates for some years, possibly five. After describing the appearance and the method of canker spreading, he recommended the treatment of cutting out the canker, entire excision of the affected portions, and burning all bark cut. After the operation on the affected portion, the tree would go on as usual. A discussion followed, and Mr. Carruthers explained that the disease would not effect seed. There was nothing serious in that rubber canker. Nursery plants were not liable to get disease. Trees on damp, low land were more liable to disease than trees on ridges and well-drained land. The disease could be eradicated.

#### Gutta-Percha in German New Guinea.

Further details are to hand concerning the discovery of gutta-percha in the low country in New Guinea by the Schlechter Expedition, as reported some eighteen months ago. According to the German Colonial Scientific Committee the gutta-percha is of good usable quality, and may be employed in a mixed form for cables. It is said that, if carefully collected, it might even be used for such purposes in its pure state. Herr Schlechter states that the quality of

the gutta-percha in the high lands, in the Finisterre and Bismarck mountains, is even better. The New Guinea gutta-percha is now being tested in various German cable works. The Secretary of the German Imperial Post Office has granted a considerable sum for the purpose of experimental manufacture with the product. The Committee proposes to create, for a period of three years, some kind of an establishment which will undertake the training of the native population of New Guinea to extract the gutta-percha, under the supervision of the expert Herr Schlechter.

#### A New Field for Rubber Cultivation.

In view of the possibility of many planters of Seychelles taking up the cultivation of Pará rubber, the Curator of the Botanic Station, Seychelles, has prepared a valuable report on the industry following his agricultural investigations in Ceylon and the East. This has been issued as No. 22 of the Colonial reports (miscellaneous series). The report observes that there is a very great similarity between the valley of the Amazon, where Pará rubber is indigenous, on the one side, and Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula, and Seychelles on the other, both as regards soil and climate, and that the planting of Pará rubber may prove a profitable industry from all points of view. Even ten acres of land devoted to this plant on some estates may give a good profit, and a certain assistance to the planter in the form of a by-product. The numerous swamps and valleys of Seychelles which contain a good deal of waste land (10,000 acres at least), and even the young cocoanut plantations, or those which need a supply of new trees, should be used for Pará rubber planting. An acre of land may yield 200 lbs. of rubber at least, and give more profit than an acre of cocoanuts, in any case in the present conditions of the markets of both products.

### GENERAL ARTICLES.

#### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

According to Mr. Basil Matveieff, who writes to a contemporary on the subject, “the new addition to the Customs duty in Russia or India and Ceylon tea can in no sense be considered as an act of tariff hostility or as a violation of the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1859, as it only applies to tea imported through the European ports and frontiers, and no extra duty has been imposed on teas sent over the Siberian frontier and ports in the Far East. At those places Indian and Ceylon tea pays the same duty as China tea, which is for both less than on either by the European frontier. The object of the addition is to provide traffic for the Siberian Railway. It will hardly stop—it was not intended to stop—the consumption of Ceylon and Indian teas in Russia.”

There is plenty of room for improvement in the quality of the tea offered at some of the refreshment shops, and this question is more important in the interests of those who wish to increase the demand for tea than it looks at a first glance. The *Daily News* publishes a letter in which the writer says:—“I remember reading, not long ago, a letter in your paper from a working man, in which he laid stress on the point that it was very difficult to obtain anything non-alcoholic to drink in a strange place, and this served to put abstinence actually beyond the means of a poor man. I am not an abstainer, and when going about the country I have usually had no scruples, when thirsty, in laying out twopence on a glass of beer; but on Saturday it occurred to me to put the working-man to the test. I entered a tea-shop. My request to be served with tea without anything to eat along with it created blank amazement, and my statement that I was not at all hungry seemed to be no excuse.” However, the correspondent goes on, “I was served. On my asking what was to pay, the person in charge informed me that the usual charge for ‘tea,’ including several



kinds of food, was ninepence; but that in the circumstances I need only pay sixpence. I ought to add that the tea given me was as nearly undrinkable as it could be—unpalatable is much too mild a word. Now, how is the temperance movement (which has my most hearty support) going to meet this? In that small town I could have obtained without the smallest trouble, and for a third of the cost, an infinitely more pleasant beverage. Bad beer may certainly be found; but bad tea is almost universal, both in tea-shops and in public-houses, outside a few big towns. And it is always, absolutely always, excessively dear."

In commenting on this and other letters on the same subject, the *Daily News* says: "A large number of licensed houses are waking up to the demand for tea, which pays far better than beer, on a given turnover. Take the great catering firms which provide non-alcoholic restaurants in London. Where do their dividends come from? Not, we think, from the food supplied, but from the innumerable cups of tea, coffee, cocoa, and chocolate, and especially the first two of these. No single cup of tea or of coffee costs 3d., or, we should fancy, a quarter of 3d. when it is one of an immense brew, skilfully administered. It is thus no wonder that licensed houses are beginning to enter an exceedingly lucrative line of business, which hitherto they have despised as 'teetotal.' After all, the publican does not mind what he sells so long as he makes a profit, though we should like to know how the tea-room is regarded by the brewery which own the licence, but which gains nothing by the business transacted. Railways might make immense profits on tea if they worked their opportunities properly. The tea-room at Euston is an object lesson how the thing should be done."

On the subject of tea and coffee drinking Dr. George H. R. Dabbs, writing in the *London Argus*, says: "The stimulant of tea and coffee is not enough appreciated. When in large general practice—in earlier life—one had to treat a great deal of typhoid, and I was never addicted to the use of brandy, as a rule, but I rarely omitted tea and coffee. I have often combined brandy with either or both, and in a great emergency I never, of course, for any fad, omitted brandy, but I depended almost invariably on coffee and tea. And in the long and starving marches of Isabella's ragged and ill-fed soldiery in Spain, I was often astounded to witness what hot tea would do for them where wine often proved useless."

The Directors of Lipton, Limited, declare an interim dividend on the Ordinary shares for the past half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. With trade bad it is not surprising that the company should have been among the sufferers, but the steady decline in profits is as alarming as it is consistent with market anticipations. A reduction of 25 per cent. in the interim dividend distribution is a serious matter. The present position is conspicuously unfortunate in view of the flourish of trumpets with which the inauguration ceremony was accompanied.

Some twenty years ago a company was formed in London for making coffee from dates. It did not thrive, but there are plenty of coffee substitutes still on the market. One of these is figs. From particulars given in a consular report it appears that large quantities of dried figs are exported from Italy to Austria, where it is said that they are made into coffee.—*H. & C. Mail*.

### THE RISE IN RUBBER.

Lead pencils, historians say, were first mentioned by Conrad Gesner, of Zurich, in the year 1565, about the time of the discovery of the famous Borrowdale graphite mine in Cumberland. A couple of centuries later—to be exact 1770—Priestley in a lecture recommended indiarubber as a means for removing the marks of such recording agents. At that time there was a considerable element of novelty, not alone in the recommendation, but in the article itself. It is, in fact, not before 1820 that we can date the beginning of the great indiarubber industry. In that year Nadier found a way of cutting it into threads. Three years later Mackintosh created the waterproof garment trade by applying a solution of indiarubber in naphtha, and in 1836 Hancock discovered, by submitting small strips to kneading under moderate heat, that indiarubber could be reduced to thick masses, deprived for a while of its elasticity and worked into whatever shape desired. Other investigators attacked the problem of the manipulation of the

article, and in 1832 Ludersdorf noticed that the viscosity of india-rubber dissolved in spirits of turpentine could be removed by sulphur, Hayward, an American, about the same time, dusting indiarubber sheets with sulphur to overcome the sticky adherence of the gum. It was, however, Nelson Goodyear's experiments which led, in 1839, to the all-important discovery of vulcanized rubber which preserves its elasticity and suppleness within a wide range of temperature. This vulcanization proved an earlier stage of the transformation of the rubber hydrocarbides under the action of heat and an excess of sulphur, the final product being a horn-like substance—ebonite.

These epoch-marking researches paved the way for the industrial application of rubber, the limits of which it is at the present time difficult to define. In the past-times, the garments, the buildings, in the domestic, medical and surgical equipment of the world, it finds a large number of uses. Therefore, it is not surprising that a curtailment of its supply or an increase in its value should cause concern to widely divergent sections of the community. The *B. & C. D* article, last week, outlining the probable effects of the rise in rubber so far as chemists and druggists are concerned, proved, we believe, beneficial to the trade interests of our readers in general, and the succeeding remarks are designed to further forewarn and forearm. It will not be far wrong to attribute the prevailing high prices of the raw material to a considerable excess in demand over supply, and as there seems every possibility of the consumption being maintained at least at the present rate, we cannot, in reviewing the situation, anticipate much diminution in values. The probability of a considerable augmentation of the supply does not at all encourage us to a contrary view. The larger portion of the world's rubber is constituted of Pará kinds. In fact, their production has been gradually advancing from the initiation as shown by the exports from the Amazon River, which in 1864 totalled 7,840,000 lbs., and in 1902 62,809,500 lbs. There are very considerable difficulties in the way of increasing the areas of Pará grades under cultivation. Of these mention may be made of the necessity of navigable rivers to convey the raw product to the ports, as the construction and maintenance of railways in the tropical parts, where rubber would practically be the sole freight, would never make the lines remunerative. The labour difficulty, too, increases in seriousness in climates so treacherous to human life. Therefore, without unnecessary pessimism, it does not seem justifiable to anticipate rectification of the surplus of demand over production, nor does there in the face of this appear reasonable grounds for believing in any early departure from the general upward trend of the crude Pará market during the last two decades. What a chance is presented in these circumstances for artificial rubber! Velvrl marked a distinct advance in the synthetical article, and who can say what may result in the investigations which are proceeding—especially when we hear of products which have 25 per cent. elasticity.—*B. & C. Druggist*.

### AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE.

The agriculturists in India have more friends willing to help them than they think if their eyes were only opened to see and know them. There are no scientific chemists in the world like those which nature produces by the thousand million, ready to help man so soon as he can recognise them and harness them to their appropriate work. Witness (for example) the wonderful septic system for the utilisation of sewage, carried on by countless myriads of lowly and almost microscopic chemists with unceasing devotion and unfailing success in converting what was looked upon as noxious waste into healthful elements. Now the farmer has found his friend. Guano deposits are nearly exhausted and the nitrate beds of Chili and Peru are beginning to give out, and at the present rate of exportation will be almost exhausted in another generation. The chemists at Washington have, therefore, been on the alert to see from what other sources the indispensable nitrogen for plant life can be cheaply and abundantly supplied. They have found out.

It has long been known, and indeed Mr. H. H. Mann, the Scientific Officer to the Indian Tea Association, alluded lately to the fact in one of his papers, that it was the bacteria on the roots of legumes which enabled them to absorb nitrogen from the atmosphere, and now for over a year the Government Agricultural Chemists in the United States have been studying the cultivation of these friends



of the farmer. They have mastered the mystery of their growth and they say they are prepared to introduce a factor destined "to revolutionise the whole field of American agriculture." Henceforth, the farmer, instead of importing his manure by the wagon load, can have his fertilising friends sent to him in little packets by post. A farmer, in the pockets of his ordinary working suit, can easily carry 160 packages containing 2,400,000,000 bacteria enough to enrich the soil and increase the yield on what the Americans call a quarter section of land.

Clover in a depleted soil that was yielding only 200 lbs. to the acre, yielded as high as 2,000 lbs. to the same area after the nitrogen-breathing bacteria were introduced to aid the plants. Now here is a lead given to our slow-moving Government Agricultural Department in India. If Director-General Mollison has not any deep-rooted prejudice to all things American, as he had to the introduction of machinery from that quarter for the manufacture of cotton seed oil, let the Government despatch him to the United States to make himself acquainted with this newest branch of scientific agriculture, and learn how to cultivate these fertilising bacteria, and then come and start the business in every province and district in India.

The supreme danger to India, preventing it from keeping pace with the times in everything that relates to the new discoveries of science and their application to the things of every day life, lies in the fact that the heaven-born officials in every Government Department out here think they are perfect beings, and have nothing further to learn regarding anything connected with their own special lines. The consequence is they get atrophied, and if left alone, would speedily reduce everything around them to Chinese stagnancy. Just think, for instance, what the belated Telegraph Department are doing. More than a couple of years ago, wireless telegraphy was an accomplished fact, and is in use by all the civilised Governments of the world—except India. But just because the heaven-born *Sub janta-wallah* did not happen to invent it, the man at the head of telegraph affairs in India has been allowed to potter and scutter away at useless experiments during the past two seasons to see if, by any chance, he may hit upon some plan of his own. He is now to be permitted to experiment with the Marconi system during the present cold weather to test its efficiency. The Government might permit this genius to find out for them if the sea contains salt, or if the sun is capable of giving out light and heat. This apparently is work he is quite fit for.

It is this kind of nonsense that penetrates like dry rot through all Government Departments in India, and I am just afraid the Agricultural Department will succumb to the same kind of smug satisfaction with itself, and take no hints at all from the progress being made in other countries, and His Excellency, being now a tired man—very tired, cannot be expected at the end of his five strenuous years of hard work, to give the necessary fillip to the several belated Departments who wish for nothing else than to be let alone, first, to draw their salaries, and then their pensions. But if the Agricultural Department does nothing along the line of the great American discovery referred to, surely there are plenty of enterprising men interested in the various crops of the Empire who will be up and doing, and not rest until myriads of nature's nitrogen-breathing chemists are put to work to make two blades grow where only one grew before. Here we are confronted with no mere speculative theory. The clover experiment shows that the new system is an eminently practical one.—"MAX" in *Capital*.

### TEA SPECULATION.

"M." writes in *Capital* :—

One would have thought that those interested in tea would have allowed the investing public a little time before beginning the old game of flotations, but one, as yet unfinished, but probably good season, after such a succession of bad ones, is not allowed even to pass before the fledglings begin to appear; and it is sincerely to be hoped that the investing public will give such ventures such a reception that there will be no more hatching for some time. In addition to new ventures being foisted on the market, there are old birds appearing, under a new plumage, although how these birds, even with new feathers, can be expected to weather the storm with an inflated capital seems a marvel. For seven years it struggled on without paying anything with a capital of Rs.380,000 and

the confiding public are now asked to find an increase on this. 'Tis true that there has been a good deal expended on buildings, and the new Company may be freed from any expenditure on this heading, as also on box account, as we notice in the published accounts of the Company prior to liquidation that a sum of almost Rs.16,000 was spent in 1901, so that there ought still to remain some to meet the requirements of 1904. If we hark back a few years, say to 1896 and 1897, we find that the average price for Sylhet teas was a goodly bit better than in 1903, or, likely to be in 1904; and yet during that time this Company failed in dividend paying, so how is it going to be such a gold mine now? However, *revenons à nos moutons* do we find anything to justify flotation at the present juncture? And we say no. The first and most important item to be taken into consideration is labour, and everyone connected with the industry is aware that, not only is this scarce, but that many gardens have during the late crisis had to abandon for one reason—that of expense—and for another, on the grounds (very substantial ones too) that coolies were not to be had no matter what price gardens were willing to give, and unless the recruiting regulations laid down by the Government are relaxed the situation, instead of improving, will become more acute, and on these grounds there is danger ahead. One new Company, which may be put on the market, estimates to open out and bring to a paying stage a garden at the rate of just over Rs.300. Have we so far advanced beyond the early days of tea-planting that the same work can be done 25 per cent. cheaper? And we say no. The trend of later years has been all the other way, and few, if any, estates have been opened out originally under Rs.400 per acre. 'Tis true, Hope, and a few others we could mention, now show a lower capital than this per acre, but it has been attained by extending out of revenue without increasing the block account about 15 to 20 years ago. Rs.300 per acre was considered very cheap for Cachar, and Rs.400 for Assam, but, mark, this did not include a factory or machinery. This was simply for opening out an estate up to the bearing period, with, perhaps, a cutcha erection made to do duty for a tea-house for a year or two, when the garden was in its infancy. A fair amount to estimate for any estate to furnish it and supply machinery of a good type is Rs.450 per acre, and in most cases this is exceeded, so that to put a prospectus before the public estimated to cost Rs.300 an acre is simply an inducement to invest money which cannot be realised, but to which the unfortunate investor will have to add to in the shape of debentures, or something of that kind, or else see his whole investment swallowed up. Our advice to those intending investors in tea, as it is now, is "beware."

### SOME FOOD PRODUCTS IN THE U. S.

The Department of Labour, through its Bureau of Statistics, publishes a table, showing the value of tropical and sub-tropical foods and animals brought into the United States in 1870, 1890, and 1903. We take the following figures from it:—

Articles.	1870.	1890.	1903.
Coffee ...	24,234,879	78,267,432	59,920,597
Chicory ...	71,595	...	45,460
Tea ...	13,863,273	12,317,493	15,620,229
Cocoa and mfrs. of ...	418,064	2,859,642	8,217,441
Vanilla beans ...	...	559,867	1,032,654

The above must be considered in relation to population which, in 1870, was 38,500,000; in 1890, 62,600,000; in 1903, 81,000,000. Considered in that manner we find that the *per capita* import of tea in 1870 was 1.10 pounds; in 1890, 1.33 pounds, and in 1903 the same, having risen from .94 pound to 1.33 pounds, the wide difference being due to decreased imports in 1902, in expectation of the removal of the ten-cent per pound duty. It appears that thirty-three years has not brought about any increase in the *per capita* use of tea.

With coffee the record is very different. The *per capita* imports rose from 6 pounds in 1870 to 7.83 pounds in 1890 and 11.3 pounds in 1903, and an average of 11.7 pounds for the past three years.

Another significant indication of the increase in prosperity and more generous food requirements of the United States is reflected in the cocoa imports, which, from a *per capita* value of one and one-tenth cents increased to 10 cents in 1903. This is a small, yet significant item.



## SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE IN CEYLON.

We have so often laid stress upon the necessity for the application of Science to the needs of Agriculture that it is with particular pleasure that we reproduce the following extract from the opening address of the Governor of Ceylon (Sir J. West Ridgeway) at the meeting of the local Legislative Council on the 26th ultimo :—

## THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS.

During a large part of the year the Director was absent on leave, and his duties were efficiently carried on by Mr. Carruthers. During his absence the Director spent several months visiting the United States and the West Indies to study the organization and working of other botanical institutions, agricultural colleges, experiment stations, etc., and to collect ideas, suggestions, etc., for the successful working of the Ceylon department.

The work of the last year has largely consisted in the consolidation and detailed organization of the expanded department, more especially in regard to the new Experiment Station at Gangarooa, the new garden at Nuwara Eliya, and the horticultural side of the work at Peradeniya, which now has room to expand by the transfer of the agricultural plots across the river. The Experiment Station is being steadily brought into working order with the aid of the Committee on Agricultural Experiments, and has already proved of much interest and value to the planting community. When first taken over it was chiefly planted with cacao, amongst which was a vast number of other trees, especially cocoanuts, arecanuts, and shade trees; the number of trees of all kinds averaged over 500 per acre, and the estate was far too crowded for anything to succeed, while the cacao canker was rampant, over 96 per cent. of the trees being diseased. The first thing to be done was obviously to get rid of the canker and the excessive shade. Thousands of trees have been cut out, and the canker has been regularly excised according to the methods recommended by the Government Mycologist. The first rounds of the coolies detailed for excision work were protracted and costly, but now the canker has been largely got under, and the result of the work is already evident in increased crops. The whole history forms an instructive object lesson. At its best, in 1897, the cacao crop, then just beginning to be attacked by the canker, was at the rate of almost 3 cwt. per acre; by 1901 it had fallen to  $\frac{2}{3}$  cwt. per acre. That cacao in the Island generally has not similarly suffered, is largely due to the work of the Mycologist. A large area has been cleared and planted with plots of various products for experiments on yield, manuring, different methods of treatment, etc. Among the products now under observation are tea, cocoanuts, rubbers, castor oil, several fibres, cardamoms, groundnuts, etc. A commencement has been made in terracing part of the sloping land to ascertain the cost of such work and the resulting improvement, for it seems probable that in the long run Ceylon cannot stand the constant washing away of soil that is now going on in the hills, and will have to adopt terracing, like other countries with heavy rainfalls. A series of experiments is also in progress to determine the value of different leguminous plants as nitrogen collectors for soil improvement.

The former agricultural plots in the Peradeniya Botanic Gardens are now mainly devoted to horticulture, especially to an extensive collection of vegetables which is being made, including all kinds known to be locally cultivated up to moderate elevations, and all possible kinds of foreign vegetables that will grow here. When reliable tests have been made and a sufficient stock propagated these will be largely distributed through the school gardens and in other ways, and by sale to the public, in the hope of bettering the quality and quantity of vegetables now grown in the Island. Another large area of experimental plots is used by the Scientific Assistant, Mr. Lock, who is carrying on extensive experiments in the possibility of breeding improved local varieties of vegetables, etc., a line of work hitherto little touched upon in the tropics, and both uncertain and tedious, but to which the wonderful progress of European horticulture is largely due.

The new experimental garden in Nuwara Eliya, occupying 10 acres in a corner of the new park, has already yielded interesting results. The object in view in opening it was largely to see what could be done with the sour swampy soil of the high-level uplands,

and to improve the appearance of this unsightly part of the town, as well as to introduce and try ornamental and useful plants suitable to these soils and elevations. Analyses of the soils have been made by the Government Chemist, and recommendations for treatment followed out which have already caused a remarkable improvement. Many plots of grasses have been tried, and several kinds of exotic fodder grasses have been found to yield good crops on the prepared land, and maintain their hold against the inferior native grasses. A large number of useful fruits, ornamental plants, trees, etc., have also given good results, and much information of value to local horticulturists has already been acquired.

Another series of experiments, to occupy a few years, has just been commenced in the dry country now being opened up by the new railway and irrigation works. It is of great moment to know what prospects this region offers for other cultivations than rice—cultivations which may bring traffic to the railway, and perhaps an export trade to the Island. Rice, cocoanuts, palmirah palms, gingely, and Jaffna tobacco may be pretty safely left to private enterprise to introduce in suitable spots. But in view of the fact that cotton, which is one of the largest staples in the very similar country of the Madras Presidency, is rising in price, while great efforts are being made by the British Cotton-growing Association to encourage the growth of cotton within the Empire, it seems particularly desirable to try what can be done with this product in the dry region. An area of about 80 acres is being reserved for cotton under the new tank at Maha Illuppalama, about 20 miles south of Anuradhapura, and a thorough trial will be given to large plots of Tinnevely, Egyptian, and American cottons, with and without irrigation. The experiment will be made three-cornered by adding fodder and stock, the latter to supply manure for the cotton, while at the same time they may be partly fed on the cotton seed for the Colombo market. Plots of rubber and cacao under irrigation are also to be tried, the experience of the Anuradhapura Botanic Garden making it seem probable that they will do well under regular irrigation. The general object aimed at in this experiment with cotton is to see whether it is possible to get a yield better in quality and quantity than that obtained in South India, which leaves an excessively smaller margin of profit. Besides the Government experiment, it is intended to grant favourable terms to capitalists intending to experiment with the industry, and also to encourage cotton growing among the villagers by grants of good seed on credit, and by purchase of the crop for a few years, until the possibilities of the industry securing a hold in Ceylon have been thoroughly tested.

The work of the Entomologist and Mycologist has continued to be of much benefit to the planting community, and the desirability and advantage of such work is being more and more generally admitted. The fumigatorium at Kochchikada has been completed, and in future plants, fruits, etc., liable to introduce dangerous insects will be dealt with there. Circulars have been issued dealing with various pests attacking tea and other crops. Much discussion has been aroused over the proposals made by the Entomologist for legislation against the spread of shot-hole borer—probably the most troublesome insect pest at present affecting tea—many people imagining that the very simple proposals made, that all infected estates should be registered with the Entomologist, and that no estate not certified by him as free from the pest be allowed to sell tea-plants, were the thin end of the wedge for much more drastic measures on the part of Government, or extensive interference in planting matters and methods. Opposition, however, appears to be steadily decreasing. Legislation in such matters must largely follow and crystallize public opinion, but the sooner cultivators recognize that plant-diseases are as insidious and infectious as those of animals, and that it is their duty to keep their cultivations as free from them as possible, the better for agriculture in Ceylon.

The staple products of the Island continue in good condition, and realize fair prices: the price of tea in particular shows a distinct improvement. The export of cacao for the past year was the largest yet recorded, but the price has been lower, chiefly owing to the increasing proportion of the darker-coloured Forastero beans. Cardamoms, as was predicted some years ago, show signs of suffering from over-production, large areas having been planted here and in Southern India.

Among new and minor products, rubber deserves first mention. This is now an established and rapidly expanding industry, and probably not less than 11,000 acres are now devoted to it. A considerable export has already occurred, and, thanks to the care



taken in the preparation of the milk, the prices obtained are much higher than those of the best native Pará rubber, which has hitherto topped the market; further, there is but little "scrap," so that the bulk of the export has sold at a price of about 4s. a pound. The cautious estimate published by the department in 1898 has been considerably exceeded on several estates, both as regards quantity and price. The investigations into the Ceylon gutta-perchas, mentioned in my address to this Council at the opening of the 1901 session, have been completed with the aid of the re-organized Imperial Institute, but, I regret to say, with somewhat disappointing results, it being found that these products, which can be obtained in considerable quantity in our forest, have so small a market value at present that it will not pay to collect them.

Investigations have been continued with citronella oil, an industry which is in a depressed state from over-production, adulteration, and the competition of the pure Java oil. A plot of the grass has been planted at 2,000 feet elevation on the Experiment Station, and is doing well, thus showing that there is much land in the Central Province suited for the industry and now lying waste under mana grass. Experiments in distillation are now being tried, and there seems reason to suppose that Ceylon may once more be able to turn out an oil which may compete with that of Java in purity and price.

Camphor has been planted in a large number of places, and the present year should see a small export of this product, but it is too early yet to say whether it is likely to become established as a minor industry in the Colony.

Ceylon coca continues to figure in the London drug markets as obtaining about the highest prices. The demand for this leaf is of course very small, and any considerable increase of production would lower the prices considerably.

Pepper, in former days a staple product, continues to be planted in small quantity, and Ceylon pepper has realized good prices in London.

Among more specially native products which continue to expand may be mentioned cassava and vegetables for the markets of the larger towns.

## INDIA AND THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

A Ceylon paper says:—

Mr. Palmer L. Bowen, the Commissioner to India for the St. Louis Exhibition and who has been engaged for the last ten years in Exhibition work, is spending a brief holiday in Ceylon before resuming his travels in the interests of his special work. Our visitor is charmed with all that he has seen of this Island and admires not only its scenery and its climate but more especially the up-to-date and enterprising character of its people. He is himself a splendid type of American, long-limbed, clean-shaven, with handsome features and that magnetic influence, which is so frequently met with in the educated American. This is Mr. Bowen's first visit to the East. His presence in Ceylon is due to a happy accident allied to a natural curiosity the fame of which had reached his ears. His constituency is France, Switzerland, Western Germany, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Egypt. When the Hon'ble Mr. John Barrett was suddenly taken away from his special work on behalf of the St. Louis Exhibition and sent as the diplomatic Agent of the United States to the Argentine Republic, leaving the vast field of India practically untapped, Mr. Bowen volunteered to pick up the threads and see the thing through. His task has proved by no means either easy or enviable. He found India as indifferent as Ceylon is eager. Speaking to a representative of the *Independent* yesterday, before leaving for Kandy, Mr. Bowen said he hoped India would after all make a very good exhibit of planting products, such as tea, coffee, cardamoms, jute, etc. There would also be a good show of native crafts but that portion was being done on private initiative as the Government of India had declined to assist. Altogether the exhibits would represent a value of some thirty lakhs of rupees. An India Pavilion was to be erected and the building would be typical of some of the ancient monuments of the country. It was expected that a Commissioner would shortly be nominated by the Tea Association, in whose hands the exhibit would practically be, the Government itself sending forward certain technical exhibits in the departments of geology, forestry, education, survey, and post and telegraphs. It would be a creditable show but not what

India, with its vast resources, was fully capable of. It seems that the apparent reluctance of the Indian authorities to make the best use of the opportunity was ascribed to the wish not to accept the invitation to participate in the Exhibition, otherwise they might be establishing an awkward precedent which might embarrass them on some future occasion. The logic of this representation is not very clear seeing that India took part in the Paris Exhibition and that it might rightly be considered that the precedent had already been set. On leaving Ceylon, Mr. Bowen will visit Turkey and will then proceed on his own account to the Balkan States just "to see what they are doing." Although Turkey had declined officially to participate in the Exhibition he was hopeful of being able to induce a few private individuals to make an exhibition. His work in Europe had been practically completed and there were only one or two questions such as insurance and freight to clear up. Mr. Bowen will be returning to Colombo on Saturday.

## CARDAMOMS.

THEIR NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND THEIR USES.

Mr. P. C. MacMahon, of Woodside, Urugala, wrote the following essay for circulation at the St. Louis Exposition under the scheme approved by the Executive Committee: but, it having been rejected, with regret, by the Cardamom Committee of the P. A., as too long, Mr. MacMahon sent it for publication in the *Times of Ceylon*:—

The Cardamoms of commerce are the cured fruit, or capsules with their seed, of a plant known botanically as *Elettaria Cardamomum* Mat. Many kinds more or less related to the above grow wild in the higher mountain-forests of Ceylon, Southern India, Cochin-China, Madagascar, and a few other countries. Of the above-named species what is known as the "Mysore" variety is the kind now almost entirely cultivated in Ceylon. It is distinguished from some of the others by a more robust habit, smooth glossy leaves, tall and erect inflorescence, unfurrowed and slightly-elongate capsules. The plant is of a bulbous nature, and in the laying out of a plantation two of its bulbs with the whole of their long stems, which sometimes reach to the length of 12 feet, are planted in shallow holes, at the distance of 7' x 7' or 8' x 8' according to the fancy of the planter or the nature of the soil he is bringing into cultivation. The stems are allowed to lie flat on the ground. Great care must be taken in choosing soil, as only the richest loam of the primeval forests will successfully grow this product. The trees of the latter must be thinned out, to afford the plants sufficient light, and, at the same time, to exclude the direct rays of the tropical sun. After two months shoots appear above ground from the planted bulbs, and, as these grow and mature, they in turn throw out further shoots or stems, until at the end of three years a large clump of from 3 to 4 feet in diameter is formed—the inflorescence or racemes, which also rise from the bulb, intermingling with the stems or in sloping situations gracefully hanging over. The racemes are now covered for the whole length with bracts from which spring the pretty orchid like flowers of whitish colour with centre pink markings. These flowers are great favourites of the wild bees of the Island, who gather from them a rich store of honey and wax, and, at the same time, freely bestow their humming services in successfully fructifying the same—the fruit buds of which, after three to four months' growth, changing into ripe capsules. When arrived at this state they are collected by the labourers of the estate into bags and carried to the curing factory, where they are at first washed, and, for several days after, bleached and dried in the sun, care being taken to avoid discolouration either by rain or damp, and at the same time prevent, as much as possible, by not too great exposure, the capsules from bursting and losing their precious seeds. The next work is clipping the dried stems of the capsules which came off with them when being plucked. This work is done by women with small scissors, and is a slow and delicate operation. After having been clipped, they are further bleached and dried, and then sorted into different grades usually called Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, "splits," and "seeds," after which they are packed in paper-lined boxes and despatched to the metropolis of the island, Colombo, where they are either sold locally for export to India or shipped to England and the "continent" for commercial sale.

The uses and virtues of cardamoms have been known to many of the Eastern nations from the earliest periods, and so highly do the



Hindus value them that they have bestowed on the seeds the poetical name of "grains of paradise." In the receptions of the higher classes of this nation among themselves sugar-coated cardamoms are always presented to the guests, and often on these occasions the youthful mother of the house, if there happen to be such a one, hands or leads round for inspection what she in the intensity of her delight loves to call her "sugar cardamom," namely, her latest-born babe and favourite child. The consumption of cardamoms by these people and the Burmese is very great, and must reach close on 1,000,000 lbs. annually. They use them extensively in cooking, in the manufacture of confectionery, toilet oils, medicines, tooth-powders, and in masticating with the betel leaf, which is a kind of pepper. In England and the other States of Europe they are also largely used, and the export from India and Ceylon and Indo-China to there totals now over another 1,000,000 lbs. per year. The principal uses which the home countries apply them to are the manufacture of cakes, confectionery, sausages, liquors, and in the packing of fruit, fish, etc., etc. In the public bars, too, they are also coming into use for dispelling from the breath of the frequenters the nauseating smell of tobacco and alcohol. In medicine and for toilet purposes their use is legion, and far too numerous to mention here. On the whole it may be safely said that as a spice they are now the most appreciated of any known to mankind. This to some extent is shown by the rapid extension of cultivation in Ceylon—that island in 1883 exported only 21,655 lbs., while in 1902 it rose to 615,922 lbs., and this year it is expected to yield 750,000 lbs.

It is to be regretted that the "giant republic" so far this year has taken direct only 1,215 lbs. By the help of the better knowledge of the spice which this great Exposition will afford its people, and the fast rising commercial marine which the nation is sending forth, it may safely be predicted that a larger import of cardamoms and more reciprocity of trade will soon spring up between it and "little Ceylon," the Taprobane of the ancient Greeks, and "Pearl of India."

### MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN WAR.

Ignorance of the cause and nature of human ailments, and of what best to do when attacked by sickness, is responsible for greater loss of life, and infinitely more prolonged misery, than the most desolating war that was ever waged. Wars break out, rage fiercely, subside, and there is peace once more in the land; but everywhere and always there is a proportion of the people who are sick and ailing; who cannot properly sustain their part in the competition of life, and whose time is passed in suffering pain, from which they perceive no way of escape except by death.

In all ages the wisest and noblest of mankind have exerted their mental power to the utmost to avert, so far as may be, the suffering and wastage of humanity, and they have been rewarded by a large measure of success. The evils we deplore great as they undoubtedly still are, have been enormously diminished by their efforts.

Many modes of treatment formerly in high repute have been proved by modern science to be positively detrimental to patients, while remedies have been discovered of such wonderful efficacy that the cures they work would have been accounted miracles in a darker and more superstitious age. The foremost place among these disease-dispelling life-savers must be given to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. For thirty-five years that great remedy has been doing its humane work in all parts of the world. No other medicine is so much esteemed, nor likely to be while people voluntarily write of it in terms such as those employed by Mr. Isaac T. Sihiya, of Engunjini, Sneezewood, P.O., Griqualand East, Cape Colony, who, in a letter dated 10th June, 1903, says: "I am convinced that but for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup I should not be alive to-day. Some years ago I had a bad fall from my horse, and sustained a great shock. I lay for a long time on the ground helpless, and when assistance arrived it was found that I had severely sprained my spine. After a while I recovered somewhat, and was not greatly troubled by my accident until after I entered upon my present duties as Forest Guard for this district. The work at that time was very hard, the people being unruly and giving much trouble. I had to be on horseback the greater part of every day, and very soon my back began to trouble me again. My kidneys were affected and caused me dreadful pain. Many times I was

obliged to dismount from my horse and walk, leading the animal behind me; for I was not in a position to give up my work. A doctor whom I consulted informed me that one of my kidneys had been displaced, and was otherwise injuriously affected. For three years I suffered in this way, and none of the medicines I tried benefited me in the least. But one day a friend gave me a little book to read, and advised me to try the medicine described therein, which proved to be no other than Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I followed his advice, and to that fact owe the good health I now enjoy. I am confident that I could not have continued much longer to endure the terrible anguish with which I was afflicted before resorting to Seigel's Syrup."

Testimony such as this must convince even the most sceptical; yet let it not be forgotten that Seigel's Syrup is the unrivalled remedy for indigestion and of the numerous complaints which arise from that malady. "As regards my family," writes Mr. C. F. Morsner, of French Hoek, Paarl Division, Cape Colony, 15th June, 1903, "we keep Seigel's Syrup as our house doctor. It cured me of liver complaint. I have recommended it to numerous people, and always with satisfactory results.

Humanitarians look forward to a time when suffering shall be reduced to its lowest possible limit the goal alike of the best politicians and physicians.

### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated October 16th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904	517,384	449,996	39,399
1902-1903	533,304	502,175	32,648
43,307 pkgs. INDIAN 15,028 " CEYLON 1,546 " JAVA	Total 59,881 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

The use of Indian and Ceylon Tea in countries outside the United Kingdom still increases, but the figures up to the 30th June this year show that the excess during the six months was largely made up of Ceylon Green Tea sent to North America.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian	11,164,672	11,515,735	13,084,232	7,655,887
Ceylon	31,824,183	27,252,742	29,379,018	23,650,669
Total lbs...	42,988,855	38,768,477	42,463,250	31,306,556
	1899.	1898.	1897.	
Indian	7,303,375	6,640,119	8,672,473	
Ceylon	16,610,286	17,787,535	14,150,950	
Total lbs...	23,913,661	24,427,654	22,823,423	

This fact seems to clearly emphasise the importance of encouraging the manufacture of Green and Uncoloured Tea, and it is gratifying to note that some progress is at length being made in India in the manufacture of this article.

*Export of Indian and Ceylon Tea (in lbs.) to places outside United Kingdom from 1st January to 30th June.*

INDIAN TEA.				
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K.	4,810,736	6,434,444	6,957,488	4,010,980
Transshipments via U. K.	678,779	685,911	347,233	410,900
Direct expts. from Calcutta	5,675,157	4,395,380	5,779,511	3,234,007
Total lbs...	11,164,672	11,515,735	13,084,232	7,655,887
CEYLON TEA.				
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K.	7,807,034	7,955,197	8,884,044	6,431,995
Transshipments via U. K.	1,375,919	1,504,773	1,087,099	679,132
Direct expts. from Colombo	22,641,230	17,792,772	19,407,875	16,539,542
Total lbs...	31,824,183	27,252,742	29,379,018	23,650,669



It should not be forgotten that the manufacture of Green and Uncoloured Tea produces a two-fold benefit, as it not only displaces other Green Teas in foreign markets, but also reduces the output of Black Tea.

INDIAN.—Although the auction was rather heavier than last week, the effect was to some extent counteracted by the reduced offerings of Ceylon Tea. Hence, the steadier tone noticed last week was fully maintained, prices in many instances becoming a trifle dearer, while buying appeared to be more general, good liquoring teas especially being well competed for, and common kinds slightly firmer. The following averages are worthy of note:—"Brit. Darj. Co. Thurbo" and "Darj. Con. T. Co. Singbulli," 1/3; "Selimbong," 1/1½; "Darj. Co. Phoobsering" and "Tara T Co.," 1/0½; "Budla Beta Co. B. B.," "Ass. Fron. Co. Ledo," and "Ang. Am. Co. Kolony," 1/0¼.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 38,358 pkgs., av. 7·89d. 1902, 31,307 pkgs., av. 7·58d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 359,903 pkgs., av. 7·89d. 1902, 364,464 pkgs., av. 7·19d.

CEYLON.—The improving quality of arrivals is having a good effect not only in imparting a distinctly better tone to the market, but also in reducing the supply of the commonest grades. All kinds were in strong demand, spirited bidding characterising the auction, with somewhat dearer rates, especially for the better descriptions.

Average for week 7·98d., against 7·13d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 823,433 pkgs., av. 7·46d. 1902, 926,587 pkgs., av. 6·70d.

JAVAS brought somewhat improved rates with good general competition, most of the teas being disposed of in the auction. Since 1st June 33,855 packages on Garden Account realised an average of 6·59d. per lb.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4½. Colombo 1/4⅓.

## COFFEE.

The *Produce Markets' Review*, reporting on the coffee market for the week ended the 3rd October, 1903, says:—With continued light receipts at the Brazilian ports and reports of drought having affected the growing crop, the terminal market has been particularly strong throughout the week, and quotations have daily advanced, closing at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. above last week. All markets have apparently become convinced that prices are going to a higher level than we had become accustomed to, and this idea has been only too readily encouraged from Brazil, where, of course, there is every desire to realize their abundant supplies at as high prices as they can obtain. News of short crops in other countries, notably Guatemala and Costa Rica, have helped the upward movement, and a good trade has again been done in mild coffee at advancing rates. The shortness of present supplies of those kinds has helped this, and a good profitable business has been done with old importations, which only a month or so ago were not saleable, excepting at a considerable reduction. The few lots of Costa Rica in auction fetched rates fully 2s. above the previous sale, some marks being from 8s. to 9s. dearer than they were six weeks or two months ago.

Greater firmness has been observable in this market since our last report, and the scanty supplies in public sale have gone off readily at again somewhat stiffer prices, viz.—625 bags East India plantation, faded small and greyish at 35s. to 39s., low middling and middling at 43s. 6d. to 55s.; 2,570 bags Costa Rica and Guatemala, low and ordinary at 30s. to 36s., fine ordinary and low middling at 39s. 6d. to 48s. 6d., middling to good middling at 50s. to 67s., coloury at 69s. 6d. to 73s., blue at 85s. 6d., peaberry from 42s. 6d. to 75s. 6d. up to 94s.; 354 bags Mexican, small and middling at 43s. to 50s., good middling at 61s. to 65s., bold at 79s. to 80s. 6d. peaberry at 70s. 6d. to 87s.; 1,920 bags Columbian and New Granada, very common at 24s. to 30s. 6d., ordinary at 35s. to 39s. 6d., low middling and middling at 41s. 6d. to 49s. 6d., greenish at 54s. 6d. to 59s. 6d.; 1,600 bags other Central American on similar terms, part Nicaragua at 33s. to 59s., and 78s. 6d., Coban at 35s. to 54s. 6d., and Vera Paz from 43s. to 62s. and 81s. 6d.; besides 1,540 bags Washed Dumont Santos, small and medium at 32s. 6d. to 41s.,



# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

## CURES

**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



bold at 4ls. 6d. to 48s., peaberry at 39s. 6d. to 49s.; and 1,500 bags Unwashed ditto at 33s. to 40s. per cwt. At first the market for Futures was in a buoyant condition, when good Santos for present and future delivery fetched 28s. 9d. to 31s. 7½d.; but since unfavourable advices speaking of much larger receipts at the Brazil shipping ports have been cabled there has been a relapse, and later transactions for October-September deliveries have mostly been at a material decline at from 27s. to 30s. 6d. Stocks of Coffee in the chief European ports on the 1st instant embraced 436,000 tons, against 376,000 tons last year and 240,100 tons in 1901.

### CEYLON TEA IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, *October 13th.*—Tea remained steady, but, apart from a little business in Ceylons, nothing was done.

MELBOURNE, *October 12th.*—Business has been done in Ceylon tea to the extent of 150 chests at 7½d. to 10¾d. Of Indians, 300 chests have been sold, partly from the recent catalogue and partly to arrive, at up to 8½d. In China tea, 50 half-chests medium Panyong have been placed. Colombo cable advices report that all common grades are firmer. Since the shipments per *Hobart* and *Fortunatus*, good common Pekoes have risen ½d., fine Pekoes ½d., and choice Broken 1d. The Calcutta sale last week showed generally a firm tone, and common leaf was a shade higher. —“Australian paper.”

### INDIAN TEA.

Messrs. George White & Co., in their Report, October 15, say: The firmness in the market noted last week has developed and the sales have passed with considerable spirit, prices for all descriptions ruling in sellers' favour. Quotations for common to ordinary show an advance of ¼d. from the lowest point, and it is satisfactory to note that medium kinds, which have of late been somewhat sluggish, fully participated in the improved inquiry. There was

no abatement in the competition for high-grade tea, broken kinds as before having the best of the market. Latest cables to hand reporting on the crop for the current month are to the effect that many estates are now only running level with last year. It will be remembered that it was in October, 1902, that the shortage in the outturn began to be demonstrated. South India was represented by some 4,000 packages. The unfavourable weather for quality experienced at the time of manufacture was in many instances evidenced in the want of flavour, but at the same time there was a fair proportion of invoices giving useful coloury liquors, and these met with the usual good support from the trade. For 38,300 packages on estate account 8d. per lb. was realised, versus 7¾d. per lb. for 31,500, and 7¾d. per lb. for 32,000 in the two foregoing seasons. Telegrams from Calcutta state that the 24,000 packages sold there on the 9th instant brought 5a. 7p. per lb., without much change being apparent in quotations. For to-morrow (Friday) 24,500 were declared.

### CINCHONA.

In auction 52 serons of Crown bark were offered and sold at from 9d. to 10d. for Loxa, and 10½d. for Huanoco. A further 16 serons of Crown bark were offered, and sold at 10d. per lb. Good bright Cartagena quill was limited at 5½d. per lb., and for 2 bales of Maracaibo bark a bid of 3d. is to be submitted.

### QUININE.

Although the unit at the Amsterdam bark-sale improved by 8 per cent. (the average unit paid being 7.45c. per half-kilo. against 6.90c. at the previous auction), no alteration was made in the makers' price of quinine, as was anticipated in some quarters. It remains at 1s. 1d. The second-hand market has been much quieter this week, and is the turn easier, with small sales of December delivery at 1s. 0½d., and March at 1s. 1d. per oz.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.89d., OCTOBER 16TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	483	6.76												
Nonsuch	97½c	8½	43½c	10	54½c	7¾								
Pillay Mullay	30	5½	30	6¾										
Prospect	108 p	6¼	30½c	6½	78	6 6¼								
Seaforth	110½c	6½	63½c	6½	29½c	6¼								
Vellingherry	88	6¼			38	6¼	31	6¾	19	5¾			18½c	7
"	50	6¾			24	6¼	26	7						
Travancore	3249	6.45												
Ashley	73	6¼			45	6	24	7					4	5½
Atchencoil	30	6¼			7	6¼	12	6¾	6	5¾	5	5¾		
Ellangy	67	5½			20	5½	20	5½	27	5				
Glenmary	153 p	6	50	6			29	6½	30	5¾				
Kan D H T Co G	509 p	6¾	162½c	6¾	146½c	6¾	74½c	7½	69½c	6½			44 p	5½ 6¼
" Kalaar	259 p	6¼	52 p	6¼	89	6¼	52½c	7½	40	5¾			58 p	5½ +6
" Munaar	254 p	6¾	111 p	6¾	53	6¾	52	7	29	6¼			26½c	5½ +5½
" Nallatanni	397 p	6¼	196 p	6½	114	6 6¼	57½c	+6¾	22	5¾			9½c	5½
" Periaavurrai	212 p	6¾	63 p	6¾	39	6¾	47½c	7¾	43	6			8½c	5½
" Sevenmally	315 p	7	92 p	7 10	79	6½	79	7¼	42	6			11½c	6
Poonmudi T Co P	98 p	6	45½c	6¾	37	6			16	+5½			23½c	5½ 6¼
S I T Co Kud. Kar.	142	6¼	64	6 6¼			39	6¾	39	5¾				
S T T Co Venture	133	6¼			60	6¼	46	6¾	27	5¾				
T T E Co Bon Ami	268	6¼	83	6½ 7	86	6¼	61	6½ 7			20	6	18	5½ 5¾
" Kolie Kanam	260 p	6¼	98	6¼ +6¾	83	6 6¼			36	6			43 p	5½ 5¾
" Munja Malai	79 p	6¾	14	6½	16	5½	34	7½			9	6	6½c	5½
Wynaad	466	6.35												
Askern	102 p	6	29½c	6	16	6	21½c	6¾	26	5½	10	5¾		
"	48 p	6¼	8	6			40½c	+6¼						
Erramaculla	86 p	6¼	19½c	6¾	10	6	25½c	6¼	6	6	14	6	12½c	6½
Kanabyle & Cher	36	6¼			27	6	9	7¼						
"	12	7¼			6	6¼	6	8						
Mootoomulla	62 p	6¼	15	6¼			32½c	7	11	5¾	1	5¾	3½c	6
Wynaad T Co Per	120 p	6¾			60	+6¼ 6½	60½c	+6¾ 7½						

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1903.

[No. 45.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 20th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*Weather*—North-East showers every two or three days; wind moderate. Temperature cool. *Coffee*—Generally cleaning up for crop, a little handling going on and shade lopping, also the usual weeding. *Crop prospects*—much better than expected; a fine flush on for next year. *Health*—Good. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—Roads awful.

### NOTES ON RUBBER.

In our present issue we publish some very interesting notes on Rubber Culture in Guatemala and Southern Mexico. These are the outcome of studies made by Mr. O. J. Cook, of the botanical staff of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, U. S. A., and are extracted from that gentleman's report on "The Culture of the Central American Rubber Tree." Mr. Cook is again on the spot making further studies which are directed primarily to the question whether rubber-planting is advisable for Porto Rico and the Philippines. The report will, however, afford useful information to all interested in the development of rubber-culture in other places as well as Central America, and to planters in this country who take up rubber as an auxiliary product. Mr. Cook has arrived at the conclusion that the practicability of the agricultural production of rubber has been demonstrated, but that it bids fair to become probable only under favourable natural conditions. These conditions are as yet but imperfectly understood, and it is precisely on this point that Mr. Cook's present and later reports should throw light. It is obvious that at present rubber-culture is vested with perhaps more difficulties than uncertainties than the cultivation of most other products. Any man who goes in for rubber must run the risk of grave disappointment. Yet from various

parts of the world have come, during the last few years, reports that point to the successful cultivation of different species of rubber-trees, and from a few countries we have had acres of successful experiments on a wider scale.

When the subject was first taken up there was a strong impression that rubber-trees would only thrive and yield rubber if left to grow wild. Early experiments perhaps tended to deepen this impression, but persistency won its way at last, and it may now be said to have placed beyond doubt that the production of rubber by planting trees is practicable. Naturally, where Nature has formed a rubber-forest, and time has brought about a large development of this in regard to the number, the height and the growth of trees, rubber is plentiful and cheap; but it almost invariably happens that such forests are situated in remote and usually very unhealthy tracts, so that the advantage derived from prolific yield is lost again on the difficulties of labour and transport. Mr. Cook writes with caution and reserve. Yet he has at least one very encouraging statement to oppose with regard to *Castilloa*, the rubber-tree with which he specifically deals. He says that its essential requirements yet require to be more fully known. But—here comes the remark to which we have alluded—he inclines to the view that *Castilloa* is not essentially a forest tree, but, even if it were, it does not follow that it should be planted under the same conditions as in the wild state. Planting *Castilloa* in the undisturbed forests he regards as clearly inadvisable; but as to the proper degree of shade or its absence, "each planter will need to use his best judgment in determining what local conditions require. . . . No general principles will determine what is best, because no one method is applicable everywhere." It has been found possible with many plants to increase the average percentage of starch, sugar, or oil through the planting of selected seed or cuttings, and Mr. Cook suggests the probability that a like result is possible in the case of rubber. There is, in the natural state, no uniformity in the yield of the rubber-tree of any given species, nor is such uniformity to be looked for in planted rubber. There are conditions under which rubber-trees may not yield any *latex*, whether wild or cultivated. Moreover, there is more than one species of *Castilloa*, and all are not of equal value as rubber-producers. For scientific investigation and for experimental cultivation there is, therefore, ample scope.



Here we would add a few remarks as to the fluctuations of prices of rubber. During the last twenty years or so these have, at times been very violent; but there has always been this satisfactory feature, that not once have prices gone below the level that would under fairly favourable conditions, leave a profit to the planter. In the United States the highest price ever reached was \$1.20 (5s.) in 1882 for Pará. In 1886 the range of prices at New York was from about 2s. 7d. to 3s. 5½d.; in 1890 as high a price as 4s. 2d. was reached; the following year there was a lower range, then came a period of minor fluctuations between, say, 2s. 9d. and 3s. 4d., then from 1896 to 1900 a sharp series of rises until 4s. 7d. was reached. From 1900 to 1902 the tendency of the market was downwards though in the latter year a recovery set in, and another rise, more steady than ever, occurred. Every great advance is usually put to the account of speculators, but it is worth noting that prices have frequently been at a very high level while stocks were unusually heavy; and that the harvest price (in 1899) belongs to a period of low stocks. These are matters that defy explanation, but it is safe to say that the probability is that, for some years to come, the tendency will be towards a rapid growth of rubber consumption and that, making allowance for failures that are almost inevitable, it is unlikely that production will grow more rapidly than demand.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Brazil Weather Conditions.**—Europe cabled Monday, October 12, that it has heard of rains at Rio.

Cable advices said that the *Brazilian Review* of October 6, said: "Rio and Minas drouth continues. São Paulo rain is not general. September blossom damage serious."

Messrs. Hellwig & Co., Santos, cables: "Conditions are not as satisfactory as we should desire; insufficient rains; weather fine again; holders waiting; withdrawn from market."

Messrs. J. W. Doane & Co., say: "Drouth continues in largest district of Santos, Janu."

**Java Coffee Going.**—Coffee culture in Java is on the wane, says a recent cable, and it is not impossible that in the course of time it may be given up entirely. The reasons for this are the exhaustion of the soil and the competition of Brazilian coffee.

**Cotton Bull in Coffee.**—It is generally reported, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, that William P. Brown, who recently cornered the cotton market, will presently strive to do the same in the coffee market, acting as a bull. He became a member of the Coffee Exchange in May last. Mr. Brown has refused to confirm or deny the report. Be that as it may, Wall Street, from whatever source, is entering the coffee future market with spirit and generous orders, believing that "undoubtedly there is opportunity for active business in coffee." The statement in Wall Street was to the effect that Mr. Brown is planning a move in coffee that will make as great a stir as his transactions in cotton.

The President will no doubt be called upon, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, to urge Congress to admit Porto Rican coffee within the sacred limits of our protective tariff

laws, but as the coffee is not a United States product, doubtless short shrift will be made of the appeal. This point is enlisted against all petitions in the colonies asking inclusion in our tariff laws. Besides, there are other reasons, some of which we have already stated. Much to the point is the argument of the *New York Post* when it says, with fine derision: "A duty on all coffee imported into the United States, except from Porto Rico, might be so arranged as to make every man, woman, and child in the island independently rich. We think that the scheme will fail, for two reasons. In the first place, the Porto Ricans have no votes in our Congress. Tariff favours are distributed according to political influence, and here Porto Rico is deficient—through no fault of its own, we admit. In the second place, the United States Treasury does not want the money which a tariff on coffee would supply. The Secretary is all the time searching for banks in which to deposit his surplus. Moreover, the example of serving our colonies as we serve ourselves might prove embarrassing at a future time when possibly the Philippines may present similar tariff requests respecting hemp or tobacco or sugar. The facts are against the Porto Ricans. We wish them well, but we do not wish them to 'tinker with the tariff'; that is, with our tariff." After all, the commercial needs adjust themselves naturally. Without being invited by Congress, we have enormously increased our use of Cuban sugar, and the same has happened with our use of Porto Rico coffee. But all the same, if national legislation must be invoked in behalf of the West Indies, let us include our adopted kin *de facto*, if not *de jure*.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—Actual coffee is firm at an advance of ½c. in Brazil grades over the close of one week ago, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 13th ultimo, whereas in futures the advance is 25 to 30 points, which has had its natural effect on the price actual coffee, making it higher. The trading has not been large, buyers being disinclined to come out extensively on the advance, yet holders have not offered freely, confident of a still further advance, owing to the activity and buoyant conditions in the market in futures. There last week considerable was done. The market early recovered from the reaction with which it began the week, receiving more encouraging cable reports on the drouth in Brazil and also many orders from Wall Street, which has confidence in bull situation in coffee, and is strongly disposed to invest, and is doing so. Exceeding active times in the immediate future are foreseen by usually sure and conservative sources, which go even so far as to predict 7c. for March options. It is worth while noting that the metal interests, which have been such heavily losing bulls, are very quiescent; scarcely doing anything at all, and content to follow where others lead. This fact is important and also its corollary that the bear clique is turning into a bull, which it was before the metal interest came into the market. This bear interest has been a shrewd reader of market conditions and actually foresaw the extreme conditions that have prevailed in the last few years, shaped its policy accordingly and reaped fortunes. All conditions point to this interest entering the other side of the market. The great loss of the bears will be the great gain of the bulls. The entrance, as an active trader, of the leading cotton bull, is also rumored.

It is believed that the new operations are not so much based on the bad weather reports in Brazil as on knowledge that the coffee plantations are so situated that they cannot produce



large nor good crops. The planters have been unable to meet expenses, and worse still, have been unable to borrow money to maintain the coffee trees in good condition. Fertilizing and other care of the trees have had to be neglected, with the results that the trees have impoverished their fructifying power, yielding less berries and berries of poorer quality. So it comes about that the crops being marketed and growing, are showing greatly reduced quantities and the berries are smaller and much inferior. It would seem that the extreme end of the lean years had been reached, and that the pendulum has begun swinging in the other direction. In other words, the reaction to better times has set in. The option market is now one cent. higher than it was one month ago, and is within three-quarters of a cent. of the boom prices of one year ago, occasioned by the report of frosts, which have turned out as bad as declared.

This activity and advance in the contract or option market will have its effect on the actual market, which must respond to the upward tendencies. Further improved conditions are expected this week on expected smaller receipts in Brazil. With Brazil a moderate business is being done; firm offers, as a rule, are above the parity obtaining in New York. In spot the market is firmer, but at light trading. The market closed at 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 8, 5 $\frac{5}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 7, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ c. for Rio No. 4, and at 6 $\frac{5}{8}$  to 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ c. for Santos No. 4. The jobbing business has been fair.

In mild grades the market is firm, but there has been no heavy trading, holders waiting for still better prices than those which rule. The advances tend to check business. East India coffees are steady.

\* \* \*

**New Orleans Coffee Futures.**—The Coffee Committee of the New Orleans Board of Trade held a Special Meeting last week, which was attended by the Cotton Exchange members, who have recently become members of the Board of Trade.

The object of the Meeting was to discuss the rules as they have been adopted by the Coffee Committee for the governing of trading in contracts for the future delivery of coffee. The rules were carefully considered, and it was decided to eliminate one clause, which provides that all brokers registering as future brokers in coffee will be required to contribute 50 cents for every 250 bags traded in to the Board of Trade for the maintenance of the coffee future department. It was decided that the rule would work a hardship, especially as future trading in coffee is a new venture in New Orleans. The rules, as re-considered, will be submitted to the Board of Directors for adoption.

\* \* \*

**Brazil Coffee Crop in July.**—The Brazilian Agricultural Bureau publishes the following on condition in July of the coffee crop:—

"Of the first district (Central Railway) there is nothing particular to report. Planters have reduced rates to 50\$000 per 1,000 trees for caring, and 300 réis per alqueire of berry for harvesting, without encountering much opposition.

"In the second district (Campinas) a slight frost fell at the beginning of the month, but not enough to damage the trees. The prolonged drouth is much more serious. Picking was nearly finished in this district, owing to the smallness of the crop. The coffee, however, is of good quality.

"Harvesting in the third district (Ribeirao Preto) is proceeding regularly, but owing to the lack of labour somewhat slowly.

"The Inspector of the fourth district (S. Carlos) states harvesting to be well advanced and expected to be finished by the middle of

August. The yield continues about 76 litres per arroba, the least being 73 and the most 80. The quality, however, cannot be considered good, the bean being very small, which makes separation more difficult. The trees are all in bud, which only want rain to open. Rust stains are appearing on the leaves, a sign of weakness. The drouth continues and a great many plantations have been abandoned. The trees bitten last year by frost have not yet flowered.

"In the fifth district (Sorocabana) the weather has been dry and harvesting has proceeded regularly. The Railway is also working well. Some planters at Monte Mor sold their crops at 5\$200 per arroba without distinction of quality.

"In the sixth district (Iguape) the crop will be 25 to 50 per cent. less than last year's, prices being from 3\$500 to 4\$500 per arroba."

\* \* \*

**The Leeming System.**—"Planter" writes to the *Madras Mail*:—"I have read with interest the article on 'The Leeming System' from a planting correspondent which appeared in the *Madras Mail* last Wednesday, and should like to be allowed to make some remarks on the article and the system. To begin with, it is quite a mistake to call the system after Mr. Leeming, as its origin is much older than the 'Scotforth' estate. In fact, it is the oldest system ever practised. It may be said to date back to the time of Adam, and the leaving of the growth of plants to Nature was continued by him and his sons till it was found that better results could be obtained by tilling the soil and improving on or assisting Nature by pruning and in various ways. It was in use on the Babubooden Hills when the first coffee-plants were introduced to India, and by many planters since. The method of pruning was adopted as it was found that by restricting the amount of wood and confining the nourishment to those parts of the tree alone that would bear crop a better quality was arrived at. Experienced planters do not ruthlessly cut off bearing wood. They did not 'prune and handle new wood to grow to be eventually cut off again' until it had served its purpose, and they found there was no loss of receipts from careful pruning as the smaller crop realised enhanced prices. A visit to the famous vine at Hampton Court will show the wonderful results of judicious pruning where more than half the crop is cut off, but the residue attains a size and quality which is impossible with the full crop. In these days it is all important to obtain a good quality of crop, but it has yet to be shown that the pruning system is the best to secure it. My experience is all in the other direction, and by referring to the Market Report of the sales I have not found that 'Scotforth' coffee stood very high in the list.

Your correspondent is not quite correct in saying that Mr. Leeming's trees grew matted as a result of manure and labour, but in my opinion as a result of a neglect of pruning while still topping the trees. Had they not been topped they would probably have grown in height. The trees would have found room for themselves perpendicularly if they could not find it horizontally. At the same time such matting is frequently the want of sufficient nourishment, the growth of the plant being in consequence stopped. The figures your correspondent gives of the improvement in the outturn of Mr. Leeming's coffee would be very reassuring could they be attributed to his system of leaving the trees to grow naturally. But from the whole article it is very clear that this cannot be done. It is very evident that Mr. Leeming cultivates more highly than he did formerly. The outturn of 1899-1900 shows plainly that the plants had not received attention previously, and the better result in 1902-03 shows the trees had responded to a more liberal treatment. But some of the improvement must be attributed to the proper cause, and that is a more favourable season, as it is well-known that outturns generally were much better in that year than they had been for some time. I have seen much better results from the ordinary system than Mr. Leeming can show. The above remarks apply equally to the number of bushels per ton of crop. But Mr. Leeming is surely wrong in saying he is convinced the figures would have been better than for any previous season had October, November, and December last not been so abnormally wet. These are the months of harvesting the crop. Why, the principal reason the figures are so good is that the rains were continued so long. I have seen the best crop produced during a wet harvest when it was difficult to dry the parchment, and indeed when the beans were sprouting on the barbecues. I would like very much to know if Mr. Leeming never gave more than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of poonac



to a tree? If that is the case and he did not, it must be a very superior kind of poonac. Has he not used some other ingredient than poonac alone? I am of opinion that he has, or he would not derive such results from the best kind of poonac in such small doses. I fancy your correspondent means fertiliser or mixed manure. Then again the system of draining is by no means a new custom. It is the very old one of trenching or pitting, the object being to prevent wash and to renovate the soil, and is followed on all well-managed estates. Mr. Leeming has not given up trenching. What he does is to make the trenches further apart and bigger. As a consequence of this draining the cost of the weeding is reduced to a minimum, as the soil from the drains is thrown over the ground and so keeps down the weeds.

While writing as I have done I do not wish to disparage any of Mr. Leeming's efforts to arrive at a better method of cultivation, and am obliged to your correspondent for his account of the system. All planters are too much interested in the matter not to welcome the results of experiments, but I wish to see the results attributed to the proper cause. Mr. Leeming's experiments are not sufficiently advanced for us to decide whether they should be generally adopted or not. His results are prospective in a great measure. He speaks of his expectations. It is not yet settled that the results he has achieved are due to the causes to which he attributes them. Has he never applied more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of manure to a tree? I think he must have and that after having given the plants an impetus he finds  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. sufficient to carry on the advance made.

The great aim in planting is to raise crops and of a good quality. With this in view it is important to nourish the plant in the first place, and with cattle manure in preference to everything else. If that cannot be obtained in sufficient quantity supplement it with a small quantity of artificial manure, containing a composition of the chemical ingredients of the soil. The plants must of course have room, and if you cannot give them room by judicious pruning it must be done by removing the obtruding plant. A tree left to Nature will grow large vertically and laterally, but the crop may in that case be beyond the reach of the pickers. Many branches are broken if the plant is not topped to a convenient height, and the crop lost. Mr. Leeming's system requires a few years' more trial when it is to be hoped he will give us the results again.

### TEA NOTES.

**Third Crop Japan Tea.**—Messrs. M. J. Brandenstein & Co. report, September 12, on Japan tea:—

"Since our last report the third crop has arrived. Prices are on a higher basis than last season. Sellers are very firm, in sympathy with firmness of the holders in the interior districts. Low grades are in demand, but on account of the wide difference in prices between asks and offers settlements are prevented. A moderate quantity is on the market, but arrivals are gradually falling off in consequence of country brokers holding back supplies for home consumption. Native reports are to the effect that pickings of third crop will be smaller than usual. Quality slightly inferior to last season. Style on an average about the same as last year. Total settlements since opening of season:—

		Current Season.	1902 to 1903.	1901 to 1902.
		Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Yokohama	...	183,299	159,392	172,064
Kobe	...	112,664	98,629	86,057
Total	...	295,963	258,021	258,121

**War Cloud Over Japan Tea.**—The threatening war clouds hanging over Japan and Russia concern tea-men, some of whom look for a "gerk" in the market should hostilities actually break out soon. A more thorough probing into possible consequences suggests rather a demoralization. It is probable that the Easterners would want to dispose of

their tea in a hurry and fling it upon the market for what it would bring. There would be no difficulty about shipping the tea in non-Japan bottoms, as the Russian fleet is insufficient to maintain an actual blockade of the Japan coasts and the other nations would never consent to a paper blockade. Besides, honors are even in the measuring of strength between the Russian and Japan fleets.

**China Tea.**—Hankow statistics from the Hankow General Chamber of Commerce Circular of the 7th October, 1903.

The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular of last year is estimated as under:—

	1903. ½-chests.	1902. ½-chests.
For London, America, and European Continent	194,632	147,105
„ Russia ...	532,140	507,000
	726,772	654,105

The export to 3rd instant, as per Customs Returns stands thus:—

	lbs.	Re-Exports. lbs.
Season 1903 × 1904	38,833,287	12,719,331
„ 1902 × 1903	37,181,491	13,403,529
„ 1901 × 1902	33,387,833	11,933,941
	1903-04.	1902-03.
	lbs.	lbs.
To Great Britain	6,174,516	4,743,794
„ United States and Canada	4,180,377	5,526,231
„ Continent	1,884,381	1,582,682
„ Russia in Europe	13,210,167	18,014,712
„ Russia via North	21,023,373	11,206,411
„ Shanghai	4,950,627	7,399,800

**Tea and the New Fiscal Policy.**—Writing on 16th ultimo the London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon* says:—Since I last wrote on the position and prospects of tea, a new factor, of far-reaching importance, has come into the case. Mr. Chamberlain, while yet Colonial Secretary, wrote as follows in the preface to Mr. Vince's pamphlet:—"Lastly, our free food friends will have to be a little more definite and a little more accurate. They will have, for instance, to explain why a transfer of taxation, say from tea to bread, would be disastrous; even though it benefited our industries and restored them to something like the relative position which they enjoyed twenty years ago." Speaking at Glasgow this month, in a position of greater freedom and less responsibility, he incorporated in his proposals a reduction in the tea-tax of three-quarters of the existing amount. This, naturally enough, gave a handle to his adversaries which they were not slow to lay hold of. They pointed out that the last twopence put on was for the purposes of the war, and would, in any case, be remitted at an early date. But this is not the view of the Chamberlains, *père et fils*. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, speaking at Acocks Green on Monday, said "he wished to register an earnest and respectful protest against a passage in the late Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech. Mr. Ritchie was talking of the proposal to compensate for any new food taxes which might be put on by removing some portion of the existing taxes on tea and sugar and other articles of common consumption, and he said that of these taxes on tea and sugar eight millions were raised for war purposes." After quoting Mr. Ritchie's words, he went on:—"It is not correct to say that these new taxes were imposed solely for the purposes of the war," and so on. Now, what does this mean? Well, it apparently



means this, that the two Chamberlains have talked the matter over and have seen, what indeed is clear enough, that it would never do for the son to steal the father's thunder. If these taxes are whittled away by petty reductions next year, a considerable part of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's case is gone. Assuming then that Mr. Austen Chamberlain is responsible for the next Budget, there is no reason to suppose that it will necessarily include a reduction in the tea duty.

**IGNORANCE ABOUT TEA.**—I have often had occasion to point out that the ignorance displayed by statesmen and politicians when they come to deal with matters connected with our industry is very great. Only the other day Mr. Lyulph Stanley, in treating of the new Russian duty, made the astounding statement that the trade in Indian tea with Russia (the direct trade) amounted to £16,000 only per annum. Speaking this week at Glasgow, Sir Henry Fowler, an exceptionally well-informed and temperate man, spoke as follows:—"A tax on tea or tobacco, whether it went up or down, affected the consumer; the Chinaman or the American did not pay the tax; every consumer had to pay the tax; and no portion of the tax went into any other pocket than that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer." Perhaps we could hardly expect Sir Henry Fowler to know, especially as it would knock the bottom out of the Free Trade argument, that the whole of the last increase in duty was not paid by the consumer; but he surely might have remembered that to speak of "the Chinaman" now-a-days when treating of the consumption of tea in the United Kingdom, is an anachronism. Liberal politicians please note that the tea drunk in the United Kingdom is now a British not a Chinese product. There is reason to fear that

**EVEN THE CALCULATIONS OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN** are not wholly without flaw. In all the estimates I have seen of the working man's weekly budget under the new conditions he is credited with the saving of the whole or three-quarters (as the case may be) of the existing impost on tea. So long as the price in bond of tea remains stationary this is all right. But can anyone suppose that you can sweep away the heavy tax on tea without putting up the price? If tea was duty free, or even if the tax was reduced from sixpence to twopence, the consumption and the wastage—a very important item—would be increased enormously, and I for one believe the price would rise appreciably. To the extent of the rise the calculations then would be vitiated.

All this, however, is mere theorising. We have got to look at facts, and the fact that stands out most clearly to-day is that Mr. Chamberlain's cause is gaining ground. One after another the organs of metropolitan opinion are becoming more favourable to him. The *Daily Telegraph*, which since the days of "the People's William" has always loved to sit at the feet of some Gamaliel, has elected him its special idol. The *Times* and the *Morning Post* give him a support less qualified every day. The *Empress* has supported him from the first. The *Mail*, which keeps its fingers closely on the pulse of "the man in the street," is in a painful state of wobble, and seems to be seeking an excuse to come round altogether. I am told that another Harmsworth organ, the *Weekly Dispatch*, has already done so. All these things show how the wind is blowing, and I think every impartial person must admit that the replies hitherto put forth in answer to Mr. Chamberlain are singularly weak. They consist chiefly in constant asseveration of the fact that the volume of our trade is increasing. This is very much as if a man added his income and expendi-

ture together and boasted of the amount. Or, as if a tradesman sold his goods for what they would fetch, and then called attention to the volume of his sales. We want to know a great deal more about our trade than can be gathered from a mere adding together of total imports and exports.

Living, as I am doing, fifty miles from London, I have been trying to pass the daily hours in the train by reading up the case. I am simply saturated with figures and exude "special exports," "quinquennial periods," and the rest of it from every pore; but I shall not inflict these on your readers.

**WHAT THE TEA-PLANTER WANTS TO KNOW**, I take it, is what will be his position when the duty is taken off tea, for that time is coming, and, perhaps, in the not distant future. The line of cleavage in political parties has been diagonal, as Lord Rosebery said it would be—and Lord Rosebery's instincts, as we know from Mr. Chamberlain, are always right. People in this country are rapidly grouping themselves into two camps—that of Protection, including Mr. Balfour's half-way house of Retaliation, and that of Free Imports. Whether Mr. Chamberlain is right or wrong does not affect the question. History teaches us that the Opposition, sooner or later, gets its lease of power. If the omens are worth anything at present it will be sooner; but the question of the effect on the tea industry of the abolition of the duty is a large one and cannot be dealt with to-day.

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**Colombo Tea Sales.**—On the 4th instant 10,690 packages = 863,886 lbs. were offered, of which 8,722 packages = 700,871 lbs. were sold. Messrs. Somerville & Co. report:—Demand was strong for all grades of leaf tea, but brokers were irregular as a rule. Quality showed a slight falling-off in some cases. Medium Pekoes were the kind most sought after, and these may be quoted as higher in price. Green teas were in poor demand and rather lower. Our private wire reads: "Ceylon teas at current rates are much enquired for and the sales have passed off with spirit."

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**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market is fairly active and fairly firm, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 13th ultimo. No large orders have been placed the past week, buyers seemingly only caring to come forward with orders that will suffice for current needs. Teas of better grade continue in request and command fairly full values. This is especially true of Formosa, Pingsueys, Country Greens, and Japans. Lower grades are abundant and easy. India and Ceylons are firm and unchanged, and the demand for Ceylon green continues steady; they are gradually being taken into consumption. Congous are unchanged; more than 2,000 packages were last week exported to England, which is disposed to take the low grades whenever a reasonable inducement is offered. Despite the large exports of this tea from this port the grade seems not the least susceptible to firming-up. It would appear that the entire stock will eventually be placed in England. Foochows are in no request at all, and so far relatively few packages have been imported. Large cargoes of tea are expected to arrive this month.

Canada reports a market rather barren of tea: indeed, so small a quantity as now in stock, has not been known in five years. Low-grade Japans are in special request, and are hard to obtain. High-grade Japans, of course, scarcely at all. Ceylon and Indias are active at firm rates.



The London markets are unchanged, but fair business is being done. Imports for the nine months ending September 30 were 181,000 pounds, against 189,000,000 pounds one year ago, and deliveries respectively 210,000,000 and 217,000,000 pounds. Stocks on that date were: Indias, 38,000,000 pounds, against 40,000,000 pounds in 1902; Ceylons, 22,000,000 and 25,000,000 pounds; Chinas, 14,000,000 pounds and 18,000,000 pounds; totals, 76,000,000 and 84,000,000 pounds.

\* \* \*

The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the second half of October, 1903: Calcutta, 10,017,274 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,300,746 lbs. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta, 9,517,274 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,689,900 lbs.; total from 1st April, 1903, to 31st October, 1903: Calcutta, 86,663,015 lbs.; Chittagong, 17,095,995 lbs. Total 103,759,010 lbs.; total from 1st April, 1902 to 31st October, 1902 96,446,413 lbs.

\* \* \*

The rise of exchange in China has its effect on the price of teas there, which in consequence rises or falls as exchange vacillates. The rise at present keeps the markets there firm.

\* \* \*

Tea, like coffee, finds great difference in the national taste. The kinds that will please one part of the Union will not please all other parts. Besides the difference in popular taste there is a difference in the quality of the water, and a variation of that character will always affect the flavour of tea made with the water.

Tea-drinking in Russia is almost as universal and continuous a performance as breathing. The kinds of tea preferred there are chiefly China Souchongs and Congous, and these teas are also, or used to be, preferred in Great Britain. So-called "English breakfast tea" is a mixture of these two classes of leaf. It is noticeable that in Russia, as in England, where tea is also very popular, blended teas are preferred. Indeed, it is probable that the large consumption of tea in Great Britain is principally due to the skill of the tea-blenders there.

\* \* \*

**Indian Tea Prospects**—A Report from Calcutta, dated 4th instant, says that the following telegram has reference to the tea crop of the various districts, despatched by the Tea Association there to the Association in London:—

ASSAM—Outturn last month good; immediate prospects fair; cold weather set in generally.

CACHAR—Outturn last month good; immediate prospects good.

SYLHET—Outturn last month normal; immediate prospects fair.

DOOARS—Outturn last month good; immediate prospects fair.

TERAI (sic)—Outturn last month normal; immediate prospects fair.

DARJEELING—Outturn last month good; immediate prospects good.

\* \* \*

According to U. S. Government statistics, the importation of tea during August was 12,723,243 pounds, of which 6,843,151 pounds came from Japan, 5,018,025 pounds from China, 355,739 pounds from the East Indies, and 288,439 pounds from the United Kingdom. The exports during the month were 298,565 pounds. Importations during the eight months ending in August were 50,355,961 pounds, against 47,172,874 pounds in the same period in 1902.

## NOTES.

### Preferential Tariff.

A member of the Tea and Produce Committee of the Ceylon Association in London is bringing forward the question of preferential duties for British teas, and the Committee will shortly consider the matter.

### Tapioca.

Increased cost of exchange and higher cost of labour have caused a number of tapioca factories to shut down in the East, says a New York paper. The product consequently tends to advance in price.

### Spices in the United States.

Imports into the United States of spices in August last were 3,855,844 pounds, Government statistics say. Included were 175,604 pounds of nutmegs and 1,852,949 pounds of pepper. Of the total 123,723 pounds were exported.

### U. S. Cocoa Importations.

Cocoa importations into the United States in August were 5,131,582 pounds, against 4,439,099 pounds in August, 1902. The total for the first eight months of the year was 44,775,096 pounds, against 36,749,564 pounds in the same period in 1902.

### Amsterdam Cinchona-auctions.

The ten auctions to be held at Amsterdam in 1904 will take place on the following dates:—

January 28	July 28
March 3	September 1
April 7	October 6
May 19	November 10
June 23	December 15

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

In considering the general outlook of the tea market at the present time, a noticeable fact has to be taken into account. Grocers who were at one time in the habit of keeping large stocks of tea have for some time accustomed themselves to buying just sufficient to cover their immediate requirements, trusting, no doubt, to those distributors who, in large centres, have made a specialty of supplying the trade with certain teas suited to the requirements of their customers. So long as the supply of tea has been adequate for immediate purposes the old custom of stocking a quantity has fallen into disuse, and the majority of retailers seem content to buy sparingly on the hand-to-mouth principle. The situation has not yet led to any movement in favour of accumulating stock, the idea being, it would seem, to trust to Providence in the form of the blender should any pinch come.

As previously pointed out, the tea duty question is in a fair way towards reduction or removal. Whether Mr. Chamberlain or the "Free Traders" prevail in the contest, there is hope that the obnoxious duty, or the greater portion of it, will go. Lord Goschen, speaking on Friday night at the Passmore Edwards Settlement on the taxation of food, said, with reference to the proposed reductions in the tea and sugar duties, that these were war taxes which the working classes might well expect to be removed in any case. Sir John Gorst, M.P., also spoke in general concurrence with Lord Goschen's views.



A correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* sees in Mr. Chamberlain's proposal for the reduction of the tea duty something sinister. The consumer, according to this correspondent, would only benefit for a short time, and the "result of reducing the cost of tea by 4d. per lb. would be to encourage the importation of cheap China teas again, in competition with Indian and Ceylon teas, Preferential tariffs being the policy of the country, the Indian and Ceylon tea-planters would claim to be protected from China—a claim it would be impossible to resist. A higher duty being then placed on China tea, up would go the price of tea generally, and the benefit now held out as a bait by Mr. Chamberlain would disappear." According to this correspondent's argument Mr. Chamberlain is merely holding out a bait to the consumer by which ultimately tea-growers alone would benefit. We have had this story before. It is simply another version of the imagined "corner" in tea which growers in India and Ceylon are supposed to be yearning after.

In the *Review of the Trade of India* in 1902-03, just issued by the India Office, attention is called to the fact that the marked increase in the exports in 1901-02 to the highest value till then recorded was followed by a further rise in value last year of 3·8 per cent. Though the quantity of tea exported last year was slightly larger than the much diminished exports of 1901-02, and nearly nine million pounds below the exports of the previous year, the results were, both as regards the actual minimum and the general average of prices, the worst of the recent years of depression. The early closing of the season belied the unfounded anticipations of a large crop, which, owing to the overloaded state of the market, had unduly depressed prices, and the total production in India as now ascertained is less by 2·7 million pounds than in the previous year; but the advance of prices consequent on the certainty of a moderate crop did not take place till too late in the season to raise the average price. The diminished productiveness of the crop owing to unfavourable weather and shortness of labour cannot, in itself, be a subject of congratulation, but it is entirely a healthy sign that large additional areas are not coming into bearing, and this with fresh and expanding markets available warrant the belief that equilibrium has been established between supply and demand.

In coffee, owing to the anticipation of smaller supplies, better prices were realised than in the previous year, the average price in London for East India plantation coffee in 1902 being 60s. 1½d. per cwt., compared with 47s. 3½d. in 1901. The over-supply of Brazilian coffee, which depresses the prices of all descriptions, does not, however, give signs of any permanent diminution. Improvement is noticeable in the quantity exported last year, but not in the declared values, which is probably due to the absence of a local market and a quotation of Indian prices. The last season appears to have been favourable, but it is impossible to ascertain the real position of the coffee industry in Southern India, owing to the withholding of statistical information and the inaccuracy of estimates of the yield, which, in 1901, gave a total of the reported and estimated production amounting to little more than half the quantity exported. About one-fourth of the exports is taken by France, and the conclusion of an arrangement, by which Indian coffee is to continue to be assessed at the minimum rates of French tariff, removes the menace of differential treatment, which at one time threatened the Indian industry.

The local tea market, says the Sydney correspondent of the *Grocer* has just passed through a season of excitement over the annual Government tea tender. The price fixed this year for the supply of Government institutions is 6½d. for a blend of Indian and China tea. As this price is below the present landed cost of clean, sweet, wholesome leaf, the event naturally presented an opportunity for clearing the market of low, common, undesirable stocks. The whole business, together with the acceptance of the tender entirely outside of the tea trade, has given rise to a good deal of scandal.

At the opening course of lectures to be delivered to grocers' assistants by Dr. R. Stewart MacDougall, M.A., during the ensuing Winter, at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, last week, Mr. John Wilson, of the firm of Honeyman & Wilson, and ex-M.P. for Edinburgh, gave an account of "Tea-Planting in Ceylon,"

as seen by himself during a recent visit to the island. After a long and interesting description of tea-growing, manufacture, and packing in Ceylon and Northern India, the lecturer, speaking of the growth of the tea trade, recalled the time when, as a boy, he was sent to pay a duty of 2s. 2½d. at Leith on the commonest Bohea, the price of which in bond was 1s. 3d. per lb.; now the duty was 6d., and the average price of Ceylon tea on the London market 8d. When they considered the 250,000,000 lbs. of tea imported last year from Ceylon, and that it was grown by British industry, he thought it needed neither a Prime Minister nor an ex-Colonial Secretary to point the moral. Moreover, they must remember that the Anglo-Saxon race was the largest tea consumer in the world. In this country the yearly consumption was 6½ lbs. per head, in New Zealand the same, in Australia 7½ lbs., and in Canada 4½ lbs. Russia consumed 1 lb. per head—the bulk of the population, of course, was very poor; Holland 1½ lbs., and Germany and France 2 oz. and 1 oz. respectively. Owing to the enterprise of Ceylon growers, the exports to France were increasing, however, and "afternoon tea" was becoming a feature.

With regard to green tea Mr. Wilson said this tea, which was merely tea unfermented, was only seen in the low country of Ceylon. Unlike the green tea of China, it had no colouring matter added, and perhaps did not on that account present so attractive an appearance; but there was a growing demand for Ceylon green tea in America and Canada, and he thought there was an opening for enterprising English growers in this respect; to his taste it was very agreeable, and preferable to the Chinese product.

The coffee-growers of Porto Rico know how to push their coffee: the St. Louis World's Fair Commission of Porto Rico has decided to send to the Exposition 200,000 or more quarter-pound packages of coffee for free distribution. These packages will be tastily prepared, and will be imprinted with the arms of Porto Rico and with a copy of a letter from President Roosevelt to Governor Hunt, in which the President warmly praises Porto Rico coffee sent to him by the Governor.

## THE RUBBER SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

Any material decline in crude rubber prices must result from a wider margin than now exists between supply and demand, says the *India Rubber World* of 1st ultimo. In other words, there must be (1) a check to the rubber industry, or (2) an increased production of the raw material. The first condition, of course, no one wishes to see, besides which no reason is apparent for predicting its occurrence in the near future. Then what is the outlook for more rubber?

An encouraging fact is that the production of Pará rubber has been steadily progressive from the beginning. The total exports from the Amazon river amounted in 1864 to only 7,840,000 pounds, and in the 38 years since only in eight cases has it happened that the output in any one year failed to show an increase over the preceding crop. In 1902 the figure was 62,809,500 pounds, and the trade in general looks for as much rubber this year. To take the last ten crop seasons (July to June) the rate of increase or decrease in the yearly arrivals at Pará has been as follows:—

1893-94	... + 3·9 %	1898-99	... + 14 %
1894-95	... — 1·3 "	1899-00	... + 5·2 "
1895-96	... + 7·8 "	1900-01	... + 3·5 "
1896-97	... + 6·4 "	1901-02	... + 8·5 "
1897-98	... — 0·03 "	1902-03	... — 0·35 "

No study of statistics or conditions has yet revealed any law of increase or decline in production in this field, or a basis for prediction in any year. Two years ago an important Liverpool firm staked their reputation on a prediction that the next Pará crop would show a shortage of 20 per cent., and that the price would go to 4s. 6d. The crop actually showed a gain of 8½ per cent., and at the end of the season Pará rubber was selling at about 3s. The general attitude of merchants and traders on the Amazon is that of never expecting short crops, the reasons for which are well set forth on another page of this Journal by a Pará merchant of long experience.

Some criticism has been elicited by the article by Mr. Paul Cibot, reprinted in the last *India Rubber World* from a French



source, relative to the extinction of wild *Hevea* rubber, which he regards as an ultimate, though not imminent, certainty. Mr. Cibot has been a careful observer, for the last seven years, of rubber conditions on the rio Bénì, and his views are entitled to respect, though the experience of the state of Pará would suggest that in Bolivia, as in the lower Amazon region, the collection of rubber will continue even after the period of the richest yield of the trees is past. Long as the rubber fields of Grão Pará have been worked, they now yield more rubber than ever before. The annual increase was rapid until, in 1893, the crop reached 8,000 and some hundred tons, at which figure it remained for six years, the upriver output, from virgin fields, meanwhile increasing 25 per cent. Latterly the exports from Pará state have increased to over 10,000 tons, due probably to some extension of the area worked, as well as more judicious treatment of the trees. The Pará output is now being increased some by the discovery in that state of Caucho, the receipts of which last season were 310 tons, against 85 tons the year before, and almost nothing previously.

A correspondent at Pará writes, bearing upon the continuous yield of old rubber estates: "Only a comparatively small percentage of the rubber trees on any estate are worked. There are always plenty of fresh trees near the *estradas*, and if the manager of the *seringal* is a man of enterprise (which is by no means likely to be the case) he will search out and tap new trees as fast as the old ones die out, and this will keep up his quantity for an unlimited time. The life of a rubber tree which is tapped every season will not be more than 40 years, and when the work is not carefully or judiciously done, the tree will die out in less than half that time. For this reason it is plain to be seen that new rubber fields must be opened from time to time."

The Amazon exports include of course, the grades of rubber known as Caucho, obtained from other trees than the *Hevea* species. From all accounts it appears that the collection of Caucho involves the destruction of the tree, so that new fields must constantly be sought by the *caucheros*, for which reason a falling-off in the supply has long been looked for. The *India Rubber World* (October 1, 1901) has published an exhaustive study of the rubber production of Colombia, which, after reaching a very large figure, has declined to almost nothing. That rubber is of the class marketed as Caucho. The *caucheros* moved from Colombia to Ecuador and thence to Peru, everywhere exhausting the sources of supply. The trade in this rubber in Iquitos for awhile was very large, but it has now declined untill business generally at that port is in a depressed condition. And yet Caucho continues to come to market, because of new areas being opened to exploitation. The decline so long expected has not yet begun, unless it is to be seen in the fact that the export through Pará last year was smaller than in the preceding year; the totals for several years having been:—

Years.	United States.	Europe.	Total.
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
1888	643,902	423,200	1,067,192
1892	930,225	735,067	1,665,292
1897	858,839	1,214,173	2,073,012
1901	1,325,290	2,638,599	3,963,889
1902	1,133,155	2,057,222	3,190,377

Certainly the limit of this large production must be reached in time, for the whole of the Caucho producing district, just as has occurred already in Colombia, Ecuador, and an important portion of Peru, after which the reliance for uncultivated rubber in America must be the *Hevea* trees of the Amazon region—the only rubber species that, in the wild state, is not destroyed in the extraction of its product.

The falling-off of the rubber output of every important field thus far worked in Africa has been referred to often in the *India Rubber World*, and though new fields are opened from time to time, the total output is smaller now than it was a few years ago. The statistical summaries supplied by Hecht, Levis & Kahn (Liverpool) indicate that the yearly receipts of rubber at the leading markets of the world have been distributed as follows:—

Season.	Pará sorts.	Other sorts.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1898-99	23,329	26,818	50,147
1899-00	24,422	26,655	51,077
1900-01	25,255	25,224	50,479
1901-02	27,171	22,888	50,059
1902-03	27,446	25,713	53,159

It would thus seem that the yearly receipts of Pará sorts have increased at a steady, though not regular rate, the figure being larger by 17.6 per cent. last year than for 1898-99. On the other hand, the highest figure for all other sorts combined was reached five years ago, since which time the yearly average of such receipts has been about 1,700 tons less than for the season 1898-99.

There was a time when the world's consumption of rubber was supplied almost wholly from Pará. Then the Indian and African sources were developed, until their production exceeded that of the Amazon regions. During five years past, however, according to the figures in the preceding table, the percentage of other than Pará grades in the combined receipts in the markets, has been as follows:—

1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.
53.4 %	52.1 %	50 %	45.7 %	48.3 %

To sum up: Pará grades again form the larger half of the world's supply. The rate of increase in the Pará output seems likely to be less rapid in future, especially as that output comprises Caucho—a grade destined to practical extinction. Madagascar and Assam sorts are practically gone, as are several West African sorts, and even the Congo output grows less rather than larger. It is possible that some of the unworked districts may be opened more speedily than now seems likely, but it now appears entirely safe to regard the limit of the world's rubber production, as a whole, as more nearly reached than at any time in the past. This condition does not inspire any hope of lower prices, to say the least.

## THE C. P. A. CARDAMOM COMMITTEE.

### FURTHER INTERIM REPORT.

A Meeting of the Ceylon Cardamom Committee was held on the 2nd November, 1903, at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, at 1-30 p.m. in the afternoon.

A statement of accounts was submitted showing receipts Rs.1,909.18, against expenditure Rs.547.68, leaving a balance of Rs.1,361.50 at date.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

After consideration of correspondence and connected papers and data the following Resolutions were passed:—

I. That the Chairman communicate with Russian merchants regarding introducing cardamoms into Russia direct.

II. That the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce be communicated with to obtain the views of the Chamber regarding the advisability of holding regular public sales of cardamoms.

III. That a Report by an Agent employed by Mr. Renton be published.

IV. That the Commissioner at St. Louis Exhibition be supplied with samples of cardamoms of different grades up to the value of Rs.500, if required for distribution to the trade.

V. That Mr. Renton be thanked for his letter.

The Cardamom Committee then adjourned.

### THE AGENT'S REPORT.

The Agent's report referred to in the Resolutions is as follows, names being omitted for obvious reasons:—

I now beg to give you the result of my enquiries into the cardamom trade in Germany.

From enquiries made at all the principal sausage manufactories, as, for instance, to mention only one—in Brunswick, I was informed that these manufactories employ a very minimum quantity of this article; spiced meat preparations are not nearly so much in favour as formerly. In Gotha and the south you may be able to do more. Enquiries made at the oilmanstore-dealers' in Brunswick and Hanover convinced me of the truth of this statement, and, further, I was assured that pastry cooks, confectioners, bakers, and private families only use cardamoms in really infinitesimal quantities. Here, again, I found this fact confirmed by personal enquiries in the confectioners' shops. These respective businesses find one or two pounds more than enough in one year.

A very important firm in Hanover referred me to the large firms owning spice mills in Bremen, Hamburg, Leipsic, and Hanan, which certainly use the largest quantity of cardamoms. But for these the inferior sorts suffice, as the less good or somewhat damaged qualities only are ground up. The full perfect capsules are never milled. In Bremen I visited, amongst others, the largest spice firm—who admitted that they buy large quantities of cardamoms. They get these from firms in Ceylon, who consign the goods to Bremen. One of their principal places, where they make good



sales, is *Russia*, where spice is consumed in larger quantities than in Germany. But I do not consider it advisable to work in Russia, unless you have trustworthy and direct representatives. Other representative firms in Bremen spoke in the same way, so that, as far as Bremen is concerned, the article is entirely in the hands of the importers, who have their own mills, who sell to dealers, who in their return supply the retail with very minimum quantities. The demand by the last is so small, it would not pay to supply them direct; then the carriage on the small packets of one or two pounds would only pay if sent with other goods.

The representatives in Bremen of—are in daily touch with all the important houses, as they meet always on the exchange. I have asked them to make more enquiries, obtain more precise information, and let me hear from them. They themselves would not be indisposed to take up the article themselves on commission.

Hamburg is for cardamoms, as for all Colonial produce, by far the largest market on the Continent. The article is imported in very considerable quantities, as the statistics, which I obtained at the Bureau for Trade and Commerce, show:—

Imports in 1900	106,000 lbs.	460,000 marks	£23,000
„ 1901	64,800 „	280,000 „	£14,000

The returns for 1902 are not yet available. The shortfall in 1901 is astounding. This must be a result of the outturn of the crop for that year, and consequently the crop for the following year must be all the bigger. For cardamoms have never been so cheap and depressed as at present, in consequence of large offerings from so many quarters.

On the other hand, the consumption does not appear to have decreased, though at the same time it has not increased—as confirmed by the opinion of the largest spice firm in Hamburg. This firm buys 1,000 chests of 70 lbs. yearly, and principally cardamoms in capsules, as the so-called cardamom seed finds less employment. The first is ground with the skin and distributed in this way through second and third hands to the consumers—by confectioners, pastry-cooks, and private families in small doses at a time. The quality and prices vary much; and what is remarkable is that the fruit with the skin is often dearer than the pure seed. Russia especially provides a large field for disposal of the article. Prices depend upon the quality, and run from 4 to 6 marks per kilo—draws some of his supplies direct from a firm in Colombo.

Malabar cardamoms seem to be preferred to Ceylon. Two large firms of spice dealers in Hamburg confirmed the report that cardamoms are an important article in the Hamburg trade, and are often sold 100 chests at a time. One buys generally at auction in London: he had just bought 200 chests of 70 lbs. each. The price at present fluctuates between 3 and 4 shillings per lb. (?) all depending on quality. There are other firms in Hamburg and Altona interested in cardamoms. A London firm says it can buy 100 lbs.-chests at 200, 220, 250, and 300 marks, but these must be damaged or inferior quality. They can sell in *small quantities* to the consumers—the seed at 2'85; the better fruit in capsules at 5 marks per lb. (?) This firm manufactures special preparations for confectioners, etc., and carries cardamoms and cinnamon as accessories to their regular trade.

My private opinion is that it will be exceedingly difficult to increase the consumption of cardamoms by any outside or artificial means. The only possible way would be to advertise in a large way, in order that the article—which is known only by name in certain circles—may awaken further interest and become more enquired for. Cardamoms are a spice which outside of North Germany are hardly known in the trade, and it may be possible, by suitable advertisements, to create a real increase in the consumption. I cannot, though, conceal the fact that a very large sum will be required, and that the return in increased consumption on the capital thus employed for advertisement will be very slow in coming back.

BREMEN, *And June*; HAMBURG, *13th June*, 1903.

## TEA IN EUROPE.

(From *Capital*.)

### I.—INTRODUCTION.

The series of articles to appear under the above heading will embody the main results of personal observation by the writer during special tours recently made by him in the interests of Indian tea.

In these tours most of the principal Continental States were visited, and, as will be seen, the conditions in individual countries were found to vary greatly. But, with the solitary exception of Turkey, one feature at least was common to them all, *viz.*, the insignificance of the share yet secured by India in their total Tea trade.

The use of tea as a beverage is admittedly growing in almost every European country; private enterprise has already done a

little, as by opening tea-rooms, etc., in the larger towns such as Paris, Rome, Hamburg, to foster the demand; while the Indian and Ceylon tea-stalls at various Continental exhibitions have also helped in some degree. But it cannot be expected that the tea-habit can make any substantial progress until some method is devised of enabling the Continental consumer to procure better tea at less cost,—say good Indian teas at moderate rates—in place of the mostly inferior China kinds at high prices, generally his only resource.

So far (excepting the very recent action of Russia) the duties levied on tea, though often high, are not differential; India, therefore, has a fair field, if no favour. But more than this is needed: a proper share in the tea-markets of Europe should not be beyond India's reach.

An impression seems to have grown up of late that the problem will solve itself—that the merits of Indian tea must tell; and that it will soon find its way by the natural trade channels into Continental favour.

To some extent, perhaps, this may be so; and it is true that the shipments to Continental ports are yearly increasing. But to the Continental consumer—and the consumer after all is the final arbiter in trade—Indian tea *as such* is still practically unknown. It does no doubt reach him occasionally in blends; but as these are usually supplied under Chinese or Russian names, India derives but little benefit.

Moreover, the conditions—fiscal, social, and commercial—are so difficult in many parts of the Continent, and differ so widely from those of Great and Greater Britain, that he would be a sanguine man indeed, who should expect to see repeated abroad the history of British-grown tea in England, where, for instance, between 1877 and 1900, Indian and Ceylon teas, in 22 years, grew from being only 19 to over 90 per cent. of the total consumption. That Great Britain which had long been a tea-drinking country should readily welcome the excellent produce of her own great dependencies was only natural. But the Continent for the most part has the tea-drinking habit still to acquire: such taste for tea as does exist has been educated largely upon China kinds, while neither fiscally nor sentimentally can India of course claim any special favour.

The conditions abroad being thus practically reversed, it is difficult to believe that the policy of *laissez faire* or *laissez aller* can have any rapidly successful results. Even in Great Britain, time, as we have seen, was a considerable factor: under the less favouring circumstances on the Continent it must be a far greater one unless counterbalanced by the energy of an active propaganda.

It would really seem as if there were only one way in which to secure for India its merited share in Europe's tea trade, *viz.*, by creating a demand among the *consuming public itself*. This can only be done by an organized plan, well-backed and steadily pursued—by a policy of “push” in fact. Unless some such active policy be soon, and vigorously, set in motion, it is likely that the time required for Indian tea to find its own level in Europe may be so long as to place the whole problem beyond the range of “practical politics,” for the present generation of Indian planters.

Still, unpromising though the untilled field may look, it is not infertile, and would repay the tillage. In other words, actual experience has shown that, wherever pains have been taken to introduce the right class of Indian tea, the Continental consumer has usually proved a ready convert. It would, therefore, seem as if it were chiefly a question of making Indian tea better known—of bringing it more directly under the consumer's notice—to induce the desired demand. In this direction Ceylon, it is generally admitted, has worked more effectively than India; with the result that in the larger part of Europe Ceylon tea is far more widely known than is Indian. It is true, of course, that Ceylon's energy has also indirectly benefited India, and we venture to think that the Indian planters should not only regard their Ceylon fellow-workers as their best allies, but should take a lesson from them and do their fair share of pushing British-grown tea abroad.

That there is plenty of room for work, a few figures will show. We may take the population of Europe, excluding the British Isles and including European Russia, as about 340 millions. The total weight of tea consumed within this area at present, as far as can be ascertained, is some 166,000,000 lbs. annually. Of this about 36,000,000 lbs. only are British-grown leaf, or little more than 20 per cent. of the whole. Now there appears to be no good reason, except absence of effort, why at



least a considerable portion of the other 80 per cent.—a trade of 130,000,000 lbs.—should not, if properly attacked, be captured for India, and this is not all.

In spite of high tariffs which might be modified, and of generally poor quality—which is easy of remedy, the use of tea on the Continent is distinctly increasing. Thus, for example, Russia and Germany, together show an advance from 98,000,000 lbs. consumption in 1895 to 132,000,000 lbs. in 1900—a growth of some 34 per cent. Of the total for 1900 about  $21\frac{1}{2}$  was British-grown tea, but it is doubtful whether as much as one-third of this come from Indian gardens. The figures for all Europe given above show a present annual consumption of rather under  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of tea of all kinds per head of population, against some 6 lbs. in the United Kingdom. It does not seem beyond reason to imagine that, by an active policy—facilitating the supply of good tea to the consumer whilst cheapening its cost—European consumption might within an appreciable time, be increased to, say, 1 lb. per head. This, were it accomplished, would mean a demand for, say, 170,000,000 lbs. more tea. If only a portion of this were drawn from India—and the amount of the portion would depend largely upon the energy expended in Continental “pushing”—it should go far towards absorbing India's surplus of production. According to Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's interesting tables, the world's entire surplus—i.e., excess of production over consumption—was in 1900 under 30,000,000 lbs.

It is thus evident that even a little stimulus judiciously applied to Europe's taste for tea might have far-reaching results for the great tea industry of India.

In subsequent papers the problem will be dealt with in the several countries individually, beginning with Italy, then Turkey, Austria, etc.

### COFFEE AND TEA.

*American Medicine* says:—

“Whatever one may think as to the physiologic action of caffeine it is agreed that it is not ‘a food,’ and that the amount of money thus wasted by the poor could and should be spent in buying real health-bringing and strength-giving foods. This economic aspect of the question also becomes doubly important both as a medical and financial matter when one finds these articles [tea and coffee] on the dietaries of all our public institutions. Should so much of the public money be spent on articles of drink, non-foods? And the custom has many bearings on health. The more coffee and tea drunk, the more tobacco is used. The national consumption of coffee and tea, moreover, rises almost accurately *pari passu* with the amount of alcohol used. Is it not true, as a rule, that intemperance in the one co-exists with intemperance in the other? Is not the temperance problem closely bound up with this of the use of coffee, tea, and alcohol? If so, and even if not so, coffee and tea are unnecessary and peculiarly harmful to children.”

We cannot let so strange an attack upon coffee and tea pass without comment, notwithstanding that the peculiar views of *American Medicine* are not very likely to make many converts. The absurdity of this attack must indeed defeat the object of the author.

The talk about caffeine—what does it amount to? Nothing, absolutely nothing. People do not drink tea and coffee in order to obtain a dose of caffeine, and in the case of coffee at least there is pretty good evidence that the article, as usually prepared, has important food value.

What sense is there in the parallel between coffee and tea-drinking and the consumption of tobacco? Millions of women here and in Europe drink both beverages freely, yet touch no tobacco, and in the Orient, where tea is practically the only drink, tobacco is not a universal favourite.

What if alcohol does increase in popularity with coffee and tea? Is it not reasonable to believe that alcoholic drinks would have been much more freely consumed if there had been no general use of tea and coffee? Common-sense teaches that coffee and tea have made the nations sober, as compared with the extravagance in drinking in our grandfathers' or great-grandfathers' days. People interested in the growth of temperance can only regret that tea's consumption *per capita* is practically stationary.

It is possible that tea and coffee are harmful to children; we believe they are harmful, and we would debar their use when the

child has not nearly completed his growth, except when the food ration is scant and innutritious. In such cases children probably benefit by the use of tea and coffee, if the liquor is made quite weak, as it generally is in the poorer families.

As for the economical question, perhaps nobody can understand how great a blessing a cup of tea or coffee can prove, unless one has lived the life of a half-starved denizen of the poorest quarters of a great city. The spirit and comfort to be derived by the ill-fed inhabitant of the slums from coffee or tea, and especially the latter, cannot well be estimated by the student who absorbs either of the drinks as the concomitant of a plentiful meal of rich and nutritious meats, etc., and considering that a pound of 50-cent tea furnishes from 200 to 250 cups of beverage, he must be poor indeed who must go without tea because of inability to buy it.

In connection with this economical side of the question is to be considered the direct nutritive value of coffee and the indirect nutritive value of both coffee and tea. It is late in the day to point out how a cup of either beverage has the undoubted power of causing food to be not only more thoroughly relished but also more nutritious, and therefore we forbear to dwell upon this point, but we urge all medical papers and the lay Press also to put no obstacles in the path of either tea or coffee, until the millennium is near at hand, and poor, tired, weak-willed, self-indulgent, and self-pitying humanity has finally said good-by to all travail, all bitterness, all sorrow, and all disappointment. Until then, leave us our coffee and our tea, and raise not out of the imagination horrible phantoms and chimeras dire for the destruction of two harmless products, when so much remains to be done to bridle the demon alcohol and chain the imps that the indulgence in cocaine, opium, and other deleterious drugs have let loose in the land.

### CEYLON TEA OUTTURN FOR 1904.

We are now near enough to the end of the year, says the *Times of Ceylon* of 5th instant, to arrive approximately at the total output of Ceylon tea for 1903. The monthly exports for 1902 and 1903, according to Chamber of Commerce figures, with additions roughly estimated by ourselves to complete the remaining months of the present year, stand thus:—

#### MONTHLY EXPORTS OF BLACK TEA.

	1902.	1903.
	lbs.	lbs.
January	11,050,212	11,032,667
February	10,018,071	11,203,362
March	11,777,143	10,625,890
April	12,782,715	11,895,390
May	12,637,046	13,671,944
June	17,660,676	15,597,676
July	15,671,431	13,615,076
August	11,384,929	11,315,637
September	10,628,487	8,706,170
October	9,707,260	9,300,000 *
November	9,400,936	9,100,000 *
December	12,181,529	11,500,000 *
Total	144,900,435	137,563,812

The black tea totals for the various countries to the 2nd instant are as follow:—

#### BLACK TEA DISTRIBUTION FOR TEN MONTHS.

	1902.	1903.
	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom	85,898,518	79,613,480
Russia	10,376,411	6,714,727
Rest of Europe	1,156,472	1,488,398
Australia	16,141,368	16,602,611
America	3,968,002	5,002,619
All other ports †	5,275,584	6,978,520
Total	122,816,355	116,400,355

The quantity of green tea for which certificates have been granted from the 1st January to the 31st October, 1903, is 9,272,986 lbs.; but the Chamber of Commerce (and the Customs)

\* Estimated.

† Including 3,830,380 lbs. and 5,931,958 lbs. for China in 1902 and 1903, respectively.



know of 6,958,429 lbs. only, to November 2nd, as properly declared when shipped, and this quantity has been distributed as follows:—

GREEN TEA DISTRIBUTION FOR TEN MONTHS.

	1902.	1903.
	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ...	554,570	838,145
Russia ...	106,435	120,527
Rest of Europe ...	...	31,139
Australia ..	...	400
America ..	1,110,085	5,940,189
All other ports ...	26,931	28,029
Total ...	1,798,021	6,958,429

The P. A. estimate at the beginning of the year was 154,000,000 lbs., inclusive of 12,000,000 lbs. of green tea; and the probable distribution of the crop then given is appended:—

	lbs.
United Kingdom ...	96,000,000
Russia ...	14,000,000
Rest of Europe ...	2,000,000
Australia ...	21,000,000
America ...	14,000,000
All other ports (India, 1,000,000; Africa 1,000,000; Far East, 5,000,000 lbs. =)	7,000,100

Total 154,000,000

The indications are a total outturn of 3,000,000 lbs. less than last year, and 8,000,000 lbs. less than this year's estimate. This 8,000,000 lbs. shortage on the estimate may be divided into 6,500,000 lbs. black and 1,500,000 lbs. green if calculated by manufacture, but if by ships' manifests then 4,500,000 lbs. black and 3,500,000 lbs. green tea. In other words, the Chamber's totals of export will figure out at about 137,500,000 lbs. black and 8,500,000 lbs. green, against the P. A. estimate of 142,000,000 lbs. black and 12,000,000 lbs. green, and against true shipment figures of, say, 135,500,000 lbs. black and 10,500,000 lbs. green. In the distribution table for the whole year—the ten months' figures appear on our "Overland" cover issued with to-day's paper—the chief variations will be, approximately, 8,000,000 lbs. increase for America (including 6,500,000 lbs. of green tea); and 6,000,000 lbs. decrease for Russia, largely explained by an additional 4,000,000 lbs. for China, of which 2,000,000 lbs. may be set down as due to the sudden diversion of shipments from Odessa to Dalny for the last quarter of the year. Of minor items there will be improved figures for Malta, France, and various countries of Northern Europe; and smaller shipments to India and South Africa than were expected. The estimated export to the U. K. will be found remarkably close to the actual figures. Regarding the arrangement of the Chamber's export table, the Secretary might make a note, for use from the beginning of next year, that Malta, being part of Europe, should come in the middle of the list of countries instead of at the foot.

TEA IN CANADA.

(From the *Canadian Grocer*.)

TORONTO, October 8, 1903.

A very good movement is reported for tea just at present. The demand on spot for good common Indian and Ceylons is quite active, but supplies barely exist. Pan-fired Ceylon greens are also good sellers. China greens are selling rather freely notwithstanding that prices are very high, values having recently advanced in Shanghai, owing to the scarcity of fine teas and the very unfavourable rate of exchange for export. There is not much change in local prices, but it is worthy of note that the stocks in this country are lighter than for years.

MONTREAL, October 8, 1903.

Trade during the week has shown no special features. Japans are in fair demand and a few shipments of common have been turned over at 16½ to 17c. Ceylon blacks are a shade easier for low grades. In Ceylon greens cable advices to hand show a firm market, with good demand. Auction prices this week were firm. In China teas the advance in Chinese exchange added to a higher first cost, is enhancing the value of importations shipped since middle of August about 1c. to 1½c. per lb., according to grade. Indian blacks are ruling easier; but to offset this, the teas coming forward are said to be distinctly inferior in quality. The statistical position in both Ceylon and Indian is very strong, being fully 5,000,000 lbs. under last year at same time.

RUBBER PROSPECTS IN THE AMAZON COUNTRY.

Being asked to favour the *India Rubber World* with his views on the future of the supply of Pará rubber, Mr. Rudolph A. Zietz, of Pará, who is at present in New York, expressed himself as follows:—

"I do not believe, as far as human judgment can foresee, that the output of rubber of all species, from the territory drained by the Amazon river and its tributaries, will ever be permanently 'short.' On the contrary, I believe more in estimating an average yearly increase, though not at the same ratio as in the last 25 years, during which it has risen from about 7,000 to 30,000 tons. It is likely that in some years the crop may show a small shortage, but it will be counterbalanced by a larger crop in the following years. This gradual and steady—but from now on slower—increase will be the natural consequence of the constant opening up of new regions, the extension of facilities for transportation, and improving sanitary conditions along the Amazon. The quicker and better means of communication are enabling people to protect themselves more against the climatic conditions, and to hurry away in case of sickness

"In a good many of the rubber districts permanent settlements of rubber collectors have developed, and they are becoming acclimated and learning to brave the peculiar hardships of life there. The work of collecting rubber can be done with comparatively fewer people to-day than formerly. I do not believe that the supply of new rubber hunters by immigration will be larger than heretofore. It is claimed that the material available from the north Brazilian states, willing or able to endure the privations of life in rubber gathering, cannot be materially increased, and as to the Indians, the principal reliance in the remote districts, I do not think that additional forces worth speaking of can be obtained. However, this question of labour, in view of the sanitary and other improvements stated above, will not to any extent interfere with the natural increase of the annual output.

"I do not doubt that in the course of time enthusiastic prophets will arise, predicting all sorts of things about very large or small crops, to further their own speculative ideas and interests, and by doing so disturb the course of the consuming markets. I may for instance cite the prophecies for the crop year of 1901-02. Some people predicted a very small crop—as much as 20 per cent. shortage. These prophecies were plausibly based on the presumption that the severe financial crisis at that time existing in Pará and Manáos (a natural reaction following senseless overtrading and other commercial errors) would interfere with supplying the necessities of life to the rubber gatherers, to the extent that work in some districts would have to be abandoned. Well, it turned out that the 1901-02 crop surpassed the previous crop by about 8 per cent. Those prophets had not taken into consideration that a great portion of none too honest rubber gatherers, who had been working under masters, apparently abandoned their territory without delivering to its owners the rubber they had gathered, but in some way the rubber found its way to market.

"The proper control of the labour at some interior points is an impossibility. Many of the poor ignorant gatherers cannot withstand the temptation of making what they consider a fortune in a short time, without paying any attention to the wrong they do to their masters, who advanced the necessities of life to them in good faith. Many *aviadores* (merchants who do the trading in the interior) who were largely indebted to the Pará and Manáos merchants were, in consequence of not getting the expected rubber, unable to meet their obligations, and thus assisted in causing the financial crisis. I feel convinced that all available rubber trees, worth tapping, were tapped, and will always be tapped.

"After the time, many years ago, when rubber ceased to be exported in the shape of shoes, the state of Pará was the first to inaugurate the collecting of rubber on a large scale and exporting it in its present shape. In the course of time Pará has been far surpassed in the quantity of output by the state of Amazonas and other upriver districts. Almost the whole state of Pará has now been explored, and consequently the output of rubber from this quarter will remain more or less stationary, though it may yet show a slight increase, independent of the fact that the year 1902 showed an exceptionally large output for Pará state. But the



upriver districts will be the great factor in the gradual general increase of the output of rubber from the Amazons. In a good many districts in Pará the rubber trees have become exhausted and abandoned, but as the Almighty is the best friend of Brazil, I suppose that new trees will appear in time, and that the now abandoned districts may be re-opened.

"When the whole rubber area of the upriver regions, undoubtedly containing many virgin districts, has been fully developed and explored, many trees will be abandoned or exhausted, just as is the case in the state of Pará. One hopeful feature is that people are endeavouring to take better care of the trees and give them a 'rest' now and then, and introduce better systems of rubber gathering. Whether rubber plantations will ever be successfully established or whether the Brazil's paternal government will try, in its own interest, through wise and practical advice, to stimulate the slumbering energy and good common sense of its obedient and docile, but intimidated subjects, is hard to say. The good people on the Amazon are too much accustomed to shutting their eyes and trusting in Providence.

"You might quote the opinion of a clever and patriotic Brazilian politician, expressed at Rio de Janeiro many years ago, of the character of his own countrymen:

Comquanto nós estejamos accordados o paiz atraze 2 passos, no nosso somno Deus, mesmo contra a nossa vontade, nós puxa para deante 3. [meaning in English: Whilst we are wide awake during the day, our country goes back two steps, but when asleep God pushes it against our own will three steps ahead.]

"Thus nature will push the rubber output of the gigantic, beautiful, and marvelously favoured Amazonas, and if it fails in one corner it will be made up in another, and with it the whole rubber business will go ahead in Brazil, giving to everybody concerned a chance to make money, or lose it. In any event, I am convinced that for many years to come Brazil will be able to furnish large quantities of rubber, unsurpassed in quality by the product of any other country and perhaps not approached by any."

### SOME CONCLUSIONS REGARDING RUBBER CULTURE.

BY ORATOR F. COOK.

The concluding chapter of a late publication by the United States department of agriculture contains the following:—

The culture of the Central American rubber tree has passed the experimental stage in the sense that the practicability of the agricultural production of rubber has been demonstrated, but, on the other hand, it has been ascertained that the tree may thrive where it will yield little or no rubber. Under favourable natural conditions the culture of *Castilla elastica* bids fair to become very profitable, but the experimental determination of the factors which influence the production of rubber has scarcely begun. [The spelling *Castilla*, instead of *Castilloa*, has been adopted at Washington, on account of its being the original form.]

In Southern Mexico and Central America the regions well adapted to the culture of *Castilla* are much more limited than has been supposed. The presence of wild *Castilla* trees is not a sufficient evidence that a locality is suited to commercial rubber culture.

Differences in the yield of rubber are not due merely to the existence of different species and varieties of *Castilla*, but are also controlled by external conditions.

The functions of the rubber milk in the economy of the plant are not well understood or agreed upon by botanists, but there are numerous reasons for holding that in *Castilla* and many other plants it aids in resisting drought.

A continuously humid climate is not necessary to the growth and productiveness of *Castilla*; the indications are rather that the quantity of milk and the percentage of rubber are both increased by an alternation of wet and dry seasons.

In its wild state *Castilla* does not flourish in the denser forests, but requires more open situations. It is confined to forest regions only by the perishability of its seeds.

*Castilla* thrives better when planted in the open than in the dense forests; even young seedlings are not injured by full exposure to the sun, providing that the ground does not become too dry.

The planting of *Castilla* under shade or in partially cleared forests is to be advised only on account of special conditions or as a means of saving labour and expense.

The loss of the leaves in the dry season may be explained as a protection against drought, and does not indicate conditions unfavourable to the tree or to the production of rubber.

The falling of the leaves of *Castilla elastica* in the dry season renders it unsuitable as a shade tree for coffee or cacao. In continuously humid localities where the leaves are retained shade trees are superfluous and the yield of rubber declines.

The desirable features of shade culture, the shading of the soil, and the encouragement of tall upright trunks, are to be secured by planting the rubber trees closer together rather than by the use of special shade trees. Planting closer than 10 feet, however, is of very doubtful expediency.

The percentage of rubber increases during the dry season and diminishes during the wet. The flow of milk is lessened in dry situations by inadequate water-supply, but at the beginning of the rains such trees yield milk much more freely than those of continuously humid localities. The claim that more rubber is produced in the forest or by shaded trees seems to rest on tapping experiments made in the dry season.

Continuous humidity being unnecessary, the culture of *Castilla* may be undertaken in more salubrious regions than those to which rubber production has been thought to be confined; the experimental planting of *Castilla* in Porto Rico and the Philippines becomes advisable, but extensive planting in untried conditions is hazardous.

No satisfactory implement for the tapping of *Castilla* trees has come into use. Boring and suction devices are excluded by the fact that the milk is contained in fine vertical tubes in the bark, which must be cut to permit the milk to escape.

In British India it has been ascertained that the Pará rubber tree may be repeatedly tapped on several successive or alternate days by renewing the wounds at the edges. The yield of milk increases for several tapplings and the total is unexpectedly large. It is not yet known whether multiple tapping is practicable with *Castilla*, or whether this new plan may not give the Pará rubber tree a distinct cultural advantage over *Castilla*.

The gathering of rubber from trees less than eight years old is not likely to be advantageous; the expense of collecting will be relatively large, and the quality of such rubber is inferior, owing to the large percentage of resin.

The rubber of *Castilla* is scarcely inferior to that of *Hevea*. The supposed inferiority is due to substances which can be removed from the milk by heat and by dilution with water.

### A BRANCH TEA-HOUSE IN CANADA.

The consumption of the teas of India and Ceylon, both in Canada and the United States, has, says the *Canadian Grocer*, grown during the last decade to such proportions that many of the London and Eastern tea-houses have found it expedient to pay steady and close attention to the requirements of the Trans-Atlantic markets, and agencies have been established in nearly all the larger cities on this side. This action on the part of the English tea-houses is an indication of the value placed on the Canadian and United States trade by the more progressive English houses and the planters of India and Ceylon. When it is considered that of the 100,000,000 lbs. of tea imported into America last year 25,000,000 was produced by India and Ceylon, it is not to be wondered that London, Calcutta, and Colombo are giving thought and consideration to this trade, and that branch houses are being established in the larger distributing centres. Of those tea-merchants who have studied and watched this particular trade the house of Harrisons & Crosfield, London, and its Eastern branches, Crosfield, Lampard & Co., Colombo, and Lampard, Clark & Co., Calcutta, have taken a step which will undoubtedly be of great moment, not only to their respective houses but to the tea trade of Canada and the United States as well. Mr. A. Lampard, of the London house, some few months ago visited this country and the United States, and made a thorough canvass of the various tea-distributing centres of the continent. His investigations and experience led to the opening in Montreal of a branch house under the name of Crosfield, Lampard, Clark & Co., and offices and sample rooms were opened in the Coristine Building. Mr. A. J. Williams, who was for many years



on the London tea market, has been appointed General Manager for North America. Mr. Williams is an experienced and expert tea-man and his appointment is a tribute to his ability. Associated with Mr. Williams is Mr. A. Suter, who has also passed through the London tea market with many years experience. It is the intention of the firm to branch out and develop the trade in Indian and Ceylon teas, and agencies will be opened in the larger American cities as the trade requires. Owing to the growth of the trade in Indian and Ceylon teas in the United States, which trade, rapidly as it has developed in the past few years, is but in its infancy, it will no doubt be found necessary to open up further agencies. It will be the province of Mr. Williams to cultivate and stimulate the demand for Indian and Ceylon green teas in this market and to supply the grade of tea suitable for same.

A representative of the *Grocer* visited the offices and sample rooms this last week, and through the courtesy of Mr. Williams a description of same was furnished him. The sample room is large, airy, and well-lighted, with every modern convenience for tea sampling and drawing, well and systematically arranged shelves, canisters, tea-drawers and tasting counters, and desks and tables for the clerks and typewriters. The private office is also fitted up conveniently and is on a smaller scale a duplicate of the larger one, so far as it contains a tea-sampling counter and appliances. All the supplies in connection with the sampling outfits were secured in London, and everything is of the latest and most convenient types. Counters, desks, and tables are of finely-polished quartered oak, and it is indeed one of the best equipped and handsomest tea sampling rooms on the continent. Mr. Williams is to be congratulated on having secured such splendidly equipped offices. The location is right in the centre of the tea and wholesale grocery trade of Montreal, and that city is favoured in being selected as the headquarters for the American branch of such an old and well-established tea-house as Harrisons & Crosfield. The *Grocer* is pleased to find another evidence of the importance of Canada in the eyes of its English friends in the establishment of such an important branch house in this country.

## RUBBER CULTURE AND FINANCE.

From an important source at Chicago the following information with reference to rubber culture has been issued, and is published in a financial contemporary:—"That the rubber industry will soon become a most important one admits of no doubt. As yet it is comparatively new; for it was only about the year 1840 when Goodvear discovered the process of vulcanising rubber, giving it its varied and almost innumerable uses.

"Since then the commercial value of rubber has enhanced rapidly, until now fortunes await those who can raise this precious product successfully. The rubber bicycle tyre alone doubled the demand for rubber, and the many new uses, such as tyres for automobiles and other vehicles, electric insulation, and ocean cables, are doubling and trebling the demand. With this increased demand the supply of rubber is constantly decreasing, owing to the destructive methods used in gathering. As the rubber tree is a tropical growth, and the native of the tropics is often a slothful worker, he destroys where no easier method is found, cutting down the tree or ringing it with cuts, and millions of trees are thus destroyed, which will require the planting of thousands of acres to replace. So, with the demand increasing and the supply decreasing, the present price of rubber will not only be maintained, but will surely advance. The cultivation of the rubber tree will never be followed extensively; for rubber is grown in the tropics where few civilised white men can be induced to go, irrespective of the prospect of great fortunes which are being made there now, and will be made there in the future.

"The natives of Africa, Brazil, and the Indies are indolent and slothful, an example of which was shown when the French Government in Central Africa supplied the natives with seeds and young shoots of rubber trees to plant and cultivate; but no planting or cultivating was ever done, they preferring to carry on their destructive methods of gathering the rubber milk, having neither the patience nor energy to plant and cultivate trees, which require time and attention before the young seedlings will bear. The Pará rubber tree of Brazil is another instance; while it produces a very fine grade of rubber, it is a swamp growth. It requires twenty years of growth before yielding its rubber, which is no inducement for cultivation.

The Mexican rubber tree requires only six years of growth before yielding, and grows under climatic conditions more favourable for cultivation than the jungles of Africa or the swamps of the Amazon. These advantages have been brought about by a peculiar condition of the country physically, which condition lies largely in the arrangement of the mountain ranges lying north and east of Soconusco, keeping out the cold winds of the north and condensing the moisture of the Pacific into rain. From this condition there has been formed a very limited district from which the yield of rubber will never form more than a comparatively small part of the entire output of the world.

"While many rubber companies have been started up in the past few years, encouraged by the large profits in rubber, most of these have simply turned out stock-selling schemes, with apparently little thought of the duty of proper selection of land for the cultivation of rubber, and with seeming disregard of contracts with shareholders for conscientious planting and cultivating of rubber trees. Again, there are other rubber companies backed by men of good reputation; but many of these men, unfortunately, know nothing of rubber culture, and their lack of knowledge and experience can only be followed with unsatisfactory results. To La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation Company belongs the credit of being the most successful company now engaged in the culture of rubber trees; for their plantation has been producing rubber commercially for many years. They have now a grove of 5,000 trees, planted in 1889, producing on an average over £3 to the tree—a production of 50 per cent. in excess of the amount the company's figures of future profit are based upon. These are facts no other rubber company can show, and, with the plant of the past three years, the company has over 1,000,000 trees under cultivation and 2,000,000 trees in the nursery. The Zacualpa plantation is situated in the department of Soconusco, State of Chiapas, Mexico—a locality where, as rubber experts have expressed it, 'the rubber tree grows spontaneously'—which is largely accounted for by the splendid arrangement of the mountain ranges, as before stated. Conservative management and nearly four years conscientious work on this plantation have placed La Zacualpa first on the list of plantations devoted to the cultivation of rubber, it being the only one that has solved the problem by actually producing rubber in commercial quantities from cultivated as well as wild trees. Their trees are planted in squares of some 28 acres, each containing 10,000 trees, with roads 24 feet wide between the squares. This plan allows of the most careful supervision, and the actual number of trees planted can easily be ascertained.

"On September 8, 1899, La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation Company was organised under the laws of the State of California, and purchased from Mr. O. H. Harrison 18,791 acres of land in the department of Soconusco, State of Chiapas, Mexico, the title to which is perfect and free from all encumbrance, Mr. Harrison becoming one of the company and its resident director. At the time of purchase Mr. Harrison was shipping many thousand pounds of rubber yearly from La Zacualpa to Cotesworth and Powell, 148, Leadenhall-street, London. The company at once made plans for the systematic development of the land, and set apart 12,000 acres suitable for rubber cultivation. Mr. Ashmore Russan, the English rubber expert, who paid a visit to this plantation, states in a letter to this company as follows: 'As regards the suitability of your land for the cultivation of the *Castilloa* (or Mexican rubber tree), I can only say that it is black alluvial of a very great depth, and I know of none better. The location is all that could be desired for rubber cultivation, having all the conditions necessary as to elevation, depth of soil, rainfall, and climate; the general surface is level, but sufficiently rolling for good drainage, and is intersected by a number of sanjones, or ditches for carrying off the surface waters. The titles to La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation were thoroughly investigated before the purchase of the property, and passed upon by the best legal authority, everything being found in order and the chain of title perfect.' Since acquiring title the company has been shipping rubber regularly in commercial quantities from its own cultivated and wild trees.

"Its success has not only attracted the eyes of President Diaz, of Mexico, but likewise the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., the Hon. James Wilson, who has appointed Mr. O. F. Cook, botanist in charge, Department of Agriculture, and his chief assistant, Mr. G. N. Collins, to study rubber cultivation on La Zacualpa. These gentlemen have spent some time on the plantation, making a careful study of the situation, and have returned



with full material for a report to be made to the Department, which will be published in due time and illustrated with photographs taken during the trip. From letters received, their report, when issued, will be one of the most interesting bulletins published by the above Department. The management of this plantation have it all times courted a personal investigation of their work, with the result that they are able to present an array of testimonials and endorsements regarding the merit of their plantation. It is the purpose of La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation Company to interest the outside public in their work. Shares in La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation are not capital stock of a corporation, and carry none of the responsibilities and obligations, or liability to assessment of capital stock, but represent an undivided interest in the plantation itself. The 12,000 acres comprising the plantation are divided into 12,000 shares, each share representing one acre of land, and the holders of shares in La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation are the actual owners of one undivided acre of land for each share held, with a guarantee expressed upon the certificate by La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation Company, under its official seal, to plant 200 (300 trees to the acre have been planted, and belong to the shareholders) or more rubber trees per acre for each share sold, and to care for same for a period of five years, and at the expiration of that time to gather the first harvest and deliver the net proceeds thereof to the shareholder.

"In other words, La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation Company sells to each shareholder one undivided acre of land in La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation, with 200 or more rubber trees five years old, and their profits for all time, for each share sold, and agrees to plant so that the first harvest belonging to a shareholder is the one to be gathered from La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation during the sixth year from the date of the certificate. After the delivery of the first harvest La Zacualpa Rubber Plantation Company will care for the plantation, and harvest and market the crop for 10 per cent. of the net proceeds therefrom. Out of this commission the company agrees to pay all costs of administration, including maintenance of its home and branch offices."

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 27th October:—

The following members were present:—Messrs. T. McMorran, *Vice-Chairman*; G. Kingsley; Geo. A. Ormiston, and T. Traill.

**Louisiana Purchase Exposition.**—The principal subject dealt with was the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Particulars of preliminary arrangements in connection with the Association's exhibit were given, and attention was drawn to the desirability of preparing the ground at St. Louis by advertising, and in other ways before the opening of the Exhibition.

In connection with this matter it was decided to inform the London Committee by telegram of the amount guaranteed, but indicating that the whole sum was contributed exclusively for the purposes of the Exhibition. The London Committee were also to be informed that the Tea Cess Committee were in communication with Mr. R. Blechynden regarding the advertising of Indian Teas in America.

The amounts subscribed for the purposes of the exhibit were as follows:—

	Rs.
The Government of India	75,000
The Government of Bengal	10,000
The Assam Administration	10,000
The Government of Madras	5,000
The Government of Mysore	5,000
The Indian Tea Cess Committee	50,000
The Indian Tea Association	20,000
The United Planters' Association of Southern India	10,000
Total ..	1,85,000

With this sum it was considered that a very attractive and successful exhibit should be possible. A sum of £2,000 for preliminary expenses was to be placed to the credit of the London Committee with the National Bank of India in accordance with their request.

**Industrial and Arts Exhibition, Madras.**—Read letter dated 17th October from the Acting Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, forwarding papers in connection with this Exhibition. The project, it appeared, was being promoted by private enterprise and was intended to comprise articles of Indian manufacture and art, Natural products of India of commercial value, implements and machinery useful for the promotion and development of indigenous industries, and generally, all things tending to assist in the agricultural and industrial development of India. It was considered that the Exhibition was of more particular interest to Southern India, and it was decided to pass on the papers to the United Planters' Association of Southern India for information, and any action they might consider advisable.

**Sale of Waste Tea.**—Read a note from the Chairman with reference to the question of the disposal of Waste Teas. From information received, it appeared that Waste Teas were being largely bought by natives in Cachar and Sylhet on a guarantee that they were to be used exclusively for chemical purposes, but were actually being resold for human consumption to the detriment of the tea industry generally. The Chairman suggested issuing a circular drawing attention to the imperative need, in the interests of the Tea Industry, of every care being taken to prevent tea waste getting into the hands of unscrupulous dealers.

It was decided after some discussion to ask the Chairman to endeavour to obtain, if possible, further particulars in support of the general statements of his correspondent.

## THE CEYLON PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

### COMMITTEE MEETING.

Extract from minutes of proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Monday, the 2nd November, 1903, at three o'clock in the afternoon (3 p.m). Mr. A. C. Kingsford, *Chairman*.

#### GUARANTEE FUND AGAINST FRAUDULENT LOSS OF TEA FROM TEA FACTORIES.

Submitted letter from Mr. Frank S. Vowler mentioning that nothing further has been done in the matter so that it need not be pressed in Committee.

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY, WEIGHT AND QUALITY OF TEA CHESTS TENDERED.

Submitted correspondence with Honorary Secretaries of the various District Associations drawing attention to the accompanying copy of letter received from the General Manager of the Ceylon Government Railway on the subject of weight and quality of Tea Chests tendered to the Railway for transmission by train.

Read letters on the subject from the Honorary Secretaries, Balangoda Association, Nuwara Eliya Association, Pussellawa Association, Kalutara Association, Haputale Association, the opinions recorded being that the change advocated is impracticable, not desirable and unnecessary.

#### PRIZE ESSAY ON PRUNING OF TEA IN CEYLON.

Intimated that the Judges were not yet prepared to give their award.

#### RUBBISHY TEAS IN COLOMBO HARBOUR.

Intimated that no progress could be reported.

#### SPECIAL LEGISLATION RE CACAO-STEALING—CACAO THEFTS COMMISSION.

Read correspondence with Government in forwarding the following

**Resolution:**—"That pending Special Legislation, Government be asked to invite the Government Agents in the various Cacao Districts to use special influence in getting the headmen and Police to try to check robberies and sales of cacao in the open thoroughfares, during the coming crop. The Committee would point out the success attending the personal efforts of Government Agents last year in the Matalé District."



SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR CACAO DISEASE—PLANT SANITATION  
ORDINANCE NO. 5 OF 1901. PROPOSED REGULATION FOR  
THE PREVENTION OF CACAO DISEASE.

Read correspondence with Government with regard to the proposed Regulation for the Prevention of Cacao disease, and again enquiring whether the Planters' Association has any suggestions to offer on the Regulations for the prevention of Cacao disease which it is proposed to promulgate under Section 3 of Ordinance No. 5 of 1891.

TEA PESTS SPREAD OF "SHOT-HOLE BORER."

Read correspondence with Government transmitting copy of the following Resolution:—"That the Planters' Association of Ceylon is now of opinion that the majority of the District Associations are in favour of Legislation on the lines indicated by the Government Entomologist (Mr. Green), and that Government be asked to legislate accordingly against the spread of Shot-hole Borer pests in Tea.

Read letter from the Pussellawa Association intimating that the Resolution of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon on the subject has been unanimously approved of.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Balangoda Association, transmitting the following Resolution:—"That this Association, has much pleasure in supporting Legislation on the lines indicated by Mr. Green."

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Haputale Association, stating that in the opinion of this Association, it is desirable that, in addition to Legislation on the lines suggested by the Government Entomologist, the burying or burning of prunings upon those estates attacked by the Shot-hole Borer be made compulsory.

*Resolved*, "That the Resolution as follows: 'It is desirable that in addition to Legislation on the lines suggested by the Government Entomologist, the burying or burning of prunings upon those estates attacked by the Shot-hole Borer be made compulsory—passed by the Haputale Association on the subject be circulated to the various District Associations for consideration and that in the meantime Legislation be proceeded with on the lines already adopted'."

ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION, 1904.

Submitted letters from the various District Associations on the subject of Exhibits for St. Louis Exhibition, 1904.

Submitted letters received from the Honorary Secretary, Passara Association, Rangella Association, Maskeliya Association, Maturata Association, Hewaheta Association, Dimbula Association, Kurunegala Association, Kelani Valley Association, Pussellawa Association, Balangoda Association.

Submitted letter from the Secretary, Exhibition Committee, Colombo, transmitting the following notification:—

Notification *re* exhibits of Black and Green Teas.

Two leaded packets (weighing 2 pounds each) of the different grades should be forwarded, one for exhibition and the other for the use of the Juries.

Manufacturers of Green Teas are specially requested to send in samples for Exhibition.

BURYING OF PRUNINGS.

Mr. Kelway Bamber addressed the Committee on the burying of prunings and answered questions of Members. *Resolved*, "That a cordial vote of thanks be recorded to Mr. Kelway Bamber."

PROTECTION OF COCOANUT TREES FROM THE RAVAGES OF CERTAIN  
BEETLES.

Read letter from the Government Agent, Western Province stating that his views on the subject were communicated to Government about four years ago, when he was Government Agent of the Eastern Province.

Read letter from the Government Agent of the Eastern Province, suggesting that copies of the Ordinance passed in the Federated Malay States be procured and circulated.

Read letter from the Government Agent, North-Western Province, asking for more copies of the Malay States Ordinance.

Read letter from the Government Agent, Central Province, stating that he was aware from experience in the Eastern Province that Black and Red Beetles do much harm to young cocoanut estates there, adding that if Section 3 of Ordinance No. 5 of 1901 provides for the repression of indigenous insect pests and not merely of imported insect pests, all that is wanted is Regulations under that Clause for the punishment of persons allowing their trees to be infested with the Beetles, which in the Eastern Province generally spread from carelessly-kept gardens to adjacent well-kept estates with serious results.

Read letter from the Government Entomologist stating as follows:—"That the only means of satisfactorily checking the continuous increases of these pests is to systematically destroy all dead palm trees and rubbish heaps liable to afford breeding ground for the beetles.

"This fact has been fully appreciated by the Cocoanut Planters of the Federated Malay States, who have called for and obtained an Ordinance for their protection."

"The Ordinance makes compulsory (1) the proper treatment of all infested trees; (2) the destruction of all dead cocoanut trees; (3) the removal or destruction of such refuse heaps as would be liable to harbour or become breeding places for the beetles.

"A periodical inspection is provided for. A European Inspector of cocoanut trees has been appointed with native assistants under him. The Inspector assumed his duties on the 1st October, 1902, and in his report for the three months ending 31st December, 1902, states that the means adopted have undoubtedly checked the ravages of the Beetles in a marked degree."

The Entomologist adds that "I am of opinion that it will be impossible to secure the adequate carrying out of the requisite pressures, except by means of an Ordinance framed on the lines of that now in force in the Malay States, and that in consideration of the increasing havoc caused by the pests in question, such an Ordinance is not only advisable but most necessary. Its practicability has already been proved by experience in the Straits."

Read letter from the Government Agent, Sabaragamuwa Province, acknowledging receipt of the letter.

Read letter from the Government Agent, Uva Province, mentioning that there are no cocoanut estates in the ordinary sense of the term and he regrets his inability to offer any views on the question at issue.

Read letter from the Government Agent, North-Western Province, asking for copies of the Ordinance referred to.

Read a second letter from the Government Agent, Eastern Province, stating that in his opinion it would be an excellent thing if some plan could be devised for the destruction of the two kinds of cocoanut beetles, but that he fears the Malay States Ordinance would be too drastic and too expensive in its operation, and generally doubting whether the result would be commensurate with the expenditure, while all cocoanut planters would be expected to pay a heavy cess to meet the expenditure.

*Resolved*, "That the Batticaloa Association be informed that the replies from the various Government Agents are favourable to Legislation, the only exception being that of the present Government Agent of the Eastern Province."

PRESERVATION OF BIRD LIFE ON TEA ESTATES.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Pussellawa Association, stating that the correspondence has been laid before the General Meeting of the Pussellawa Association, but that no remarks were passed.

CEYLON ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

Submitted letter copy from the Secretary, Ceylon Association in London, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and his reply on the subject of the announcement that the Russian Government has by a recent Ordinance, increased the duty on Indian and Ceylon teas imported by the European frontiers on the Black Sea by one and a-half roubles per pood, equivalent to about one-eighth per pound. From this increased duty China and Japan teas will, it seems, be free.

Read letter from the Secretary, Ceylon Association in London, asking for the information of members the state of the Tea Cess Account made up to the latest date and an estimate of how the accounts is likely to stand at 31st December, 1903, further in addition a statement showing the probable amount of Cess to be collected in 1904, the amounts already are marked and the estimated balance to be allocated, adding that the question of either continuing, reducing or allowing the Green Tea Bonus to lapse is of the greatest importance to the Tea Industry both of India and Ceylon.

ANNUAL REPORT, NOMINATING OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

*Resolved*, "That the Chairman of the District Associations, Messrs. Jas. Westland, W. D. Gibbon, T. C. Huxley, Edgar Turner, Hon'ble Mr. J. N. Campbell, the Hon'ble Mr. E. Rosling, the Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, the Secretary, Planters' Association of Ceylon, with power to add to their number, do form a Sub-Committee to draft the Annual Report, two to form a quorum. (2) That a Sub-Committee be appointed to edit the



compilation of the Year Book for 1904, and that the following members be asked to act:—Messrs. W. D. Gibbon, Edgar Turner, the Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, the Secretary, Planters' Association of Ceylon."

#### THE THIRTY COMMITTEE.

Extracts from minutes of proceedings of a Meeting of the Thirty Committee appointed to administer the Proceeds of the Export Duty on Tea levied under Ordinances No. 4 of 1894 and No. 13 of 1902 for increasing the consumption of Ceylon Tea in Foreign Lands, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Tuesday, the 3rd November, 1903, at half past seven o'clock (7-30 a.m.) in the morning. Mr. A. C. Kingsford, *Chairman*.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Read letter from Mr. Robert Wardrop, Wellington, New Zealand.

*Resolved*, "That in view of the fact that Ceylon already enjoys half the tea trade in New Zealand, the Thirty Committee is unable to entertain the application."

Read letter from Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton in reference to correct figures for Green Teas Grant from commencement.

INCREASE OF THE TEA CESS, LOAN FROM GOVERNMENT OF RS.150,000.

Read correspondence with Government regarding the Loan of Rs.150,000 and the remittance of a further sum of Rs.20,000 being the fourth instalment of the Loan sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor.

Read correspondence with Government in reference to the arrangements regarding the repayment of the Loan.

*Resolved*, "That the matter be left in the hands of the Planting Member in Council on the lines of recoupment in seventeen months commencing from 1st January, 1904."

#### CEYLON TEA ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

Submitted correspondence between the Ceylon Association in London, and the Colonial Office drawing attention to the announcement that the Russian Government has by a recent Ordinance increased the duty on Indian and Ceylon Teas imported by the European Frontier on the Black Sea by 1½ roubles per pood equivalent to about 1½d. per pound. In Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Tea Report of September 11th the position was described thus:—The following telegram sent from St. Petersburg through Reuter's Agency is of some importance to those interested in the production of Indian and Ceylon Teas: "A Government Ordinance is published, increasing the import duty on Ceylon and Indian Teas imported into Russia by the European Frontier on the Black Sea from 31 roubles 60 kopecks per pood to 33 roubles. The import duty on China Teas is not changed but fresh regulations are enforced for the purpose of certifying the origin and place of despatch. This means that a preference of 1½d. per lb. is given to China over British-grown tea.

*Resolved*, "That the thanks of the Thirty Committee be conveyed to the Ceylon Association in London for the cordial support given in the matter of the increased Russian Duty."

Read letter from Mr. J. H. Renton, dated Copenhagen, 9th October, 1903, to Mr. Kingsford, reporting on a trip to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

#### MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated October 23rd, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	561,831	465,005	42,698
1902-1903 ...	588,397	524,703	34,599
44,454 pkgs. INDIAN 15,009 " CEYLON 3,299 " JAVA	Total 62,962 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

The usual Autumn trade which commenced somewhat late this season has been in strong evidence during the last week or two, and has caused bidding to extend over a much wider area, resulting in a generally better market for all descriptions.

North America continues to take increasing quantities of British-grown Tea, as shown by the result of the first six months working of the year 1903, viz.:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
Lbs.	12,029,417	8,624,299	8,336,017	6,820,884	5,134,914	6,245,443	6,580,336

Indian and Ceylon Tea taken in North America from 1st January to 30th June.

INDIAN TEA.		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K. ...		1,017,002	1,821,680	1,850,454	834,677
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...		678,779	685,911	347,233	410,900
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...		207,994	121,386	176,279	122,905
Direct exports from Calcutta		165,295	393,629	754,725	337,490
Total lbs. ...		2,069,070	3,022,606	3,128,691	1,705,972

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	1,112,573	1,106,886	1,175,979
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	180,356	667,017	1,890,940
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	96,183	54,282	71,023
Direct exports from Calcutta	309,262	116,854	<i>nil</i> .
Total lbs. ...	1,698,374	1,955,039	3,137,942

CEYLON TEA.		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K. ...		2,748,033	2,726,836	2,445,237	1,584,408
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...		1,375,919	1,504,773	1,087,099	697,132
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...		419,564	172,541	<i>abt.</i> 400,000	<i>abt.</i> 500,000
Direct exports from Colombo		5,416,831	1,197,543	1,274,990	2,333,372
Total lbs. ...		9,960,347	5,601,693	5,207,326	5,114,912

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	1,437,994	1,965,295	2,199,930
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K. ...	161,294	876,124	982,759
Direct exports <i>via</i> China ...	469,638	453,021	259,705
Direct exports from Colombo	1,367,614	995,964	<i>nil</i> .
Total lbs. ...	3,436,540	4,290,404	3,442,394

The exports from Colombo include 2,717,501 lbs. of Green Tea, and 372,595 lbs. for 1902.

From the 1st January to 30th June 3,819,150 lbs. of tea were exported from the U. S. A. to Great Britain, but this consisted almost entirely of China Tea.

INDIAN.—The strong tone noticed during the last two or three weeks has further developed, and an advance has taken place in common teas of ¼d. per lb. and medium teas about ½d., good and fine liquoring kinds continuing to attract strong competition. The quality of many of the Assam Marks has shown a distinct falling-off—a frequent feature at this time of the year. Exports to U. K. first half of October 14,320,000 lbs., against 10,600,000 lbs. in 1902; total from 1st April 92,392,000 lbs., against 85,220,000 lbs. Averages:—"Darj. Con. Balasun," ½; "Tara T Co.," 1/1¼; "Rungmook" and "Amal T Ests. Chong Tong," 1/0¾.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 39,178 pkgs., av. 7-94d. 1902, 43,489 pkgs., av. 7-09d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 399,081 pkgs., av. 7-90d. 1902, 407,953 pkgs., av. 7-18d.

CEYLON.—Another moderate auction imparted further strength to the market, all teas up to 9d. per lb. showing a further advance of from ¼d. to ½d. per lb. Exports to U. K. first half of October 3,500,000 lbs., against same quantity last year. Averages:—"Nuwara Co. Con.," 11½d.; "Wanarajah T Co. W.," 11d.; "Ass. Silver K.," 10¾d.; "Demodera," "S T Co. St. Leonards," "S T & L Alnwick" and "Brookside," "Waltrim," 10½d.

Average for week 7-96d., against 7-31d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 836,589 pkgs., av. 7-47d. 1902, 948,079 pkgs., av. 6-71d.

JAVA.—A good selection was brought to auction and sold at rather dearer prices, the best averages being made by "Goalpara," "Perbawattee," and "Tanawattee."

#### COFFEE.

Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co. write:—"The speculative markets have worn an attitude of expectancy this week, and have been guided by the movement of Santos receipts. Saturday's total of only



26,000 bags at that port were encouraging; but the following days gave large figures again, and hopes waned. Rio receipts have also been on a very large scale; but it is possible that the explanation of the full Santos receipts may equally apply to Rio. On Tuesday Mr. Karl Krische cabled that the *Brazilian Review* of that date reported that the 'heavy receipts were due to want of money on the part of the planters, to the high prices obtainable, and the very favourable weather, which had facilitated the picking and preparation of the crop. Half the crop has already been received.' It may be, and if the last statement should prove correct. Santos receipts would point to about 7,000,000 bags for the season—the estimate we personally adopted some time ago. The New York market was strong last Saturday, and advanced to the highest point yet reached, due to purchases by outsiders and a rumour that Mr. Brown, of New Orleans, who brought off the most successful bull movement on record in cotton recently, was considering a bull movement in coffee. We may point out that the success of the bull campaign in cotton was entirely due to the fact that the consumption of the staple had undoubtedly exceeded the production, proved during four seasons by the inability of the United States to raise sufficient cotton for the wants of the world, and this, despite ever-increasing acreage. Granted similar conditions in coffee, and remembering that we are almost solely dependent upon Brazil now-a-days, a sensible rise in the price of the bean, would be assured with or without outside intervention; in a word, it is merely a question of supply and demand.

### TEA.

Messrs. Wm. Jas. & Hy. Thompson, in their Report, October 22, say:—The tone of the market continues good; the features of last week have been accentuated, demand again running on the lower grades up to 7½d. per lb., which mark a further advance, while medium teas above that price continue steady—a good sign, as hitherto a rise in quotations for common has been usually followed by a decline in the price of the better qualities. Fine teas continue to realise satisfactory rates. The position is an interesting one: consistent and regular weekly offerings of Indian Tea at a time when Ceylons are so short has resulted in improved quotations, the supply available falling for the moment below requirements. The rapidity with which a large proportion of the sales is cleared from the warehouses supports the opinion we have previously expressed, that the stocks of tea held both by the trade and in the country are much below the average. News comes to hand that the Manager of Galaha Estate, Ceylon, claims to have discovered a method of treatment whereby green tea dust may be converted into black. Commanding as the latter does a much higher price, further details will be awaited with interest, as, should the scheme prove practicable, the result would be of material benefit to producers. The sales have comprised 44,600 packages, against 53,700 packages last year, so that the total offerings of this season's tea to date now amount to 432,500 packages, against 481,600 packages a year ago. A buoyant feeling characterised the auctions on Monday last, and prices generally showed a further upward movement, especially for teas up to 7½d. per lb., which sold at advances ranging from ¼d. to ½d. per lb. on late rates. This tendency was further emphasised at the succeeding sales, and the market closes firm. Prices for good medium and fine teas continued satisfactory, though with but little change in rates. It is interesting to note that towards the end of October, 1902, prices for common tea touched the lowest point of last season, ordinary Cachar Pekoe Souchongs selling at 4½d. per lb. and Pekoes 5d. per lb., while medium Assams, of the types now realising 7d. to 7½d. per lb., were to be had for 6d. to 6½d. per lb.; the quality, on the whole, perhaps shows some little improvement over last year's but with due allowance for this the difference in price is still considerable. For next week about 40,000 packages are advertised. Common tea was quoted dearer at the sales in Calcutta last Friday, the 22,000 packages offered selling at an average of 5s. 9p. Shipments during the first half of October were 14,300,000 lbs., making the total exports to date 7 millions in excess of last year.

### COCOA IN THE U. S.

Business in cocoa has been moderate on steady buying by manufacturers, who are, however, only attending to their wants for the day. On limited offerings prices have held firm. Quotations: African, 12½ to 13c.; Angostura, nominal; Bahia, 13¼ to 13½c.; Caracas, 14 to 15c.; Cauca, 16 to 17½c.; Cuban, 10½ to 11½c.; Guayaquil—Ariba, 15 to 16½c.; Baloa, 14¼ to 14½c.; Machala, 13¾

to 14c.; Caraquez, 13¾ to 14c.; Grenada, 13¼ to 13½c.; Jamaica, 10½ to 12½c.; Maracaibo, nominal; Pará, 13½ to 14½c.; Manchez, 11 to 11½c.; St. Domingo, nominal; Savanilla, nominal; Surinam, 13¾ to 14c.; Trinidad, 13¾ to 15c.; Ceylon, good, 16c.; prime red 17½ to 18c.; superior, 19 to 20c.; Java, 21 to 22c.

### CINCHONA.

At the periodical auction on Tuesday there was a good demand for the small quantity offered, and practically everything was disposed of at and since the sale, at firm prices. The average unit may be placed at from 1½d. to 1½d. per lb., although in some instances the higher figure was exceeded for some parcels of manufacturing bark. This result compares with 1½d. at the previous London sale, and an equivalent of 1½d. at the last Amsterdam auction. Altogether about 122,500 oz. of quinine were offered in bark form.

The following table shows the quantity of bark offered and sold:—

	Packages Offered.	Packages Sold.
East Indian cinchona	567	197
South American cinchona	541	453
African cinchona	508	411
Java cinchona	133	107
Ceylon cinchona	61	61
	1,810	1,229

The following were the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers:—

	Lbs.
The American and Italian factories	40,900
Messrs. Howards & Sons	34,300
The Frankfurt-on-Main and Stuttgart factories	22,500
The Imperial Quinine factory	17,100
The Mannheim and Amsterdam factories	9,300
The Brunswick factory	4,700
Druggists, Brokers, etc.	48,500
Total quantity sold	177,300
Bought in or withdrawn	120,000
Total quantity offered and sold	297,300

The prices paid for sound bark were as follows:—

EAST INDIAN.—Officinalis, original stem chips and shavings, 2½d. to 3d.; good, 6½d.; renewed chips and shavings, 7½d.; good sort, 7½d. to 7¾d.; branch, 3¾d. Succirubra, original stem chips, 2¾d. to 3¼d.; branch, 3½d.; renewed, 4½d. per lb. Hybrid, stem chips, 2¼d.; and branch, 3¼d.

CEYLON.—Ledgeriana, good natural stem chips and shavings, 7½d.; renewed ditto, 5½d.; and twigs, 4¼d. Succirubra, stem chips and shavings, 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.

JAVA.—Good Ledgeriana stem chips, 11¼d.; branch chips, 6¼d.; root, 9d.; and red dust, 3¾d. to 4d. per lb.

SOUTH AMERICAN.—A parcel of 62 bales soft Columbian (ZO) imported in January, 1885, sold at 2½d. for sound, and of Bolivian cultivated Calisaya 479 packages were offered, comprising some good testing quality. Nice bright sound quill brought 8¾d.; fair to good quill, 6¾d. to 7½d.; and quillings, 7½d. to 8¼d. per lb.

WEST COAST AFRICAN.—A parcel of 508 bales Succirubra quill, imported last month, *via* Lisbon, was mostly sold, including fair stout dark quill at 5d.; fair bright quill, part rusty, 4¼d.; and chips and quillings, 3½d. to 4¼d. per lb.

The next bark auctions at Amsterdam will take place on November 12, and is expected to consist of about 8,200 packages.

### QUININE.

A new brand of Dutch quinine has appeared on the market. The maker was formerly with the Bandong quinine factory in Java, and his unexpected competition is reported to be the reason why an advance in the makers' price (warranted as a result of the last Amsterdam auction) was not made. The new maker has evidently obtained a slight foothold on this market, the Customs Bill of Entry of October 20 showing a consignment to London of 35,840 ozs. of this make from Holland. We understand the bulk of it was sold at 11½d. per oz., or 1½d. below the official price of German quinine, but it ought to be explained that it is inferior in appearance to the German make. The market for German quinine in second hands has been quiet, with small sales of December delivery at 1s 0½d. per oz.



(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7'94d., OCTOBER 23RD.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	37	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	9	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	†5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	4	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ †5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hocorra	1371	6'81	...	...	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	4	6	...	...	...	...
Travancore	17	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	20	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	9	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Atchencoil	47 p	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	52	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	20	†5 $\frac{3}{4}$	34	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cherian Malay	124 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	9	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...
Ellangy	21	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	22	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6
Isfield T Co I	124 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	7	49	7	38	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kan D H T Co K	185 p	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	64	7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	10	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ Munaar	86 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	31	†6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	23	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Merchiston	109 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 p	7 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	30	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	32	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Poonmudi T Co B	120 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 p	†6 $\frac{1}{4}$ †7 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	35	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ Poonmudi	150 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	33	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
S T T Co Venture	86	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	39	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7	26	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	31 p	6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
T T E Co Bon Ami	97 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	47	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	11	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...
„ Mount	205	7	147	7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vembenard	503	6'81	...	...	20	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...
Wynaad	95	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	70	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7	21	6	20	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...
Arrapetta T Co A	84 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Gbulika	86 p	7	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erramaculla	117 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	60	†6 $\frac{1}{2}$ †6 $\frac{3}{4}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 †7 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walkers Achoor	121 p	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1903.

[No. 46.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 27th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Coorg.

POLLI BETTA, 11th November.—

*Weather*—It has been overcast and dull and heavy rain has been falling here since the 5th instant. Wishes are expressed that it might “dry up.” It turns out that this excessive wet at this time is even bad for the paddy fields. *Plant diseases*—Though there is some leaf-disease about, coffee generally is looking grand, and the prospects for next year are simply splendid. *Crop*—Crop promises to be late in ripening this season. There is only a tree here and there at long intervals that is showing up red. These are some of those on which the blossom opened early. *General health*—Plague seems to have been suppressed both at Gonicopal and Veerajpet. On the estates, except for a little fever and colds, the health of the coolies is very fair. *Labour*—Ample for all requirements. *Works*—Mostly weeding and some handling. *Interesting item*—A team of hockey players has gone up to Mercara to play a team there. The game comes off at 4 p.m. to-day. It is to be hoped the weather will be favourable.

#### Yercaud.

SHEVAROY, 12th November.—

*Weather*—Excessively damp—rain heavy from anywhere, instead of N.-E. sun wanted to ripen coffee. *Plant diseases*—Leaf-disease showing up badly in poorly-cultivated estates. *Works*—Weeding—which is heavy. *Health*—Fair, colds and coughs from too much damp. *Labour*—Sufficient, more coming up shortly after reaping in low country.

### ADULTERATED PEPPER.

AN interesting legal decision is reported from the United States. The main facts are stated by our contemporary, the *Spice Mill*, in words to the following effect :—New Jersey has a pure food law, which, presumably, is very much the same as the laws of other States. The State Board of Health caused the arrest of a number of retail grocers in Jersey City for selling “adulterated” black pepper, which was sold for less than the “pure” article. The chemists who analyzed the pepper sold by the dealers declared that it was a mixture of black pepper and pulverized buckwheat. A test case was made and the dealer was fined \$50. An appeal was taken to the Court of Common Pleas, and when the case came up for trial the defence contended that black pepper was not in any sense a “food,” but a condiment. It was further contended that while the Act prohibits impure “ingredients” in food, pepper is not an ingredient in food, but a condiment used on food. A further argument was that the law provides that black pepper mixed with buckwheat is not “injurious” in the sense contemplated by the law. The outcome of the trial was that the trial judge set aside the penalty imposed and ruled that the Act does not cover adulteration of spices, such as pepper, mustard and other condiments. The exact wording of the main part of the decision appear to have been as follows :—“The complaint must be dismissed : First, because the Act does not cover the case of pepper, as above argued, pepper being a ‘condiment’ and not a ‘food ;’ and the complaint here being an impure ‘food.’ Second, because, if pepper is to be regarded as a ‘food,’ and governed by the Act, then there has been under the evidence here, no violation of the Act.”

Without in any way questioning the soundness of a decision based upon an Act, the exact terms of which are not before us, we are led to believe that the arguments of Counsel for the defence had much influence upon the judgment of the Court. Where these arguments related to the Act we have little to say about them, but here and there they branched off into general questions that are of very considerable interest to every producer of food-products or condiments. That



pepper is not a food, we admit. That it is a condiment no one will doubt, but whether food or condiment the main point to be considered is whether, when pepper is asked for, pure pepper is meant, or adulterated. It is unsafe to regard pepper and mustard as on the same level. The fact is well known that pure mustard is too powerful for the ordinary human palate. When a label bears the words "Table Mustard" the more intelligent among the public are probably aware that what is offered to them is not pure mustard. But people who ask for pepper generally expect to get it, for pure pepper is not too strong for daily use. It was argued that if a food is to be regarded as adulterated in terms of the New Jersey Act it must contain an admixture of something "injurious" or "deleterious" to the consumer's health. If this be so, the Act needs revision. What producers urge in regard to foods and condiments alike is that the article sold shall be what it purports to be—either pure or adulterated. If the label clearly shows that it is the latter, the buyer may at least acquaint himself with the fact that he is not purchasing a pure article. If it is labelled simply "pepper" or "coffee," he presumably buys it in the belief that it is pure. The fact that something mixed with it is not injurious to health or even that this something makes the mixture more palatable is quite another story. Whether a man asks for "black pepper" or "pepper," that, and that alone, is what he has a right to expect to receive in the absence of a definite meaning from the seller.

Now Counsel, in the case under notice, argued thus:—"This W—— black pepper is cheaper and takes the place of pure black pepper in ordinary consumption. If a man goes to the ordinary grocery store and asks for pure black pepper, he will either have to pay a higher price than this W—— black pepper is sold for, or he will be referred to a drug store. The purchasing public is not deceived in any way. The low price alone tells that the article is not pure black pepper." There is but one word that aptly meets statements such as this, and that word is 'Bosh.' In the first place, the average consumer cannot be supposed to know the real market value of pepper. Then, again, the fact that one supplier charges a lower price than another does not necessarily point to any adulteration on the part of the former: it may be the simple result of keener enterprise, of a desire to follow the principle of low price and a large turnover. We quite acknowledge that there is no standard whereby the purity of pepper can be gauged with accuracy. But this is not the point in the case under reference. The point is that it was clearly shown that there was an admixture of buckwheat and, to our minds, under circumstances such as this, no supplier should have the right to sell the mixture as "pepper." If it were called "Table Pepper," it might rank with such doubtful commodities as "French Coffee." The buyer would at least have reason to suspect its purity; and if he did not trouble to ask questions, that would scarcely be the fault of the seller. In regard to all food-products, condiments, drugs, etc., a claim that every buyer has a right to expect to receive that which he asks for, and that if he is put off with some compound that contains ingredients for which he has not asked, the law should protect him. We are well aware that in many cases, in England as well as in other countries, the law does not do so; but our point is that this is a strong argument in favour of an amendment of the law, not in defence of dishonest trade practices.

## COFFEE NOTES.

**Court Decision in Coffee Contracts.**—The Supreme Court has decided in favour of W. H. Crossman & Bros. in the suit against the firm by J. H. Labaree Company, to compel the Crossmans to deliver in New York coffee in November, 1899, brought to this port by the steamer J. W. Taylor, the landing of whose cargo was prohibited by the Board of Health because the bubonic plague prevailed at Santos and vicinity when the steamer sailed. By the terms of the contract the coffee was to be delivered into a regularly licensed coffee warehouse in this port. A part of the coffee cargo of the steamer was permitted by the Board of Health to be landed at the pier of Arbuckle Bros., and roasted at the Arbuckle roasting plant under supervision of the Sanitary Superintendent of the Board of Health. The Board refused to permit the coffee sold to Labaree Company to be unloaded at any place in the city of New York under any other conditions than the Arbuckle coffee. The decision of the Court was that there is no arrival of coffee when the Health Board will not permit it to be landed from steamship, and there being no arrival, there is no sale. The Labaree Company insisted on standing on the express terms of its contract, and so refused whatever accommodations the rules of the Health Board permitted.

Coffee shipments from Porto Rico to the United States during the eight months ending August, 1903, were 4,706,210 pounds, against 253,501 pounds during the same period in 1902. The values were \$526,324 and \$29,016 respectively.

**Upturn in Coffee Values Analyzed Favourably.**—Well informed interests, in discussing the situation (coffee), expressed the opinion that there appeared to be more legitimate reasons for the present upturn in values than was the case in any of the advances in prices in the past few years. The outturn of the present Brazil crop, says the *New York Journal of Commerce*, is quite generally believed, was considerably over-estimated early in the season, and there are comparatively few who expect that the outturn of the crop will be as large as the 1902-03 crop. The prospective poor yield from the 1904-05 Brazil crop, however, seems to be the bull factor that is having the greatest influence upon the market, especially in speculative circles. The Santos representative of a prominent New York coffee house, who is now visiting in this city, was quoted as saying that it is not only the drouth which is being experienced in Sao Paulo during the actual blossoming of the coffee trees that makes the prospects for the next crop unpromising, but the fact that during the months early in the calendar year dry weather was experienced in Brazil, thus putting the coffee trees in a poor condition to carry them through the ordinarily dry season in Brazil of June—August, making the prospects of a good flowering and a subsequent development of the berry unpromising, even if good rains do set in during October, as the trees are in too weakened a condition, owing to the prolonged drouth for the flowering to set well.

**Porto Rico and its Coffee.**—As the people of Porto Rico blamed the United States for the hurricane that devastated the island not very long after we assumed its sovereignty, it is not surprising to find the people holding the United States responsible for the price of coffee and appealing to the general Government to do something in the interest of



what is, or at least was, their principal crop. As the price of coffee is much lower than it was before the island was appropriated by the United States, and persons of whom more might be expected than can be expected of the Porto Ricans get very much confused in reasoning from effect to cause, we ought not to be surprised to find the Porto Ricans attributing the low price of coffee to their separation from Spain.

For a time after the annexation of the island its coffee came into this country in small amounts, but now that the people are complaining of the low price of coffee the exports to the United States are increasing in an enormous ratio. In the fiscal year 1902 the Porto Rican coffee sent to the United States amounted to only 227,560 pounds; in the fiscal year 1903 it amounted to 6,314,686 pounds. What more do the people of the island demand?

Porto Rican coffee has simply suffered from the competition of Brazilian coffee. The enormous increase of production in Brazil sent the price down like a shot and necessarily affected the coffee markets of the world, though of course it took a little time to do this. The over-production of coffee in Brazil did not begin till two or three years before our war with Spain, and its full effects were not felt until after the war. It is perfectly natural, therefore, that the Porto Ricans should imagine it was annexation to the United States that hurt them, whereas it was Brazilian production, and they would have fared no better had they remained subject to Spain.—New York Commercial Bulletin.

\* \* \*

A circular on the New York Coffee Exchange, asking signers, requests the Board of Managers to request the abolition of the Revision Committee and that the present differences between grades of coffee of 50 points remain.

\* \* \*

Cables from Rio say that the *Brazilian Review* publishes: "Crop damaged by drouth; crop sustaining damage by insufficient rains."

\* \* \*

**Porto Rico Coffee.**—OFFICIALS SAIL TO PRESENT RESOLUTIONS THEREON TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.—A San Juan, P. R., correspondent writing on 14th ultimo to the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* says:—

Secretary Hartzell and Commissioner of Education, Lindsay, have sailed for New York to present to President Roosevelt Resolutions adopted by the coffee-growers here, asking for all possible aid from the Federal Government to assist in obtaining a market for Porto Rico coffee by effecting commercial treaties with France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Austria.

"Porto Rico coffee will come to have the same vogue in the United States it one time had in Spain, and its people will be lifted out of poverty and ignorance." This is the prophecy made by James Struthers, grower of Bayamon, Porto Rico.

"The coffee of Porto Rico will soon make itself felt in the United States market," he added. "There is no better coffee in the world outside of Arabia than that grown in our island. Millions of Americans who believe they drink coffee three times a day would not know coffee if it were poured out to them. Tons of chicory, roasted beans and peas are being drunk for coffee, while the Porto Rican berries go to waste. Porto Rico's coffee is strong in tannin, and the American palate will not tolerate this. The berry is shipped green to the United States and roasted by the American or

'light' process, which does not remove the tannin. This astringent quality is overcome by the French or 'dark' roasting process, and plans are evolving to give Porto Rican coffee this treatment and build up a demand for it in the United States by the distribution of samples. Before the American occupation the island's coffee found a market in Spain, but this market was closed when the mother-country put a heavy tariff on Porto Rican coffee. Within a few years, though, the United States will buy every pound of coffee that Porto Rico can grow for export."

\* \* \*

The very finest Jamaica coffee rarely goes to the United States. In Great Britain it is considered the peer of any coffee.

\* \* \*

The longer that coffee is kept in the green state, within a reasonable period, the better should be its flavour. It mellows with age.

\* \* \*

Brazil coffee usually loses about one per cent. less in roasting than Java or Maracaibo, perhaps because the Brazilian bean is less spongy than the other kinds.

\* \* \*

The glazing process is recommended by no less an authority than the late Baron Liebig, who gave considerable study to coffee and its preparation for the table.

\* \* \*

Roasting not only brings out the good qualities of coffee, but neutralizes the bad ones. It is a most important process. Upon the roasting depends the satisfaction of the consumer.

\* \* \*

Porto Rico coffee used to have a rather "hidey" flavour, that is, the ordinary grades, but the better qualities were free from fault and much esteemed by coffee-drinkers, especially in Spain, Italy, and Cuba.

\* \* \*

Pole-cat coffee is a grade of the Brazilian bean, and despite its sinister name and its dark colour and muddiness in the cup, it is highly appreciated by many good judges of coffee. It is a dark bean, almost black.

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Messrs. Karl Krische & Co., Rio, cable on coffee: "Receipts will soon be smaller. They will, however, still be large during this week (last week). Commissarios have bought large quantities of coffee in the interior. Receipts will probably turn out 100,000 bags larger than estimated."

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Messrs. Karl Krische & Co. cable that *Brazil Review* reports of the Rio coffee crop: "Large receipts due to high prices and need of money; half of crop in."

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**The U. S. Coffee Market**—Prices are firm in coffee, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 20th ultimo, but business is scarcely more than fair. The advance naturally has arrested buying somewhat on the opinion in the trade that supplies so far are too large to warrant the firming-up that has occurred, and that nothing had best be done until it is definitely known that the Brazil crop now being marketed is going to be much smaller than thought early in the Summer. In the past week the Brazil receipts have been rather full, but it is thought that coffee has been rushed to market to meet the advance in prices, and that from now on actual



smaller receipts will disclose themselves. The prediction is freely made by conservative sources that a little later on the Coffee Exchange will witness the liveliest times in its history, and that March or May will go up to 7c. Such an advance will naturally affect the price of actual coffee, which must rise proportionately in sympathy with the influence. Reports are insistent that interests for a long time bears in the market were purchasing options last week; anyway, while their reports are still inclined to show gloom, a distinct change in the tone is noticed as though preparing the way for a change on their part in the market. On the Exchange there has been a fairly aggressive market, in which the arbitrage house chiefly figured. The close was rather listless.

Brazil prices are unchanged and steady. A sale record in the latter part of the week included 2,500 bags Santos No. 2 at 7½c. c. & f.; 750 bags Rio No. 4 at 6.40c. c. & f. Spot invoice has ruled firm and prices closed firm at 5½c. for Rio No. 8, 5½c. for Rio No. 7, 6½c. for Rio No. 4, and 6½ to 6¾c. for Santos No. 4.

There was fair amount of buying, and especially of coffees that showed good cup quality, for which there is always a demand in the market and a scramble when found, so scarce are they. This applies to any kind of coffee; it is wonderful that these much-desired grades should be so scarce. Jobbing has been only fairly active, buying being retarded by the advance in prices.

Mild coffees are firm and unchanged. Importers, as a rule, have a higher opinion of the values that should be obtained than the buyers and trading in consequence meets checks. Coffees good in cup quality are always in request and command premiums. Good Cucuta is 8c. East India coffees are steady.

Receipts at Santos last week were 211,000 bags, against 265,000 bags at same time last year; at Rio 137,000 bags and 100,000 bags respectively; total, 348,000 bags and 365,000 bags respectively.

Total stock in United States October 1, 2,465,686 bags against 2,771,000 bags October 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States October 17, in store and afloat, 2,516,737 bags against 2,818,585 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 382,039 bags, against 241,767 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York October 17, 1,898,542 bags. Stock in other coffees, October 12, 320,851; in San Francisco, 54,782 bags and in New Orleans, 6,406 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, October 1, 13,770,429 bags.

Brazil stock in Baltimore, October 17, 52,816 bags; in New Orleans, 128,195 bags.

"Grocery" gives some reasons for the steady decrease in the imports of coffee which has continued for some years. "In the first place, people in England do not know how to make coffee, and in the second place few people know how to roast coffee. In the third place coffee loses a very large percentage of weight in roasting, and that, together with the duty ('Free' Trade, remember) makes coffee-selling far from the profitable concern it is supposed to be."

Coffee imports at the port of New York, September, 1903, according to Custom House: France, 275 lbs.; Germany, 16,990 lbs.; Netherlands, 11,420 lbs.; England, 18,051 lbs.; Guatemala, 60,879 lbs.; Nicaragua, 50,316 lbs.; Mexico, 69,670 lbs.; British W. I., 2,126 lbs.; Haiti, 193,530 lbs.; Brazil, 43,282,998 lbs.; Colombia, 8,510,645 lbs.; Ecuador, 410 lbs.; Venezuela, 4,276,188 lbs.; Aden, 142,984

lbs.; Dutch E. I., 173,339 lbs.; Turkey-Asia, 85,214 lbs. Total, 56,895,034 lbs.

Exports of coffee at the port of New York during the month of September, 1903: Belgium, 67,552 lbs.; France, 80,958 lbs.; Germany, 67,144 lbs.; Netherlands, 15,800 lbs.; England, 78,173 lbs.; Bermuda, 4,235 lbs.; British West Indies, 8,833 lbs.; Cuba, 1,146,196 lbs.; Danish West Indies, 1,263 lbs.; Dutch West Indies, 803 lbs.; British Guiana, 5,260 lbs.; Australia, 22,000 lbs.; British South Africa, 33,000 lbs.

## TEA NOTES.

**Tea in New York.**—The feature of the present tea year so far as the trade in New York is concerned, is, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, the demand for the better grades of tea, and the reduced call for the grades of inferior quality. Although the former has in consequence risen in value, or at least remained firm in price, and the poorer article has depreciated because of the neglect in inquiry, there seems to be no let-up in the sales of the former, and no more activity in the disposition of the low tea. This situation may be regarded with no little satisfaction, and we are sure it is so accepted by the tea trade that is wont to give some thought to the quality of tea Americans should drink. Apart from the profits realized by some in commissions, a procedure usually sought in the placing of low-grade teas, we are sure the tea dealers at large will find the better grades of teas as most satisfactorily money-making, to say nothing of the pleasure found in selling only an article that recommends itself from the point of view of excellence. Of course one swallow does not make a Summer, and it may be that next year we shall find Americans inclined to retreat from fine tea-drinking, but it would seem that fine tea, once tasted, will make that of inferior quality intolerable, and so good ground gained become permanent. And a good thing is apt to find popularity, and, even supposing that for the time the growth of tea-drinking is arrested by the general use of a high-priced leaf, it would indeed be a feather in the cap of this country to be known as the consumer of 100,000,000 pounds of high-grade teas rather than the consumer of 200,000,000 pounds of inferior grade. We can leave that to the United Kingdom, the European continent and our Canada, countries in which poor trash seems to have the right of way. The call here for the better grades is explainable on the theory that dealers are personally urging the use of better grades of tea, and are succeeding. Not a little praise also is due to those firms which are advertising their blends extensively. As a rule, they sell only teas of a very good grade, and utterly shun meretricious methods. We have in mind one firm, extensively known on this side of the water and abroad, which makes it a special point to offer only teas of high grade, although abroad a business in inferior tea is chiefly dealt in. This is quite a compliment to the American people, and it is gratifying to note that we are responding, showing that we are susceptible to uplifting influences just as we were obdurate in refusing tea some years ago poured down upon us by unscrupulous men, who thought we could be fooled in buying any old weed and twisted dry mud so long as it was labeled tea.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—More life is reported in the tea market; says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 20th ultimo, trading has broadened and values are very steady; the



undertone is especially strong and throughout there is a general return to confidence. Teas of higher grade are especially in demand and very firm. Particularly is this true of country and Pingsueys; good Moyunes are very hard to find in the market, and are thought good to hold for investment, a decided advance in them as the season advances being entertained. For low-grade teas the market, too, has improved in the week. Not long ago the market looked very discouraging, but since the consuming trade has learned that it cannot get all the good teas that there is a demand for, it is inclined to inquire for what remains, and that naturally is of the lower grades. Besides, export demand is steadily and surely cleaning the market of old stocks of this class of tea. More than 1,000 packages of Congous were sold last week, and the bidding now has advanced to 8½c.—an advance of one cent in the course of the month. Even at this price holders are slow to come forward, expecting even higher bids from across the water. In London the situation, which creates this demand for our Congous, continues strong. Supplies of Indian and Ceylon teas are less than last year, while demand and consumption are greater, so much so that stocks are diminished by several million pounds, and in consequence these teas rule relatively high. The Congous here have been called upon to fill the breach, which appears to be a very wide one. Still another circumstance, now a prospective one, but of considerable importance to this market in view of its effect should it become an event, is the repeal of the tea duty in England. It is thought that this will occasion such a demand for tea of low price that our market, which has them, will be altogether denuded of them. We have yet not a small quantity of Congous of this description, and then many Foochows of low grade remain unsold. So the situation for America should be improved throughout; the incubus of the low-grade Congous and other teas of this kind can be well got rid of; if London can absorb them, well and good. London has also been buying some high-grade Congous; it is assumed here that the Englishmen have been caught short in the market in China, and have come to America to make good their shortage, even at the prices ruling here. All the more is the tone here for Congous strengthened.

Foochows, too, are improving. From China news has come of the settlement there recently of some 20,000 packages for this market. The teas are mostly of the 12c. kind. Such samples as have arrived have given satisfaction in the matter of quality, something which has not ruled in Foochows lately. It has been thought in view of the large stocks of this tea remaining unsold, that this tea would find no encouragement in the market, but apparently conditions have changed. Indias and Ceylons remain very firm, greens included. A large sale last week was that of more than 1,200 packages of Indian black. Formosas, too, are strong in the better grades, and now that the Amoy market has practically closed the lower grades have picked up, also, independently of the general improved condition for low-priced teas. Japans are firm all along the line, and, again, especially for the superior grades.

Canada reports a rather quiet tea market on the whole, and a scarcity in low-priced teas. Japans are firm and some fairly good sales have been made at 17½c. There is free demand for Ceylon greens, which sell readily at 16 to 16½c.

In Indian blacks the low-priced sorts find a ready market: Ceylon blacks at 20½c. have also found purchasers. There is little doing in either China greens or blacks.

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**Japan Teas.**—The Japan Tea Exporting Co., September 30, writes:—

"Arrivals show a material decrease. The decrease in the production of low-grade teas being particularly great—about 100 piculs less as compared with last year. Prices again advanced at the end of last month, and continue to be maintained. Should prices undergo more or less of a decline it would in all probability still lead to a fair demand for the low grades. The stocks now on the market consist of undesirable descriptions. There are some quantities of fine and higher grade teas retained in the producing districts, but holders are not at all anxious to quit their holdings as long as prices remain low."

Total shipments to September 26 are 34,764,942 pounds against 28,535,032 pounds at the same time last year.

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Many of our readers will doubtless read with interest the following remarks made at the last General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon on October 28th by Mr. Fraser:—On my first visit to the estates, over two years ago, I recommended a somewhat bold policy, at a time, too, of stress and strain, and at the present juncture it seemed to require from me a few remarks justifying its continued adoption. So far the financial result is not quite satisfactory. This, however, will gradually improve, as soon as the effects of the liberal manuring policy now adopted become manifest. The yield will increase and the cost will be reduced per lb. of tea. On all your properties the soil was seriously exhausted, and on Chesterford and Doragalla the bushes were small, stunted, and hidebound, and will require continued careful treatment to bring them up to a strong healthy standard. The capital in the soil had largely been carried off the land by cropping and percolation loss, and the bushes had ceased to form rootlets to a large extent, and were unable to secure even the limited supply of food available. This, with the heavy rainfall of 120 to 200 inches per annum, rendered it difficult to restore fertility, develop the bushes, and show satisfactory financial results with the low prices ruling during the past two years. Distinct progress has been made from the agricultural standpoint, your properties having decidedly improved, especially Silverkandy and portions of Chesterford. It appears to me, when your estates were purchased, it was not by any means realised to what extent the soil and bushes were exhausted. When this became apparent there were two policies open to the directors, either to continue the process of exhaustion, combined with cheap methods of cultivation, or adopt a liberal building-up one. The Directors have wisely adopted the latter. Your capital in this way will be preserved, and in due course moderate dividends will be secured. If the alternative had been carried out it meant gradual exhaustion beyond a paying level, even with the cheapest methods, and ultimate abandonment and an almost entire loss of capital. Doragalla is the main difficulty in regard to the general improvement, owing to practically the whole estate being covered with a most troublesome weed, "oxalis violacea," impossible of eradication and that grows all the more readily the more highly the estate is cultivated by using up a considerable portion of the manures applied. The estates are gradually being planted up with a leguminous tree, "Albizia Moluccana," that collects the atmospheric nitrogen by the aid of



noduli bacteria, that grows on the roots of the plant. The trees when cut down and incorporated with the soil increase the stock of organic nitrogen at small cost. Nitrogen is the most essential and expensive ingredient required by tea, and very readily lost in many soils where the rainfall is heavy. I fully hope, however, to see the cost per lb. of tea gradually reduced by the aid of nitrogen-collecting trees and shrubs, and the fertility of the land built up and maintained.

The falling off in yield the past season on Doragalla and Chesterford was owing to the cessation of artificial manuring in 1901-02 and to a distinctly unfavourable season. Manuring was fully maintained on Silverkandy during the year referred to, and there the yield was increased, cost reduced, and prices improved.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the Calcutta auction on the 6th instant, 20,105 packages were sold. There was a fair steady demand for all grades. Russian and Bombay buyers were keen operators. Quantity was said to be without any great change but the average was no doubt a trifle higher, attributable chiefly to improvement noticeable in Dooars and Assam kinds. Of really good teas there were practically none, but an improvement in this respect may be looked for shortly. Sylhets and Cachars remain much as previously, perhaps a little better in cup here and there, but nothing very much. Darjeelings are again in moderate supply and quality is fair without any invoices that call for special comment.

**Mr. Larkin on Indian and Ceylon Teas.**—Mr. P. C. Larkin, who is styled in the United States "the Tea King of America," has recently visited Chicago, and the newspapers of that city have published his views about the future of the tea market. The *Chicago Daily Tribune* says:—"In talking of trade conditions between the United States and the eastern tea-producing countries, Mr. Larkin declared the time is not far distant when teas grown in Ceylon and India will take the place of the Chinese and Japanese products. The teas from India and Ceylon have only been introduced in America within the last few years, but the rapidity of the growth of their use since has been so great that it only is a matter of time until we must cease to import the Chinese and Japanese article."

To a representative of the *Chicago Journal* Mr. Larkin, on behalf of his firm, said:—"We believe that with the advent of Ceylon and India teas in the United States the consumption *per capita* will increase rapidly, as it has done in England and elsewhere. This because the teas are much more delicious and very much more healthful."

We understand that Mr. Larkin has signed a contract with an advertising agency in New York, engaging to spend 40,000dols. (£5,000) in advertising British-grown tea next year, in sixteen papers in the United States. He already advertises in all the Canadian papers, and he looks forward to doing the same in all the United States papers in the course of a few years.

**Needle-Leaf Teas.**—A NEW CEYLON INVENTION.—It may be remembered, says the *Times of Ceylon*, that nearly a year ago "T Gossup" sent us samples from New York of Japan needle-leaf teas, and urged that, if planters could turn out these a field of 30,000,000 lbs. lay open to their ingenuity and enterprise. A prominent firm of brokers expressed to us the opinion that no machinery could imitate this hand-

rolled leaf; but some months back, we now learn, Mr. A. H. Ayden, of Messrs. Whittall & Co.—having known from his own experience the value of imitating the basket-fired teas of Japan, and of an invention, which would achieve this—began experiments which have been continued ever since, and with such encouraging results that samples are now before us of Ceylon leaf rolled lengthwise by a machine which he has taken adequate steps to patent both in Ceylon and in India. The machine was made by Messrs. Brown & Co., Ltd., of Hatton; and the principal features of it are that an outer cylinder, with blades, revolves slowly in one direction, while an inner cylinder, similarly fitted, rotates more rapidly in an opposite direction. The leaf is thus constantly moving, with air freely circulating through it. It is also twisted entirely in its length, and not rolled in a mass as in the existing machines. It is cooled in the process, and comes out at a lower temperature than it went in; and there is an exceptionally small percentage of dust and fannings. The machine which has been experimented with takes 70 lbs. of leaf, but it is expected that better results can be obtained from machines taking 300 lbs., and further tests are to be made on this larger scale. The finishing process now carried on in Colombo for practically all the teas for the United States will also be used. There is a considerable saving of fuel, and the machines, when put on the market, will be obtainable at half the present price of black tea rollers. We congratulate Mr. Ayden on the success that has hitherto attended his efforts. The invention, while adding another to those made in Ceylon, is apparently, unique, and will, we trust, open up an entirely new branch of machine-made teas.

**The "Corner" in Tea.**—A correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* sees in Mr. Chamberlain's proposal for the reduction of the tea duty something sinister. The consumer, according to this correspondent, would only benefit for a short time, and the "result of reducing the cost of tea by 4d. per lb. would be to encourage the importation of cheap Chinese teas again, in competition with Indian and Ceylon teas. Preferential tariffs being the policy of the country, the Indian and Ceylon tea-planters would claim to be protected from China—a claim it would be impossible to resist. A higher duty being then placed on China tea, up would go the price of tea generally, and the benefit now held out as a bait by Mr. Chamberlain would disappear." According to this correspondent's argument Mr. Chamberlain is merely holding out a bait to the consumer by which ultimately tea-growers alone would benefit. We have had this story before. It is simply another version of the imagined "corner" in tea which growers in India and Ceylon are supposed to be yearning after.

Sam Houston Park has been made an experimental station for tea-growing in Texas. A. R. Moore has presented the park management tea-plants sent him by the Agricultural Department of the Federal Government.

**Ceylon Tea for Russia.**—A BLOCK ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.—Owing to the recent heavy rains, a part of the Trans-Siberian Railway which, in any case, as is known, was none too well laid, has been washed away, says the *Times of Ceylon*. In consequence about 3,000 tons of tea have been blocked; and Russian buyers in Colombo have reason to believe that a good deal of Ceylon tea is included in this.



As is known, the greater part of the tea exported from Ceylon to Russia is now sent *via* Dalny and not *via* Odessa, owing to the recent increase in the customs charges at the latter port. From Colombo to Dalny occupies 22 days, and it takes a steamer about the same time to travel from Colombo to Odessa. It is, therefore, in the overland journey that the difference lies. The tea can be put on the Russian markets from Odessa in five days; but it has to travel from Dalny for 25 days. On the other hand, Dalny has the advantage in that a duty of only 25·50 roubles is charged per pound (36 English lbs.) as against 33 roubles in Odessa. When tea is wanted urgently it still has to be sent *via* Odessa, and one Russian firm despatched 30,000 lbs. of Ceylon tea by this route the other day.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—Messrs. A. W. Figgis & Co's report dated Calcutta, November 6, 1903, says quantity brought to auction to date:—

1903.	1902.	1901.
440,437 pkgs.	411,978 pkgs.	379,811 pkgs.

Quantity.—At this week's auction 20,675 packages were offered from the following districts:—

	Packages.
Darjeeling ...	1,492
Dooars ...	4,155
Terai ...	772
Assam ...	5,633
Cachar ...	4,259
Sylhet ...	4,039
Other districts ...	325

Total ... 20,675

Of this quantity some 570 packages were withdrawn under bid or did not arrive in time. The rest sold, about 20,105 packages passing the hammer. There was a fair steady demand at this sale. Common kinds, here and there, show a very slight drop, but medium teas, with any approach to improvement in liquor were well competed for and sold at somewhat higher prices. There was hardly any "stand out" invoices, except a few Darjeelings, which realized fair rates. Quality shows very little improvement, except occasionally an invoice from the Dooars. The demand for teas, suitable for outside markets, continues very strong.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—At the tea auction at Calcutta on the 13th instant 23,129 packages was offered and 22,450 sold. The market firmed up, and the keen competition at the previous rate was fully maintained. Buying for outside markets was keen, and a large quantity of suitable teas was taken.

**Dust or Tea?**—An interesting experiment was made on October 27, according to the *Daily Mail*, to test the assertion of the Chairman of the Central Tea Company that cheap teas sold in this country must either consist of the rubbish discarded by the American Customs as below standard, and of too low a grade for consumption, or be the sweepings and refuse from China for which no other market could be found.

At a shop which supplies the needs of a crowded neighbourhood, "a quarter of tea" at 1s. a pound was purchased on the understanding that it was good tea for which there was a large demand. This was immediately placed before an expert, who buried his nose in it, and pronounced it to be Chinese grown. It was then infused, when the "quality" was at once apparent. The first cup was acrid, and the

second infusion of the same leaves gave off a slightly coloured liquid almost tasteless.

"That", said the expert, is what we want to teach the public. They do not get an economical article by buying cheap tea. The Russians, now, are more ingenious. They are poor, and a spoonful of tea must necessarily be made to go a long way. So they buy Indian tea, which would go twice as far as this. And he pointed to the sample quarter.

The cheap teas are usually China grown, but a really drinkable Indian tea can be obtained for 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d., the lowest possible limit at which a good article is to be had. That bad tea finds its way into this country at all is due to the fact that England has no Pure Tea Law like America, where a standard is adopted below which no tea must be imported into the country.

Last year consumers in England suffered very heavily from the fact that cheap and good teas were impossible to obtain, and a large quantity of rubbish was shipped from over the Atlantic to be blended here and sold broadcast. To quote the expert again "the remedy lies in our own hands."

**The Tea Trade and Mr. Chamberlain's Proposals.**—A *Times* correspondent writes:—

Mr. Chamberlain's proposal to reduce the duty on tea from 6d. to 1½d. per lb. is of considerable importance to the proprietors of tea estates in India and Ceylon. The question which is occupying the attention of planters at the present moment is this: How will this affect us?

It has often been argued that to abolish the duty on tea would not be an advantage to India and Ceylon, as it would encourage the importation of China tea, which is of inferior quality, but of which there is supposed to be a vast quantity sufficient to glut the London tea market. This China tea is of too low a quality to induce merchants to import it with a duty of 6d. a lb. to be paid. Will China tea, therefore, be largely imported if the duty be reduced to 1½d. per lb.? We believe that Indian and Ceylon tea proprietors and planters need not be alarmed on this ground.

There is such a vast difference in the care used in cultivation, the plucking of the leaf, the withering, the rolling by the best machinery, the fermenting, the firing, the sifting into different grades of Orange Pekoe, Broken Pekoe, Pekoe, Souchong, etc.—in fact, in the whole process in Ceylon—as compared with the antiquated hand-made China methods, that, apart from the natural qualities of the leaf itself, Ceylon must of necessity produce as much better tea. Only those who have lived on a Ceylon estate can possibly realise the exceeding care which is enforced. As a body the tea-planters are a hardy, resourceful, intelligent, courageous body of men—all English, Scotch, or Irish—and proud of the fact that there is no adulteration or trade trickery of any description whatsoever in their business. It may be asked who will really get the benefit of the 4½d. reduction in duty. As the British public has had to pay the duty of 6d. a lb., so will it get the benefit of the reduction, but the tea industry will also assuredly benefit through an increased demand for tea caused by its cheaper price. The present average price of all the Ceylon teas is about 7½d., to which must be added 6d. a lb. duty, thus bringing the cost to 1s. 1½d. per lb. If, in accordance with Mr. Chamberlain's proposal, the cost be reduced to 9d. per lb., surely this will cause a fairly large increase in the consumption of tea. If we add 3d. a lb. for the retail dealer, it should then be possible for the public to purchase really good Indian and Ceylon tea for 1s. a lb. The tea industry for the past few years has been in a most unsatisfactory condition, and the heavy duty of 6d., which is equal to an *ad valorem* duty of 80 per cent., has been a severe handicap in checking consumption.

Well may planters say, as they have so often said, "Here are we, an English colony in which we have spent millions of money in opening tea estates and in machinery for our factories, every penny of it British capital, our industry not getting 5 per cent. interest, and still the old mother-country imposes a duty of 80 per cent. *ad valorem* on our tea. Why so much talk of free trade when there has never been free trade for us. Free trade is for the benefit of the foreigner, not for loyal colonists." The tea-planter's life of



to-day is very different to the palmy coffee days of twenty-five years ago. The life of a planter in those days was a perfect paradise compared with tea-planting of to-day, when the utmost and unceasing care is required and the cost of working expenses has to be reduced to the finest point of economy.

Tea is grown in Ceylon at sea-level and at every elevation ranging up to 6,500 ft.; the higher the elevation the more delicate the flavour of the leaf. Lucky are estate proprietors who have properties at 5,000 ft. elevation and upwards, because jungle land cannot now be purchased from the Government at above that elevation. Twenty years ago the Ceylon Government was warned that if the mountain tops were denuded of jungle growth it might seriously affect and cause a decrease of the rainfall of the island, and in consequence of this warning an Act was passed by the Ceylon Legislative Council to stop the sale of all Crown jungle land at elevations of 5,000 ft. and upwards. It was a wise act undoubtedly.

There are no crop seasons in Ceylon as regards tea, as the trees go on "flushing" all the year round. This, no doubt, is in consequence of its being an island having a hot, moist atmosphere. Almost any climate may be had, from the hot, moist heat of Colombo to the cold, frosty air of Newara Eliya, which is 6,200 ft. above sea-level. For beauty of scenery and richness of vegetation Ceylon stands unrivalled, and financially it is thoroughly sound. This latter fact is in some measure due to its highly paying State railway, for which its rulers claim credit; but it is, perhaps, doubtful statesmanship to run a railway at high rates, which give large immediate profits, but which hamper commercial industries, and conduce to careless and expensive management.

Tea is of such absolute necessity to the work-people of this country that Mr. Chamberlain could not have selected a more suitable article for reduction of import duty. At the same time he is doing only an act of justice to an industry which is entirely British, and to a body of British subjects who have during the past twenty years gone through greater vicissitudes (owing to coffee leaf-disease) than almost any other colonists. We trust that the British workman, the Indian and Ceylon planters and proprietors, and even the poor Tamil coolies, whose wage is about 5d. per day of ten hours, may all derive benefit by the lower cost and consequent increased consumption of tea.

If, when prosperity does return, the planters will avoid coarse plucking—which produces inferior tea and which greatly increases the weight of production and gluts the market—they may reasonably look forward, not to temporary, but to permanent cheery days, should Mr. Chamberlain's proposal become an accomplished fact.

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**The Tea Trade.**—"J. D. H." writes to the *Pioneer*:—"For years past the "pushfulness" of the Ceylon tea-planter and his readiness to adapt his style of manufacture to suit the requirements of new markets, has been held up as a model for the Indian planter. This particular trait in his character is admirably illustrated in a letter in your issue of the 1st instant from Messrs. Brooke, Bond & Company, Limited, in which the following occurs: "Therefore, Ceylon planters have taken up the manufacture of green tea, and turn out blends equal to the best Japanese production. As it is found that the same kind of tea does not suit all parts, samples of water from all the great cities of North America are sent out and tea is manufactured to suit them." There must be many who, like myself, are interested in the manufacture of green tea, and who would like to know how this is done. Perhaps Messrs. Brooke, Bond & Company will give some particulars in their next letter. Presumably different days are set apart for the manufacture of tea to suit the water of each city, but the passing of so many kinds of tea through the market without some confusion arising occasionally, must in itself be no small task. One wonders what would happen if a chest of tea made specially for Boston should by any chance find its way among others intended for Buffalo. Then, again, there are the many smaller towns, samples of the waters of which may not happen to be in the factory; how do they fare? Possibly they have to be content with the style of tea manufactured to suit one of their larger neighbours, although this can hardly be very satisfactory for them. Another point on which some information would be interesting is with regard to the samples of water. Are they like American meat sent out in a frozen state or in liquid form, and, if in the latter, in what condition do they arrive? So far as I am aware, no Indian state has yet reached this state of perfection in the manufacture of

tea, the manipulating of which to suit the waters of the different towns at home has hitherto been left to the large advertising dealers. The Americans rather object to their tea being interfered with by middlemen, and doubtless also find that the various styles and flavours are more pronounced when the manipulation is all done on the estate, and the Ceylon planters with their usual acuteness have, as has been shown, taken the matter up. Doubtless the Indian planters will follow their example when once the secret of manufacturing tea to suit different samples of water becomes more generally known.

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Tea exported from New York during September, 1903: England, 236,039 lbs.; Nova Scotia, 2,109 lbs.; Colombia, 315 lbs.; Bermuda, 280 lbs.; British West Indies, 145 lbs.; Venezuela, 35 lbs.; Cuba, 25 lbs.; Ecuador, 18 lbs. Total, 238,966 lbs.

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**Tea and Coffee at San Francisco.**—Tea imports at San Francisco during September:—

	Pounds.
England ... ..	2,500
Chinese Empire ... ..	495,618
British East Indies ... ..	97,609
Japan ... ..	1,071,100
Total ... ..	1,666,827

Coffee imports:—

	Pounds.
Costa Rica ... ..	19,400
Guatemala ... ..	413,016
Nicaragua ... ..	68,028
Salvador ... ..	81,300
Chinese Empire ... ..	33,200
British East Indies ... ..	81,020
Total ... ..	695,964

\* \* \*

Tea imported during September, 1903, according to Custom House reports: Hankow, 1,711,090 lbs.; China, 1,094,315 lbs.; Yokohama, 914,519 lbs.; British East, other, 594,807 lbs.; Shanghai, 1,093,834 lbs.; Tamsni, 483,172 lbs.; Kobe, 381,793 lbs.; Foochow, 337,268 lbs.; England, 329,185 lbs.; British India, 46,071 lbs.; Hong Kong, 30,919 lbs.; Nova Scotia, 24,075 lbs.; Muroyama Islands, 22,470 lbs.; Scotland, 111 lbs.; France, 20 lbs. Total, 7,063,649 lbs.

\* \* \*

**Telegraphic Weather and Rainfall Reports for week ended 3rd November, 1903:—**

**CACHAR.**—Hailakandi P. O.—Beneficial rain has fallen, and the temperature, though variable, has not been unfavourable for growth. Crop prospects are moderately good. Week's rainfall 0.43 of an inch. Total to date 92.51 against 104.24 inches last year.—**Katlicherra P. O.**—The rainfall has been beneficial, and crop prospects are moderately good. Manufacture has been conducted under difficulties owing to adverse weather conditions. Week's rainfall 2.62 inches. Total to date 106.89 against 117.53 inches last year.—**Kumbhir P. O.**—The weather has been cold and wet since the 29th October and crop prospects are fair. Week's rainfall 8.10 inches. Total to date 122.57 inches against 133.80 inches last year.—**Kalain P. O.**—There have been irregular and unusually heavy showers since Thursday evening, but a change for the better has now set in, and crop prospects may be said to be moderately favourable. Week's rainfall 8.19 inches. Total to date 184.15 inches against 187.66 inches last year.—**Barkola P. O.**—Good rain has fallen during the week and the weather has suddenly become dull and cold. Week's rainfall 8.41 inches. Total to date 159.35 against 158.05 inches last year.

**ASSAM.**—Chabwa P. O.—The weather has been favourable, being exceptionally warm for November, and crop prospects continue satisfactory. Week's rainfall 0.80 of an inch. Total to date 121.40 inches against 132.22 inches last year.—**Bindukuri P. O.**—Crop prospects are moderately favourable. Rainfall to date 68.85 inches against 83.26 inches last year.—**Dibrugarh P. O.**—Weather is seasonable and immediate prospects fair. The days are warm but nights cold.—**North Lakhimpur P. O.**—Weather is seasonable and prospects good.—**Nelli P. O.**—With the exception of the last two days, which have been cold and cloudy, weather on the whole has been favourable and crop prospects for November are fair.



Week's rainfall 1.38 inches. Total to date 65.38 inches against 69.18 inches last year.

**SYLHET.**—Chandpur Bagan P. O.—Weather has been wet and cold in consequence of which manufacture has had to be conducted under difficulties. Crop prospects are moderately good. Week's rainfall 5.56 inches. Total to date 92.89 inches against 112.72 inches last year. —Munshi Bazar P. O.—Too much cold rain and a low temperature have retarded growth and crop prospects are fair. The rain gauged during the week was 5.35 inches, and there is every indication of more falling.

**DOOARS.**—Alipur Duar P. O.—Weather is seasonable, the days being fine and bright, but nights cold with heavy dew. Rainfall to date 177.40 against 200.74 inches last year. —Chalsa P. O.—Bright warm days with cold nights. Rainfall to date 166.69 inches against 178.82 inches last year.

#### Tea or the Cup?—

On a September day I heard a mournful wail  
It was Sir Thomas whining for a *Shamrock* sort of gale,  
And this he got,  
But not the pot.  
We dined him to the fill, we wined him night and day,  
And fancied that the gallant knight in time would go away,  
He said: "Not I,  
More 'ads' I'll try."  
*Refrain.*

Won't you go home, Sir Thomas, won't you go home?  
List to our native cries,  
We'll drink your Oolong, darling, we'll eat your jams,  
We'll buy your cheap pork pies.  
Everything has a limit, you have reached yours,  
Isn't it time to roam?  
All of us see through the "sportsmanship" now.  
Sir Thomas, won't you please go home?

—Town Topics.

#### NOTES.

##### Age.

Coffee improves with age. Tea loses with age.

##### Preference.

In the New Zealand Parliament the Rt. Hon. R. Seddon, the Premier, has proposed that after next March British-grown tea shall be duty free, while the duty on foreign teas shall be increased by twenty per cent.

##### Entomological Circulars.

The three latest Circulars on Agricultural Economic Entomology prepared by Mr. E. P. Stebbing for the Trustees of the Indian Museum deal with the large field cricket, the cotton-boll sapper, and the crop-eating noctuid caterpillar.

##### Java Planters in Ceylon.

Messrs. Bamber and Herbert Wright, in charge of two Java tea plantations, a few days ago arrived in Ceylon. Another planter, Mr. J. G. E. G. De Dleu Stierling, has been sent by the Java Planters' Association to study the growth and manufacture of Ceylon tea. They are not to visit India.

##### Cinchona.

The auction held at Amsterdam on November 12 consisted of 7,569 bales and 637 cases, weighing 702,829 kilos. The stock in first hands at Amsterdam on October 23 consisted of 2,940 packages Government bark and 9,062 packages private bark, including the quantity to be offered above.

##### Rubber in Burma.

The efforts of Government to encourage rubber cultivation in Burma are being attended with a certain amount of success. A Burmese

Municipal Commissioner of Shwegyin has taken up the cultivation there and the wife of a Forest Officer has a large rubber plantation and recently obtained about 100,000 plants from Ceylon.

##### London Tea Sales.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton report that in London on the 12th instant buyers were operating very cautiously. The market price for medium liquoring Pekoes and common Pekoes and broken Pekoes was weak. The average prices of Assam and Indian Tea sold on garden account are 8½ and 7½d. respectively.

##### Locusts.

Mr. Maxwell Lefroy, Entomologist to the Government of India, has been making various experiments to combat the locust pest at Surat, where swarms have been damaging the crops in several places. Strenuous efforts have been made to destroy them and keep them continuously on the move so as to prevent them from depositing eggs; but so far with little or no result.

##### Manurial Experiments in Ceylon.

At last week's Agricultural Committee Meeting at Peradeniya it was announced that the Government had secured, separately, twelve-acre plots of tea at Ambalangoda, Peradeniya, Dessford, Haputale, and Portswood to carry out a thorough scheme of manurial experiments in these representative parts. The experiments last for three years free of freight for all manures.

##### Obituary.

We are sorry to hear that a telegram has been received, intimating the sudden death on the night of the 3rd instant, of Mr. James Petley senior, at Toungoo. Mr. Petley was originally in the Mercantile Marine, but for very many years had settled in Toungoo where he was a Municipal Commissioner, and took great interest in the affairs of the town. He at one time owned large coffee estates in the Leiktho Hills in Toungoo District, and cultivated coffee successfully. Some years ago his trees were attacked with disease, and they all died off in a single season. Mr. Petley, however, started a large coffee roasting business in Toungoo itself, and acquired a high reputation for the article he turned out, his coffee commanding the highest prices in the Burma market.

##### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du No. 28 (mis en vente à Paris le 31 Octobre 1903):*  
13 contributions inédites de MM. Rivière, Majani, Neuville, Main, Pedroso, Vibert, Stein, Bertin, Couturier, Negreiros, Cibot, Hecht frères & Cie. Une révolution dans le traitement du cacao (Les appareils Marcus Mason).—L'appareil à abaca des îles Philippines (av. fig.).—Multiplication des arbres à gutta.—Fabrication de la farine de banane.—Fabrication du thé.—Bière de millet.—Articles et notes sur le cocotier, le sisal, la canne à sucre, la ramie, le tabac, l'Hevea, le Céara, le Kickxia, le café la Kola, le maté, l'arachide, la fibre d'ananas, l'indigo, la vanille, le coton.—Chronique commerciale du caoutchouc.—L'avenir agricole de Cuba.—12 analyses bibliographiques: (Etats-Unis, Egypte, Ceylan.—Riz, Ramie, Canne à sucre, Café, Agaves textiles, Coton.—Rhummerie.—Terres salants.—Manuels d'agriculture tropicale.)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## VAGARIES OF THE BORER.

THE EDITOR,

*Planting Opinion.*

DEAR SIR,—Lately I have noticed a curious feature of the vagaries of the borer, it would be interesting to learn if planters elsewhere—notably in places where coffee is allowed to grow up—have observed anything of the kind, if it is—as to me—a new departure.

Having adopted the Leeming system, my coffee is left unpruned, and so the trees are thick below, with strong suckers above. Some of these for about 6 to 8 pairs of primaries, *from the top*, are drooping, certainly not from want of moisture, for rainfall is above the average. I have bent these affected suckers nearly double but they do not break, and, on closer examination, I found the usual rough bark betokening the borer. This bark on being peeled off, shows that the borer has been round the stem, but for some reason did not enter the wood, for I have split that in search of the enemy; the lower part of the tree is quite healthy; elevation 3,700 to 4,500 feet.

I am told the affected parts will recover so I am leaving them alone, the spike on these is much more advanced than on the rest of the suckers.

SHEVAROYS,  
12th November, 1903. }

Yours faithfully,  
COFFEE.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

## Too Much Dr. Johnson.

Advocates of the "Free Breakfast Table" have suddenly discovered that Mr. Chamberlain's proposals as regards tea are to be condemned, not on the score that only the larger portion of the duty is to be removed and not the whole of it, but for the reason that tea, according to Dr. Johnson, "is a barren superfluity." The *Westminster Gazette*, for instance, not only gives us the opinion of the great lexicographer about tea, but tells us the old story about lunacy in Ireland. It says: "Mr. Chamberlain is likely to be challenged by students of our social life for his sedulous endeavours to make it appear that tea-drinking is a custom to be encouraged beyond its present stage. Those who know the result of official investigations a few years ago into the cause of the increase of lunacy in Ireland will not accept Mr. Chamberlain's theory with readiness; and the greatest authority on tea-drinking in all our literature would have vigorously denounced it. Tea is not a food, and no one acquainted with the habits of the people ought to place it on a parity with bread." Any argument is doubtless useful if it can be used to refute Mr. Chamberlain, and for the moment tea is flouted by some of its former friends, who not so long ago were insisting on its importance, especially to the labouring classes. But the lunacy argument is rather stale. Strange to say, Mr. Labouchere, apropos of Mr. Chamberlain's exemption of maize from his food-taxing scheme, says that in Northern Italy, where maize is a staple food of the people, this article of diet produces a sort of madness, and that "a large percentage of the lunatics in the great asylums in Lombardy and Venetia are the victims of this maize-madness." "Can it be," says the *Daily News* apropos, "that the very alarming increase of lunacy in Ireland during the last fifty years—that is, since the introduction of maize—is due to the same cause?" As for Dr. Johnson, that great man may in some of his moods have

railed against tea "as a liquor not proper for the lower classes of the people," but he was inordinately fond of it himself, and to quote his views of the tea of his day in support of a theory that tea-drinking at the present time should be denounced seems a very belated method of attack.

## The Close of the Tea Season in Assam.

An expert correspondent of the *Financial Times* in Sylhet writes as follows:—"Tea-planters in Assam are just now very much concerned as to what the wind up of the season, on which so much depends, will be like. As far as one can see at present, there will be no great increase over last year—at any rate, not more than your market is quite in a position to deal with. Lately the weather has been most unfavourable, and probably there never was a poorer September for outturn in the annals of tea. This applies not only in one district only, but generally, and the result is reflected in the exports, which have been very slowly rising recently, and now exhibit an increase of roughly 6,000,000 lbs. To counterbalance this, however, Ceylon shows a diminution in shipments to the United Kingdom of 7,000,000 lbs. We shall be much astonished if exports, on the whole, show a great increase in spite of new area or maturer tea. Speaking generally, therefore, prospects may be said to be at 'set fair.' The quality of tea made will not be so desirable as one could wish for September, as there has been far too much rain and too low a temperature at night. It is not though that the extra duty put on by Russia on tea consigned through the Euxine ports will affect the Calcutta price average or export, and as some confirmation of this the first direct steamer, *Edward Bury*, left the other day for Odessa with something approaching 10,000 chests. The increase of duty is so small that it is not regarded as having been imposed in a retaliatory spirit, but more with a view to encouraging traffic on the Siberian Railway, *via* Dalny. The outside markets at the Calcutta weekly auctions are now taking quite a recognised place and are becoming a factor to be dealt with when calculating the amount of exports to the United Kingdom. They, no doubt, are largely responsible for a stiffening of prices. Altogether we consider the outlook hopeful if sales are regulated in London. There is some talk of doing the same thing in Calcutta, but as yet no one has come forward with a cut-and-dried proposal."

## Tea Sweepings.

A warning was given to the buyers of cheap tea at the Meeting of the Central Tea Company of Ceylon. The Chairman said "that such tea could only be rubbish discarded by the American Customs as below standard and of too low a grade for consumption, or be the sweepings and refuse from China for which no other market could be found. He suggested that Ceylon and Indian producers should continue to induce the Customs authorities to stop the importation of these adulterated and spurious teas." The *Daily Mail*, with reference to the remarks quoted above, announces that it has made "an interesting experiment to test the assertion that cheap teas sold in this country must either consist of the rubbish discarded by the American Customs as below standard, and of too low a grade for consumption, or be the sweepings and refuse from China for which no other market could be found. At a shop which supplies the needs of a crowded neighbourhood, 'a quarter of tea' at 1s. a pound was purchased on the understanding that it was a good tea for which there was a large demand. This was immediately placed before an expert, who buried his nose in it and pronounced it to be Chinese-grown. It was then infused, when the 'quality' was at once apparent. The first cup was acrid, and the second infusion of the same leaves gave off a slightly coloured liquid, almost tasteless.

"That," said the expert, "is what we want to teach the public. They do not get an economical article by buying cheap tea. The Russians, now, are more ingenious. They are poor, and a spoonful of tea must necessarily be made to go a long way. So they buy Indian tea, which would go twice as far as this." And he pointed to the sample quarter. The cheap teas are usually China-grown, but a really drinkable Indian tea can be obtained for 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d., the lowest possible limit at which a good article is to be had. That bad tea finds its way into this country at all is due to the fact that England has no Pure Tea Law like America, where a standard is adopted below which no tea must be imported into the country. Last year consumers in England suffered very heavily from the fact that cheap and good teas were impossible to obtain, and a large quantity of rubbish was shipped from over the Atlantic



to be blended here and sold broadcast. To quote the expert again, 'the remedy lies in our own hands.'

### Tea v. Rubbish.

Our New York contemporary, the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, discussing the question of better-grade teas versus rubbish, is justified in pointing a moral. It says: "The feature of the present tea year, so far as the trade in New York is concerned, is the demand for the better grades of tea and the reduced call for grades of inferior quality. Although the former has in consequence risen in value, or at least remained firm in price, and the poorer article has depreciated because of the neglect in inquiry, there seems to be no let up in the sales of the former, and no more activity in the disposition of the low tea. This situation may be regarded with no little satisfaction, and we are sure it is so accepted by the tea trade that is wont to give some thought to the quality of tea Americans should drink. Apart from the profits realised by some in commissions, a procedure usually sought in the placing of low-grade teas, we are sure the tea dealers at large will find the better grades of teas as most satisfactorily money-making, to say nothing of the pleasure found in selling only an article that recommends itself from the point of view of excellence. Of course one swallow does not make a Summer, and it may be that next year we shall find Americans inclined to retreat from fine tea-drinking; but it would seem that fine tea, once tasted, will make that of inferior quality intolerable, and so good ground gained become permanent. And a good thing is apt to find popularity, and, even supposing that for the time the growth of tea-drinking is arrested by the general use of a high-priced leaf, it would indeed be a feather in the cap of this country to be known as the consumer of 100,000,000 lbs. of high-grade teas rather than the consumer of 200,000,000 lbs. of inferior grade. We can leave that to the United Kingdom, the European continent and our Canada, countries in which poor trash seems to have the right of way."

### Tea in the Caucasus.

The cultivation of tea in Russia is reported as progressing satisfactorily. On the Crown estate, Tschakira, there were, according to recent reports, fifty-five dessjatines of land under tea cultivation. The first harvest, in April and May, gave a yield of 76,323 lbs. raw leaves. The second, in June, gave 62,430 lbs.; the third, in September, 37,412 lbs.; and the fourth, in October, 116,165 lbs.—all last year, of course. The aggregate output of dry tea was about 1,000 pood. The private tea-growers delivered a smaller quantity of raw leaves to the Tschakira establishment. Of raw tea leaves,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. yield 1 lb. of tea. As the tea has met with a ready sale, and as the cultivation is comparatively low, great hopes are entertained by those interested about the future of this industry.

### The Tea Trade of Japan.

M. Bure, the Consul-General of Belgium, points out that the tea trade of Japan is passing through a very severe crisis. In fact, Japanese tea is hardly exported anywhere, except to the United States and Canada, where it is threatened by Ceylon competition. There are no large tea plantations in Japan. Agents buy the tea from the small planters and sell the lot to exporters, usually foreigners, at the free ports. According to statistics, the number of families of growers in 1895 was 737,000, and the cultivated area of 50,500 chos (the cho is equivalent to 2.45 acres), and a production of 8,698,000 kwan (8.2 lbs.). At the present day the number of families is only 586,000, the cultivated area 49,200 chos, and production 7,643,000 kwan. Annual exports do not exceed 22,000 metric tons, valued at about £920,000, in which total 17,000 tons go to the United States, and over 4,000 to Canada and British America. Yet Japanese tea is good.

### Tea Cultivation in Persia.

The United States Vice-Consul-General John Tyler, at Teheran, says of the cultivation and preparation for consumption of tea in Persia that in the different stages of the enterprise great difficulties and obstacles had to be overcome. He adds that with a sufficiency of capital to insure scientific direction and the acquirement of the best implements and machinery for the work, the undertaking should be not only profitable but of economic advantage to Persia.

### Antwerp Rubber Sales.

At the Antwerp Rubber sales last Friday 454 tons of rubber were offered, of which 417 tons were Congo descriptions and 37 tons of sundry origin, nearly the whole of which found buyers at prices

which practically covered the brokers' average estimates, which had been made when the market was at the recent highest point. The quantities sold were 407 tons of Congo and 27 tons of other descriptions. On the basis of the prices realised, the value of the various quantities of Congo rubber is about as follows:—Red Kassai firsts and seconds, 10.35f.; Lopori, Yengu, Ikelemba, Lulonga, etc., 10.15f.; black Kassai firsts, 10.10f.; ordinary Upper Congo, Sankuru, and Lomami, 10.10f.; Mongalla, 9.90f.; Uelle, 10.00f.; Aruwimi, 9.75f.; red Kassai Loande seconds, 9.55f.; Lopori seconds, 8.75f.; and Lower Congo, Thimbus, 5.70f. The sales since the first of the month aggregate 444 tons, and the stock is 626 tons. The import of rubber into Belgium during the first nine months of this year has amounted to 5,184 tons, against 5,296 tons last year and 5,349 tons in 1901.

### A Useful Visit.

In his report upon his six months stay in Mauritius, the Chairman of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company refers to the fears which were entertained in the island lest the countervailing duties on sugar in India might not be renewed when the arrangements of the Brussels Convention came into force in September. The Governor allowed Mr. Crichton to place certain figures and statements before him, and took up the matter warmly. In the result, the continuance of the duties for an adequate time was secured, and, as the company's Mauritius properties depend so largely on the Indian market, it will be seen that the interests of the undertaking have been safeguarded so far as the present position will allow.—*H. & C. Mail.*

## COOLY CHILDREN IN CEYLON.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—

"I hear that the subject of the education of cooly children on the tea estates in Ceylon, which Mr. Schwann raised in the House last session, is to be forwarded by a meeting in London on December 7, at which Lord Reay will preside and Mr. A. G. Wise will read a paper. Lord Reay's presence will be welcomed by the friends of the movement. I am told that Mr. Schwann's questions in the House have borne much fruit already. The matter is under the consideration of a Royal Commission in Ceylon, and the report for which Mr. Chamberlain asked Sir West Ridgeway has been furnished. Mr. Schwann's contentions are amply confirmed, and two special reports are worth particular notice. Mr. A. C. Kingsford, the Chairman of the Planters' Association, recommends that the Government of Ceylon should increase the grants in aid of the State schools, and Mr. J. Harward, the Director of Public Instruction, admits that it is quite fair to say that there is no provision for the education of cooly children on tea estates. I believe that certain despatches on the subject have not been made public. It is said that despatches are extant from Mr. Chamberlain discouraging much expenditure on education in Ceylon, and I have heard that Sir West Ridgeway actually advised that Mr. Schwann and others interested should turn their attention rather to supporting the missionary schools, which is hardly a discreet way of meeting the movement."

## COFFEE TALK.

Coffee pays best when bought in bulk? We put this opinion of many good grocers in the form of a question, says the *Merchants' Review*, because it is far from certain that a bulk trade is best for all grocers. If a dealer knows coffee and how to buy it, also how to handle it and pack it, and, in order to instruct the consumer, how to grind and infuse it, he will do well enough with bulk coffee, but how many dealers know how to select coffee, how to taste it and compare the various samples, and how to pack it for sale? Grocers who send ground coffee home to the consumer in a thin paper bag, or even treat whole roasted coffee in that way, are not likely to find that bulk coffees pay. Those who take such risks as we have mentioned had better stick to the package brands of some large wholesaler or roaster.

It is a rather far cry from the act of packing loose ground coffee in a flimsy sheet of paper to the task of selecting coffee in a big sales-room among strangers, but there is usually a close connection between the two acts, for the reason that so many grocers



buy coffee because it is so nice in colour, so brown and polished, without waiting for some of the article to be infused and properly tasted in the cup.

Depend upon it that the dealer who is careful enough to buy by cup test will not risk the loss of his trade by allowing his coffee to go out in a package not air-tight, and he will not be willing to have it go out in a ground state, if he can avoid it. It is a good thing to have a few small hand-mills on hand, in order that customers may be induced to buy one and avoid any further risk of loss on ground coffee. As coffee not only rapidly loses strength and flavour after grinding, but also is very absorbent of foreign odors and flavors, the point we urge is one of no small importance.

Coffee can be called anything you please—the name deceives nobody with any experience—it is the flavor and aroma that count; therefore, in buying, the grocer takes care he does not pay a fraction of a cent for a trade-name like "Java" or "Mocha," for of a surety he will never recover the excess, if he does.

Some persons like one kind of coffee and some like another kind. Therefore it is safest to find out the tastes of a community before stocking up with high-priced grades. The dealer's public may prefer common Rio and Santos coffees to high-grade Java. It is usually found that blends give better and more general satisfaction than a single kind.

It is not advisable that a public should be allowed to continue in its infatuation for poor coffee, and by degrees the grocer should educate his people to use a more profitable grade or grades. It is, however, necessary that the grocer should learn before he attempts to teach. We remember how an ambitious grocer of our acquaintance once started out confidently to make coffee a specialty and capture all the coffee trade in sight. He procured what he thought was a good grade (it was a strong, pungent, thick, heavy beverage) and offered it at 25c., demonstrating it and employing all the usual expedients. Being introduced to the article by the grocer himself, the writer found that right in the neighbourhood there were grocers selling far superior coffees, at but slightly higher prices, which prices the neighbourhood seemed perfectly willing to pay. Soon the first grocer learned, to his chagrin, that he had made no headway. We question whether he had not lost trade, owing to his challenge causing people to give some attention to the coffee supply of the neighbourhood naturally the discovery that there were grocers nearby who were furnishing really meritorious blends, and making no fuss over the fact, did not tend to make the situation of the ambitious dealer very pleasant. His mistake was in permitting himself to remain ignorant of the general status of the coffee question thereabouts, and he was also to blame when he allowed his coffee to get so low in grade not long before he started out to revolutionize the trade. When he finally raised the standard, on the eve of his effort, his ignorance caused him to flatter himself that he had the best coffee in the district, merely because he had raised his own standards considerably.

Similar results often follow the house-to-house canvassing by tea and coffee agents. Time after time the writer has investigated and found the pretensions of these gentry based upon a grade of tea or coffee actually inferior to the corresponding grades in the nearby grocery stores. Doubtless the agents believed their samples were the best, the consumers often believed so, and possibly some of the grocers may have thought the same, but certainly none of the grocers had done any boasting, nor had they called attention to their teas and coffees.

We candidly recommend grocers to look into the coffee question. Quite likely they have brands that would pay well, if pushed, and they will stand grievously in their own light if they refuse to take aggressive action if their blends will warrant it.

Where there is much smoke there must be some fire, and there are certainly some grounds for the accusations which certain interested parties hurl at the Arabian berry. Still, it is extremely doubtful if any person in health is ever the worse for drinking coffee properly prepared. The coffee that disagrees is the coffee that is badly made. Of all the sins by which the reputation of coffee suffers the worst are committed in the kitchen. The strong, percolated infusion, with not too much milk, is digestible, nutritious, cordial and tonic, whereas the weak infusion that so many people drink in their ignorance, thinking its weakness a safe sign, is absolutely harmful, being difficult of digestion and lacking in the wholesome qualities of the properly prepared beverage.

Grocers need not waste time on the blending and roasting, on the buying and selling, if the coffee bean is not to have a fair show in the kitchen. For this reason we have always advocated the use of wrappers bearing explicit instructions for making coffee, and we would advise in addition the use of little slips bearing the same information, to be placed among each customer's purchases from time to time, because this form of the receipt is more apt to be read, marked and inwardly digested than the stereotyped formula on the wrapper.

October is as good a month as any to begin a movement for the reform of coffee-making in the home. Why not join with the grocers who have been doing the same thing for some time? Why cannot the trade papers join a movement to rouse the trade to the importance of the work? Surely it is not of less moment than the free sugar scheme which one paper has been subsidized to undertake, or the stereotyped proceedings of grocers' meetings which other papers find room for, or the picnics and excursions, garnishment bills and similar matters to which other papers devote their active mental and muscular energies!

There is some excuse for poor results from infusing coffee, for there is such a variety of counsels that the most careful cook could easily go wrong. There is also a considerable difference in the tastes of consumers, some liking very strong coffee, and some liking weaker infusions.

It is said that the finest coffee in the world is made in the Cuban style, by half filling a coarse flannel bag with finely pulverized coffee and suspending it from a nail over the vessel which is to contain the beverage. Cold water is poured over the bag at intervals until the coffee is well saturated, when the first drippings into the vessel are poured again over the bag, until the liquor has become quite thick and very black. To make a cup of coffee a teaspoonful of the drippings is poured into the cup, which is then filled to the brim with boiling milk. The coffee bag hangs continually on the kitchen wall in Cuba, and the pouring of the cold water and the resultant drip are incessant.

In Brazil the finely ground coffee is placed in a muslin bag, which is then put into the pot and boiling water is poured over it, the coffee in the bag being allowed to infuse for a quarter of an hour. The beverage thus made is strong, the entire strength of the coffee being in fact extracted. It is drunk without milk.

## COFFEE-GROWING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

There are many theories to support the belief that American capital and enterprise will find its principal scope in these islands in the coffee-growing industry. There are obvious reasons why the cultivation of this plant will soon receive serious attention in the Philippines. Latitude, altitude, climate and all qualities of the soil necessary to the raising of coffee combine to attract investors. Lastly, an amount equal to twice the value of our trade with China, goes to Brazil annually to purchase this commodity; exports from the United States to Brazil are infinitesimal by the side of this importation. If this demand can be supplied from the Philippines, the coffee trade alone will amount to as much annually as our aggregate imports and exports at the present time.

The immense hilly areas of the Philippines, where the ground is at once friable, well drained and enriched by the washing down of new soil by frequent rains, assuredly offer special inducements to the cultivation of coffee. The islands lie within the region of the tropics best adapted for this industry. The mountain slopes ranging from 1,000 to 4,000 feet above sea-level, in latitudes lying between 15 degrees north and 15 degrees south, offer the most favourable inducements, although it is successfully cultivated from 25 degrees north to 30 degrees south, where the temperature does not fall below 55 degrees Fahr.

An attractive feature of coffee cultivation is the short time required for returns on capital invested. The plants begin bearing in the second year, and by the third year will produce a remunerative crop.

Sufficient coffee is grown throughout the islands at the present time to demonstrate that it is already beyond the experimental stage. There is no reason why as high-grade coffee may not be produced in Mindanao and many of the southern islands as that which has made Java famous. Mindanao being the same distance north of the equator as Java is south. Neither is there any reason to assume that the insect pests with which cultivators will have to



contend will be more formidable in the Philippines than in other regions of the tropics in the same latitude.

There are wonderful possibilities in the outlook for this industry in the Philippines.

The cultivation of coffee should receive more than ordinary attention.

Every pound produced will find an open market in the United States. The investor in this line will rest secure from the thought of adverse tariff legislation. The same may be said of cocoa, copra, rubber and the forest products.—*Manila Times*.

### A PLANTER'S FARM.

This, remarks the Ooty paper, is one of the most impracticable suggestions that has been made and emanates from Mysore. A central farm is wanted somewhere that shall serve the interests of planters everywhere, to show them how to grow tea, coffee, pepper, cardamoms, rubber, cinchona, etc., according to the most approved methods. Considering that each of these products has its own requirements of soil, climate, elevation, and other natural conditions, how is it possible to have a farm that shall combine each and all? Coffee districts are not all suited to tea, and tea to cinchona or cardamoms, so that if the centre is in the tea district, it cannot serve for any or all the others.

Nor does the proposal tell us exactly what it is intended to accomplish that is not already within the purview of our existing botanical and experimental parks and gardens. Here on the Nilgiris, we have these scattered over the district under varying conditions of elevation, aspect, and rainfall. In the Mysore Province similarly, there are gardens and parks in the city and in Bangalore town, under a scientific expert who is doing all that he is permitted to do by his controlling agency and within the funds allotted to him. In the Western Presidency, we have an Agricultural Department not unmindful of exotics and products, that the planter might cultivate as bye-products if not as his staple. What will a central farm do under impossible conditions that these institutions cannot do in theory, and are prevented from carrying out in practice from not being allowed a free hand and having to work on a limited budget provision?

Rather than multiply our agencies, it would be wiser if we extended their spheres of usefulness, increasing their resources and generally developing them.

Again, it must be borne in mind that, in Southern India, we have five separate Governments, the Madras, the Mysore, the Travancore, the Cochin, and the Government of India. Which of these five is to take the initiative and by what means is its co-operation to be ensured? Each will wish to know what the benefit to itself is to be from a central planter's farm, and will see and measure its contribution by the extent of that benefit. Will not this prove the old rule that what is everybody's business is nobody's, and will it be possible to apportion the cost rateably to advantages derived? We thus fail to see one single feature in the scheme that renders it practicable or even possible, and shall not be surprised to hear that it is consigned to oblivion.

### THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The latest number of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural Society* has many papers of very considerable living interest in its table of contents. It deals with insect life in India, with the birds of Travancore and other districts, with the malicious anopheles mosquito, with the Gaur and the Gayal, with certain trees and shrubs, with batrachians, and gives some interesting details of "kills" by carnivorous animals, besides "Miscellaneous Notes" recording some late singular experiences of observant sportsmen. The illustrations, up to the usual excellent standard, are, we note, increasing in number.

The first article on "Insect Life and How to Study It," is by Mr. E. P. Stebbing, who shows what an immense part insects play in the economy of the world and of India in a special manner. While proving that the subject is attractive and will repay close observation, Mr. Stebbing lets the reader know that as insects form the largest division of the animals of the world, it is practically impossible for us to make acquaintance with all the species that exist. It was Huxley who made the apparently wild scientific

statement that the produce of a single Aphis, the rose-enemy, would in the short course of ten generations, supposing all the green insects survived, "contain more ponderable substance than 500 millions of stout men, that is more than the whole population of China." That being granted, in a few years they would, following the destructive path that nature has marked out for them, leave no plant food for other animals except of those kinds they do not care to eat. Man would be cleared off the earth by their depredations, too, says Mr. Stebbing but for the fact that the Aphis is only one of many which are opposed to one another in sufficient measure to ensure mutual consideration. The rate at which insects may multiply can be calculated from the capacity of the maddening house-fly, one of which may have in a season the respectable number of 25,000,000 descendants. Let no novice in the study of insects be disheartened by the minute details of their lives which must be followed with patience and exactitude, and in the most apparently unlikely places, for the pursuit is full of interest, and Mr. Stebbing's papers lead by the well-known sign-posts of familiar insects through pleasant roads into nature's insect-strongholds. Sir G. F. Hampson's supplementary paper on "The Moths of India" adds to the lists of the Endotri-Chinæ, the Pyralinæ, the genus *Lamacha*, the Hydrocampinæ, the Scopariinæ, the Pyraustinæ, the genus *Cybolonia*, Cornifrons and Teratausta with scientific detailed description. Mr. Young, the Entomological Honorary Secretary to the Society, has a much-needed paper on "The Classification of the Lepidoptera Papilionina," in which he urges the necessity for carefully grouping the genera and families of the Indian section of these insects. He tabulates them, giving schemes of the principal genera in family-tree fashion, with their characteristics and points of resemblance. The Anopheles receives considerable attention, that of Ceylon is written on by Major N. Manders, that of Karwar by H. Cogill. Surgeon at Sholapur. Both papers describe minutely the manners and habitats of this mosquito, and follow it from the egg through all its stages to its grave in the test tube.

Mr. G. A. Gammie discourses on "The Trees and Shrubs of the Lonavla and Karla Groves," five of which were examined. The local vernacular names as well as the botanical are given of all the shrubs and trees observed. Mr. Gammie says of these woods that they teem with absorbing lessons to a field botanist and they furnish an endless series of botanical problems. He does not believe in the tradition that the Deccan was once covered by forests of which these sacred groves are but the remnants. The climate and soil of the region must, he thinks, have been vastly different in former times if forests did abound in the district. Yet we have heard the story that a trustful administrator, with immense belief in the altruistic and economical spirit of the people, gave them over charge of the forests, certain that once their own property they would preserve them carefully. The result disappointed him, for in a year naught remained but the groves that still exist guarded by the Forest Department from further destruction. This is the tradition, but it may not be true. "The Birds of Travancore" are being studied and written about by Messrs. H. S. Ferguson and T. F. Bourdillon, who are dividing the province into four divisions and describing the bird-life therein, the Jungle Crow beginning a list in Part I. of thirty-five birds; more papers will follow. Many varieties of Duck and Teal are classified in another article by Mr. C. M. Inglis, the seventh instalment of whose contribution is in this number. Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, gives his experiences with the Gaur and the Gayal during the thirteen years he has been trying either to prove their identity or to establish the theory that they are distinct individuals. The result is a most interesting paper which all sportsmen who have been or may be lucky enough to shoot the animals in Assam, North Cachar, or Chittagong, or any other picturesque spot where they abound, will welcome. This article is illustrated with heads of different degrees of horn development. We are glad to observe that early next year—now close at hand—a series on "Indian Snakes" by Captain F. Wall, I.M.S., will appear in the *Journal*, with coloured illustrations. Later it is hoped that a series on the "Common Butterflies of India," also with coloured plates, will find a place, as well as another on the "Orchids of Western India" with coloured illustrations. The *Journal*, already sufficiently interesting and attractive, will, we should think, through these additions in such varied directions, attract an ever-widening circle of readers. It is a publication that chronicles facts in regard to the fauna and flora of India, inexhaustible fountains of absorbing interest in which if the observer once turns his attention to them



seriously he will find unceasing occupation for his leisure. If Anglo-Indians, instead of railing at the climate and their hard work, would look round them when fate—either in guise of a holiday or of Government orders—takes them into what first seems the dry and arid jungle, they would find Nature at hand with myriads of subjects worthy of their closest study. Their moments of leisure would prove doubly valuable, and they could fill their diaries with records of the doings of the wild things that people the jungle. These items would be important links in the chain of natural history that interests every one who has once taken up the study seriously. Those who go out into the mofussil either to kill or to preserve might intelligently jot down what they see for the benefit of others. The paper on "Kills" by Mr. W. A. Wallinger in this volume of the *Journal* is a fine example of what can be done in this direction to inform and interest. The "Miscellaneous Notes" are other items that will be read with pleasure. There is no reason why these should not expand *ad infinitum* if those who are lucky enough to come through unusual experiences send them to the Editor for insertion.

### LECTURE ON "TEA-PLANTING IN CEYLON."

At the opening course of lectures to be delivered to grocers' assistants by Dr. R. Stewart MacDougall, M.A., during the ensuing Winter, at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, Mr. John Wilson, of the firm of Honeyman and Wilson, and ex-M.P. for Edinburgh, gave an account of "Tea-Planting in Ceylon," as seen by himself during a recent visit to the island. After a long and interesting description of tea-growing, manufacture, and packing in Ceylon and Northern India, the lecturer, speaking of the growth of the tea trade, recalled the time when, as a boy, he was sent to pay a duty of 2s. 2½d. at Leith on the commonest Bohea, the price of which in bond was 1s. 3d. per lb.; now the duty was 6d., and the average price of Ceylon tea on the London market 8d. When they considered the 250,000,000 lbs. of tea imported last year from Ceylon, and that it was grown by British industry, he thought it needed neither a Prime Minister nor an ex-Colony Secretary to point the moral. Moreover, they must remember that the Anglo-Saxon race was the largest tea consumer in the world. In this country the yearly consumption was 6½ lbs. per head, in New Zealand the same, in Australia 7½ lbs., and in Canada 4½ lbs. Russia consumed 1 lb. per head—the bulk of the population, of course, was very poor; Holland 1½ lbs., and Germany and France 2 oz. and 1 oz. respectively. Owing to the enterprize of Ceylon growers, the exports to France were increasing, however, and "afternoon tea" was becoming a feature.

With regard to green tea Mr. Wilson said this tea, which was merely tea unfermented, was only seen in the low country of Ceylon. Unlike the green tea of China, it had no colouring matter added, and perhaps did not on that account present so attractive an appearance; but there was a growing demand for Ceylon green tea in America and Canada, and he thought there was an opening for enterprising English growers in this respect; to his taste it was very agreeable, and preferable to the Chinese product.

### COTTON CULTIVATION IN CEYLON.

A CHAT WITH MR. J. C. WILLIS.

Mr. J. C. Willis, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya, returned recently from India, whither he had been to study the question of cotton growing as a likely industry for Ceylon. Mr. Willis told a correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon*, who called on him, that 20 acres of land had been planted in the Anuradhapura district, by way of experiment, with the Tinnevely variety. In India the

#### AVERAGE CROP PER ACRE

was about 75 lbs., which, at 20 cents a lb., amounted to Rs.15. From the sale of seed another Rs.6 or Rs.7 was added, so that the estimated income per acre in India was about Rs.22. The Tinnevely variety was, Mr. Willis said, the best cultivated in India, and the crops were, as a rule, sold to Messrs. Volkart Brothers or Messrs. Ralli Brothers, who had machinery, worked by steam, for separating and ginning the cotton. The figures, Rs.22, had to be received with one reservation—the Indian cultivators did not count their labour as expenditure. Proceeds from the sale of the crops were all clear profit to them. That could not well be the

same with the European cultivators in Ceylon, however large their acreage. A small profit might be possible with one cooly for every two acres; but profit would entirely disappear if a cooly were set apart for every acre.

The Indian cultivators, also, went in for a

#### ROTATION OF CROPS,

and generally raised a crop of grain for their food after their cotton crop. Mr. Willis saw no reason why in Ceylon gingelly should not be planted in the same way, although, for some unknown reason, gingelly was very little grown in Ceylon just now. It was mostly affected in the North-Central Province, where, on almost every patch of chena, gingelly was grown and formed one of the best-paying crops there, as also in the Northern Province. Speaking of

#### THE GINNING MACHINERY,

Mr. Willis said there were hand-machines which could turn out about 50 lbs. a day. The natives of India used a hand-machine, called *churka* in Tamil, with which a woman ginned about 4 lbs. a day. Ginning was indispensable before export, unless freight was of no consideration, and separation of cotton would do away with the importation of cotton seed for cattle from India. The requisite soil for cotton was fairly well known,—all dry parts of the island being considered suitable.

#### VARIETIES AND COMPARATIVE PRICES.

In America there were over a hundred kinds of cotton grown. The Uplands variety, which gave three-fourths of the entire yield of the world, and sold at 6d. to 7d. per lb., and the South Sea Islands variety, from 11d. to 1s. per lb., were among the best known. The price of the Tinnevely variety was 5d. per lb. and that of Bengal 3½d. The Egyptian cotton sold at 10d. per lb. While twice the price of the Tinnevely cotton, the Egyptian variety yielded a crop three times as much in quantity as the former. It was doubtful whether Egyptian cotton would thrive well in Ceylon; but, if it could be made to grow, the island would profit both in the quantity and quality of its cotton. The South Sea Islands variety grew only on the coast. It had been tried in Ceylon, but was not a success. The American and Egyptian varieties, Mr. Willis added, would be tried in Ceylon next year. The cotton crops at the Anuradhapura gardens would be worked from February to July. The American and Egyptian varieties would also require irrigation. In planting them, the two kinds would be separated from each other by a tract of jungle, so as to prevent all possibility of mixing up the varieties.

### TEA IN EUROPE.

In dealing with the tea problem on the Continent we have to bear in mind that there are two lines of exploitation, which have often to be separately considered:—

- (1) The substitution of British-grown for China tea in those countries where the tea-drinking habit already exists;
- (2) The creation of a taste for tea, where at present there is little or none.

Italy is a country typical of the latter condition, and is in fact, relatively to population, one of the smallest tea-consumers in Europe. Many causes contribute to this state of affairs. In general, we find throughout the Continent that the Latin, and more especially the Southern Latin, races are the best addicted to tea-drinking. And in Italy itself there exists in this respect a wide difference between the Southern and the more Northern portions of the Kingdom. Climate of course has much to do with it; the economic conditions in the vine-growing Sicilies being much less favourable to tea-consumption than those of the more commercial and industrial North.

But the two greatest barriers to real progress in the use of tea in Italy are, firstly, the high duties levied both by the Customs and the Municipalities, and secondly, the poverty, more especially in the South, of the mass of the people, to whom tea at its present prices is an unattainable luxury. Tea in Italy has, in fact, hitherto remained an "article de luxe," like champagne, and has consequently been maintained at the artificially high level of cost usually imposed upon fashionable beverages.

But of late there are signs of a change for the better; and the support recently afforded by the Indian Tea Association to the English Tea-Rooms at Rome is an important step in the right direction. These tea-rooms are energetically managed by two



English ladies, who are under contract to supply only pure Indian tea at moderate prices. In 1902 some 23,500 persons were served in the cup with this tea, several thousand small packets of which were also sold in dry form at prices much below those current for China and other kinds far inferior in quality. This Indian tea has been advertized as widely as funds would permit, both by newspaper and placard, with the result that in three years the "dry" sales have increased over 300 per cent. and are still growing. Thus, by advertisement, and by means of the Parcel Post, these teas are now made available to any Italian desiring even a pound or two of good tea, while any inhabitant of Rome can, for a few pence, taste a cup of good Indian tea properly prepared. And it is an encouraging fact that all who have tried these teas—which have been most carefully chosen to meet local requirements and taste—tend to become permanent consumers.

Though one or two agencies have been started in other Italian towns and sales of packets are also made by post, it is naturally in Rome itself that most business is done. Fashionable Society is in most countries rapidly adopting "afternoon tea" as an agreeable form of entertainment, and Rome is the centre of Society in Italy. And as almost everywhere fashions percolate gradually from the upper to each successive lower social stratum, there is good reason to hope that at least the middle classes of Italy will presently take more kindly to tea-drinking. If only it could be made cheaper to the Italian consumer tea would undoubtedly become a more popular beverage. In the larger northern cities, such as Milan, Turin, etc., it is already used to some extent, and the custom is said to prevail of taking cups or glasses of tea—mostly with rum or lemon in lieu of milk—late at night, say after the theatre, especially in Winter. And here we are reminded of one of the many difficulties of the tea-trader in Italy—that of season. It is practically only in Winter that tea is much used. During the long hot Summer Italians prefer their *sherbets* and other cooling drinks, and take little or no tea, which they regard rather as a "tisane" for the cold weather. Thus the above-mentioned Tea-Rooms in Rome have usually been closed from the end of June till early in October. But in 1902, they were for the first time kept open right through the Summer, the result being sufficiently encouraging to induce a repetition of the experiment this year, though business naturally falls to a minimum at that season.

There are in Rome several other places for the consumption of afternoon tea, and the visitors include many Italians of the upper classes. Wholesale tea-houses there are in Italy practically none. Tea is principally retailed by grocers and provision dealers, mostly China or so-called Russian blends, in very small packets which are generally high in price much overkept. On these lines any large expansion of the trade seems improbable. But it is hoped that the new departure at the English Tea-Rooms in Rome may lead to a better knowledge of, and taste for, good tea.

*Tea Duties*—It has already been said that these are high in Italy. The official tariff is lire 250 per 100 kilos., or about 11d. per lb.

But in practice, allowing for careless weighing at the Customs, irregular tare and inevitable "sundries," the duty comes to much nearer 1s. Then there is the "dazio comunale," or town-tax, which varies in different Municipalities, but which averages about 2d. to 2½d. per lb. We thus have a burden of some 14d. on each lb. of tea, or say 100 to 150 per cent. on the prime cost of the article. The rate will vary somewhat according to the port or city, and particularly according to the size of the shipment. The two following test cases, in which Rome was the destination, may thus be of practical interest. The duties and charges on the tea (excluding "c. i. f." altogether) worked out as follows:—

	s.	d.
On 20 kilos. by Parcel Post, per kilo., Lire 3.06 = per lb.	1	1½
„ 350 „ „ Sea „ „ „ 2.92 = „	1	0¾

These results were below rather than above the average.

It is much to be regretted that no means have as yet been found of approaching the Italian Government with a view to negotiating some reduction of these rather crippling duties. The matter has indeed already been mooted, but has unfortunately not been pursued.

The total gross revenue raised from tea by the Italian Government cannot at present amount to £6,000 annually—a sum quite insignificant in the Italian budget of over £72,000,000 sterling. Were the tea duty reduced by half—say to 5d. or 6d. per lb.—it is not improbable that the nett revenue drawn from tea would be actually increased. The effects of such a reduction might thus be threefold, conferring benefits alike on the Italian Government, the Italian consumer and on the tea-planter of India.

*Statistics.*—The population of Italy in 1902 was about 32 millions. The total nett tea imports in that year were 48,700 kilos., or about 107,000 lbs., which would give an average consumption per head of 1½ grammes, or say 0.05 of an ounce.

As, however, the great mass of the Italian people drink practically no tea, the *per capita* figures are very little guide to progress. Looking further back we find that in the 11 years, 1887—1898, the consumption increased from some 33,000 to over 45,000 kilos. per annum, or about 40 per cent. In the last 5 years, 1888—1902, the progress has been much slower, *viz.*, only from 45,600 to 48,700 kilos. The following table shows the total nett imports of tea into Italy:—

In 1887 ...	33,300 kilos.	In 1900 ...	49,000 kilos.
„ 1898 ...	45,600 „	„ 1901 ...	47,500 „
„ 1899 ..	41,600 „	„ 1902 ...	48,700 „

The Italian statistics generally specify only the "country whence imported" and not the kind of tea; it is thus difficult to state accurately what proportions of Indian, Ceylon, China, etc., are included in the above totals. It may be doubted, however, whether British-grown tea forms at present more than 25 per cent. of the whole.

Roughly speaking, nearly one half the tea imported into Italy comes from Great Britain, about one-sixth from Germany, and less

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than one-twelfth each from "British Asia" and China direct, some ten other countries dividing the remainder among them. This is shown below in tabular form: the 4 years given being the last for which the full figures are yet available:—

Nett Imports of Tea into Italy.					
		1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Great Britain	Kilos. ...	21,600	18,200	22,500	19,600
Germany	" ...	10,300	8,400	7,000	7,400
British India	" ...			1,300	2,600
Other British	" ..	3,300	2,200		
Asia	" ..			1,100	200
China.	" ...	1,300	1,800	2,200	3,600
Other countries	" ..	9,100	11,000	14,900	14,100
Total ...		45,600	41,600	49,000	47,500

—Capital.

## THE BRITISH TEA DUTY AND MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S POLICY.

### INDIA AND THE CROWN COLONIES.

The *Times of Ceylon* remarks:—This week's London letter appeared in our Thursday's issue, wherein our correspondent dealt with the subject of tea and the new fiscal policy, and referred to Mr. Chamberlain's calculations as crediting to the working man's budget the whole of the proposed reduction. "A. B." had written to the ex-Colonial Secretary, and we append his letter and the reply received. Our correspondent has not "drawn" Mr. Chamberlain—that was not his desire—but the point raised will receive the latter's attention and the attention of those working with him. When a duty is increased or decreased it takes time, which probably varies greatly for different commodities, and influenced by supply and demand, before a precise division of the amount is finally arrived at between producer and consumer. In forwarding the letters our correspondent remarks that a prominent Ceylon man, in conversation, expressed the opinion that the Government would never take off the whole of the tea duty, and that this is not to be desired, as letting in a lot of China. There is certainly some division of belief on the point; but we see no reason to alter our policy of "total abolition." The letters are as follow:—

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.

SIR, In all the calculations I have seen going to show what the position of the consumer would be under the new fiscal conditions you are so ably advocating, the consumer appears to be credited with the full reduction in the tea-duty whether it is entirely removed or reduced to one-third of the present amount.

It appears to some of us who have had long experience in the production of British-grown teas that the effect of abolishing or greatly reducing the duty would so greatly stimulate the consumption and wastage of tea as to raise the price in bond by perhaps a halfpenny or a penny a pound.

That would be of enormous benefit to the important tea-growing interest in India and Ceylon which has for some years been in a depressed condition. At the same time it would seem that the consumer would not get the full benefit of the reduction, at any rate for a time, as it takes about five years to bring a tea plantation to the bearing stage and thus increase the amount of tea available. To the extent of the rise in price then, the calculation would be falsified.

It is true that there is an almost unlimited supply of tea to be obtained from China, but the tea drunk in the United Kingdom is now almost entirely British-grown, and it is at least doubtful if the public will ever again drink China tea in any quantity.

I should esteem it a favour if you would give me your views on this aspect of the subject. I need hardly say that the question is raised in no captious spirit, for British tea-growers are almost to a man in the deepest sympathy with your aims.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. BETHUNE.

London correspondent, *Times of Ceylon*, October 13th.

A. Bethune, Esq.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13th instant addressed to Mr. Chamberlain. Owing to the great pressure upon him at the present time it is impossible for him to reply personally to the many thousands of letters which have reached him on the subject of Tariff Reform, or to amplify his public speeches in private correspondence.

Mr. Chamberlain is most grateful to those of his friends who have sent him their good wishes in the arduous task in which he is engaged, and he takes note of all the suggestions made to him.

He has already stated that, in sketching broadly the policy he advocates, he cannot commit himself to further details without consulting the repre-

sentatives of all the trades interested and without the opportunity of referring to the Governments of the British Colonies and Possessions.

He hopes to deal with some of the questions raised, both by supporters and opponents of his policy, in future speeches; but, for the reasons already given, he is quite unable to reply separately to all of his correspondents.—I am, yours obediently,

S. BOWERS.

Highbury, Moor Green, Birmingham, October 14th.

Another point, which is not embodied in the letter to Mr. Chamberlain, is the fact that he has said nothing in his speeches hitherto to show that he favours a preferential tea-duty against China and Java; but Mr. Bethune writes to us that "to be consistent he must surely go in for that; or are the Crown Colonies to be less favourably treated than self-governing ones?" It is a coincidence that in to-day's telegrams Reuter records that Sir M. Hicks-Beach complains that Mr. Chamberlain ignores India and the Crown Colonies, whereas a London telegram re-wired from Bombay announces Mr. Chamberlain's attitude towards India as described in a letter to Sir M. Bownaggee. This may result in a further declaration on the question on the 20th instant at Cardiff, which apparently is Mr. Chamberlain's next platform engagement. In any case to-day's announcement by telegraph is important, as showing that the reformer is anxious to learn India's views; and, by the argument of analogy, he will also desire to know the opinions of the various Crown Colonies, including Ceylon. When the Tea and Produce Committee of our London Association has discussed the subject of differential duties we trust to see a keener desire both in Ceylon circles at home and in our local public bodies to discuss the whole subject.

## THE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY.

The most fruitful source of contention between individuals is failure to comprehend each other's meaning. Such error arises, more often than not, from different individuals attaching different meanings to the same word. And this being true of people employing their common language in domestic negotiation, how vastly greater is the danger of misunderstanding between people ignorant of each other's language! Interpretation and translation are not exact sciences. A political dispatch written in one language may be rendered in another, so as to soften it, or make it appear more stringent, at the will of the interpreter; and that, too, without any indefensible departure from the original. Some years ago, there was almost a rupture between the United States and France, owing to an American minister, imperfectly acquainted with the French language, attaching a dictatorial meaning to the very innocent word *demandeur*.

Nations are more widely divided by difference of language than by colour of skin, rivers, mountain chains, or even oceans. The Englishman and the Australian, born at opposite points of the world, converse like brothers, while a Chinaman of Swatow and a Chinaman of Canton, natives of the same country and both supposed to speak Chinese, find it convenient to talk together in a barbarous sort of English which they acquire from British and American sailors at their ports, so greatly does the Chinese language differ in various parts of the Celestial Empire.

Some of the world's greatest thinkers hold the opinion that a time must surely come when there will be but one language spoken throughout the world. They base their belief upon the obvious facts that every year transit becomes cheaper and more rapid, and education more diffused and of a higher standard. Trade, by bringing all nations together, and uniting their interests, is another great factor that must not be lost sight of. Enter a good drug store in any country you please, and ask, by its English name, for a bottle of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and it is a thousand to one but you will be immediately supplied with what you desire, so universally is that great remedy known and esteemed. Writing 9th June, 1903, Mr. J. McJohnns, F.C., of Vogel Vlei, Mossel Bay Division, Cape Colony, says: "A few weeks ago a coloured man came into my store who appeared a mere skeleton, and complained of pain in his chest and lungs. He asked my opinion, and I recommended him to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup and a Seigel Plaster. He accepted my advice and the result was astonishing. The man is now perfectly well, and gratefully acknowledges the cause of his good health."



Another letter, dated 17th June, 1903, from Mrs. W. Smith, of Graham's Town, Cape Colony, is equally satisfactory. Mrs. Smith says: "Three years ago I was much troubled by pains in the head, which were so severe at times as to cause me to vomit and badly affect my eyesight. To add to my misery, my teeth would frequently ache for days and nights continuously, until I thought I must go mad. Yellow patches appeared on my chest and back, caused, I was told, by an affection of the liver. I obtained medicine from several physicians, but without experiencing the slightest relief, I had abandoned all hope of being cured when a doctor advised me to try Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. After taking a few doses of that remedy, there was a change for the better. I continued to take the Syrup for a time and was soon completely cured. All of my ailments have disappeared and I now enjoy the best of health."

The remedy of which Mr. McJohnns and Mrs. Smith speak so highly is the standard medicine of the sixteen principal countries of the world; but there is no nation by which it is not known and esteemed, and no language in which its use has not been commented upon with gratitude.

## MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated October 30th, 1903, says:—

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904	603,908	481,580	44,089
1902-1903	632,836	546,790	35,251

42,077 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 60,043 packages were offered in public auction  
16,575 " CEYLON } this week.  
1,391 " JAVA }

The general buying noticed last week has again been conspicuous in the sales and tended, if anything, to a further hardening of prices, the better feeling extending now to pretty nearly all grades of tea, although medium kinds still continue to be relatively very cheap.

New markets appear to have shown some progress up to the end of September, although the chief increase, as far as can be ascertained at present, seems to be due to the manufacture of Ceylon Green Tea.

Quantity of Indian and Ceylon Tea re-exported from U. K. from 1st January to 30th September.

INDIAN.		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Countries in Europe	..	3,600,359	5,106,480	5,128,485	3,213,050	2,837,425
United States	..	727,396	1,216,319	994,568	333,789	388,717
Canada	..	632,797	1,266,368	1,093,099	869,485	1,093,295
Newfoundland	..	87,684	94,135	107,822	72,460	64,924
Other Countries	..	2,119,805	2,677,250	2,321,505	1,613,547	810,153
Total lbs.	..	7,163,041	10,360,552	9,645,479	6,102,331	5,194,514
Transshipments to						
North America	..	2,027,291	1,757,974	557,173	977,141	210,556
To Russia	..	1,527,500	307,800	320,415	815,229	273,486
To other Countries	..	99,440				
		3,654,231	2,065,774	877,588	1,792,370	484,042

CEYLON.		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Countries in Europe	..	5,296,970	6,164,020	7,241,228	6,325,805	5,494,425
United States	..	2,138,254	1,856,044	1,815,366	779,113	945,212
Canada	..	1,951,165	2,096,682	1,579,909	1,402,198	1,296,009
Newfoundland	..	202,216	294,826	326,233	224,509	192,959
Other Countries	..	2,317,527	2,664,080	2,342,216	1,547,231	984,184
Total lbs.	..	11,906,132	13,075,652	13,304,952	10,278,856	8,912,789
Transshipments to						
North America	..	2,162,943	2,788,597	1,903,462	1,124,571	469,169
To Russia	..	26,500	153,168	323,388	1,143,808	308,147
To other Countries	..	193,365				
		2,382,808	2,941,765	2,226,850	2,268,379	777,316

INDIAN.—With another moderate auction bidding was decidedly animated and last week's firm tone was fully maintained, common teas being, if anything, a trifle harder, while medium Pekoes and Broken Pekoes were also in more demand.

SOUTHERN INDIA has become an important factor in the market. From the 1st June to date 29,264 packages were brought forward, against 24,114 packages last year, while many of the teas are now showing very fair quality, especially among the higher grown estates. Averages:—"Margarets Hope" and "Kharjan T. Co.," 1/2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; Amal T. Co. gardens "Kalej" and "Dooteriah," 1/1 and 1/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; "Brit. Darj. Co. Thurbo," 1/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; "Deamoolie," "Doorja," and "Jungpunnah," 1/-.  
Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 36,924 pkgs., av. 7.96d. 1902, 37,237 pkgs., av. 6.87d.  
New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 436,005 pkgs., av. 7.90d. 1902, 445,190 pkgs., av. 7.16d.

CEYLON.—The auctions were again small, whilst for next week only 12,807 packages are catalogued, and it seems unlikely that supplies can be more than very moderate, at any rate to the end of this year, as recent advices from Ceylon show that the weather still continues unfavourable to flushing.

The market was, if anything, rather stronger than last week, more especially in teas up to about 8d. per lb. Averages:—"S. T. & L. Co. Brookside," 1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; "Caledonia," 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; "Balmoral Co. Clydesdale," 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; "Talawakelle," 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; "Nuwara Co. Concordia" and "Diyanilakelle," 11d.; "C. T. P. Co. Waverley," "Demodera," and "Ferham," 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Average for week 8.25d., against 7.12d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 851,408 pkgs., av. 7.48d. 1902, 969,719 pkgs., av. 6.72d.

JAVAS sold very steadily with good competition, the tendency being rather in favour of sellers.

## COFFEE.

Only limited quantities have been brought to auction during the week, which have met a fair demand, and been mostly disposed of at firm prices, viz.:—1,070 bags East India Plantation, very ordinary at 33s. to 33s. 6d., low middling and middling at 44s. to 55s., peaberry at 52s. 6d. to 60s.; 1,000 bags Costa Rica and Guatemala, small to low middling, at from 30s. to 47s. 6d., middling to good middling at 55s. 6d. to 62s., peaberry at 45s. to 72s.; 1,990 bags Colombian, low quality, at 26s. 6d. to 27s. 6d., good to fine ordinary and low middling from 36s. 6d. to 44s., middling to good middling at 46s. to 60s.; 630 bags Salvador, good to fine, fine ordinary at 36s. 6d. to 40s., good middling and bold at 54s. to 64s., peaberry from 36s. to 68s. 6d.; 1,500 bags Nicaragua, Mexican, and other Central American sorts, on similar terms, and some extra fine blue Jamaica (late last Friday) up to 120s. per cwt. There were also offered 1,630 bags Washed Dumont Santos, small at 30s. to 33s., medium at 36s. to 40s. 6d., bold at 41s. to 46s. 6d., peaberry at 39s. 6d. to 51s.; and 2,600 bags Unwashed ditto, small and medium at 29s. to 33s., with bold and peaberry at 38s. 6d. to 42s. 6d. Conflicting advices from abroad have had their usual effect on the market for Futures, which has been in constant agitation, with prices pointing upwards and downwards every day. At one time good Santos, deliverable between now and September, 1904, fetched 29s. to 31s. 9d., but at another it was obtainable at 28s. to 30s. 6d., and lately the quotations have been steadier. The next monthly sale by the Dutch Trading Company is declared for Tuesday, the 27th instant, when 27,350 bags Java Coffee will be put forward, and the valuation for good ordinary quality is fixed at about 28 cents, against 35 cents in October last year.

## INDIAN TEA.

Messrs George White & Co., in their Report, October 29, say The improved demand recently noted has been fully maintained and prices for the more useful lines under 7d. and fine tippy Broken Pekoes have again often favoured sellers. Compared with the strong market for the grade below, Pekoes have ruled quietly, the advance in the former causing them to look relatively cheap. This is especially noticeable in fair Assams, in which class Pekoe Souchongs have frequently realised within a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of the Pekoes, and in some instances made the same quotation. It is interesting to note that in spite of the value of ordinary consuming qualities being 1d. to 2d. above that of a year ago, actual consumption, as gauged by deliveries, has not been checked, and the price of tea would now appear to be a comparatively minor factor in determining the flow of the latter, under the new conditions of much smaller stocks being held in the country. The action of growers in feeding the trade to the approximate extent of its current requirements is proving beneficial, the former method of pushing forward supplies



as soon as landed having been a costly one, as the trade was naturally unwilling to carry more than needed for immediate use except at a heavy discount. For 36,700 packages on estate account 8d. per lb. was realised versus 7d. per lb. for 35,900 and 8½d. per lb. for 35,600 in the two foregoing seasons. Totals printed for importers in October, 1903, 176,600 packages; 1902, 188,300 packages; 1901, 189,700 packages; which will make 489,000 packages of this year's crop passed through the Mincing Lane sale rooms, versus 516,200 and 470,700 to the end of this month in 1902 and 1901 respectively. Telegrams from Calcutta state that 5a. 11p. per lb. was obtained there for 22,000 packages on the 23rd instant, prices tending to the advantage of growers. For to-morrow (Friday) 21,000 packages are declared. Assam growths are reported to show an improvement in quality.

### CINCHONA BARK.

Offered, 3 bales. Sold, 0. For these 3 bales of cultivated flat yellow 1s. 3d. was bid and refused, the price being 1s. 9d. per lb., at which it had been sold before.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7-96d., OCTOBER 30TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.		Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry Prospect ...	50 p	7	15½c	7½	15	6½	20½c	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...
Travancore S T T Co Venture...	201 p	7	...	...	118	6¾ 7	50	7 7½	20	6½	...	...	13½c	7½
Wynaad Tanga Mulla ...	120	6	11	6½	...	...	34	+6½	27	5¾	34	+5¾	14	6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacobs Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of medicine in the world.

## CURES

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN RELIEVER.

It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed for by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1903.

[No. 47.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 4th proximo. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*November 18th.—Weather—North-East monsoon has been very heavy this last week, daily storms of one to two inches; the sky seems clearing now, and the coffee looks as if it will ripen fast. Coffee—very fair after its drenching, estates generally very weedy. Little leaf-disease and leaf-rot about, also some of the green coffee has gone black from the rain. Works—Weeding, handling, shade. Health—Good. Labour—Plenty, will soon be scarce on account of the paddy.*

#### TEA AND MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

DURING the last few days Reuter has announced the passing of a new Tariff Bill in New Zealand. In itself the measure is important, yet its chief interest lies in the relation it bears to the current discussion of British fiscal policy. New Zealand is a market for British-grown teas, and imports also a small quantity of China teas. The new Bill should cause a cessation of the trade in the latter and a corresponding increase in the trade in the former. Perhaps, also, it will stimulate the general consumption of Tea in the Colony; but, even allowing for developments, this is not likely to make any serious change in the value of Indian and Ceylon teas. What most impresses us is the example set under the auspices of Mr. SEDDON. If the New Zealand Premier's example be followed in the Colonies generally, the position of British-grown teas will be greatly changed, and this for the better. The most absorbing question is, however, what effect New Zealand's example will exercise on the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom. By itself Mr. SEDDON's manifestation of approval of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's programme may not influence the British electorate to any marked extent. Followed by other Colonies, the action of New Zealand would constitute an emphatic declaration of

the wishes of the British Colonies, and could not fail to impress electors throughout the Home country. It would at least show that the Colonies are not merely ready to meet Preference with Preference, but are prepared to make the first overture towards the introduction of a system of reciprocity.

Mr. SEDDON has gone "the whole hog." He has not advocated reduction of duty, but the elimination of any impost on British-grown teas. Now, if the same course were taken in England, what would be the probable result? The question appears a very simple one, but it is not. We have advocated abolition of British duties on Tea, and at first sight the suggestion that these duties should be removed solely from teas produced in British dominions may seem to be one that would yield still more satisfactory results to Indian and Ceylon planters. That this is the right view is, however, by no means certain. At the present time the number of wholesale importers and dealers in tea in England is limited. The main element that restricts an increase is the fact that a large capital is essential, and a great deal of this capital is solely required for the payment of the heavy duty now levied. Remove that duty *in toto* and the position is entirely changed. The field of competition becomes almost unlimited. Tea ranks with other duty-free products, and trade rivalry increases. We regard this as entirely in favour of the planters. When, however, the field is thrown open solely as regards the teas grown in British dominions the situation changes, and we are not satisfied that such a change would benefit British planters. The ground of our doubt is this: there are certain established importers and wholesale dealers whose influence is very powerful. They are the chief "middlemen" of the day in regard to tea. Their connection is wide-spreading, their hold over retailers very great. It is at present equally to their interest to push Indian and Ceylon teas. If the duties on all teas were removed, their interests would remain the same. No matter whether they pushed British or foreign teas they would have little reason to give a preference to the one or the other. Patriotism would give the scale an impulse in favour of British teas; the patriotism of consumers could be so played upon as to assure the same preference being given by retailers and by the actual consumers. Generally speaking, it would probably be found more advantageous to devote special attention to British teas than to foreign. All dealers would have one level, and while the old-established firms



would no doubt have to face new competition they would do so upon a basis that would afford the former no special ground for differentiating between British and Foreign growths.

If, however, Foreign teas remain dutiable, while British are admitted free, the position becomes very different. The old-established firms would probably find it more advantageous to push those teas of which they had a practical monopoly instead of those that were open to all. The duty would keep most of the new rivals from taking up foreign teas, their attention would naturally be given to the duty-free sorts. Met with keen competition here, the established firms might prefer to try to make better profits out of foreign teas, and their existing connections and influence would be powerful aids to them. Under circumstances such as these, it is quite possible that the abolition of duty on British teas, while that on foreign teas was retained, might result in greater benefit to the latter than to the former. Paradoxical as this may appear, it is a logical deduction. Individual traders, and groups of traders, in possession of a practical monopoly may be reasonably expected to work that monopoly for all it is worth, rather than to neglect it and work up articles in regard to which there is almost unlimited competition. And the power of the old-established firms and companies that are capitalised for working a trade in dutiable teas is not to be despised. It is thought by some that the throwing open of the tea trade to almost unrestricted rivalry would not benefit the producer. That is not our view; but we confess to some scepticism as to the result of any system that would put a premium upon the work of the wealthy firms in connection with dutiable teas, while leaving the field open for all manner of competition in respect of the duty-free article. Perhaps this is the view of the pessimist, but it is one that appears to us to demand careful consideration.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### CEYLON TEA.

In the course of a Review of the Administration of the Affairs of Ceylon, 1896—1903, Sir West Ridgeway, who has now retired from the Governorship of the island, said a few days before his departure:—

Turning now to some of our exports and imports in detail, the article that has, of course, paramount claim on our attention is tea, but this our staple product, the foundation of our prosperity, deserves the full and separate notice which I will give to it later in this review.

When we reflect on the obligations of the Colony to this great industry, the question naturally arises, Are we now wholly dependent on the tea industry? Would ruin necessarily overtake the Colony if—which God forbid—tea were to perish? This is a wide question—a question which seriously affects our credit in the money market, and by the decision arrived at the policy of progress and development—to a great extent with borrowed money—must stand or fall. In 1898 the question was raised in an acute form, for many men of light and leading contended that, in view of a depression in the tea industry which possibly might deepen

and become chronic, we were not justified in embarking on a large expenditure in public works. Some of my Councilors took this view, and questioned the wisdom of a progressive policy under conditions so unfavourable. The situation was critical, for if the Secretary of State had accepted these cautious views progress must have been checked, and the Colony would have had to stand still or mark time, as in the years 1877—1883.

Tea still holds, and I hope will long continue to hold, the pre-eminent position in our exports. It shows no sign of decay, but rather of increasing vitality. The total export of tea has risen from 110,095,000 lbs. in 1896 to 150,829,000 lbs. in 1902, the increase in value being from Rs.51,337,388 in 1896 to Rs.54,298,694 in 1902. The export of tea has thus increased nearly 40 per cent. in quantity, and, in spite of lower prices, 6 per cent. in value. But—and this is the point I desire to emphasize—other Ceylon products have advanced in still greater proportion. Thus, in 1896 the total value of all exports of Ceylon produce was Rs.76,275,472, two-thirds of which was represented by tea: last year the total value of exports of Ceylon produce was Rs.96,771,467, to which tea contributed Rs.54,300,000, or only 56 per cent., the value of “other articles” being now Rs.42,472,773, as against Rs.24,938,084 in 1896. In other words, while the value of tea exports has risen 6 per cent., the value of “other articles” exported has risen more than 65 per cent., and whereas eight years ago tea formed about two-thirds, it now forms little more than half of your exports. Even this does not fully indicate the rapid expansion and development of your general trade. In 1902 the value of exports other than tea exceeded the *total* exports from the island in 1890, when tea was already a firmly-established industry and formed 44 per cent. of the exports.

I have told you that the value of tea exported has risen about 6 per cent. during the years of my administration. Compare with this the increases in other directions. The produce of the cocoanut palm shipped to other countries has increased 86 per cent., cinnamon 90 per cent., cacao 130 per cent., while plumbago has advanced over 200 per cent. It is especially gratifying to note a marked increase in the values of the various articles produced from the cocoanut palm. In 1896 the figures were Rs.11,178,000, and, with the exception of a slight falling-off in 1899, each year has seen an increase over the figures of the preceding year. In 1902 the value had risen to nearly Rs.21,000,000. The articles which chiefly contributed to this large amount are cocoanut oil (Rs.10,000,000), copperah (Rs.4,000,000), desiccated cocoanuts (Rs.2,900,000), and poonac (Rs.1,300,000). I may remind you that the last two articles are comparatively new, desiccated cocoanuts—so largely in request for confectionery—being an unknown product twenty years ago. It is instructive to note also that the exports of these two articles alone are equal in value to the total exports of the products of the cocoanut palm in 1882. The most marked advance since 1896 has been in the export of copperah, which has increased in value more than seven-fold, *i.e.*, from 5½ lacs to 40 lacs of rupees, and in quantity from 57,500 cwt. to 377,000 cwt. Cocoanut oil has risen from 60 to 100 lacs, and the value of poonac exported has increased more than 100 per cent., reaching 12 lacs in 1902. Coir fibre has risen from 2½ lacs in 1896 to over 7½ in 1902, and the exports of desiccated cocoanuts also showed a substantial advance.



# TEA.

In my comments on your trade returns and again in the foregoing estimate of the prospects of your staple products I expressly reserved one product for separate notice, and accordingly I proceed very briefly to review the fortunes of the great tea industry, on which the prosperity of this island still mainly depends. The eight years of my administration have seen vicissitudes in the prospects of our staple industry: many and gloomy have been the forebodings from time to time, but the planters of Ceylon, by their energy and enterprise, their care in cultivation, and their wise appreciation of new conditions, have successfully surmounted the many adverse circumstances and effectually maintained the flourishing condition of the industry. It is true that the prices realized to-day are appreciably lower than the prices of eight years ago, and it is unlikely that those prices will again prevail; on the other hand, recent years have seen a very marked expansion of the trade in the development of new markets, and, judging from the latest reports of the state of the oldest and richest plantations in the island, I am glad to think that I leave the tea enterprise, both in the field and in the market, in a healthy and vigorous condition.

When I arrived in the Colony early in 1896 the tea-planting industry was in a very prosperous and promising condition. The average price in London was over 8d. per lb., and the utmost activity prevailed in the island in planting up additional areas.

I have referred to the manufacture of "green tea." This manufacture, originally recommended by the planters' agent in the United States, is a new and very promising branch of the industry, and the numerous inventions of machines to prepare the pure green tea with which Ceylon and India can compete in America with Japan and China reflect great credit on planters and machinists in this island and the neighbouring continent.

This rapid expansion of the field of activity is chiefly due to the practical and successful manner in which the proceeds of the "cess"—the small export tax on tea—have been administered by the Committee of the Planters' Association and Chamber of Commerce and the Commissioners appointed by the Committee. Government on its part contributed Rs.120,000 towards an adequate representation of Ceylon products, more especially tea, at the Paris Exhibition, and a considerably larger amount will be spent on the forthcoming exhibition at St. Louis. There can be little doubt, I think, that the results of a judicious representation of the Colony's staple industries at International Exhibitions like those of Paris and St. Louis must well repay the comparatively small expenditure which they entail.

That the tea industry has continued to flourish in spite of many untoward circumstances during the past eight years is mainly due, as I have said, to the enterprise and foresight of the planters, but I think they will be the first to admit that they have derived very considerable advantages of late years from the expansion of the scientific staff of the Botanic Gardens Department.

The dangers which beset the cultivation of tea in the field, *viz.*, attacks of insects and fungi, are to a great extent kept in check by the methods of cultivation. The pruning of the bushes at intervals of about one to two years, involving the removal of most of the leaves, gives the opportunity to burn or otherwise destroy all diseased leaves and branches, and experience seems to show that tea bushes are not so liable to

diseases and pests where high cultivation is carried on. Tea-planting has through the stress of competition become more scientific, and the majority of planters now use means to keep their plants healthy and to prevent the spread of any disease that occurs. The attacks of leaf fungi which in 1897, 1898, and 1899 caused some anxiety to those interested in tea cultivation have to a great extent decreased. This is largely due to the fact that the publications of the Botanic Gardens Department and the tours of the staff through planting districts have spread a knowledge of the nature of these diseases and the best methods of combating them. During the last two or three years a disease of the tea root, a more insidious enemy than the leaf blight, has been in evidence, but it is perhaps chiefly noticed because of the knowledge that a specific disease now exists, and because deaths due to this evil were previously attributed to some unknown cause. The attacks of a boring insect, the "shot-hole borer," have in certain districts seriously reduced the production of tea, and the Government Entomologist has for some time been working with a view to preventing the spread of this injurious insect. Intelligent means are being taken to keep this evil in check, and though in some few places it causes a serious amount of damage, in others the measures taken have reduced it to a minimum. It is considered desirable, however, either by passing regulations under Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, or if necessary by introducing further legislation, to provide for the compulsory registration of all estates on which the pest occurs, and for the absolute prohibition of the distribution of tea-plants from affected estates until such estates have been certified by the Government Entomologist as free from the disease. A proposal to introduce such legislation has been approved by the Planters' Association, and the matter is now receiving the careful consideration of Government.

In agreeing to more stringent legislation against plant diseases I think the Planters' Association is wise, but it was evident from the lengthy discussions which preceded the decision that much hesitation was felt in many quarters as to the policy of legalizing a restriction on the freedom of estates. A similar hesitation was at first evinced in the United States, where such legislation is now very general, and it is interesting, therefore, to find that in practice all opposition has been disarmed.

To sum up: the cultivation of tea, which gives employment to some 350,000 Tamil coolies, is now carried on in a more efficient and intelligent way than probably any other agricultural industry in the island. The crop is generally in a healthy condition, and owing to the stress of competition cultivation is conducted at the least possible expense, every means being used to reduce the cost of production and improve the quality of the tea.

As regards the future, I can only repeat the words I have used on more than one occasion already. Colombo is clearly destined to become a great market and distributing port for tea. How far its trade and importance might be increased by the removal of certain restrictions, together with the imposition of safeguards against the import and export of what is known as inferior or "rubbishy" tea, it is for those chiefly concerned to say. It has been repeatedly urged in certain quarters that the duty of 25 cents a lb. on all tea imported into the island is inimical to the real commercial interests of the Colony, inasmuch as it operates against the expansion of trade and tends to foster a feeling of resentment



among the planters of India, where the corresponding tax is only 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. The Planters' Association and the Chamber of Commerce, however, have consistently opposed the abolition of the duty on the ground that it would involve a danger to pure Ceylon tea which it is impossible to estimate. I have recently received from a local firm a request for blending facilities similar to those granted in London, the proposal being that the firm should be allowed to import free of duty Indian and other teas to be blended in a private warehouse, but under the supervision of a Customs official; that they should furnish the Customs authorities with particulars of the constituent portions of the blend, and that when these teas are re-exported the packages should be plainly marked with distinct indications of their contents. In my opinion this proposal deserves very careful consideration, as the possible solution of what may prove to be a very troublesome question. In the meantime, confidently trusting in the judicious management of plantations, practical experience being aided by science, I see no reason to doubt the continued well-being of the great planting industry of the Colony.

### FRENCH IMPORT TARIFF ON COFFEE.

The following are the terms of the Convention recently concluded between Great Britain and France:—

#### CONVENTION.

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and the President of the French Republic desiring to facilitate the commercial relations between France and India, have resolved to conclude a Convention to that effect, and have named as their respective Plenipotentiaries:—

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, the Most Honourable Henry Charles Keith Petty Fitzmaurice, Marquess of Lansdowne, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and the President of the French Republic, Monsieur Paul Cambon, Ambassador of the French Republic at London, who having reciprocally communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:—

#### ARTICLE I.

The following colonial products: coffee, cocoa, pepper, pimento, amomums and cardamoms, cinnamon, cassia lignea, nutmegs, mace, cloves, vanilla, and tea, produce of India, shall enjoy on importation into France, Algeria, French Colonies and Possessions, and the Protectorates of Indo-China and Tunis, the lowest customs duties applicable to similar products of any other foreign origin.

#### ARTICLE II.

Reciprocally, the natural and manufactured products of France, Algeria, French Colonies and Possessions, and the Protectorates of Indo-China and Tunis, shall enjoy, without restriction or reserve on importation into India, the lowest customs duties applicable to similar products of other foreign origin.

Further the duties on vinegar in casks and copper as produced in France, Algeria, French Colonies and Possessions, and the Protectorates of Indo-China and Tunis, and imported into India shall not exceed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. *ad valorem*.

#### ARTICLE III.

The certificates of origin which may be required for the admission of goods to the preferential conditions stipulated in the present Treaty shall be *vide* by French Consuls and by British Consuls without levying Consular fees.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The privileges and engagements comprised in this Convention shall extend to Native States of India which, by Treaty with His Britannic Majesty or otherwise, may be entitled to be placed with regard to the stipulations of the Convention on the same footing as British India.

His Majesty's Government will communicate from time to time to the Government of the Republic a list of these States.

#### ARTICLE V.

The present Convention shall be ratified by the two Governments as soon as possible, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London.

It shall come into effect immediately after the exchange of ratifications, and shall remain in force until the expiration of a year from the day on which one of the High Contracting Parties shall have announced the intention of terminating it.

In witness whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done in London, in duplicate the 19th day of February, 1903.

(L.S.) LANSDOWNE.

(L.S.) PAUL CAMBON.

This appears to secure India against any preferential treatment in favour of Brazilian or other coffee.

### COFFEE NOTES.

**September Coffee Movement in the U. S.**—The coffee movement during September is notable for an increase of 622,229 bags in the visible supply of the world; deliveries in Europe and the United States 159,205 bags above the monthly average during 1902-03; heavy receipts at Rio and Santos, never exceeded for the same time but once; moderate speculative operations and a spot market that fluctuated within a range of five-sixteenths of one cent per pound.

The following statement shows the September movement in detail:—

	Bags.	Bags.
Stocks September 1, 1903:		
United States ..	2,547,936	
Europe ..	7,186,814	
		9,734,750
Receipts during September:		
United States ..	509,779	
Europe ..	957,146	
		1,466,925
Total supply September, 1903 ..		11,201,675
Less stock October 1, 1903:		
United States ..	2,465,686	
Europe ..	7,246,243	
		9,711,929
Deliveries, September, 1903:		
United States ..	592,029	
Europe ..	897,717	
		1,489,746
Deliveries, September, 1902 ..		1,396,975
Increase over September, 1902 ..		92,771
Deliveries, July, 1903 ..		1,339,679
Deliveries, August, 1903 ..		1,217,438
Deliveries, September, 1903 ..		1,489,746
Average per month, 1902-03 ..		1,330,541
Average per month, 1903-04 ..		1,348,953
Total 1902-03 ..		15,966,498

The visible supply of the world, October 1, was 13,770,429 bags, against 13,148,200 bags September 1; 13,005,325 bags October 1, 1902, showing an increase in September of 622,229 bags, and 775,104 bags more than in October, 1902.

Transactions on the Coffee Exchange were 588,000 bags, with 3·80 cents the lowest price for September deliveries; highest, 5·50 cents, for July.

The spot price of No. 7 Rio fluctuated between  $5\frac{1}{8}$  @  $5\frac{7}{16}$  cents, as the official quotation.

The total deliveries in September in the United States were 509,779 bags, of which 413,345 bags were of Brazil



sorts, 96,434 bags all other kinds. Mild sorts constituted 19 per cent., Brazil sorts 81 per cent. of the total receipts last month.

The total receipts during September at Rio were 1,617,000 bags; at Santos, 3,192,000 bags; both ports, 4,809,000 bags, against 4,567,000 bags same time in 1902, 5,555,000 bags in 1901.

The outlook is favourable for a continuation of low prices. Coffee is unusually cheap, and the consumption grows, but not as fast as the productive capacity of coffee-growing countries. There is no longer the stimulus of high prices to encourage an extension of the producing area, although there are large tracts of coffee-producing land in Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, Porto Rico, and Africa. Until there is some marked check to production through adverse crop influences coffee must rule low. Reports from São Paulo, Brazil, are to the effect that a drouth of several weeks' duration has injured the trees, and that the succeeding rains were insufficient to bring the trees up to full bearing capacity.

—*American Grocer.*

\* \* \*

Mr. C. E. Bickford, San Francisco, reports that the coffee market was quiet up to the middle of September, after which a better demand, largely confined to low-priced descriptions, the inquiry continuing into October. He quotes, Costa Rica, strictly prime to fancy washed,  $12\frac{1}{4}$  @ 15c.; common to ordinary, 4 @  $6\frac{3}{4}$ c.; fair to prime, 7 @ 10c.; good to prime washed Peaberry,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  @  $11\frac{1}{2}$ c.; Guatemala and Mexican,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  @ 15c. for fancy washed, 11 @ 13c. for prime to strictly prime washed,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  @  $10\frac{1}{2}$ c. for fair to prime washed Peaberry; Salvador, 4 @ 12c.; Nicaragua,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  @ 13c.

\* \* \*

The coffee-growers of Porto Rico know how to push their coffee: The St. Louis World's Fair Commission of Porto Rico has decided to send to the Exposition 200,000 or more quarter-pound packages of coffee for free distribution. These packages will be tastily prepared, and will be imprinted with the arms of Porto Rico and with a copy of a letter from President Roosevelt to Governor Hunt, in which the President warmly praises Porto Rico coffee sent to him by the Governor.

\* \* \*

Messrs. G. Trinks & Co., Rio, cable as follows: "Estimate this Rio and Santos crops 11,000,000 bags; prospects for next Rio and Santos crop unfavourable."

\* \* \*

The Directors of the Paulista Railroad, Brazil, estimate the present Santos crop at 7,000,000 bags.

\* \* \*

The *Brazilian Review* (September 22nd) reports the Santos coffee crop as follows: "Information about the flowering is contradictory, reports from the various districts being variable, some people saying it has been very good and others pretending that the higher situated plantations are without leaves, and therefore the flowering of these no good at all. It is altogether too early to estimate the next crop and we have to wait for the second flowering, which is to come out in about another fortnight. The weather so far for the second flowering has been favourable."

\* \* \*

On the Pacific Coast.—Messrs. Hills Bros., extensive dealers in coffees and teas, report that they are shipping large orders of Kona coffees to the East at present. Kona coffees

are rapidly increasing in popularity where a strictly high-grade article is wanted. This firm also reports that they are sending to Eastern points large quantities of low-grade non-descript ash coffees. On the whole, the coffee market is stronger than it has been for some time, being affected by the unfavourable crop reports from Brazil.

\* \* \*

Visible Supply of Coffee

on November 1st		1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Stocks eight European markets		447,300	380,150	242,200	224,550	230,350
to Europe	afloat — Brazil ...	64,140	71,060	86,350	52,710	51,710
	loading — do. ...	3,940	8,180	6,350	1,120	...
	afloat — the East ...	4,500	5,910	3,310	3,660	4,920
do. — U. S. A. ...		290	470	410	180	230
		520,170	465,770	338,620	282,220	287,210
Stocks U. S. of North America		146,530	152,650	107,880	53,350	70,060
to U. S. A.	afloat — Brazil ...	26,410	20,060	40,880	35,180	23,880
	loading — do. ...	5,350	4,350	5,650	1,820	...
	afloat — the East ..	820	1,230	880	1,650	1,350
		699,280	644,060	493,910	374,220	382,500
Stocks in Rio ...		42,880	36,880	35,130	16,060	15,940
Do. Santos ...		81,120	93,230	84,290	75,880	46,820
Do. Bahia ...		2,820	3,120	2,760	1,650	940
Total ..		826,100	777,290	616,140	467,810	446,200
On October 1st...		818,680	767,490	556,200	430,510	470,060

\* \* \*

The future coffee market was to be installed on the New Orleans Board of Trade, November 2.

\* \* \*

The U. S. Coffee Market.—The market in coffee is buoyant in futures and materially broadened in demand in the actual with fractional advances in Brazil grades, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of the 27th ultimo. In the option market the trading has been very large in volume, totaling for the week more than 600,000 bags. Large financial interests have entered the market and almost daily some new and substantial Wall Street house is reported purchasing. Harris, Gates & Co. are the latest to try the market, the well-known cotton bull operator seemingly is becoming active, and it is no longer a whispered secret that the Messrs. Crossman are purchasers on the bull side, where they operated so long before the entering of the metal interests, and even this interest is a purchaser, but content to follow rather than to lead. The trade on the street is the seller usually and mostly to realize profits. Crossmans are making considerable of their purchases in the Havre market. In consequence of the activity, option prices have advanced in the week from 10 to 30 points. May is the month now chiefly traded in with March a close second. From the present trend it is by no means an unreasonable expectation to see March or May presently at 7 cents. They have not been that in some years, and to that extent has the market turned for the better. It is all very encouraging for the bull side.

Apart from the desire of financial interests to buy coffee for investment, the market has been encouraged by the continuation of unfavourable crop reports in Brazil. The receipts have fallen greatly, and now hover around the figures usually cabled in January and later, thus prognosticating a smaller, instead of a larger crop. It is now estimated at 11,000,000 bags, and even 10,000,000 bags. Unfavourable weather, too, is reported for the crop now blossoming, and this may prove as small and even smaller than the one now being put on the market. The only bearish point is the



large world's visible supply, which is to-day considerably more than 14,000,000 bags, the largest in the history of coffee. But with diminishing crops and an augmenting increase in consumption this should melt fast enough.

The Brazil market is firm and on a higher basis of values than that ruling in New York. The refusal of bids from this side is not an infrequent occurrence. Samples of transactions are the sale of 2,000 bags Rio No. 2 at 7.60 cost and freight for immediate shipment, and 3,000 bags Rio or Santos for No. 2, November shipment at 8c. store terms. An offer was Santos No. 3 at 7.5 1/16c. c. and f. The spot market for invoices closed firm, and there have been some fair-sized transactions during the week. The close was at 5 3/4c. for Rio No. 8, 5 15/16c. bid and 6c. asked for Rio No. 7, 6 3/4 to 6 7/8c. for Rio No. 4, and 6 7/8 to 7 1/8c. for Santos No. 4.

The advancing prices tend to hold buyers in check in the jobbing world, but a broadening demand is reported generally and a satisfactory volume of business. Buyers are prone to see what is going to happen, being rather disposed to view the advance that has occurred with suspicion in view of the large world's visible supply. Of course, the price of actual coffee is certain to be affected by the price of coffee on the Exchange. This has advanced a cent and one-half in the last two months, and actual coffee is not now so cheap as it once was, although it has not advanced a cent and one-half. The Arbuckles added one-half cent a pound to their package coffee during the week.

It is not now thought that the Revision Committee of the Coffee Exchange will order any change in the grading of coffee. Matters in price in the actual coffee world and the optional have returned to normal conditions, and a change is not justified. The difference between November and December has already narrowed down to 20 points; it was 35 points not very long ago. There has been considerable speculation on the possibility of a change, and those have lost who assumed it would come off, and speculated accordingly. The deliveries of November coffee on the Exchange will be very heavy.

Mild coffees are firm, but the volume of business is restricted. Holders are entertaining too high views in the opinion of intending buyers, and in their failure to reach a common basis transactions are few and far between. Good Cucuta closed at 8 1/4c. East Indias are firm.

**Brazil Coffee Receipts Reviewed.**—The *Brazilian Review* of September 26, says:—

"With the exception of a few rainy days in early September, everything has favoured early and rapid entry; the crop was unquestionably an early one, while the long spell of peculiarly dry weather not only favoured harvesting, curing and drying, but kept the roads in good order and facilitated delivery. Besides, all the railways, including the Sorocabana, have been working without a hitch, while planters are more pressed than ever for money and less able to hold back their produce. All these circumstances make unquestionably for early entries so that it would be natural, even if the present crop were smaller, that entries should be larger at first than last year. When, therefore, they begin to show a positive falling off it is quite possible that the shrinkage may be as rapid as the expansion was at the commencement of the crop, and entries should be carefully watched. The abnormality of the conditions upsets confidence in deductions founded on mere comparisons with other and more normal seasons, but, even so, it seems likely that, as occurred in 1899, by the September 11 entries, which amounted to 3,759,187 bags, will represent one-third of the whole current crop, that, in this case will not exceed eleven and a quarter millions for Rio and Santos, say 7 1/4 for Santos and four millions for Rio and

Minas. There are, in fact, many who stoutly maintain it will not exceed ten millions, at most. Another circumstance that will make for a smaller crop is the tardiness of this year's flowering and consequent backwards of next year's harvest.

"We do not pretend to draw positive conclusions, but merely to point out the danger signals we note along the route and counsel caution. Should entries fall below twelve millions, they will be insufficient to satisfy consumption; the 'visible' will fall off and, if, as seems quite possible, next crop is a poor one, we shall see prices decidedly on the upward track."

**Coffee Prospects Bullishly Viewed.**—Messrs. Henry Nordlinger & Co., New York City, in their October circular on coffee, say:—

"About the middle of the month the market became a little unsettled on account of a cable from one party reporting favourable progress of the growing crop. Our own information from Rio, Minas, and Sao Paulo is to the effect that very dry weather has been experienced in those States for from three to five months. In many places no rain at all is reported to have fallen in all that time until quite recently. The trees therefore lack nourishment at the roots, and in many sections this is apparent by the condition of the leaves, which are shrivelled and dried up. The blossoming may be luxurious, as the cable above cited stated, as was the case last year after freezing temperature had been experienced; but that the fruit cannot develop properly when the trees are affected and weakened is shown by the experience we are undergoing this crop year. During last Spring, and even as late as last July, it was generally believed that the 1903-04 crop would be equal to, if not larger than, the bumper crop of 1901-02, which produced something like 17,000,000 bags, of which 15,500,000 reached shipping ports during the crop year. The receipts during last July were very heavy, about the same as 1901-02 (this helped to fortify the general belief in a large crop), but the present crop began to arrive at shipping ports as early as May, while ordinarily new crop does not come into sight until the end of June or the beginning of July, therefore we must set down the present crop as being fully four weeks early, and the July receipts ought to be compared with the August receipts of former years, the August with the September receipts, the September with the October receipts, and so on.

"If we take the basis of 11,500,000 bags for the current crop, and add to it a reasonable estimate of 4,000,000 for all other coffee-producing countries, we would have a total production of 15,500,000 bags, which appears to us to be very little, if any, below the amount now consumed in Europe and the United States; therefore, this year's production alone is not a sufficiently safe basis on which to work the market up. Speculation, however, looks further ahead, and it is possible, nay even probable, that we have reached the period when we will not see excessive crops produced again for a number of years to come. Should this be assured (a matter which can only be determined later on), then a sound basis would have been reached for an ascending tendency of the article; but even then the advance from now on ought to be only a gradual one, until a considerable reduction of the large stocks existing in consuming markets can be safely calculated on.

"Central American countries have pretty well disposed of the big supplies accumulated during revolutionary times. For this reason, we look for a better tone from now on, especially in good washed, which are already difficult to obtain in an invoice way."

**Brazil Coffee Flowering.**—"O Café," Brazil, September 13, says as follows:—

"The month of August, as almost all the preceding six months, was very dry. In some districts budding was early, and in August there was a poor flowering that promised badly. The first rains fell during the first week of September, and were general and abundant. The trees at once changed aspect, and after the rains the flowering was beautiful and uniform. For the last few days the aspect of plantations along the Mogyana and Paulista lines has been enchanting, and although there was no flower in August, the drought lasted long enough to aid the September flowering, which, still further stimulated by the rains, and by the mild temperature that followed and entire absence of southerly winds seems to promise excellent conditions for the coming crop. The September



flowering cannot, however, be considered decisive. Results must depend on climatic conditions, and the way the fruit is developed. Should a drought like that of August supervene from November to December, after the fruit is formed, the crop would suffer severely. The September flowering so far signifies that conditions up to now are favourable, but does not guarantee that they will continue so. The flowering this year was very late. Last year when the frost of August 19 and 20 fell the trees were in full flower; this year the buds only commenced to open in September, fifteen days later. The coming season will, therefore, be tardy, and little coffee can be expected until July, thereby curtailing entries for the current season.

"Many people think that the rains were not sufficient to reinvigorate the trees weakened by the drought and insure an average yield. Trees of all descriptions, badly cared, half-leaved and even leafless, burst into bud, it is true, but cannot resist, and their yield will be but small."

A correspondent writes us from Pocos de Caldas, under date of September 13, as follows:—

"The present crop seems to be mostly harvested in this neighbourhood and to be smaller than last. Flowering is very profuse and a shower or two of rain this week will presage a large crop for next year. The weather has been damp and cold, but want of rain is general."

The Santos correspondent of the *Brazilian Review* writes September 19:—

"Information about the flowering is contradictory, reports from the various districts being variable, some people saying it has been very good and others pretending that the higher situated plantations are without leaves, and, therefore, the flowering of these no good at all. It is altogether too early to estimate the next crop, and we have to wait for the second flower forming, which is to come out in about another fortnight. The weather so far for the second flowering has been favourable."

### TEA NOTES.

**Colombo Tea Sales.**—On the 18th instant the market was very active, and the demand strong for all Pekoes and Pekoe Souchongs, particularly for common kinds, prices of which were firm to advancing. Orange Pekoes were dearer in most cases, but broken of all descriptions were irregular, with an easier tendency. Green teas were in better demand and were firmer.

**Japan Tea in Paris.**—It is understood, says the *Japan Times*, that the Central Chamber of the tea guilds now proposes to abolish its Paris office by the end of this year. It was established in 1900, just after the close of the Paris World's Fair, but owing to the inadequacy of funds and to the keen competition challenged by Indian tea, it has been unable to realize the object for which it was established, *i.e.*, the extension of the field for our product. Should this proposal be carried out, the business of the office will be entrusted to a French merchant at Paris.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Jobbers report the market in tea as very satisfactory, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 27th ultimo, and in the matter price of and supplies affairs are certainly improved over conditions prevailing several weeks ago. The undertone beyond question is strong and the outlook encouraging to those who look for realization of sales on the present basis at least. The country is reported as buying more tea, responsive to the needs of supplies, which, although plentifully provided for last season, are beginning to run low. During the week not a few fairly large-sized transactions were made public. Also large cargoes arrived for the market here. For tea of superior

quality prices are very firm and especially so for greens, which remain very scarce, even those of low grade feel the influence. These are after all not so abundant here. The grades were rather neglected on the other side, and the tea still remains there. Japans are firm.

Now that the Formosa market has closed, that tea is in a better position locally. Full values are being obtained for the better grades and the lower kinds are recovering from the weakness which characterized them a little while ago. Reports of settlements, of fair-sized quantity, for this market are reported from the East. The market is still burdened with last year's importations of this tea which consequently continue to hover around low values. Indias have gone up one-half cent in Calcutta, and in all have advanced one cent in the last fortnight. The market here, while firm, remains unaffected. It is probable that the quality of the India teas has improved and they are therefore reaping better prices. In the Spring and Summer this fell not a little, with corresponding slump in value. The interest here in Congous continues growing. Several thousand packages were sold for export to England last week and the price jumped to 9½ cents, remaining at that figure at the close. The tea is concentrated in a few hands and there is a suspicion that most of the large surplus here has been exported. Those who still have some are holding on expecting with some justification 10 and 11c. later on. They will probably get it. It is even thought that the market here is running short of Congous. There is a certain fixed demand for this tea in this country and it is thought we are no longer in a position to supply it. All the more will the tea find itself in a more satisfactory place as to value, and this is a good thing for all teas, for Congous for some time have been a bad incubus to bear.

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**Tea in the United States.**—It is apparent from the Government report of imports that British-grown tea is steadily gaining ground in the United States. The total imports of tea for the first eight months of 1903 were as follows:—

	From	Pounds.	Per Cent. of Total.
Japan	...	23,569,824	46.8
China	...	17,339,054	34.4
United Kingdom	...	3,704,825	18.8
East Indies	...	3,698,386	
British North America	...	1,660,850	
Other Countries	...	333,022	
Total	...	50,355,961	100.

It is safe to say that about 15 per cent., if not more, of this year's import is of British-grown tea, which had little or no foothold here not many years ago. The sale of packet tea is growing, and as the consuming public come to understand that the same quantity of Indian and Ceylon tea as of Japan or China will make double, if not thrice, the quantity of beverage they will use them more freely. Nine out of ten consumers use just the same quantity as they have been accustomed to use of Formosa, Oolong, or Japan, and the result is a heavier-bodied beverage than is generally liked.

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**Chinese Tea.**—The Hankow tea export continues to decline, and it is officially reported that unless the native growers improve their teas the trade will go over entirely to India and Ceylon. The Siberian railway route, which was used for tea during the year 1902 for the first time, can hardly fail to work considerable change in the conduct of the trade



in Russia, enabling as it does supplies to be placed on the consuming markets at a much earlier date than before. During the season some 3,000,000 lbs. were forwarded by this means, which in former years would have been sent *via* Odessa. It is also noted that 23,056 piculs of tea dust were imported into Hankow from Ceylon in 1902, and practically the whole of this importation left the port mixed with China dust, in the form of brick and tablet tea.

The tea consumed in Canada in the last fiscal year was 16,760,287 pounds; the population being 5,338,883, the average consumption per head in 1903 is 3.139 pounds.

**U. S. Imports of Tea.**—The imports of tea into all ports of the United States for eight months ending August, and the exports, were as follows :—

				Pounds.
Imports eight months	...	...	...	50,355,961
Exports	...	...	...	4,011,207
Net imports	..	...	...	46,344,754
Net imports same time 1902	...	...	...	47,084,254

Of the 1903 imports, Japan furnished 23,559,824 pounds, or about 48 per cent.; Chinese Empire, 17,399,054 pounds, or about 34 per cent.; the balance, 18 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, British North America, and the East Indies. It is evident that British-grown tea is making good headway in finding a market in the United States.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—On the 20th instant demand was again strong for leaf teas, and prices were firmer, particularly for common kinds, which were fully one cent per lb. dearer. Broken Pekoes, with the exception of the better kinds, were irregular with an easier tendency. Green teas were in better demand and advanced slightly in price. Reuter's London telegram on Thursday quoted the market there for Indian teas as follows :—"Common qualities firm—Mediums rather easier." In the face of this information it was thought possible the Calcutta market might also mark a weakness for the medium classes. Such however was not the case, and the room again showed a firm tone for all descriptions, competition continuing keen and previous prices being fully maintained except for the lowest leaf grades which, although exhibiting a downward tendency, cannot be quoted lower. Leaf in the range of 5 to 6 annas however, notably Assams and Dooars, marked a slight advance. Other descriptions were without alteration, but where improved quality was noticeable rates were correspondingly increased. The feature of the sale was the excessive keenness displayed by native operators to secure the neat leaf Pekoe kinds so much appreciated for the Bombay and Persian Gulf demand which, from the lowest to the handsome tippy Orange Pekoes, were eagerly competed for and mark a substantial advance. The quantity secured by those buyers must total close upon 6,000 packages. Green teas were in request and some nice quality being on offer, these realised somewhat full rates.

Offerings at Calcutta on Friday totalled about 20,000 packages and very few of these remain unsold. Quality from Assam showed, in some cases, a tendency to improve, but supplies from other districts were again generally speaking plain. The market, though rather irregular, can be quoted fairly steady; common grades were a point or two easier and low quality brokens were also lower, but all good liquoring

kinds sold readily at full rates. Stylish tippy sorts were again much wanted and further advances were paid for this class of tea. As usual, a large business was done for outside markets. About 600 packages of Green Tea were offered and sold under a strong demand at appreciably higher prices.

**London Tea Sales.**—Messrs. Ewart, MacCoughey & Co., Ltd., wire that the Indian tea auctions in London postponed from Monday, the 9th instant, were held on Wednesday, the 11th, when 38,503 packages were put up. The market was steady. The quotation for common whole leaf tea was 6½d. Quality generally good. Messrs. Ewart & MacCaughey's Tea Report, dated the 16th instant, says that 36,452 packages were offered at the tea auctions, which opened rather slowly. Holders were very firm and a good deal was taken out, only about a farthing generally separating buyers and sellers. The chief weakness was felt in teas between 6d. and 8d. Fine teas made good prices.

**Indian Tea Prospects.**—The latest weather reports received at Calcutta state that cold is setting in in most districts and manufacture is being restricted. The flushes are coming on slowly, and there is a good deal of brown leaf.

Messrs. A. R. Robertson & Co. (New York) report as follows :—Indias and Ceylons have received very steady inquiry the past few months, in comparison to other teas, but this can be accounted for by the explanation that when buyers stocked in January with duty-free teas they did not take so largely of those meeting a limited demand.

Prices have remained steady from 12c. for good Pekoe Souchongs to 15c. for Pekoes and Orange Pekoes selling 18@19c.

The Home market did not respond to advances in London and abroad; stocks here in black teas consequently are limited, while greens are rapidly increasing in consumption and the finished leaf becoming a factor in the consumption of tea in the United States.

The Indian Tea Cess Committee paid the green tea bonus of half-an-anna a lb. on 288,631 lbs. of tea from the 1st to the 31st October. The bonus has been paid on a total of 1,248,237 ½ lbs. of green tea.

The tea exports from the Calcutta Customs figures issued by the Indian Tea Association show that the tea entered for export to the United Kingdom during the first half of November was: from Calcutta, 10,508,547 lbs.; from Chittagong, 1,573,210 lbs. In the corresponding period of 1902 the figures were: Calcutta, 10,207,950 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,759,900 lbs. From the 1st April to the 15th November the exports from Calcutta were 115,840,767 lbs.; and in the corresponding period of 1902, 108,414,263 lbs.

The Report of the South Travancore Tea Co for the year ended the 30th June last states that the profit was £3,085, against £599 last year and £1,294 the year before. After providing £250 for the debenture sinking fund and writing off £250 for depreciation of machinery and £100 lost coast advances, there is shown a net profit of £1,653, which, after deducting the debit balance of £57 brought forward, leaves a credit balance of £1,596, out of which the Directors are



paying one year's preference interest, leaving to be carried forward £771. The average price of the tea was 5.47d. per lb., as against 4.82d. the previous year.

During the first half of November 302,534 lbs. of green tea were made in Ceylon. The total to date is 9,575,520 lbs. The three-cent bonus is still available for 2,573,575 lbs.

**Tea Cultivation in Persia.**—Vice-Consul-General John Tyler at Teheran, says of the cultivation and preparation for consumption of tea in Persia that in the different stages of the enterprise great difficulties and obstacles had to be overcome. He adds that with a sufficiency of capital to insure scientific direction, and the acquirement of the best implements and machinery for the work, the undertaking should be not only profitable but of economic advantage to Persia.

**A Great Tea Business.**—As showing how gigantic the Lipton interests in tea are, this firm is now selling over one million packets weekly in Great Britain alone, or over 52,000,000 per annum. As the population of Great Britain according to the last census numbers 41,952,510 and as according to official figures the consumption of tea is about 244½ million pounds per annum, this firm is actually selling about one pound out of every five pounds consumed annually in packet form alone. When it is borne in mind that Liptons have an enormous trade in bulk teas in the United Kingdom, that they have by far the largest packet trade in India, and have very extensive ramifications in Australia, America, and South Africa, some idea may be formed of the immense tea interests which they control.

In the Proceedings of the Indian Tea Association, which we publish on another page, will be found some interesting references to the Russian Import Tariff on Tea. The remarks about the Persian tariff are less happy. The Committee refer to a statement in a tea-broker's circular to the effect that the Persian duty on Indian tea had recently been raised by 95 per cent., and add that they had heard nothing of this reported increase. It is now many months since the new Anglo-Persian Commercial Treaty was ratified, and the unfavourable treatment of Indian tea under that Treaty was the subject of much comment in the Indian Press, and was certainly referred to more than once in the columns of the *Times*.

The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the first half of November, 1903: Calcutta, 10,508,547 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,573,210 lbs. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta, 10,207,950 lbs., Chittagong, 1,759,900 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1903 to 15th November, 1903: Calcutta, 97,171,562 lbs.; Chittagong, 18,669,205 lbs. Total 115,840,767 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1902 to 15th November, 1902, 108,414,263 lbs.

According to a London cablegram, Messrs. Ewart and McCaughey's Tea Report, dated the 23rd instant, says that the market was steady, except for medium kinds, and prices for common clean whole leaf tea were quoted at 6d. The public sales next week are likely to be about 38,000 packages. Duty payment was good, the exports declining.

Further competition is threatened at Colombo to reduce the tea freightage. The steamer *Fortunatus*, due at the end of December, will carry tea at 30 shillings per ton, but the Conference of Shipping lines threaten another drastic reduction in rates, temporarily, to kill competition.

**The Russian Duties on Tea.**—Says the *Times of India*:—Russia is a large and increasing buyer of Indian and Colonial teas. Last year she took four million pounds from India alone, of the value of fifteen lakhs of rupees. But, in retaliation against Great Britain's action over the sugar bounties, the already high duties of 31½ roubles per pood of 40 lbs. are to be raised to 33 roubles in the case of Indian and Colonial teas imported through the European frontier or the Black Sea. The impost on Chinese and Japanese teas is to remain unchanged, so the Indian and Ceylon product will be at a disadvantage to the extent of a rouble and a-half a pood. This is as clear a violation of our commercial treaty arrangements with Russia as were the strangulating methods France adopted in Madagascar or those Cuba proposes to take in order to secure preferential treatment in the sugar market of the United States. But Great Britain is no more likely to secure redress by negotiation than she has in similar cases. Is not this pre-eminently a case for the employment of the only fiscal arguments which protectionist countries understand? If Great Britain had reserved to herself and her dependencies and Crown Colonies the power of bargaining which every protectionist country enjoys it is extremely doubtful if Russia would ever have proposed to differentiate against tea in this cynical manner. And the threat of a differential duty upon Russian petroleum imported into India, for example, would be more efficacious than whole books of argument. If Russia were convinced that unjust treatment of Indian tea would be met by a differential duty on Russian petroleum imported into this country, there would probably be no necessity to proceed to these lengths. But assuming that she was not amenable to reason, a differential duty on petroleum would cause a minimum of disturbance. The competition between Russian and American oil is so keen, and Burma oil, which pays no duty, is making such rapid strides that a rigging of the market is out of the question. Any moderate measures the Indian Government may take in this matter will meet with general support.

The manner in which our tea market is being influenced by conditions present and to come in London, is noteworthy and even significant, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 27th ultimo. Our dealings have heretofore been so dominated by China or Japan that what London thought or did concerned us little. But times have changed. In the first place we are larger, much larger buyers of British-grown tea, and, therefore, brought in closer touch with English tea-men, who naturally are more concerned with India and Ceylon tea than the Chinese and Japanese variety. But there is even another phase: the Englishmen are to-day buyers here, and there is every reason to believe that they will be such for not a little while, and in a manner that will help much to improve our market. For several years we have been weighted down with low-grade teas that had been acquired by us in China in large quantity, because they looked cheap, only to ascertain by hard experience that they were practically unsaleable here, because we had overstocked ourselves. Not even the later rise in the prices here served to budge the Congous a quarter of a cent until on a sudden the British-grown teas experienced an advance, and London in despair, lest the United Kingdom would thirst in vain for low tea, finding there were plenty here that Americans would not have bid for them, and in the first half of the year diminished our stock by some 4,000,000 pounds. Even this diminution did not serve to alter the situation; the tea remained a drag on the market, but now comes the Chamberlain scheme and other tariff changes with the prospects that an advance in teas in England must occur, and that we shall be depleted of all our teas unsaleable here. The orders are coming from abroad thick enough, and there has been an advance in this tea, here now more than two years, of more than one cent—nine cents a pound and more being demanded. We have, too, a good lot of Foochow of low grade, but costing a little more, and they may be attacked when all the Congous will have been disposed of. We are quite sure that we feel much indebted to the London market, which is relieving us of a situation which was becoming embarrassing.



In other respects, the American market is meeting with attention on the part of London and other English tea marts. The agitation for a pure tea law, an idea derived from the United States, is growing there, and there is study of our Tea Standard Act, which is being printed for general edification. The agitation was started by the importation into England of the Foochow teas rejected at New York. The prices obtained were so low that they nettled not a little the general market, which had, of course, viewed with approval the recovery from the low prices, at which Ceylons and Indians had been selling. It might be here observed that this same tea was brought to New York by an English firm, and so we are in no way concerned as a nation with the manipulation that this depreciated tea has met. Let it be stated also that the leaders here of those opposed to the Tea Standard Act were not born in the United States. They hail from England. It is well that the probity and the honesty of the American tea-man should be generally understood.

**Formosa Tea Market.**—Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., writing from Taipeh, Formosa, September 25, say that the market there is well cleaned up of desirable teas, and that the green leaf to arrive, estimated at 50,000 half-chests is inferior. They report that the exports of Formosas will amount to 20,000,000 lbs. this season, two million pounds in excess of that exported last season. Total receipts to September 25 are 451,000 half-chests, against 411,116 last season, of these 40,000 are fair, 160,000 good, 190,000 superior, 40,000 fine, 15,000 finest, 5,000 choice and 1,000 choicest. The settlements were 438,658 half-chests against 402,599 last year; total exports to the U. S. 12,500,462 lbs. against 10,144,757 lbs. last year corresponding time.

Messrs. Tait & Co., writing on September 22, say: "Arrivals to Tamsui market total some 440,000 half-chests, against at even date last year 405,000 half-chests; total settlements to date 420,000 half-chests. Receipts to date are some 35,000 half-chests in excess of last year at same time, but we do not look for this to last, and we see no reason to alter our first estimate of a total crop of 500,000 half-chests."

Tea imported at Chicago during September last, as reported by the Custom House of that port was 1,284,109 pounds, valued at \$229,740. Coffee imported was 25,603 pounds, valued at \$2,396.

The cultivation of tea in Russia is reported as progressing satisfactorily. On the Crown estate, Tschakira, there were, according to recent reports, fifty-five dessjatines of land under tea cultivation. The first harvest, in April and May, gave a yield of 76,323 lbs. raw leaves. The second, in June, gave 62,430 lbs.; the third, in September, 37,412 lbs.; and the fourth, in October, 116,165 lbs.—all last year, of course. The aggregate output of dry tea was about 1,000 pood. The private tea-growers delivered a smaller quantity of raw leaves to the Tschakira establishment. Of raw tea leaves,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. yield 1 lb. of tea. As the tea has met with a ready sale, and as the cultivation is comparatively low, great hopes are entertained by those interested about the future of this industry.

### NOTES.

#### Cacao; Experiments in Drying at Dominica.

It is reported that by the aid of a dryer maintained at the temperature of 110 to 120F. cacao was successfully dried within 24 hours.

#### Java Coffee.

Excessive rain seems to be injurious to the coming crop. A moderate crop at the best may still be looked for, if, during November, the weather should improve. The present Government crop is now being estimated at 282,000 piculs.

#### Coffee-stealing.

Under Section 16 of the Madras Coffee-stealing Prevention Act VIII. of 1878, as amended by Act II. of 1900, His Excellency the Governor of Madras has amended the rules framed under

this Act as follows:—In rule (ii) and in note (b) to form B appended to the rules *substitute* the words "1st April" for "1st March."

#### Java Quinine.

The exports from Java during August amounted to 214 cases, shipped in one consignment to the United States. From January to August, inclusive, the exports have been:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Cases ...	1,262	834	1,222	1,059	1,337

#### Cinchona Auction.

At the auction to be held at Amsterdam on November 12th 702,329 kilos. of Java bark, containing 31,879 kilos. of quinine sulphate, was to be offered. The manufacturing bark contains an average of 5.30 per cent. quinine sulphate, against 5.42 per cent. for the October auction, and 5.51 per cent. average for the ten auctions of 1902.

#### The "Agricultural Ledger."

The latest numbers of the "Agricultural Ledger," just published, contain papers by Dr. J. W. Leather on Indian Food Grains and Fodders; Mr. Burkill on the Diffusion Process of Extracting Sugar from Sugarcane; Mr. J. Mollison on the Cotton-seed Oil Industry; Professor W. R. Dunstan on Bimlipatam Jute; and papers relating to Rubber from *Willughbeia Edulis* and *Urceola Escalenta*.

#### An Experimental Farm.

The *Madras Mail* approves of the suggestion that an Experimental Farm should be established in Southern India, but carefully eschews the question of locality, and other difficulties that must be faced when the suggestion is considered for the light of what is practicable. We would ask our contemporary to outline a definite scheme. Then we shall be able to judge how it is proposed to reconcile practice with theory.

#### Sulphur Imports at Tuticorin.

Section 17 of the Indian Arms Act is amended as follows: "Licenses to import or export arms, other than cannon or rifles, ammunition, or military stores, by sea, may be granted at the ports of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Rangoon, Calicut, Karachi, Aden, and for no other ports, except Akyab and Moulmein. Licenses for the import of saltpetre and lead only may be granted, and at the port of Tuticorin only for the import of sulphur if it be proved to the satisfaction of the local Government to be intended for *bonâ fide* agricultural purposes."

#### Java Cinchona.

The shipments from Java during October were as follows:—

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	2,012,000	1897 ...	735,000
1902 ...	1,700,000	1896 ...	862,000
1901 ...	1,577,000	1895 ...	1,100,000
1900 ...	1,100,000	1894 ...	952,000
1899 ...	959,000	1893 ..	349,000
1898 ...	969,000		

#### January—October.

Year.	Amst. lbs.	Year.	Amst. lbs.
1903 ...	11,529,000	1897 ...	6,717,000
1902 ...	11,054,000	1896 ...	8,280,000
1901 ...	10,301,000	1895 ...	9,929,700
1900 ...	8,190,000	1894 ...	7,577,000
1899 ...	9,421,800	1893 ...	6,225,000
1898 ...	8,895,000		



**Coffea stenophylla.**

Mr. P. von Romburgh reports that the difficulties surrounding the cultivation of Arabian coffee have led Java planters to turn to several means of relief. Hybrids between the Arabian and Liberia coffees have been tried with some success and the methods of grafting the Arabian coffee on Liberia stock have been perfected. But the author thinks there is room for improvement, and to this end suggests *Coffea stenophylla*, by some considered as a variety of *C. arabica*. *C. stenophylla* has been grown at the Buitenzorg gardens and has fruited. It gives promise of being valuable, and further trials are under way.

**Agricultural and Entomological Museum for Colombo.**

Mr. C. Driberg, Superintendent of School Gardens in Ceylon, has the idea, in connection with his particular department, of opening an economic museum wherein will be exhibited articles pertaining to agriculture in Ceylon in all its phases, as also entomology, so far as it is connected with agriculture, which connection is very extensive. There will, therefore, be in the museum, besides exhibits of all agricultural implements and products, specimens of the various and numerous pests which wage war in fruit-garden and field-crop, which should prove very interesting. The museum will be attached to the office of the Superintendent of School Gardens at Thurston Road, and it will be opened in the new building which has just been commenced at the Colombo stock-gardens. The building is expected to be completed by the end of next month, when the museum will be opened. Specimens will be obtained from the various school gardens in the island, and they will be duly named and grouped in Colombo. It is thought probable that in time the agricultural museum will be attached to the Colombo Museum, like the mineralogical department which is now being opened there.

**GENERAL ARTICLES.****PRODUCE AND PLANTING.****Central African Tea.**

According to an official report on the British Central Africa Protectorate, the cultivation of tea has been continued, and has received greater attention. It is, however, in an experimental stage, and the tea produced varies greatly in quality. The quantity produced is only small at present. The tea plantations are confined at present to the slopes of Mlanje Mountain, situated in the south-east corner of the Shiré Highlands. Here the average rainfall is 107 inches, nearly double that of the rest of the Protectorate. The tea, when brewed, can scarcely be said to reach the usual standard of ordinary tea; but in this respect doubtless improvements will be made. At present the Mlanje tea would be useful for purposes of blending with others, as it possesses a pleasant and characteristic taste of its own. The progress made by the tea-plants during the past year shows that there is little difficulty in the successful cultivation of this product on deep black soils at Zomba. The question of the success of tea at Zomba is therefore not one of cultivation, but depends on rainfall. It is only a very limited area of the Protectorate that has a suitable rainfall—that is, approaching 110 inches annually. With an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea-level, and an annual normal rainfall of 50 inches, such as Zomba obtains, and also the greater part of the Shiré Highlands, it is only from two such districts as South-East Mlanje and North-West Nyassaland that tea may ever be expected to become a successful commercial product. The altitude of the latter district is from 1,500 feet to 2,500 feet, and obtains an annual normal rainfall of 76 inches.

**Bad for Hankow.**

Indian and Ceylon tea-growers are, by their persistent efforts to capture the tea markets of the world, making things very unpleasant for their Chinese rivals. The Hankow tea export continues to decline, and it is officially reported that unless the native growers improve their teas the trade will go over entirely to India and Ceylon. It is pointed out that the Siberian railway route, which was used for tea during the year 1902 for the first time, can hardly fail to work considerable change in the conduct of the trade in Russia, enabling as it does supplies to be placed on the consuming markets at a much earlier date than before. During the season some 3,000,00 lbs. were forwarded by this means, which, in former years, would have been sent *viâ* Odessa. It is also noted that 23,056 piculs of tea dust were imported into Hankow from Ceylon in 1902, and practically the whole of this importation left the port mixed with China dust, in the form of brick and tablet tea.

**Consumption of Indian Tea in America.**

The *American Grocer* makes the following interesting remarks in the column under the head of tea:—"Blended tea having a touch of British-grown tea grows in favour much faster than straight Ceylon or India. The imports of tea into all ports of the United States for eight months ending August and the exports were as follows: Imports, eight months, 50,355,961 lbs.; exports, 4,011,207 lbs.; net imports, 46,344,754 lbs.; net imports same time 1902, 47,084,254 lbs. Of the 1903 imports, Japan furnished 23,559,824 lbs., or about 48 per cent.; Chinese Empire 17,399,054 lbs., or about 34 per cent.; the balance 18 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, British North America, and the East Indies. It is evident that British-grown tea is making good headway in finding a market in the United States." The New York correspondent of the *London Grocer*, writing on this subject, says: "The sale of packet tea is growing, and as the consuming public come to understand that the same quantity of Indian and Ceylon tea as of Japan or China will make double, if not thrice, the quantity of beverage they will use them more freely. Nine out of ten consumers use just the same quantity as they have been accustomed to use of Formosa, Oolong, or Japan, and the result is a heavier-bodied beverage than is generally liked."

**Consumption of Tea in Canada.**

The population of Canada, according to the last census, was 5,338,883. The average consumption of tea per head for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, was 3.139 lbs., the net tea consumed in Canada amounting to 16,760,287 lbs.

**How Rubber is Prepared at Lagos.**

At their last Meeting the Committee of the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce had under consideration a letter from the Secretary of Lagos Stores, Limited, who said that the preparation of rubber for the market in Lagos seemed to have been neglected, and it occurred to the Company that the time was opportune for the Government of the colony to adopt measures to have the state of things greatly improved. The rubber, he says, is of excellent quality, but the method of preparation considerably reduces its value. Something might be done to teach the natives the methods of collection and preparation used particularly in the French colonies. The Company believed that in French Guinea some time ago a similar class of rubber was shipped, but the producers were taught by a neighbouring tribe to manufacture what were called "Red Niggers," and now show an advantage in price of about 50 per cent. The French Government prohibited the export of rubber in any other form. The Company do not propose the British should do the same, but express their conviction that if the natives were taught they would not be slow to recognise and reap the advantage offered. Small quantities of rubber were made up by some of the Company's employes and brought 3s. 2d. per lb., while the "Lagos Lump" sold at 1s. 10d. per lb. It was decided to offer prizes of the value of £7 for the best exhibits, and the Section cabled this offer to the Governor, Sir William Macgregor.

**Cocoa and Rubber from the Gold Coast.**

Last year cocoa of the value of £94,944 was exported from the Gold Coast, as compared with £42,837 in 1901, an increase of 121 per cent., and thereby hangs a tale, which is set forth in the annual report of the colony. This industry was founded in 1879 by a native of Accra, who brought some cocoa plants and pods from Fernando Po, made a small plantation and, four years later, sold the cocoa pods in the neighbouring villages. The first consignment of 12 lbs. of cocoa was shipped to England in 1895, and



realised £6 1s. No more cocoa was shipped until 1901, since when the industry, fostered by the Government, which distributed large quantities of cocoa seeds from the botanical station at Aburi, and, at one period, shipped crops to England for the native growers, and also by the Basel Mission Stations, has advanced with rapid strides, fully 6,000,000 plants having been planted in one district alone. The chief port of shipment is Accra, which is now connected with market towns in the districts in which the greater portion of the cocoo exported is grown, by excellent roads. Now the Gold Coast gets practically as much for its cocoa as for its gold. With reference to rubber, it is pointed out that although 5 per cent. more was exported than in 1901, 15 per cent. less value was realised. The wholesale destruction of trees and vines by the natives, due to the unskilful methods employed by them in the extraction of the latex, and the low prices now realised in Europe, are the factors which have conduced to the decline of this one staple product. An effort is being made to teach the native how to tap the trees and vines without injuring their vitality or growth.—*H. & C. Mail.*

### SILK CULTURE IN SIAM.

The Report of the Acting Financial Adviser in Siam writing of silk culture, says:—The efforts of Government are directed towards the establishment of an agency for the investigation of the best methods of silk production, as suited to Siam, and the scheme has outgrown the purely experimental stage at which it stood last year. The observations and experiments of the Japanese expert engaged for this investigation, have been attended with a most satisfactory measure of success, and it is now the purpose of the Government, by the establishment of model nurseries in suitable localities and the adoption of modern methods of warm raising and silk reeling to provide centres of instruction for the classes already engaged in this industry. Siam at present exports a fair quantity of raw silk, in addition to the large amount employed in the hand manufacture of *phanungs* and other articles of clothing, but the quality is in all classes poor owing to unskilful methods and, as a consequence, the prices obtained are very low compared to those of other silk-producing countries. This defect it will now be the endeavour of the Sericultural department to remedy by practical demonstration of the advantages to be derived from the scientific selection and cultivation both of worms and mulberry trees, as well as from adoption of proper mechanical means for preparing the raw silk for the market. With this end in view, model stations will be established at Bangkok, Korat and Phrapathom, and a system inaugurated for the training of apprentices belonging to the cultivating classes. In the present year it is proposed to entertain twenty of these. If the scheme here briefly outlined proves successful, it would not be long before the silk of Siam, by reason of its improved quality and increased output takes its proper place as an important addition to the staple products of the country—thus adding to the material wealth of the people, as well as to the Government.

### PEPPER IN THE NILGIRI DISTRICT.

Pepper is yearly growing to be one of the most important by-products of the Wynaad Taluq of the Nilgiri District, says the *Hindu*. Planters find it far more reliable than coffee and much less expensive to cultivate. It is grown under shade either supported by poles, or by trees planted for the purpose of trailing the vines upon. It is a perennial, climbing shrub a wild variety, abounding on the Nilgiris and forming a handsome decorative plant with its yellow clusters of fruit at one time, and red at another, when fully matured.

Black pepper is obtained from miniature berries, gathered as soon as one or two in the cluster turn red. The berries are removed from the stem and dried in the sun or over a mild fire. When the drying is complete, the berry is shrivelled up, hard, and either black or brown. For the drying, a bit of ground is carefully prepared. It is made smooth and operated till quite hard. The berries are then filed on it to dry, which is known to be the case by their turning brittle, the inside becoming stony and the cortex wrinkled. This method of preparation for market has the disadvantage of coating the berries at times with earth from the mere

fact of lying on the ground. But this is not the only cause of black pepper being dirty. The clusters are often so low down in the vine, that they trail on the ground while still immature. Whatever the cause the marketable article is depreciated in value from the circumstances, and growers are advised to see that what they send away is perfectly clean. Besides Malabar and Wynaad the black pepper of commerce comes from Singapore, Alleppey, and Acheen. Some Mangalore pepper is known as that pepper, and its preparation is by floating the berries in water and separating the floaters from the sinners, the former being so named. The heavy kind of Mangalore pepper is large, of a deep black colour, very clean and of uniform size. When powdered it is of a greenish black appearance. Singapore pepper is from the Johore State and forms a very large proportion of the spice. It also is of large size and of fairly uniform quality, but as pepper powder it is not much esteemed owing to the manner of drying, giving it a smoky flavour. Indeed it is by this smoky flavour, that buyers can distinguish Singapore pepper from peppers from elsewhere. Tellicherry and Alleppey pepper are much alike in appearance, both being light brown in colour. They too, like the Malabar peppers, are sundried. The pepper shipped from Penang is called Irang pepper, and is grown in Sumatra. From East end of the same island comes the Lampong pepper, but this lacks uniformity, and is light in colour. It is also sundried.

White pepper is only the same article but with the outer shell or pericarp removed. The manufacture of white pepper is a distinct business. Some plantations go in for it and the black shell is removed by friction after the berries are soaked in water. There is white pepper from Singapore, Tellicherry, Penang, and Siam. Ground pepper should be nothing but the pepper corns of either the black or white pepper reduced to a proper fineness by passing through a suitable spice mill and over sieves. In this form, the pepper is sometimes adulterated, and the adulteration is hard to detect. Almost anything is ground up with the pepper, such as pepper shells, wheat rice, cocoanut shells, almond shells, mustard husks. Cayenne adulterated pepper is sold as such. In the choice of his adulterants, the manufacturer seems to be guided by the colour alone. Cayenne, when used in this way, gives the mixture pungency.

### SILK WEAVING IN BURMA.

A Mandalay correspondent writes to the *Rangoon Gazette*:—I read with interest the article under the above heading which appeared in your issue of 2nd instant, and hope the attention which is being given in the Bengal Presidency to Mr. N. G. Mukerjee's report will also lead to new life to a profitable industry in Burma. Notwithstanding the religious prejudices which stand in the way in Burma the silk industry in Mandalay for instance is making some headway. The representative of a firm which deals in Burmese silks assures me that orders from ladies for silks of Burmese manufacture from all parts of the world are rather on the increase than otherwise. From the principal centres of India, the orders for Burmese silks are extensive and the taste has been caught on in England and America. The drawbacks of the Burman craftsman are not few. He is indolent and slow to improve upon his old style of working. Burmese hand looms are of the most primitive description. Because their ancestors have not made silk of any width above twenty-four inches, they keep within that limit. In order to get them to manufacture silks of greater width, special looms will have to be constructed, and the weavers must be taught how to handle them. The Burman is too fond of taking his own time and of allowing pleasure to interfere with his work, and the production is very slow. Ordinarily it takes a weaver thirty to thirty-five days to complete a piece of silk measuring twenty-five yards in length exclusive of dyeing, spinning, looming, etc. To complete a piece of 1,000 yards it takes about three months. At present the Burmese silk in vogue is not more than twenty-one inches in width. From time immemorial the Burman is in the habit of mixing his dyes by rule of thumb, and hence there is always a liability of shades of colour to differ. Then again one man is prone to spin his thread a little thicker than another, and one weaver is quite as likely to weave his silk a little closer than another. Amongst the Burmese uniformity is considered to be grotesque. If a Burman makes some approach to a model or pattern he is quite satisfied, and he does not trouble himself as to exactness.



## TEA IN EUROPE.

The tea-trade of Turkey is considerable, but very difficult to gauge with accuracy. In the first place it is necessary to decide what is Turkey.

The whole dominions of the Sultan cover an area of more than 1,700,000 square miles and contain a population estimated at nearly 20,000,000. But these figures include Tripoli and other tributaries—though not Egypt which still pays a large tribute—and some of the European Christian provinces which are nominally independent. As, however, the figures relating to tea imports into Turkey certainly do not include all these countries, it may be well to take as the trade meaning of Turkey, or the Turkish Empire, the two main divisions, of

(a) Turkey in Europe, with about 6,000,000 inhabitants

(b) " " Asia " " 17,000,000 "

for a total population of say 23 millions, of whom some 1,000,000 are congregated in and around Constantinople.

The next obstacle confronting the enquirer is the fact that the tea-trade of Turkey is inextricably mixed up with that passing in transit for Persia. How much of the tea annually arriving at Constantinople, for instance, remains there or passes into Turkish consumption, and how much proceeds to Trebizonde, for despatch thence by camel caravan to Tauris, the great trade centre of Northern Persia? And what proportion of the tea entering Asiatic Turkey by the Persian Gulf is actually consumed on Turkish territory, and how much of it finds its way into Southern Persia? Tea, in fact, reaches the Turkish Empire from so many different countries and enters it at so many different points, and the local statistics or records are so meagre and unreliable, that all estimates as to the volume of the trade can at best be only approximations. From information carefully gathered at Constantinople among tea merchants and officials, and by comparison of the figures thus obtained with those recorded by the exporting countries, it is, however, possible to arrive at a rough working estimate.

Taking first the trade of Constantinople: A British Foreign Office report for 1901 states that "the annual importation of tea is estimated to average 8,000 to 10,000 cases of 100 lbs. each." This would give something under 1,000,000 lbs. for tea cleared at the Stamboul Customs, but it says nothing as to "other Turkish ports": the transit trade for Persia, probably another 2½ million lbs. is of course also not included. Other figures (based on the Turkish Customs statistics for 1895-96) supplied by the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople, gave the annual imports here as 588,863 kilos., or 1,295,388 lbs. Yet another set of figures was obtained by careful enquiry among Stamboul merchants and others, which may be tabulated thus:—

### AVERAGE ANNUAL TEA IMPORTS.

		lbs.
via "Constantinople	... 12,000 chests of 80 lbs. each =	960,000
" "Other Turkish Ports"	... 3,000 " " " =	240,000
" "Transit for Persia via		
Trebizonde	... 25,000 " " " =	2,000,000
	40,000 " " " =	3,200,000

As the trade is growing and these figures were admittedly under rather than over the mark when obtained in 1900, it would probably be safe to say that Constantinople's annual imports for home consumption are to-day fully 1½ million lbs.

Turning to "Other Turkish ports" the quantity, 3,000 chests given above, was the average opinion at Stamboul, but is obviously much too low if taken to include all ports of Asiatic Turkey. The difficulty is that figures relating to Asiatic Turkey, especially those dealing with imports direct from the Indian side of the Suez Canal, necessarily include large quantities of tea entering the Turkish Empire via the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, it is probable that statistics of exports to Asiatic Turkey from the United Kingdom, Hamburg, etc., refer chiefly to Mediterranean ports. An additional trouble is the evident overlapping of statistical years in some cases. Making due allowance for all uncertainties, however, it seems fair to assume that the total tea imports from all sources into Asiatic Turkey are at present some 4 to 4½ million lbs. annually. Adding to this the 1½ million lbs. for Constantinople given above, we get a total annual import for all Turkey of 5½ to 6 million lbs. This divided among the population of 23,000,000 gives very nearly 1 lb. per head annually. It was locally believed at Constantinople

that of this total 6,000,000 lbs. about 75 per cent. was Indian tea, 20 per cent. China, etc., and 5 per cent. Ceylon. Later evidence tends to show that the Ceylon figure is much underestimated. In this connection the subjoined tables may be of interest:—

(a) Quantities of Tea (in lbs.) exported from U. K. to Turkey, 1900—02.

EUROPEAN TURKEY.				
		1900.	1901.	1902.
China tea	...	98,674	68,744	135,242
Indian tea	...	295,733	96,083	125,818
Ceylon tea	...	65,284	38,302	76,110
Other Countries	...	58,225	21,329	31,487
Total lbs.	...	517,916	224,468	368,657

ASIATIC TURKEY.				
		1900.	1901.	1902.
China tea	...	...	...	...
Indian tea	...	57,219	148,164	227,570
Ceylon tea	...	...	...	...
Other Countries	...	12,948	22,534	28,086
Total lbs.	...	100,304	208,774	345,193

(b) Direct Exports of Indian Tea from India to:—

		1900-01	1901-02.	1902-03.
Asiatic Turkey	... lbs...	3,240,000	2,626,000	3,273,000
European Turkey	... " ...	618,000	144,000	390,000
Persia	... " ...	2,429,000	2,530,000	3,254,000

The tea-trade of Persia, it has already been said, is intimately connected with that of Turkey. The united tea consumption of the two countries is given by a good London authority as 11 million lbs. in 1900. That of Persia alone is probably 5 to 6 million lbs. annually, drawn hitherto almost wholly from India. The new (1903) Anglo-Persian commercial treaty, imposing as it does an extra 95 per cent. duty on British-grown tea entering Persia direct, may, however, seriously affect this trade, and throw it more largely into Russian hands. As shown in a recent *Board of Trade Journal* tea is already being sent in increasing quantities into Persia from both Moscow and Odessa, via Baku. Some 400,000 lbs. annually (mostly packet teas, containing a proportion of Indian and Ceylon leaf) are said to go from Odessa alone. Moscow figures are also stated to be "large," but are not given.

This Russian trade via Baku is favoured by the new Russo-Persian treaty (made public 5 days after the Anglo-Persian) which is reported to bristle with "hostile discriminations" against British trade what the British treaty has done for Indian tea we have just seen.

Returning to Turkey, it is satisfactory to find that the fiscal conditions there are not unfavourable. The Customs duty on tea is the same as that on general merchandise, viz., 8 per cent. *ad valorem*. In practice, this means considerably less than 1d. per lb. on the mass of tea imported. The bonding regulations are also accommodating to merchants, thus facilitating the transit trade for Persia handled at Constantinople. At Trebizonde no duty is charged on tea destined for Persia, whilst the tax levied at the Persian frontier is said not to exceed Rs.3 per chest. There are thus no serious hindrances to the growth of trade from the Turkish side.

As regards types of tea required, teas are selected at Constantinople hardly at all by liquor or flavour, but chiefly by appearance. A long wiry leaf is most liked, especially for the Persian trade where camel transport tends to break up the tea. For the local retail trade plenty of white and tippy leaf is essential. The public fears that black-looking tea may be adulterated with the so-called "Turkish tea"—a coarse black leaf having a disagreeable taste, which grows wild in Asia Minor and is extremely cheap. It is often palmed off in blends upon the native public, which is, therefore, particular to buy its tea open, by weight—not in packets—and demands a tippy appearance. The teas most wanted for Turkey are Indians of large wiry leaf and low cost—say five to seven annas in Calcutta. Cheapness is of the utmost importance, and to this end further facilities are needed by the trade—for instance, more direct Steam communications between India and Constantinople, and a larger stock there of Indian teas for buyers to select from. In the latter direction something has lately been done, but further attention to this market is desirable.

In conclusion, it may be said that the outlook for tea in Turkey is distinctly encouraging. The taste for it already exists, espe-



cially for Indian varieties, and the demand is steadily growing. In so poor a country as Turkey a consumption of  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. per head is not inconsiderable and already far exceeds the *per capita* rate in France or Germany for instance. There are practically no fiscal obstacles; and the retail prices of tea, both in leaf and in the cup, are already on a popular basis, whilst both in Turkey itself and in Persia Indian teas enjoy a natural preference.

With a little aid and attention in directions indicated above it seems most probable that an already promising field for British-grown tea might be considerably further developed.—*Capital*.

## THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, CEYLON.

From Sir West Ridgeway's review of the Administration of the Affairs of Ceylon, 1896—1903, we take the following interesting report on the Royal Botanic Gardens:—

### THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Department has developed in a manner equally striking and gratifying. So wide indeed has been the range of this development that its title, which used to indicate fairly accurately the scope of its activities, now very inadequately describes the varied functions of one of the most useful branches of the public service. Very shortly after assuming the administration of the Colony I was struck with the great possibilities of the department as an aid to agriculture in Ceylon; valuable services had been rendered in the past in the introduction and diffusion of such plants as cinchona and cacao, but, comparatively, the day for important work of this kind was past, new possibilities of usefulness called for recognition, and the history of the gardens as a modern institution for affording scientific aid to agriculture practically recommences in 1896.

Botanical and horticultural work had been carried on since the foundation of the gardens in 1821, but when I took over the reins of Government in 1896 the department was entirely different in its size, scope, and activities to that which exists at the present day.

On Dr. Trimen's retirement, four months after my arrival, the present Director, Mr. J. C. Willis, then Assistant in Botany in Glasgow University, was appointed. He had not been long in the Island before he reported that an immense amount of scientific work remained to be done in Ceylon botany, the study of the fungi of Ceylon, especially of the disease-producing parasitic fungi, being almost untouched. He pointed out that there was much to be learnt about the physiology of tropical plants (on which knowledge the application of science to practice is mainly founded), their modes of life, the chemistry of soils, manures, etc., the principles of tea-making, rubber-curing, and such subjects, and innumerable other questions. It was obvious, however, that Mr. Willis could not find time for more than one such investigation at once, and provision was therefore made for a scientific assistant from 1898 onwards. The first appointment under this scheme was that of Mr. J. Parkin, who devoted attention to the best ways of collecting and preparing rubber: his method, modified as subsequent practice has shown to be advisable, is now largely used, and Ceylon rubber is obtaining the highest market prices at the present time. This proved the first of a series of appointments of experts who have been of the greatest possible value in the scientific examination of the many practical problems which confront the planters of the Island. In fact, no other department in the administration has received such a notable accession to its strength. The European staff, which in 1895 consisted of the Director, with the Superintendent of the hill garden and a head gardener at Peradeniya, now includes six trained scientific men and two skilled horticulturists. Thus, besides the Director, there are now the Government Mycologist and Assistant Director, the Government Entomologist, the Government Chemist, the Controller of the Experiment Station, the Scientific Assistant, the Superintendent of Hakgala Gardens, and the Curator, Peradeniya Gardens. The duties of each of these officers vary, but they are all engaged in investigating from a scientific point of view different questions in relation to the botany, entomology, and agriculture of the Island, with a view to communicating the knowledge gained to the planting and agricultural communities. The department, in short, now exercises the functions of a bureau for information and advice on questions relating to botany, agriculture, horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, chemistry,

and other subjects. The Government Mycologist and Entomologist frequently tour through the planting and other districts to study the appearance or condition of any pests by which the Island's crops are attacked. They attend Meetings of planters in various centres, where discussion takes place on planting questions, and are always ready to give technical information.

As in the case of most new departures, many criticize or even deny the value of the appointments and of the work of the Mycologist and Entomologist. Their reasons usually prove on analysis to be more or less personal; they do not receive the undivided attention of these officers, or the cultivation in which they are most interested does not receive it, or, as is not infrequently the case in diseases of plants as in those of mankind, no simple or practicable remedy can be found for the particular disease in hand. Few people realize that the diseases of plants are as common, as insidious, and at least as infectious as those attacking animals or mankind. A disease is not infrequently allowed to spread over an estate until it becomes a serious epidemic; the aid of the Mycologist or Entomologist is then invoked, and because he cannot at once eradicate the disease at little or no cost to the estate his work is condemned as useless. As reasonably might one expect a solitary medical officer, unhelpt by sanitary legislation, to deal single-handed with malaria or enteric fever in Ceylon, and blame him because those diseases still claim their numerous victims. But the best justification of these appointments lies in the fact that so many applications for aid are made to the two officers mentioned that they are almost too much occupied in attending to them, to the detriment of the work of studying the life history of diseases and methods of prevention. Only by the most rigid economy of time is it possible for them to secure the necessary opportunities for this, the more important section of their work. Gradually, no doubt, public opinion will become more awake to the importance of early and proper treatment of disease and to the danger of allowing uncared-for patches of cultivation to become nurseries of disease, continually re-infecting the neighbourhood. Under the stimulus of competition it will be recognized that it pays to have clean and healthy cultivations.

In my review of the trade of the Colony during the past seven years I drew your attention to the fact that the Colony is slowly but surely becoming less and less dependent on one staple, and in my previous addresses to you I have frequently emphasized the importance of encouraging new products. The Royal Botanic Gardens Department affords admirable opportunities for experiments in this direction.

Turning to new products in detail, probably the most important is Pará rubber. The rubber industry is increasing rapidly, and large areas in various parts of the world are being planted with this valuable product.

Rubber may now be looked upon as a firmly-established industry, and it is estimated that from 10,000 to 12,000 acres are already planted with the product. The best methods of procuring the rubber and preparing it for the market have been especially investigated by the department and the results published. The estates which have already come into bearing are yielding large and steady profits. During last year several tons were exported to England and sold at a price of about 4s. per lb. The export for the first three quarters of this year was 30,000 lbs. Ceylon rubber is considered to be of the best quality in the market, and if care continues to be taken in preparation there is no reason why the present position should not be the beginning of a trade which may well expand during the next five or six years to annual shipments of from one and a-half to two million pounds, worth perhaps between £300,000 and £400,000. It is evident, moreover, that instead of being limited to 10,000 acres, as was calculated a few years ago, rubber (in its several ready-growing and remunerative species) may yet cover as great an extent as cacao, i.e., 35,000 to 40,000 acres, and the trees on such an area ought, when in full bearing, to yield from six to eight million pounds a year of the crude product, which is so much in demand in Europe and America.

Camphor, introduced by the Royal Botanic Gardens Department, has succeeded well in many places where it has been planted, and bids fair to be a useful and profitable minor product. The price of camphor is exceedingly high (from 140s. to 150s. per cwt.), it being of great value in the manufacture of celluloid and for many other purposes.

Tobacco cultivation has not greatly increased during the last seven years.



Experiments have been tried by the gardens and by planters which demonstrate the possibility of growing good rhéa in Ceylon. Owing to the lack of good machinery for dealing with this fibre, and the recent extension of mercerised cotton, which competes with rhéa on its own ground, there seems, however, but little hope of this fibre becoming a profitable industry at present.

Vanilla has been planted in many districts during recent years, but the severe fall in price that has lately occurred will probably be somewhat discouraging.

Pepper has been planted in a few localities, and continues to expand slowly, but there seems little likelihood of any considerable export trade springing up at present.

Attempts have lately been made to resuscitate cinchona, once our largest staple, by the introduction of the very rich Java varieties; it is as yet, however, too early to speak as to the prospects of this industry.

Coca, the source of cocaine, introduced years ago through the Botanic Gardens, is now cultivated in some districts, and Ceylon leaf frequently appears upon the London market, obtaining the highest prices.

Cardamoms have proved a remunerative cultivation in recent years, and the area under cultivation, as well as the exports, have continued to increase. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 acres are now planted with this product, as compared with about half that extent in 1896. The export has risen from 415,585 lbs. in 1896 to 615,922 lbs. in 1902. Latterly there has been a fear of over-production of cardamoms as of tea, but it may be hoped that the steps taken to interest new markets in Australia and America, as well as in Europe, will prevent any further lowering of price, though caution is necessary not to extend cultivation until a steady market is assured.

The export of citronella oil has until recently continued to increase, but there has been a decline in price, owing partly to over-production, but chiefly to inferior quality and adulteration. Lately also the Java planters have taken up the industry, producing a first-rate pure oil which has recently been selling at 2s. 1d. per lb. in Europe, as against 10d. for Ceylon oil. The problem of how best to rescue our industry from the dangers threatened by this competition is now engaging the careful attention of the Botanical Department.

Among other products which have also received attention lately may be mentioned guttapercha and ebony, with its allied timbers calamander, etc.

A possible new industry—or perhaps, more correctly, revival of an old one—which has been considerably canvassed in the Press of the Colony this year is cotton cultivation. It has been pointed out that the present is a peculiarly opportune time for reviving cotton-growing in Ceylon. Determined efforts are being made in Lancashire to make the Empire independent of foreign countries for its cotton supply, and any colony, therefore, which possesses suitable land for cotton cultivation has a chance of initiating a new and profitable industry. Now, it was demonstrated some years ago that certain parts of Ceylon are adapted for this cultivation, and they are moreover the very parts which stand most in need of development. I have already given you some idea of the productiveness and capabilities of the country through which the Northern railway will run, and there is no doubt that there is a considerable amount of land which will grow cotton if sufficient rainfall or water-supply is available. The chief question is whether Ceylon cultivators can grow a good staple, better than the inferior Indian staple which was formerly cultivated in the Island, and which, as at present grown in India, yields a poor return in price. I have recently sanctioned an experiment on carefully-considered lines under the supervision of Mr. Willis. It has been decided to set apart an area of some 80 to 90 acres in the North-Central province, and make a fair trial not only of Indian, but also of American and Egyptian cotton. Efforts will also be made to induce private enterprise to take up the cultivation by grants of land on easy terms, while it is also proposed to encourage the industry among natives by a distribution of cotton seed on credit. We must be prepared for a certain amount of unremunerative expenditure for a time, but the sum involved is comparatively trifling, while, if the experiment is successful, the results should prove of far-reaching importance.

There seems to be a probability that Ceylon may in course of time become the home of a small silk industry. So far back as 1873

successful but isolated experiments were made by private persons, and last year some silkworms were raised from Italian seed imported by the department and were kept for stock purposes. The resulting eggs were submitted to a cool temperature for six months, after which they were allowed to hatch, and the worms were raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Some of their cocoons were sent to England to an expert, who reports that the silk produced therefrom is of very good strong quality, comparing favourably with that produced in Cashmere. Large nurseries of mulberry plants are now being raised, and plants are being distributed throughout the Island with the assistance of the Government Agents. When the trees have become established and have sufficiently grown it is proposed to issue silkworm seed to the various recipients of plants for more extended experiment.

Cacao cultivation has shown a most welcome vitality in the face of grave danger. The extent of land planted with cacao has risen from 21,000 acres in 1896 to about 35,000 acres in 1903, while the export of the product has expanded from 31,000 cwt. to 60,000 cwt.: that is to say, the production of cacao has almost doubled during the last seven years, and it is still increasing. Yet in the beginning of my administration a mysterious disease, the cause of which was unknown, seriously menaced this important industry, and in 1897 a Plant Pathologist was sent out from Home and paid partly by Government and partly by the cacao planters. As the result of his investigations the cause of the evil was ascertained, and the measures which he proposed have since been generally adopted and have prevented the threatened extinction of this plant, which grows and produces in Ceylon better than in the great majority of cacao countries. The Government are at present considering whether means cannot be taken to protect the majority of cacao growers from the shortsighted policy of a small minority, who do not take proper precautions to prevent the spread of the canker, and who are consequently a constant danger to the rest of the cacao estates.

The successful issue of the combat with the cacao canker is gratifying testimony to the practical utility of the Botanic Gardens Department, and is a striking illustration of the change which has taken place of late years. Since 1896 the planter, both European and native, has had created for him a Government Advice Bureau, where he can and does apply for information on all matters affecting his crops and their profitable cultivation. He also has had provided for him a State Station, where experiments are made in improving the plants already cultivated and in introducing new plants which may prove of economic value, and he can consult experts who, by their knowledge of the nature of the evils causing plant diseases, can suggest means for fighting these enemies and reducing the losses caused by them to a minimum. In a word, the Royal Botanic Gardens Department not only possesses some of the most instructive and beautiful gardens in the world, but, by virtue of its remarkable influence on our great agricultural industries, may well promise to be the mainspring of of the Island's prosperity.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 10th instant. There were present: Mr. T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), Messrs. G. Kingsley, Geo. A. Ormiston, R. R. Toynbee, T. Traill, and W. Warrington.

Letters dated 16th and 23rd October from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, having been previously circulated were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subjects dealt with were—

#### THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

The London Committee advised that arrangements had been concluded with Mr. R. Blechynden to act as Commissioner for the Association's exhibit, and that he had been deputed to proceed to



St. Louis to interview the Secretary to the Royal Commission regarding space for the exhibits.

It was proposed to place these in the Agricultural Building and to erect a Pavilion in which Indian tea and coffee could be served on the same conditions granted to Ceylon.

In connection with Mr. Blechynden's engagement, application had been made to the Government of India by the General Committee that he should be accorded an official standing at the Exposition.

#### INCREASED DUTY ON BRITISH-GROWN TEA IN RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

The London Committee drew attention to a report appearing in one of the Tea Brokers' circulars to the following effect:

"Following upon the recent increased duty put upon British-grown tea imported into the European Ports of Russia comes the information that the duty upon Indian tea taken into Persia, which has had almost the control of that market, has just been practically doubled by the addition of 95 per cent. upon what has hitherto been levied. To make matters still less palatable, very heavy additional duties have also been placed upon all other British goods brought into Persia, whilst those of Russia are said to be admitted either free or at very much reduced rates."

The London Committee suggested that it would be advisable if the General Committee could approach the Government of India on the subject and endeavour to get some pressure brought to bear with a view to remove the hindrances placed in the way of Indian teas in the countries in question.

The matter of the increase in the duty on British-grown teas entering Russia by way of the European frontiers and Black Sea Ports was referred to in the proceedings of the Meeting held on 13th October. As the London Committee had themselves addressed a representation to the Secretary of State for India in connection with the matter, the General Committee were of opinion that it would be well to await the result of the reference before taking any action.

The Committee had heard nothing of the reported increase in the Persian duty. The last reported instance of preferential treat-

ment of Russian goods entering Persia which had reached the Committee was referred to in the proceedings of the Meeting held on 7th April last and was to the effect that it was understood that the Russian Government had obtained a concession under which the duty on Russian goods was payable in *paper* roubles instead of in coin, the value of the paper rouble being about thirteen pence less than the silver rouble.

An inquiry had been addressed to the Government of India in connection with the matter, but beyond an acknowledgment of the letter stating that it would be laid before Government, nothing further had transpired.

It was now decided to send a reminder and at the same time to communicate the substance of the London report and ask whether the Government of India were in receipt of any information regarding the matter.

#### MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated November 6th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ..	645,710	494,147	46,755
1902-1903 ..	668,720	562,985	35,847
41,595 pkgs. INDIAN 12,567 " CEYLON 2,666 " JAVA	Total 56,828 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

The statistical position is good because although we have imported six million lbs. more tea than at the same date last year, stock in London is six million pounds less. Deliveries of Indian Tea have increased five million lbs., probably indicating a reduction of buyers' stocks, rather less having so far been auctioned.

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**INDIAN.**—The recent activity noticed in the bidding was not quite so pronounced, buyers apparently having to some extent filled up their immediate requirements. The auction consequently passed with a quieter tone, and a somewhat large proportion of tea was withdrawn owing to the general firmness of holders. Exports from Calcutta and Chittagong to U. K. second half October 11,320,000 lbs., against 11,190,000 lbs. same period, 1902; 1st April to end October 103,712,000 lbs., against 96,410,000 lbs. Averages:—"Selimbong,"  $1/3\frac{1}{2}$ ; "Kan. Dev. H. Co. Teok,"  $1/1\frac{1}{4}$ ; "Amal. T. Ests. gardens Dooteriah" and "Kalej,"  $1/1\frac{1}{4}$  and  $1/1$ , respectively; "Con. T. & L. Bloomfield" and "Am. T. Est. Moondakotee,"  $1/0\frac{1}{2}$ .

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 35,705 pkgs., av. 7'84d. 1902, 28,588 pkgs., av. 6'87d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 471,710 pkgs., av. 7'90d. 1902, 473,778 pkgs., av. 7'14d.

**CEYLON.**—The exceptionally small auction proved hardly adequate to buyers' requirements, consequently bidding was animated and very steady prices were general, the recent advance being fully maintained for all descriptions. Exports to U. K. for October 7,000,000 lbs., against 6,623,444 lbs. same month, 1902; to 31st October 81,500,000 lbs., against 87,271,469 lbs. Estimate for current month 7 millions, against  $6\frac{1}{2}$  millions shipped November, 1902. Averages:—"Henfold,"  $1/1$ ; "Wanarajah T. Co. W.,"  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d.; "Demodera,"  $11\frac{1}{4}$ d.; "Talawakelle," 11d.; "Troup,"  $10\frac{3}{4}$ d.; "Sutton,"  $10\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Average for week 8'38d., against 7'12d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 861,763 pkgs., av. 7'49d. 1902, 984,934 pkgs., av. 6'73d.

**JAVA.**—A fair selection was offered comprising 16 estates. The teas met with a ready sale at firm rates.

### COFFEE.

The Dutch Trading Co.'s sale of 27,340 bags Java Coffee at Amsterdam on Tuesday last—being the concluding one of the 1903 series—passed off satisfactorily, when good ordinary quality realised about 29 cents, which was nearly 1 cent above the valuations, and two cents higher than at the September auction. In October, 1902, the price was 35 cents, the same as in 1900, as compared with 38 cents in 1901 and 29 cents in 1899. The next public sale by the Netherlands' Co. is fixed for January 26, 1904, and will be held at Rotterdam. Here a good demand continues to prevail, and the stinted supplies by auction have gone off readily at firm prices. The parcels put forward have consisted of 1,070 bags East India Plantation, 1,840 bags Costa Rica and Guatemala, 480 bags New Granada, 310 bags Columbian, 317 bags Salvador, and 570 bags Mexican, etc., besides 2,090 bags Dumont Santos, chiefly Washed, which went at 30s. 6d. to 34s. for small, at 34s. to 40s. 6d. for medium, at 36s. to 47s. 6d. for bold, and at 43s. 6d. to 50s. 6d. per cwt. for peaberry. 84 barrels Jamaica fetched stiff rates—small and middling 58s. to 75s., good middling to good 86s. 6d. to 102s. 6d., and fine blue 107s. to 113s. 6d. The tendency of the market for Futures has mainly been upwards during the week, advices from abroad having, on the whole, been more favourable, and transactions in good Santos, for delivery between November and September next, have latterly resulted at 29s. to 32s. 3d.

Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon's Monthly Market Report dated Rotterdam, October 31st, 1903, states:—Unfavourable crop reports and speculative buying in New York favourably impressed neighbouring markets, scarcely so our own; past experience has made dealers cautious, who are now attaching more importance to receipts than to crop reports.

The Dutch Trading Company held its last this year's sale October 27th. Values have been dearer, good ordinary selling at 29cts. against 27cts. in the September sale, Tagal, Passaroeang, and Probolingo advanced 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ cts., brown Preanger and Liberian only 1ct.

Next sale to be held January 26th.

Importers met the market freely, sales consisted chiefly of Java Plantation, which sold well at ruling values. However at the close the trade appears to be holding off more or less. Offerings next month will again be on a liberal scale.

There was more enquiry for Santos Coffee on the spot, values closing 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts. dearer, being still too much below cost and freight parity to admit of much business in that line. Brazilian holders are not likely to give way and so the trade ultimately will be obliged to pay more money. African is 1ct. dearer.

Arrivals have been rather extensive, both from Java and from Santos, viz., 72,000 bags and 98,300 bags, deliveries were also satisfactory and our stock of Santos Coffee has been reduced by 9,200 bags.

Terminal quotations are  $1\frac{1}{2}$ cts. higher for the month, but dealings were not in proportion to the advance, buying orders being scarce, whilst many holders preferred to sell out at the unexpected advance. It is another question, whether a higher range of values may be warranted by less favourable crop reports. Closing quotations are  $18\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per December,  $18\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per March,  $18\frac{3}{4}$ cts. per May, and  $19\frac{1}{4}$ cts. per September. Dealings only amounted to 105,000 bags or 778,000 bags since 1st January. October contracts 11,500 bags, tenders 9,500 bags.

New York decidedly is taking the lead and European markets are following suit. New York quotations are 0'75\$cts. dearer and judging by the volume of contracts, a strong hand must be at work, guided by present unfavourable crop reports. Further developments of some interest may be anticipated. Stocks in the interior of the Brazils are very much reduced, which will soon be telling upon receipts. Estimates of the present Santos crop are now admitted to be 7 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million bags. This means daily receipts of only 13,000 bags from 1st November until 30th June and would point to a sudden and substantial falling off. Going by present estimates, the running Rio and Santos crops would totalize 11 to  $11\frac{1}{4}$  million bags, against 12,300,000 bags last year. Receipts being about equal to last years' the deficiency of 1,300,000 bags would entirely fall on the coming eight months. Next crop is also reported less promising, the continuous drought must have done a certain amount of injury.

The visible supply augmented another 38,780 tons, now having surpassed 800,000 tons and being even 50,000 tons in excess of last year's. This does not seem to be an obstacle to a rising tendency.

### Dutch Trading Company in public Sale at Amsterdam on October 27th, 1903.

429 chests Padang Plantation	...	52 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 55 cts.
2,544 bags Java Plantation	...	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 53 "
558 " Preanger, brown	...	49 - 56 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
500 " " yellowish	...	46 - 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
2,916 " Tagal, pale and green	...	37 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1,297 " Panaroekah, pale greenish	...	29 $\frac{1}{4}$ - ... "
2,982 " Probolingo, green	...	28 $\frac{1}{4}$ - 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
8,245 " Passaroeang, pale green to greenish	...	28 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1,102 " Modjokerto, greenish	...	30 - 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
533 " palish	...	30 $\frac{3}{4}$ - ... "
336 " pale greenish	...	28 $\frac{3}{4}$ - ... "
5,378 " Liberian	...	21 - 27 "
878 " blacks and broken	...	12 - 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
75 " sea-damaged	...	... - ... "

Total 2,7344 bags and 429 chests.

### TEA.

Messrs. Wm. Jas. & Hy. Thompson, in their Report, November 5, say: Although some of the trade look for lower rates in consequence of the larger yield from India for the season and a cessation of the continued unfavourable weather in Ceylon, sales this week have passed without material alteration, and prices have been fairly maintained. Shipments from India continue on a large scale, the total exports from Calcutta and Chittagong showing an increase of 7 millions over last year, and crop returns for October as cabled point to a good outturn in Assam, due to exceptionally favourable weather—it would seem now that we may expect 10 or 15 million lbs. more than last year from Northern India—sufficient for trade purposes, but not more than can be satisfactorily handled in view of the shortage in Ceylons and the improved statistical position. The week's sales have comprised 41,800 packages, against 34,400 packages last year, the total auctions of this season's tea to date thus amounting to 516,400 packages, against 560,000 packages a year ago. We have but little change to record in prices, the only noteworthy feature being somewhat better rates for good medium Broken Pekoes from 10d. to 1s. 2d. per lb.; other grades sold chiefly without much animation, occasionally with a slightly easier tendency—Calcutta-bought teas being particularly hard to move. The large quantity of plain ordinary tea now coming forward doubtless accounts to a great extent for the lack of spirit in the bidding. From inquiries made in various quarters it seems that



the weight of packages coming forward this year is heavier than before, and we think it possible that a rather larger proportion of the crop has been disposed of than might be inferred from the actual number of chests passed through auctions. For next week about 40,000 packages are advertised. Shipments from Calcutta and Chittagong during the past fortnight were 11,320,000 lbs., the total export to date being 103,712,000 lbs., against 96,410,000 lbs. a year ago. October deliveries were  $15\frac{1}{2}$  millions against  $14\frac{1}{2}$  millions last year. Calcutta auctions passed without much change last Friday, the average price realised for the 20,000 packages sold being 5a. 10p.

### TEA IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, *October 27th.*—Transactions in tea were almost exclusively confined to the auction sale. Private inquiries were made, but buyers evinced no disposition to advance to sellers' limits. Apart from sales of Ceylons at the previous day's quotations, there is little or nothing to report.

MELBOURNE, *November 3rd.*—A fair business has been done in Ceylon, sales reported covering 160 chests at  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8d. Large sales of Indian Tea, mostly out of last Friday's catalogue, have been made, amounting to over 400 chests, at prices ranging from  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d., but mostly up to  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.—*Australian papers.*

### PEPPER

continued dull for the first part of the month, says Messrs. G. Duuring & Zoon in their report dated October 31st, 1903, for want of trade demand, but since recovered to the extent of 2cts. A marked change for the better is distinctly observable and the market closes firm on favourable statistics and small shipments. Terme business has also been more active and a further fall of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ct. was not only promptly recovered, but values advanced  $2\frac{3}{4}$ cts., now being  $2\frac{1}{2}$ cts. dearer for the month and buyers at  $34\frac{1}{4}$ cts. per November, December,  $34\frac{3}{8}$ cts. per January, February,  $34\frac{1}{2}$ cts. per March and  $34\frac{5}{8}$ cts. per April, May.

Near months are particularly in request and offering very sparingly. Dealings amounted to 17,400 bags or 231,000 bags since 1st January. October contracts 9,600 bags and tenders 600 bags.

Stocks of all kinds on the principal markets of Europe.

	October 1st	1903.	1902.	1901.
		Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Netherlands	...	36,400	46,300	58,300
London	...	48,700	51,500	92,500
Hamburg	...	3,900	9,700	10,600
Hâvre	...	21,600	73,200	93,000
Bordeaux	...	800	6,000	3,400
Marseilles	...	1,100	10,400	5,200
Trieste	...	8,000	9,200	17,800
Total	...	120,500	206,300	280,800
On September 1st	...	128,700	224,800	287,700

### QUININE.

Previous to the heavy October bark-shipments from Java being known, there had been a fairly active demand at dearer prices, December selling up to 1s. 1d. and March up to 1s.  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d., with purchases of moderate quantities from the factories at 1s. 1d. The declaration of the shipments on Monday, however, came like a thunderclap on the market, and there was an immediate decline of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in second hands. The next day there was a recovery to the extent of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d., speculators coming forward and purchasing some 150,000 oz., including spot at 1s.  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d., December at 1s.  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1s.  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d., and March 1s.  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1s. 1d. Subsequently a much quieter feeling prevailed, with further sellers at 1s.  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d. for December and 1s. 1d. for March. To-day the market is quiet, with sellers at 1s.  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d. for December and 1s.  $0\frac{3}{4}$ d. for March.

The landings during October were 992 oz., and the deliveries 31,472 oz., making the stock on October 31, 3,078,976 oz., against 3,382,032 oz. in 1902.

### MOVEMENTS OF TEA IN LONDON (IN LBS.) DURING OCTOBER FROM TEA BROKERS' ASSOCIATION FIGURES.

			IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.		
			1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	27,236,280	24,508,326	24,515,260	15,509,364	14,476,999	13,864,434
	{ Green	...	167,333	...	...	72,380	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	5,724,780	7,081,459	6,242,208	9,045,068	9,588,710	9,698,263
	{ Green	...	129,592	...	...	56,660	...	...
Java	...	...	580,300	365,540	366,380	626,780	497,230	565,600
China, etc.	...	...	2,041,488	824,812	3,225,574	2,568,766	2,468,218	1,909,489
Total lbs....			35,879,773	32,780,137	34,349,422	27,879,018	27,031,157	26,037,786

### FROM 1ST JUNE TO END OF OCTOBER.

			IMPORTS.			DELIVERIES.			STOCK.		
			1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Indian	{ Black	...	12,052,933	65,353,920	66,012,184	64,073,796	59,260,162	49,586,492	49,794,783	50,250,828	55,315,267
	{ Green	...	437,996	...	...	110,814	...	...	337,344	...	...
Ceylon	{ Black	...	41,001,232	44,757,085	39,789,750	42,741,872	44,827,791	44,381,533	18,833,104	22,233,598	21,151,774
	{ Green	...	461,164	...	...	292,308	...	...	393,480	...	...
Java	...	...	2,950,080	2,222,290	1,967,350	3,460,630	2,669,870	2,393,090	829,920	873,040	795,620
China, etc.	...	...	14,036,353	12,488,760	12,443,379	11,683,616	10,451,158	7,635,986	13,432,662	16,290,843	15,925,208
Total lbs....			130,939,758	124,922,055	120,212,663	122,363,036	117,308,981	103,997,101	83,621,293	89,648,309	93,187,869

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·84d., NOVEMBER 6TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Travancore	343	7·00												
Carady Goody	70	$6\frac{3}{4}$	28	$6\frac{1}{2}$	14	$6\frac{1}{4}$	28	$7\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fairfield	129 p	$6\frac{3}{4}$	23	$6\frac{3}{4}$	58	$6\frac{1}{4}$	28	8	...	...	...	...	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	$6\frac{1}{4}$
Ladrum	144	$7\frac{1}{4}$	24	7	50	$6\frac{1}{4}$ $6\frac{1}{2}$	50	$8\frac{1}{2}$	16	$6\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	4	6

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1903.

[No. 48.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 11th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*December 2nd.*—*Weather*—Abnormally heavy showers from the North-East, very little sun. *Works*—Weeding, preparing for crop. *Crop*—delayed by the rain, a few places starting fly-picking, but nothing to speak of being gathered. *Health*—Fair. *Labour*—Abundant. *Interesting item*—The rain is doing much damage to the paddy. Deputy Commissioner and officials to puja at Subramania temple, the great snake-worship shrine.

#### Coorg.

*POLLI BETTA, 2nd December.*—*Weather*—After a short spell of fine weather, the wet has set in again. *Plant diseases*—The effect of this weather will be to increase leaf-disease which, with East wind, will prevent the even ripening of the berries. *Crop*—Owing to the wet nearly in all cases all hands are engaged in fly-picking. Quantities picked will be small and samples a good deal partially unripe. *Labour*—Sufficient. *General health*—Except that there is an isolated case of plague on estates here and there, the health on the whole is very fair.

### PLANTERS AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

THE British merchant has often been charged with inattention to the annual reports issued by His Majesty's consular representatives abroad. He has sometimes excused himself by disparagement of these reports. By those who have studied them it will be generally admitted that the general standard of British Consular reports has been raised of late years. In particular at certain ports there are commercial attachés; in some countries special commercial representatives have been deputed to make a study of local trade and to report fully upon it. Valuable information has been forthcoming as a result of this system; but such

cases constitute the exceptions. In far too many countries and ports reports are still drawn up by men who have but the vaguest idea of what business-men need. Some Consuls have gone the length of making charges against British traders and commercial travellers, and in a certain number of instances these charges are well founded. That there are faults on both sides, must be acknowledged; but what we propose to do here is to refer to British consular reports from the standpoint of the planters in India. Here again in a few cases the reports are admirable; the one defect in some of them is that they are too long in being made available to the public. Much too numerous, however, are the instances in which there is little or no information given that is of use to the producer of tea, coffee, indigo, cardamoms, pepper or cinchona in this country. The suggestion was thrown out long ago, that every consular representative should be directed to pay special attention to local trade in such important staples as tea and coffee. Customs returns are not reliable at all ports, in many cases, possibly, they make no separate mention of the products we have referred to. In the latter case, a formal request from the British Consul might bring about a change. In both the cases cited the Consul should be able to obtain general information, even though statistical details are beyond his reach. This would involve extra work no doubt; but it is eminently desirable that British Consuls should realise, as their American and German prototypes do, that an important part of their duty consists in obtaining all information that may be of service to producers, merchants, traders and industrialists in any part of the British Empire.

We take up for special notice a batch of "diplomatic and consular reports" that arrived in India but recently. They are not specially selected, but it should be said at once that the batch includes not one report of the type that has been referred to above as really useful. That is a matter of chance, and we mention it simply to guard against any imputation of unfairness. It is with reports of an undesirable class that we have to deal, but we repeat that there are others to which nothing but praise could be accorded. With this brief explanation we turn to No. 3096, Borneo. This deals, or professes to deal, with the trade of Brunei, Sarawak and British North Borneo in 1902. There is in it a line showing the imports of Coffee (Liberian). This is purely a coasting trade and is represented by very small figures. There is a similar line about Tea. Exports of these products are dealt



with in the same fashion. Nothing is said about where the tea comes from or the places to which it is expected. No information is given as to whether it is British or Foreign. Passing on to No. 3099, Siam, we see the title "Trade of Bangkok for the year 1902." There is a pithy little paragraph about Pepper, which is grown in Siam. Total imports of tea are given in one statistical table, total exports of cardamoms find mention in another. Coffee is not referred to at all, nor is any further information given about tea, etc. Yet the report goes into such minute detail as to say how many "coffins (wooden)" were exported, and even chronicles the export of hemp to the value of £4 in the year! The next report before us is No. 3100, Turkey, which treats of the trade of Salonica in 1902. This touches upon imports of coffee and pepper and indigo, but leaves us in doubt whether there is any local trade in tea. The Trade of Reval in 1902 is reviewed in No. 3102, Russia. This affords a little information about tea, and further states that coffee was imported to the value of £184,581, tea to the value of £123,940. Lastly, No. 3103, Morocco, discussing the trade of Tangier and District in 1902, gives some meagre particulars of imports of coffee and tea, and states in a general sort of way whence supplies are obtained.

Now, none of these reports deals with a port of the first importance. Nevertheless, in these days the British trader must not be content with ports of the first magnitude. The Germans, it is remarked, have begun to supply tea to Tangier. They have intruded upon ground previously held by the United Kingdom alone. Unless further information is forthcoming with respect to trade at minor points, the probability is that the Germans will make headway there while the British will fall back. This is what British Consular representatives should endeavour to help their countrymen to prevent. It is unnecessary that they should repeat year after year practically the same information, with merely a change of figures. Our assertion is that in the majority of cases figures are given, and figures alone, and these in such a form as to convey the minimum of information. At least once in five years or so in the case of minor ports, and every year in reports on important ports or countries, such figures ought to be accompanied by notes that afford some idea as to the quality in greatest demand, the proportion imported from each of the countries that have a share in the trade, and other points that are necessary to stimulate British enterprise and that are likely to be of use to British traders. Though we have written with special reference to certain Indian "planting products," we regret to say that many of our remarks as to the deficiencies of consular reports are equally applicable with respect to other commodities of quite as much importance to British trade.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**Coffee Soils.**—In a report on analyses of the soil of coffee plantations, Mr. J. G. Kramers discusses the subject under the following heads: (1) The origin and nature of coffee soils in Java; (2) the relation between the soil and the plants; (3) the chemical analysis of the soil, and (4) the samples and the methods of investigation. Following the text is a long table, in which are given detailed analyses of all the soil samples, together with the reagents used in

making the tests. The soils on which Java coffee is planted belong to the volcanic formation of the Tertiary and Quaternary periods, and consist of volcanic andesite and basalt or their decomposition products. Most of the cultivated soils of Java are underlaid by a hard pan which often prevents free drainage and ruins the soil for coffee culture.

On the first of October the world's visible supply of coffee was reported to be 13,770,429 bags, the largest monthly total ever reached, says the *Merchants' Review*. It is 765,104 bags larger than the visible supply on October 1st, 1902.

During the three months of the crop year beginning July 1, 1903, the warehouse deliveries amounted to 3,975,686 bags, an average of 1,327,562 bags a month, as compared with 3,918,607 bags for the corresponding three months of 1902—an average of 1,306,202 bags a month. These deliveries are for the United States and the eight principal ports of Europe. These are large figures. The figures they are compared with are also large. They show that there is nothing wrong with the consumptive outlet—that low prices are inducing a phenomenal consumption, providing that the warehouse deliveries do not go partly towards swelling the already full invisible supply.

Notwithstanding the marked gain in the visible supply of coffee of late, the price of coffee has shown considerable elasticity, and to-day it is fractionally higher than a month ago, the difference being more marked on No. 3 Rio than on No. 7.

The market for Brazilian coffee derives its strength from the manipulations of speculators, who use unfavourable crop reports as a lever to raise prices, but as little dependence can be placed in crop news so far ahead of the harvest it is not surprising that the market does not rise far, and generally loses part of its gain very soon. The wonder is that the bull interest has been able to score a single point with a possible 14,000,000 bags looming up as the visible supply for November 1st.

Messrs. Prado, Chaves & Co., Santos, cable "Rio coming crop is reported to be badly damaged; estimated 2,750,000 bags." In response to an inquiry the same firm cabled on Friday: "General opinion in Santos that the market must advance owing to estimate of crop being reduced."

#### Notes from the "American Grocer"—

Coffee is now a speculative commodity.

To bull coffee with a visible supply of over 14,000,000 bags is a pretty big job. It will be well for the Wall Street and Cotton Exchange manipulators to study the history of the Arnold speculation of 1869 and in later years.

At present prices coffee is one of the cheapest commodities in general use. It would be cheap at a 50 per cent. advance. The wonder is that the speculators have not been more active in past years.

Four pounds of a choice blended coffee for one dollar seems to be the popular thing with New York consumers. The rivalry between leading distributors insures good quality and making coffee more than ever the popular beverage.



A Philadelphia correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin*, "Veritas," sends the following, *à propos* of the present coffee market :—

A liar there was in Brazil,  
Who said the next crop would be nil,  
That the frost and the drought  
Had knocked the trees out,  
And Americans footed the bill.

\* \* \*

**Dutch Sales of Java Coffee.**—Although not quite the same importance as in former years is now attached to the Dutch Trading Company's periodical sales of Java coffee in Holland, they are nevertheless watched with peculiar interest by the trade on this side, says the *Grocer*, and the market here as often as not is governed by the tendency in prices which is first developed in the coffee centres at Amsterdam or Rotterdam. Sometimes it is the other way, when the London market takes the lead, and this year it so happens that neither in Holland nor in Mincing Lane have the movements in quotations in favour of buyers or sellers been very pronounced. For the last 6 years the average rates ruling at public sales in the Netherlands have seldom been more than moderate, coming between 31 and 37 cents for good ordinary Java coffee, and ranging frequently low, from 29 down to about 25 cents for similar quality. Within the nine years ending with 1897 the prices of "good ordinary" of the usual type were undoubtedly high, rarely below 50 cents, and in extreme cases running up to 60 or 61 cents, imparting to the London market on those occasions a strong feeling of speculation to which it had for a time been a comparative stranger.

It has also been a peculiarity with the Dutch coffee market in recent years that while prices have touched their lowest points, the quantities offered at each auction have been a very great deal lighter than they were formerly, proving that the Java description of coffee is not held in such high estimation by Continental consumers as it was in the latter part of the nineteenth century, through the introduction of superior growths of a plantation kind, with colour, style, and richness of flavour. Prior to the period when these what are called "fancy" coffees came into wider use in Eastern Europe, both the weight of supply regularly offered in public sale and the sort of price then obtained were completely the reverse of what they are now. They present some striking comparisons when placed side by side, as in the statement given at the end of this article in tabular form. In 1884, when the crop of Java coffee reached nearly 1,000,000 bags—one of the largest on record—and plantation Ceylon coffee, to say nothing of the native growth was in abundance, quotations were exceedingly depressed, even with an excellent assortment of clean, wholesome, and useful, qualities, far preferable to those that of late years have been thrown upon our market for prompt disposal; and a return of those prosperous times would be much welcomed by most home dealers in the United Kingdom.

			Quantities in	Prices per Cwt.	
			Public Sale.	Lowest.	Highest.
			Bags.	Cents.	Cents.
1903	...	...	155,400	25½	29
1902	...	...	114,300	32	37½
1901	...	...	121,900	30½	38
1900	...	...	133,500	34½	39
1899	...	...	210,300	25½	34½
1898	...	...	210,270	32½	37½
1897	...	...	182,400	35½	51½
1896	...	...	228,200	50	52
1895	...	...	237,900	52½	55
1894	...	...	222,400	50	53½
1893	...	...	400,300	50½	56
1892	...	...	240,200	51	57½
1891	...	...	144,800	48½	61
1890	...	...	448,300	53	59½
1889	...	...	453,600	49½	53½
1888	...	...	322,000	36½	48½
1887	...	...	604,400	42	57½
1886	...	...	760,200	25½	39½
1885	...	...	867,600	24½	26½
1884	...	...	931,200	26	34½

## TEA NOTES.

**Infusing Tea.**—The Japanese treat tea much as we treat coffee. They grind the leaves in a portable mill, reducing them to a fine powder, which is then mixed with hot water to about the consistency of Turkish coffee or a fine pulp. The Chinese and Japanese methods of infusing or drawing tea prevent the tannic acid or astringent principle from forming part of the beverage, but extract all of the more volatile and stimulating properties of the leaves. Tea should never be boiled. Tea is the drink of drinks to the real connoisseur, the tea-lover who is most competent to judge of merits of the world's beverages. Nothing can take its place, and it soothes, refreshes, and strengthens. Good tea, properly made and drunk in moderation, never does harm. Strange that coffee is attacked by owners of coffee surrogates while tea's virtues are taken for granted.

\* \* \*

**Japan Tea.**—Sir William Mitchell saw a good deal of green-tea manufacture on his journey through Japan, but he is keeping all his observations for his own use. However, he said: "My own opinion of the Japanese tea-industry is that it is on the wane, and that the cultivation of the mulberry tree will gradually take its place."

\* \* \*

A necromantic sort of feat is to be tried on a commercial scale in Ceylon, says the *Merchants' Review*, namely, the turning of green tea dust into black tea dust. A patent has been applied for by the inventor of one process—there are two processes, it appears—and it is declared that the price of the treated tea is increased about 20 @ 25c. per lb.

\* \* \*

Deliveries in the U. K. during October were excellent, comprising 15,581,750 lbs., in contrast with 14,477,000 lbs. in the corresponding period of last year. Trade in the country has evidently been more active, and as buyers generally are not overstocked it seems reasonable to anticipate a steady market, if weekly supplies continue to be properly regulated. Imports for the past month were 27,403,600 lbs., against 24,508,300 lbs.; and the stock on the 31st October was 50,132,150 lbs., against 50,250,850 lbs. in 1902. Shipments from India to the United Kingdom during the latter half of October were 11,320,000 lbs., against 11,190,000 lbs., and the total from April 1 to October 31 now amounts to 103,712,000 lbs., as compared with 96,410,000 lbs. in the same period of last year.

\* \* \*

The total landings of tea at the port of London during October were heavy, amounting to 35,879,800 lbs., against 32,780,150 lbs. in the same month last year; the deliveries in the aggregate were 27,879,000 lbs., in comparison with 27,031,150 lbs., and the stock on the 31st October presented a large deficit as before, and this comprised 6,027,050 lbs. as above shown.

\* \* \*

More progress has been made in the tea industry since the British took up tea-planting in India than during the previous two thousand years of Chinese control of the industry, says the *Merchants' Review*. Improvements have been made in drying, rolling, firing and sorting the leaf, with the result that the price has been much reduced and the beverage placed within the reach of the very poor in Europe and America,



and these improvements have not ceased. There is every reason to believe that they will continue until the cost of producing tea is still further reduced. Such is one of the consequences of the introduction of Western enterprise in the East. It is noticeable that the Indian and Ceylon tea trade is not one of the fruits of protection. Indeed, as protection leaves little room for the play of the inventive faculty, the consumers of tea may be thankful that the production of their favourite has not been dependent upon import duties and bounties.

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**The Ceylon Green Tea Bonus.**—Mr. William Forsythe lately urged that, after the expiry of the present bonus on green tea, the industry is fostered by a further bonus, green-tea producers will revert to black tea, to the detriment of the black-tea market. A representative of the *Times of Ceylon* asked the Hon. Mr. E. Rosling for his views on this particular point. "We dispute that entirely," he said. "The position is this. There is a direct trade to-day in Ceylon green tea of eleven to twelve million lbs. per annum. The actual bonus paid this year, on the average, was 3½ cents—4 cents for the first six months, and 3 cents for the second six months. That is practically a half-penny per lb. I hold that the existing trade of 12 million lbs. does not depend on that half-penny a lb. It is absurd to suppose that it can. The probabilities are that, if at the present moment we took the bonus off green tea, we should lose perhaps one-third of the existing trade—that is to say, we might make only eight million lbs. of green tea, but we shall certainly keep the larger percentage of our trade. When we started this business, it was not our intention to bolster it up for ever. There must be some finality. Buyers can now afford to pay a higher price for green tea, but, as long as we keep on paying the bonus, they will not pay that higher price. Originally it was necessary to pay a bonus, but now green tea buyers have made their trade they must have tea to keep that trade."

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**The Russian Tea Industry.**—The cultivation of tea in Russia is reported as progressing satisfactorily. On the Crown estate, Tschakira, there were, according to recent reports, 55 dessjatines of land under tea cultivation. The first harvest, in April and May, gave a yield of 76,323 lbs. raw leaves. The second, in June, gave 62,430 lbs.; the third, in September, 37,412 lbs.; and the fourth, in October, 116,165 lbs.—all last year, of course. The aggregate output of dry tea was about 1,000 pood. The private tea-growers delivered a smaller quantity of raw leaves to the Tschakira establishment. Of raw tea leaves, 4½ lbs. yied 1 lb. of tea. As the tea has met with a ready sale, and as the cultivation is comparatively low, great hopes are entertained by those interested about the future of this industry.

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**Colombo Tea Sales.**—Regarding the sale on 25th ultimo Messrs. Somerville & Co., Brokers, report:—Prices although rather irregular at first, hardened as the sale went on and taken as a whole were very firm for all grades. Medium Broken Pekoes were in rather better demand as there was more buying for Australia than of late. Quality was as a rule poor, but the few fine teas offered were well competed for and sold at full rates. Greens teas were firmer. Our private wire reads: "Indian teas are now in larger supply and are depressing the Ceylon market, all kinds were distinctly

weaker and some parcels showed as much as ¼d. to ½d. decline.

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Messrs. George White & Co., in their report of November 5, say:—The statistical position, as disclosed by the monthly figures just published, is interesting, in that the landings establish a record, and the deliveries, while not equalling some of the excessive clearances resulting from duty scares are also the heaviest registered for a normal month, and this, bearing in mind the advance that has taken place in prices, is a remarkable feature.

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The *American Grocer* remarks:—Some years ago a sample of tea which cost \$5.00 per pound in Japan was submitted to an expert buyer for valuation. He stated that he wouldn't give over 50 cents per pound for it. He was totally unfamiliar with the flavour of tea which commands fancy prices at point of production, for Home use.

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**London Tea Market.**—Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton telegraphed to Colombo on 26th ultimo that the average was down a farthing, to 7¼d. This was confirmed by Reuter who wired that the Indian average had fallen even more—from 7¼d. to 7½d. The market appears to have given way all round. Of Ceylon tea 19,000 packages were offered and 17,000 sold, while of 37,000 packages of Indian tea put up 33,000 sold.

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**New Tea Invention.**—Application in respect of the under-mentioned invention has been filed: Robert Simpson Hamilton, tea-planter of the Central Dooars Tea Estate, Imperial Tea Company, Limited, Dooars, Jalpaiguri, a tea cultivator for use in the cultivation of tea-gardens.

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The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs daily entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the first half of November, 1903, Calcutta, 10,508,547 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,573,210 lbs. Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta, 10,207,950 lbs.; Chittagong, 1,759,900 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1903, to 15th November, 1903: Calcutta, 97,171,562 lbs.; Chittagong, 18,669,205 lbs. Total 115,840,767 lbs. Total from 1st April, 1902, to 15th November, 1902, 108,414,263 lbs.

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**Calcutta Tea Sale.**—In the face of the less satisfactory state of the London market, as advised privately and also through Reuter's on Friday morning, it is gratifying to note that instead of a marked decline having to be quoted there was only a further slight easiness noticeable on this side. This cannot but be interesting and instructive to all concerned in the industry and willing to learn, as a proof of the tremendous strength of the out-markets buying at the present day. Time was when Calcutta was entirely dependent on the state of the London market; this is now all changed, and the rulers here are the out-markets, whilst London, except for a few grades, can but look on. There is no doubt that if this were not so the report of the sale on the 27th ultimo would be considerably more depressing than the one given below. The sale was heavy, and common leaf kinds up to 5 annas may be quoted about a pie cheaper; the better grades up to 6-3 were in a good demand retaining their level of



prices. Medium broken kinds, however, marked a slight decline in rates, and were generally irregular, but the finer descriptions met with more competition, and in most cases realised fair prices. Bombay and Gulf buyers continued to operate with freedom, but slightly less animation for the lower sorts, and secured a fair quantity chiefly of the better tippy kinds, though for these classes they had to compete with the buyers for America, who evidently had strong orders and purchased the best lines. As was anticipated, an invoice of Fine Green teas on offer was fully appreciated and changed hands at what may be considered very satisfactory rates, which cannot but prove encouraging to makers of teas equal to those referred to, and if such point and general quality is maintained and more produced, it is practically certain that the demand for such styles of manufacture will be increased greatly in volume, leading to the opening up of newer markets, and creating more competition and a better average of prices even than those offered on the 27th. Another report states:—There was extensive buying for the Colonies and Russia, and the latter took every pound of good green teas offering. These sold well at good prices; and large orders in the market were held over for want of suitable tea to fill them.

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The enormous value of the tea industry to Assam is proved by the fact that last year tea represented no less than 63 per cent. of the total value of exports from that Province, and this in spite of the fact that the value of the total quantity of tea exported decreased by about twenty lakhs of rupees owing to the fall in prices. Indeed, it is wholly due to the tea-industry that Assam holds the very satisfactory position of a Province in which the exports are far larger than the imports. Last year, for instance, there was a decrease of 14 per cent. in the value of imports and an increase of 52 per cent. in the value of exports, the total of the former being 362 and of the latter 629 lakhs of rupees.

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The grocers may not be aware of the fact, and the import tables do not reveal it, says the *Merchants' Review*, but there is at least one house in the British tea trade, and a large one it is true, that has discovered that the American taste in tea-drinking has veered from the Chinese and Japanese teas to the leaf grown in India and Ceylon. It is in this fashion that the news is made known:—

“Until lately America has been a coffee-drinking country, and of the small quantity of tea she consumed, the black came almost entirely from China and the green from Japan. Now tea is becoming popular, and imports of British-grown tea have risen in a few years nearly 100 per cent. Two clubs in New York make a feature of afternoon tea. Men who drink it are not laughed at, even by their enemies. There are very few villages, no matter how small, where it is not possible to get good tea. These changes are owing almost entirely to the enterprise of certain tea-producing firms in India and Ceylon. The utmost pains, assisted by wonderful machinery, are devoted to preparing tea, particularly green tea, for the American market. Green tea has always been more drunk in America than black. Therefore Ceylon planters have taken up the manufacture of green tea, and turn out blends equal to the best Japanese productions. As it is found that the same kind of tea does not suit all parts, samples of water from all the great cities in North America are sent out, and tea is manufactured to suit them. The sale of the tea is also vigorously pushed by good advertising and by demonstrations. Both in the United States and in Canada people are learning that a pound of British-grown tea produces two or three times as much beverage as a pound of China or Japan tea, and also that the strong Indian and Ceylon teas are as sustaining as coffee, which the weaker growths

from China and Japan are not. The removal, in January, of the 10-cent (5d.) tax on tea doubtless increased the demand in the United States.”

It is gratifying to hear that in almost every village it is now possible for our people to get good tea. It is true that tea is sold less for price and more for quality, and the change has not yet been explained, unless our theory of the direct importation by wholesale grocers hit the mark, but the London tea firm has not the slightest doubt on the subject. That's the beauty of coming to a decision three thousand miles away from the scene of one's inquiry.

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**Untaxed Tea.**—Since writing the article that appeared in our editorial columns last week we have seen the following in a letter from the London correspondent of the *Times of Ceylon*:—

In considering what would be the effect on the tea-growing industry of the adoption of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy, one is at once brought up sharp by the question—Is the duty to be reduced or abolished on all teas equally, or is there to be a preferential duty against China and Java teas?

This is a question to which there is no answer. When the idea of an Imperial Zollverein was first mooted, it was, I think, generally understood that British-grown teas were to have an advantage over foreign-grown. But the scheme now before the country is not for an Imperial Zollverein (which involved free-trade within the Empire) and is in some respects inconsistent with it. If tea was grown in Canada and New Zealand, self-governing colonies, no doubt a preference on the British article would be one of the planks of the platform, but, unfortunately for tea-growers, their lot is placed in the dependency of India and the Crown Colony of Ceylon. That being so it is by no means certain that Mr. Chamberlain, with, I am sure, the best wishes for us in the world, will find it feasible to propose a measure which would accentuate the already existing tendency for tea to rise in price. At any rate so far he has said nothing about it.

Besides the fact that, generally speaking, tea-producers have no votes, it must be remembered that they have no representation in the House of Commons, and this, as I have often pointed out, is likely to tell against our interests when delicate matters affecting them come to be discussed. There is, of course, Sir Henry Seymour King, who has done yeoman service in the past and is ready to do it again, but what is he among so many? On the other hand the tea-buyers

ARE STRONGLY REPRESENTED IN THE HOUSE

and, as far as my knowledge of their politics goes, are generally Radicals. It would not be difficult for Mr. Thomas Lough, for instance, if the question of a preference on Indian and Ceylon teas came up, to draw a moving picture of the hardships which would be entailed on the working man by shutting out the healthful teas of China, recommended by the medical faculty, etc., etc. And the tale would lose nothing in the telling by the fact that the admission of these teas on equal terms might suit the honourable member's pocket, while also providing him with a good stick to beat the Government with. I am inclined therefore to think, with the knowledge at present at our disposal, that

IT WOULD BE RASH TO LOOK FOR A PREFERENCE

on British-grown teas. But apart from that there seems to be growing up a general consensus of impartial opinion that the reduction or abolition of the duty would undoubtedly tend to put up the price of tea in bond. Mr. Rutherford, in a letter in the *Standard* which I am sending you, goes so far as to that perhaps the working man would not, after all, get his tea any cheaper than he did before. Here it may be remarked that there is a good deal of confusion as to whether Mr. Chamberlain, if he carries the day, will reduce by three-quarters or totally abolish the duty. In Mr. Vince's book, and I think in the *Daily Telegraph* articles, total abolition seems to have been anticipated, but the only time Mr. Chamberlain went into details he spoke of a reduction of three-quarters, though he followed it up a few days after by implying that tea would drop to half its present price, which it could not possibly do if a tax of 1½d. was retained. Again, it is far from unlikely that by the time Mr. Chamberlain



is in a position to carry his theories into practice, the duty will stand at four-pence only. In that case it is probable that in order to balance the working man's weekly budget he will have to remit the duty *in toto*, if not on all teas at any rate on British teas.

#### THERE IS AN INTERESTING COMMUNICATION

on the whole subject in this week's *Times*, evidently written by some one who has practical knowledge of Ceylon. When the writer goes into figures, however, and attempts to show that the public will get their tea for a shilling, he is not so conclusive as in the other portions of his letter. When Mr. Chamberlain comes into power the price of tea will be, we may hope, a good deal higher than the figure he takes, 7½d.; while he allows nothing for the impetus to consumption which would be given by the reduction of the duty. Besides, it is incorrect to suppose that the tea goes straight from the auction-room to the retailer. The bulk of it goes first to the blender, whose charges amount to about three half-pence a lb.

Perhaps, a better calculation would be as follows:—Auction price of tea 8½d.; duty 1½d.; middleman's charges 1½d.; retailer's profit, 2½d.; cost to working man 1s. 2d.; as against 1s. 4d. at present.

#### SOME OTHER VIEWS.

I promised last week to give your readers the views of some leading people connected with tea, and have spoken to several on the subject.

The first I saw was a Ceylon man who has consistently held the view for many years that a duty operates as a protection to good teas. That being so, he looked forward with considerable apprehension to the duty being largely reduced or wholly abolished, unless a preference was given to our teas. He did not believe that consumption could be sensibly increased, while he feared that any tampering with the duty would let in a flood of cheap China. The next man I saw was a buyer, and it may be mentioned in passing that all the buyers I have come across are opposed to the duty being reduced below 4d. This shows pretty clearly to my mind that the reduction would be a good thing for sellers. We indulge in fine talk from time to time about the community of interest between buyer and seller. But, seeing that the one wants to buy cheap and the other wants to sell dear, it is a little difficult to see where the community comes in. As a general rule in the tea trade, what is good for the one is bad for the other. Well, this gentleman, who is a foreigner with strong views about the late war, wanted to discuss Mr. Chamberlain's treatment of Mr. Kruger. I firmly declined to be drawn off into this side-issue, and pressed him for his views about the tea-duty and nothing else. He held that consumption could not be increased, as it already amounted to over 6 lbs. per head, but he did not believe that any alteration of the duty would much affect the China trade one way or the other. He thought that, if Mr. Chamberlain had his way, it would greatly increase the demand for common tea, both Indian and Ceylon, and this in turn would lead to coarse plucking, so that, after a time, it would be difficult to get a decent cup of British tea. Like the first authority mentioned, he held that a high duty protected good tea, and instanced Russia, where, he said, you got the best tea in the world. I asked how that was, and said I should have thought if the purchaser had to pay a high duty, he would not have so much left to pay for the tea. He assured me the exact opposite was the case, and that the purchaser argued that, having in any case to pay a high duty, he might as well pay a few pence more for the tea and get a good article.

It may be doubted if the British housewife would argue in this way, but as I have said, my friend looked at things as a buyer, and hates Mr. Chamberlain to boot. The next I saw

#### WAS BOTH BUYER AND SELLER,

but I think his buying interests predominate, so I was not surprised to find he was against Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. He said duty had nothing to do with the consumption of tea, and you couldn't increase the consumption any more whatever you did. I said if that was so it followed that if you raised the duty to a shilling it would not check the consumption, and he replied that he didn't see why it should. The last man I saw was a broker with

#### LONG EXPERIENCE OF THE TEA TRADE

in all its branches, but whose sympathies are entirely with the producer. He began by saying that Chamberlain would never

carry the country with him in his scheme. I asked him to pass that by and to assume, for the sake of argument, that the proposal was carried. "Well," he said, "in that case you'll see a boom that will astonish you. The working man won't get his tea any cheaper than before, and the value of tea property will double." I asked him what about China tea coming in? "No fear of that," he replied. "The people don't want China tea. There is a difference now of 2½d. between common China and common Indian and Ceylon, and in another year there will probably be a difference of 3½d. You might as well"—he said, warming to the subject—"you might as well go into a pub. and start serving the customers with milk and water. People in this country don't want China tea, and they won't have it so long as they have money to buy the other."

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**Tea Production in India.**—A correspondent writes to the *Pioneer*:—That the production of tea in India should have increased by 163 per cent. since the year 1885, that the cultivation—the area of land under plant—should have nearly doubled in the same period, as official statistics show, are really wonderful pieces of information: really amazing facts to one who has been quietly working on through the general poorness of tea all the time,—all these eight years. At that time, 1885, or about it, Indian tea was not in a bright, nor in a flourishing way. Prices were low and poor, and different to what they had been, very different for the worse to what they had been: some ten years further back. In 1885 tea had fallen in price some 50 per cent. since the year 1875. In that year the average value of Pekoe Souchong was from twelve to fourteen annas a pound in Calcutta, equal to 1s. 10d. to 2s. in London; while in 1885, the average value of the same class of tea was about 7½ annas a pound in Calcutta, or 11d. in London.

And one might have heard depressing remarks about the future from those concerned: "Salaries will have to come down, that is certain": "We shall all be breaking stones on the road yet," and such like. And then, too, there was Ceylon, the young giant competitor, rushing in like the sea. And yet since that very time, with prices almost always on the decline and with Ceylon always and ever coming on; with the drawbacks of more and more laws and regulations as to land and as to labour, the then vast fabric of the Indian tea industry—the slow growth of some fifty years—has nearly doubled as to area; has far more than doubled as to outturn. How has it all been done? One would have thought that Indian tea was a thing that capital would have fought quite shy of after the misadventures of former years, or even if that retrospect could have been reasonably reconsidered, still with prices ever poor and falling, and with the unknown factor of Ceylon ever looming dark and ominous. And yet it has been done, the result in effect being as if every tea estate throughout Assam, Cachar and every part of the Continent where tea is grown, had just added as much to its area as ever it had before, as much all over again. This is a result that might have been deemed beyond the power and beyond the wish of many a struggling and dividendless concern or company; and as to new blood and new money, it might have been thought that it, even if it had the wish, would never have had the power—would never have been able to get a proper or a satisfactory footing, with all the desirable or suitable positions secured by settlers or by speculators years and ages before. Yet facts are facts, and here is a mighty one, that tea, the poor, uncertain and struggling thing—the thing pretty well to keep clear of—has after all its disasters, through all its clouds and its difficulties, ever surrounding and clinging to it, emerged on measurement twice as large as ever it was; twice as big in every way, and that increase within latter years, not so many too. Well done, faith, capital and enterprise! And there must have been good fruit on many of the trees of the vast orchard all the time, or the vast orchard with all its differences of quality and all its disadvantages, would never have been so greatly extended. And it may continue greatly to extend with the increase of the love of the cup that cheers. But wisely, gently, henceforth, let it be.

Prices are ever small. To-day Pekoe Souchong is worth but 5 annas a pound in Calcutta; or 7d. in London. Amid all this vast extension and doubting there has been overdoing and overflowing, oh! how much! *Ne quid nimis*: beware of too much. Let the circle of demand grow larger and wider, and we swell up to it; yet ever within it: just that.



## NOTES.

Amsterdam Bark  
Market.

1½d. per lb., the same as at the previous sales.

## Cacao in the Phillippines.

Mr. W. S. Lyon has prepared popular directions for the culture of cacao in the Phillippines, including notes on climate, location, soil, planting, cultivation, pruning, harvesting, enemies and diseases, manuring, varieties, and the estimated cost and revenue derived from a cacao plantation.

Rubber in the Federated  
Malay States.

In a despatch addressed to Mr. Chamberlain by the High Commissioner it is stated that the prospects of rubber are so good that, unless some unforeseen disaster happens, the future is full of promise for those who have taken up this cultivation. The area at present under rubber (principally the Pará variety) is given apporximately at 16,000 acres.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## THE "LEEMING SYSTEM."

THE EDITOR,

*Planting Opinion.*

SIR,—The letter from a "Planting Correspondent" and its criticism by "Planter" which appeared with reference to the Leeming System, are of such interest to the coffee-planting community that I think any further remarks on the subject should appear in your columns. I consider it a pity that matters of interest to planters *only*, should not always be discussed in them in preference to the *Mail*, however grateful we may be to the latter for so readily accepting our letters and for the attitude it has always assumed towards planting interests. But what we require in the present instance is instruction, and, as many now have adopted the Leeming System, your paper is especially adapted for receiving progressive notes upon it and for an exchange of opinion, as it gradually matures in different districts and with differing experience. You would then after a time be able to collect and condense these opinions and thus provide guidance of some value.

In the hope that I may start "the tambourine a-rolling" and that you will keep it so, let me begin by saying that I am anxious for any and every information on the subject, provided that it is not merely critical from an old position, but the result of actual experience on the new lines. That, I consider, is the new position and the only one of any value to us. "Planter" has evidently not attained to it, and his criticism, though full of interest, and possibly correct, is therefore not to the point. He has, in consequence, fallen into several errors as to the general bearing of the system and the way in which it is carried out. In the first place, he is wrong as to Adam:—When that gentleman grew his coffee he had not, before leaving it to Nature, topped it first for a considerable time. He left it to run up straight away as do the natives still, and the result is perfectly different and, unless very carefully moderated by gradual extension of elbow-room and increase of manure, disastrous. Secondly, "Planter" seems to share the opinion of many coffee-planters that they are fruit-growers. That is not the case, they are seed

growers. A fruit-grower tries to reduce, if possible eliminate, the seed from his fruit and increase his pulp. Our object is to grow as big (and blue) a seed as possible and—to "Hades" with the pulp! In coffee the most pulpy fruit may occasionally give the best seed,—I am firmly convinced that it does not necessarily, or usually—but this may be a matter of experience differing in different localities; in any case it does not effect the point aimed at. Of this the very vine at Hampton Court referred to by "Planter" is as good an example as any. The man who grows coffee weeps to see half his crop gradually disappearing, the grape-grower sets to work and cuts out some of the berries in each bunch. The former knows that, however close together, there will be room for his seeds and doesn't mind whether the fruit round them is hampered for space; the latter creates room for his fruit to grow as large, and for the seed to form as small a proportion, as may be possible.

Of course we have all heard of stripping part of your crop, when the tree doesn't seem likely to bear it without prejudicial results, but the process is different and the purpose to relieve the tree and with no possible idea of increasing the size of the bean. But the chief point in the Leeming System which "Planter" has failed to grasp is that it is based on self-preservation. To the proprietor, whether he manages his estate or has it managed for him, the question how to make both ends meet (not to mention a return on his money) and yet not let the estate degenerate, has for some years been a very difficult one. He knows that if he stops the supply of manure the latter must be the result; he also knows, unless he is a specially favoured individual as regards prices, that, as these run at present and are likely to run for some time, he cannot make the estate pay while sticking to the old system, *i.e.*, pruning, handling, trenching and manuring. Seeing then that pruning and handling run away with a great deal of money, he would naturally welcome a system which would save this and enable him to keep up his manuring. He would further be able to save in superintendence. I reiterate this, though I have once already been hauled over the coals for the statement. Supposing there are only 300 trees to the acre, supposing that no handling or pruning are to be stood over, is it not self-evident that a superintendent can look after a larger acreage? It may seem hard from the superintendent's point of view, and I would be the last to wish any harm to a body of men who have proved themselves as specially brave, cheery, and hard-working under very difficult circumstances. But though a selection of the fittest might be the result of the general application of the Leeming System and some would have to go to the wall, is that not better than that all should do so in a general collapse of the industry? Besides, if it be a success, if, by adopting it, Indian coffee is able to compete with any in the world, would that not lead to its extension and thus provide pleasanter, if more extensive billets for all. I say this as a superintendent; as a proprietor I trust "Planter" (whichever he may be) will not take it amiss if I say I certainly hope advocates of the Leeming System will not be condemned to silence during the "few more years' trial" which he postulates.

There is one more point in "Planter's" letter which I should like to refer to before further airing my views on this new system. He says: "Experienced planters do not ruthlessly cut off bearing wood." That is true, and formerly they probably were also to some extent able to prevent their



coolies from doing so. But labour has changed a good deal in the last twenty years. It has become less permanent, and less able or willing to do intelligent work. Even at its best, and when coffee was able to stand far harsher treatment than it can at present, it was a hazardous business turning fifty or sixty coolies into a field of coffee with pruning knives in their hands (which probably a large number had never seen before), and under the guidance and supervision of perhaps one European and one or two native experts. Here, again, it will be seen how easily the parallel between the fruit-grower in his orchard or conservatory and the coffee-planter on his hundreds of acres comes to grief.

Turning now to the reasons from a field-working point of view which induced me to take up the Leeming System as soon as I had grasped it, I would begin by saying that I started by looking at it as a fad. It required some time to get over the prejudice engendered by working many years in the established groove. Yet all through there was a half-dormant memory which probably accelerated my conversion. Years ago in a village on the Pulneys I and a friend stood under a coffee tree, which by some accident I suppose had been broken off and had formed a double-stem and, perhaps in consequence, had been allowed to grow as it would; for all the coffee round it had been topped and pruned. Each of these double-stems measured over 31 inches in circumference at 18 inches from the ground, the primaries hung down to the ground all round us and there were bushels of fruit on the tree, which was, as far as I remember, about 12 feet high. In the near neighbourhood there were lots of other trees which had been allowed to grow up in the "Adamite" way, but they were straggly lanky things with but little strength in them and little fruit. I believe that No. I owed his magnificence chiefly to his accident in youth and to a good deal of manure of the village kind.

Then came the memory of photographs of Guatemala coffee, each tree forming a shrubbery to itself, and the knowledge that Guatemala kinds fetched as good prices as Indian. Nor, as far as I could recollect, had No. I or the shrubberies in the photographs any sign of leaf-disease, black-rot or branches dying back, but seemed to bear their huge crop easily. The next memory that struck me was that I had pulled up a coffee-feeder-root ten feet long in coffee planted six by six. I examined a considerable number of roots and found them all intermingled and, as it were, fighting with each other. Now if you are fighting for life with four other Johnnies all round you the probability is that you won't be very fit to fight another chap who comes down from heaven or up from hell, such as leaf-disease and bug, or damp-rot and grub.

Then came the recollection of a week in Ceylon, where amid miles upon miles of tea, which had once all been coffee, treated on the approved system, there were still here and there a few coffee trees which had been allowed to run up into suckers after the primaries had been knocked off with pitting bars. In spite of their ill-treatment they had under their newer and freer condition put on an excellent blossom. In one case no tea had happened to be planted near one of those coffee stumps, and this had probably found a *cache* of rich mould; its suckers had bent over unproved and formed a splendid bush out of its former wreck, so that the superintendent and I agreed that perhaps coffee had been cut out too ruthlessly and indiscriminately in the isle of which it once was king.

Then a friend came round my estate with me and he having begun the Leeming System in his places told me I should do the same, which I indignantly pooh-poohed. He then pointed out a bush to me, which being amongst some rocks by itself had escaped pruners and handlers for apparently a couple of seasons and even the weederers had neglected to sucker it for some months. Of course I snorted and vowed disciplinary measures against all and sundry of the criminals. But that bush had a good deal of magnetic power over me afterwards, and somehow it was neither handled, pruned, or suckered any more than it had been, and became more and more a lesson in its splendid isolation.

Of course I had long noticed gradual increase of disease and gradual deterioration of blossom. The former was related to the latter and might be due to pruning off the lungs of the tree, or handling and suckering off its *renewed* lungs and generally in treating it in the same way as a fruit-tree in northern climes, which is in the habit of doing without any lungs when it goes to sleep, during months of wintering. It might also be due to sourness in the soil accentuated in places by a pernicious system known in planting circles as renovation pits or, far more aptly, water-holes. It is to deal with this latter possibility that drains are cut in the Leeming System which aerate the soil without allowing water to stand in them and are besides of value as localizing disease. In addition to this deterioration, I now noticed that after handling a large proportion of the berry suddenly exposed to the light and sun turned brown and baked on one side, and on examination I found that most of the berries thus affected only contained one bean and that no larger than an ordinary bean and not a peaberry. This result I can only put down to handling. I have in the foregoing tried to sketch my gradual evolution as a disciple of Mr. Leeming for the information of those who have not yet come under his banner. He himself and those who have followed him have probably gone through a similar if not identical experience. As to the actual results I can say no more than has been said by various correspondents who have seen Mr. Leeming's estate, or tried his system on their own. I have my moments of fear and trembling, but even in these I cannot help believing that we are right and that it will prove a success.

In any case I feel certain that unless it is universally adopted, probably with modifications and improvements, Indian coffee will not be able to hold its own against that of other countries. Now supposing others who have gone in for the Leeming System give us the result of their experience through your columns. The more the better, as we should then give the experience of districts differing as regards elevation, climate and rainfall. I shall myself gladly add any information I can give, as my experiment progresses.

At present I can only say that here, on about 120 acres treated to their first cutting out and with one lb. of manure per tree, the suckers look magnificent. If any large proportion of these bend over a second thinning out will certainly have to be done 18 months after the first (April of this year, suckers having been allowed to run up 6 months previously). My elevation is 4,700 to 5,500. Rainfall about 100 inches.

"HERMIT."

[We shall be glad to publish correspondence on this subject, but as a weekly paper *Planting Opinion* is obviously at a disadvantage when discussion is required. A daily paper can give immediate publicity to letters, and this facilitates *speedy* discussion, whereas in the case of a weekly delay is unavoidable.—ED., P. O.]



## GENERAL ARTICLES.

## PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

## Indian Wheat and Tea.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Lord Goschen, in speaking last week on the fiscal question, referred to India. The former in the course of his speech touched upon wheat and tea as follows: "India is in prosperous years not very far short in her exports of wheat to this country of the exports of Canada. Well, are you going to protect Canadian wheat against Indian wheat? Because I may remind you that the Canadian tariff is protective, and is intended to remain protective, against your manufactures as compared with their own, but the Indian tariff is on the basis of a much lower duty. Well, I think it is clear that if you give a preference to wheat to Canada, you must also give a preference in wheat to India. But further, in considering the preference of corn, of wheat, of dairy produce, no doubt Mr. Chamberlain considered properly what were the principal exports of the self-governing colonies of this country. You must do the same with India. India can fairly ask for a preference on rice and on tea. So can Ceylon. Give them that, and there is an end of the proceeds of your tea duty." It may be taken for granted that in Mr. Chamberlain's plans there is no intention to differentiate against Indian wheat. All the needs of Canada will be satisfied if her products are substituted for those of the United States, and the Indian supply will help to keep prices down to a reasonable level. As for tea, about which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach seems more concerned now than he did when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and found it so useful as a ready means of helping to fill the national coffers, it may be quite practicable to give a preference in favour of India and Ceylon, and yet maintain sufficient duty to provide a reasonable amount for the Exchequer. But tea-growers may reasonably desire to know what will happen under the present Ministry. Will Mr. Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain leave the tea duty unremitted? It is in part a war tax, and the country was given to understand that when the emergency was gone the emergency tax would also disappear. The present Government might possibly withhold relief upon the plea that the Premier's opinions are still seriously distinguishable from Mr. Chamberlain's, but this is scarcely probable. Although the partial remission of the duty, as part of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, is the only definite political pronouncement on the subject yet made, tea-growers are justified in assuming that the question of remission cannot in justice be shelved for long, either by the present ministry or any other which may succeed it, while should Mr. Chamberlain's proposal ultimately find favour with the majority, British-grown tea may reap advantage from the preferential plan his policy foreshadows.

## Mr. Chamberlain's Proposals and Tea.

The following letter appeared in the *Times* of Tuesday last signed E. Lyulph Stanley:—"Mr. Chamberlain, in his letter to Sir M. Bohnaggee, says that in his scheme of tariff reform 'India would be greatly the gainer, as she could have preferential arrangements with regard to tea.' I assume from this that in his scheme lowering the tea duty from 6d. to 1½d. a lb. would apply to India and Ceylon, but that foreign tea would still pay the higher duty. If that were so, no doubt the Indian and Ceylon tea-planters would get a large bounty at the cost of the British consumer. The tea imported from India and Ceylon in 1902 was worth about £7,935,000, out of a total imported value of £8,787,000, or about nine-tenths of the whole. The weight was about 263,000,000 lbs. out of about 293,000,000 lbs., or about nine-tenths of the whole. But so long as we import one-tenth of our tea from abroad at a higher duty, so long the price in the market will be determined by that higher duty. The price of tea delivered here is by the above figures about 7½d. a lb.; thus a bounty of 4d. a lb. would undoubtedly so stimulate the growth of Indian tea that the extinction of the importations from China and Java would soon follow, and then probably the British consumers would get tea at the cost of production in India and Ceylon, plus 1½d. a lb. duty. For two or three years, however, at least, our market would need more tea than India and Ceylon could produce, and during that time the price would be regulated by the higher duty of 6d. on foreign tea, and we should be paying a bounty of more than 60 per cent. to the Indian and Ceylon tea-planters. Thus for a time the consumer would not be recouped by his saving in tea for

the extra cost of his bread and meat. It seems probable from the growth of the Indian and Ceylon tea industries that, if left to itself, that trade would in a few years drive out the Chinese trade. As a consequence of natural causes, superior local conditions of climate and soil, superior industry and intelligence in the cultivators, this result would be satisfactory. But it would not materially add to the profit of British industry as determined by International trade. If we buy about one million sterling more tea from India and one million sterling less from China, some millions of our exports will be insensibly transferred from China to India, the Chinese coolie will buy less of our calicoes, the Indian coolie will buy more. Shipping, mainly British, will carry about a million worth of produce backwards and forwards between Britain and India, instead of between Britain and China. If the duty on tea be reduced all round from 6d. to 1½d. a lb., the British consumer will at once reap the full benefit, and the same conditions which have rapidly built up our Indian and Ceylon tea industry will continue. No doubt when the cost of tea is reduced by something between 25 and 30 per cent. a stimulus will be given to its consumption, and the increased demand will lead to a wider tea cultivation and a greater international trade connected with its purchase. Such a reduction of cost and increased demand would be a great gain to tea-planters, and would, no doubt, increase their profits and stimulate their activity, apart from any bounties resulting from differential duties. But the tea industry of India, though important commercially as being mainly a crop handled by merchants and exported, is a very trifling part of the total industrial activity of the hundreds of millions of the Indian population, and any favour shown to that industry, mainly employing British and Indian capital, would be no appreciable advantage to the populations of India as a whole. A bounty of about £3,000,000 for a few years would be far better expended for the benefit of India in such works as would diminish the risk of recurring famines than in swelling the dividends of Assam tea-planters. But, if we want to help India to that extent, we might reduce our home charges on India for our Army and Reserves charged on India, which would enable the Indian Government to take off such taxes as press specially on the peasant and hamper the growth of Indian industry."

## Advance in Indian and Ceylon Tea Share Values.

From the following figures, compiled, as usual, by Mr. George Seton, of the Indian Tea Share Exchange, of 120, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C., it will be seen that, notwithstanding the deduction of dividends, aggregating about £50,000, the market value of the forty-five representative companies, selected by him for particular observation, has again made a substantial advance during the past month. The advance extends pretty well all along the line:—

Face value of 45 companies' shares	...	£9,500,000
Market value	...	July 1, 1897 (highest) £12,000,000
"	...	Sept. 1, 1902 (lowest) 6,050,000
"	...	Jan. 1, 1903 6,600,000
"	...	Aug. 1, 1903 7,500,000
"	...	Sept. 1, 1903 7,400,000
"	...	Oct. 1, 1903 7,800,000

As the grand total of the share and debenture capital of the 170 tea companies (registered in England and Scotland with sterling capital) altogether amounts to about £19,000,000, the fluctuation of the entire volume, based on these figures, may thus be estimated:—

Face value of (about) 170 companies	...	£19,000,000
Highest value, July 1, 1897	...	£24,000,000
Lowest value, September 1, 1902	...	12,100,000
Market value, September 1, 1903	...	14,800,000
Market value, October 1, 1903	...	14,900,000
Market value, November 1, 1903	...	15,600,000

Taking 100 as top value, the lowest level works out at just over 50, and the present value at 65. In view of the present sound position of the trade, Mr. Seton anticipates a further improvement in the immediate future.

## The Regulations for the Imports of Tea into Russia.

With reference to the recent increase of duty on Indian and Ceylon teas, and the certificate of origin required, the following unofficial translation of the new Russian Law of August 15 is given in the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*. Art 1. As proof of the origin of tea passing by Article 20, s. 1, letter a, and subject to the lower duty of the General Customs Tariff will be accepted:—



(a) Invoices and letters (in original) of exporters, whose signatures have been duly testified and sealed with the official seal by the local Russian Missions, Consul, or Consul's Agents; (b) Certificates of Origin issued by Russian Missions, Consul, or Consul's Agents with official seal. Art. 2. The documents mentioned in Art. 1 must contain particulars as to the number of packages, their marks and numbers, and also their gross and net weight. Art. 3. The presentation of documents mentioned in Art. 1 is considered to be sufficient if the goods come into Russia directly from the country of origin. Art. 4. When goods enter into Russia indirectly from the country of origin it is necessary to present:—(a) Invoices and letters mentioned in Art. 1, s. a, in original, or testified copies of same belonging to exporters in which the marks, numbers, gross and net weight, are indicated; (b) for tea coming from Customs Storage Houses a certificate must be obtained with the official seal of the export customs stating that the said parcel landed from the country of origin was all the time in the hands of the Customs up till the time of its export. Art. 5. The above-mentioned documents (in Art. 1—4) of origin or place of export may be presented to the Russian Customs either when the goods are imported with the shipping documents, or when the exporter presents a declaration in which must be indicated the country of origin in the space for quality of goods if he wishes to benefit by the lower tariff. Art. 6. In order to benefit by the lower duty of the Customs Tariff, the tea must be declared in accordance with the accompanying or presented invoices, or letter, or certificate at the declaration, or in the declaration (written one) under a certain article it must be explained which document of origin or place of export corresponds to the tea declared in that article; should this not be complied with, the written declaration is returned to the bearer for him to fill up, and only when these particulars mentioned in this article are indicated in the written declaration can tea be subject to the lower duty of the Customs Tariff. Art. 7. The Customs-houses have orders to make themselves sure during their inspections that the invoices and certificates of origin correspond to the imported tea, and in any case they have the right when they have reasonable doubts to examine the presented proofs without limiting themselves to the above documents. Art. 8. The documents of origin (Art. 1—4), as well as all other documents respecting payment of duties on goods, are forwarded to the local control offices as soon as the Customs formalities are finished.

#### The American Tea Market.

Discussing the American tea market, the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, of New York, says:—"The manner in which our tea market is being influenced by conditions present and to come in London is noteworthy and even significant. Our dealings have heretofore been so dominated by China or Japan that what London thought or did concerned us little. But times have changed. In the first place we are larger, much larger buyers of British-grown tea, and, therefore, brought in closer touch with English tea men, who, naturally, are more concerned with India and Ceylon tea than the Chinese and Japanese variety. But there is even another phase; the Englishmen are to-day buyers here, and there is every reason to believe that they will be such for not a little while, and in a manner that will help much to improve our market. For several years we have been weighted down with low-grade teas that had been acquired by us in China in large quantity, because they looked cheap, only to ascertain by hard experience that they were practically unsaleable here, because we had overstocked ourselves. Not even the later rise in prices here served to budge the Congous a quarter of a cent until on a sudden the British-grown teas experienced an advance, and London in despair, lest the United Kingdom would thirst in vain for low tea, finding there were plenty here that Americans would not have bid for them, and in the first half of the year diminished our stock by some 4,000,000 lbs. Even this diminution did not serve to alter the situation; the tea remained a drag on the market, but now comes the Chamberlain scheme and other tariff changes, with the prospects that an advance in teas in England must occur, and that we shall be depleted of all our teas unsaleable here. The orders are coming from abroad thick enough, and there has been an advance in this tea, here now more than two years, of more than one cent—nine cents a pound and more being demanded. We have, too, a good lot of Foochows of low grade, but costing a little more, and they may be attacked when all the Congous will have been disposed of. We are quite sure that we feel much indebted to the London market, which is relieving us of a situation which was becoming embarrassing.

In other respects, the American market is meeting with attention on the part of London and other English tea marts. The agitation for a pure tea law, an idea derived from the United States, is growing there, and there is study of our Tea Standard Act, which is being printed for general edification. The agitation was started by the importation into England of the Foochow teas rejected at New York. The prices obtained were so low that they nettled not a little the general market, which had, of course, viewed with approval the recovery from the low prices at which Ceylons and Indians had been selling. It might be here observed that this same tea was brought to New York by an English firm, and so we are in no way concerned as a nation with the manipulation that this depreciated tea has met. Let it be stated also that the leaders here or those opposed to the Tea Standard Act were not born in the United States. They hail from England. It is well that the probity and the honesty of the American tea man should be generally understood."

#### Formosa Tea.

Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co., writing from Taipeh, Formosa, September 25, say that the market there is well cleaned up of desirable teas, and that the green leaf to arrive, estimated at 50,000 half-chests, is inferior. They report that the exports of Formosas will amount to 20,000,000 lbs. this season, 2,000,000 lbs. in excess of that exported last season. Total receipts to September 25 are 451,000 half-chests, against 411,116 last season; of these 40,000 are fair, 160,000 good, 190,000 superior, 40,000 fine, 15,000 finest, 5,000 choice, and 1,000 choicest. The settlements were 438,658 half-chests, against 402,599 last year; total exports to the U. S. 12,500,462 lbs., against 10,144,757 lbs. last year corresponding time.

#### Cocoa in America.

The consumption of cocoa in the United States has developed more rapidly than that of coffee and much more rapidly than that of tea. In fact, the use of both cocoa and coffee has increased in the United States in recent years faster than that of tea.

#### MR. R. V. WEBSTER AT TORONTO.

After an absence of some two years, Mr. R. Valentine Webster, of the Ceylon Co-Operative Tea Garden Co., was a visitor at the Toronto office of the *Canadian Grocer* last week. Mr. Webster, who is on his 15th tour of the globe, is en route to Ceylon via San Francisco and Australia, and expects to get back to London some time in February.

Mr. Webster, besides his interest in tea, is an enthusiastic military man. He served in the Cape D. M. T. during the South African War and later acted as financial adviser to Lord Milner in the matter of land settlement and repatriation of the distressed districts.

#### EUROPE TAKING TO TEA.

In reply to questions bearing on the progress of Ceylon tea, Mr. Webster said that of late he had been attending more particularly to France and Switzerland. Up to 1899, the year of the Paris Exposition, very little tea was used in Europe. Now, following the English fashion, the five o'clock tea had become quite the thing, and was offered in the best houses where wine had formerly been used exclusively. All this had come about through the influence of the Paris Exposition. In the United States the afternoon tea idea had not become popular.

#### ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION OUTLOOK.

Mr. Webster had recently been at St. Louis and had gone over the exhibition grounds. They were magnificent, but he anticipated that St. Louis would have the distinction of having the most colossal failure financially in the history of exhibitions; this on account of the great heat during the Summer months and the distance of St. Louis from the more prosperous centres of population.

Ceylon was sending over a Commissioner and an Assistant. They would have a special court for their exhibition of tea, and the beverage would be served by 25 Sinhalese.

India would have a Court of her own. There had been a talk of a combined exhibition of Ceylon and India teas, but an agreement could not be reached. Mr. Blechynden, who had been commissioner for Ceylon at the Chicago Exposition, would have charge of the India tea exhibit at St. Louis.

#### DEMAND FOR CEYLON GREENS.

At large, Ceylon teas were making satisfactory progress. Ceylon greens were making their way very well in this country. Black



teas were a penny a pound more than last year, and in consequence times were very prosperous for the growers. The outlook was certainly firm for blacks. As for greens, they depended altogether on the output. He favoured the securing of experts from Japan and China, so that Ceylon might turn out teas exactly similar to these countries. He was also in accord with what Mr. Larkin had said as to the desirability of imitating Formosa Oolongs. There were demands in certain parts of the world for teas of particular style and character and why should not the Ceylon people undertake to meet these demands? They would thus absorb a certain proportion of the tea crops and secure themselves against the possibility of producing more blacks than the requirements demanded.

An improvement which the Ceylon tea people should make was in the package they put on the market. The matted packages of China and Japan were away ahead of the packages put on the market by Ceylon and India.

In his travels he found the demand for Ceylons increasing from day to day, and if the people were in a position to supply the particular styles demanded, he believed there would be much more exported to foreign countries.

Mr. Webster was the guest of Sir Thomas Lipton during the yacht races, and was with his party until the Baronet sailed for Home on the *Cedric* on October 9th—*Canadian Grocer*, October 30th.

### COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

**Cuba.**—A large portion of the August summary of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labour is devoted to "Commercial Cuba." In presenting a brief account of the coffee industry it expresses the opinion that "the rehabilitation of the Cuban coffee industry would appear certain, and already it may be said to have begun. In June, 1903, 14,207 pounds of Cuban coffee were imported at New York."

The report says:—

"The soil and climate of Cuba are admirably suitable for the production of large crops of the best coffee. This fact is proved by historical records. While for many years recently the Cubans have not raised coffee enough for their home consumption, for about thirty years in the first part of the nineteenth century it was one of their leading industries, and the amount annually exported on an average was 15,000,000 pounds. What has been done before can be done again. The soil and climate are the same now as a hundred years ago. The coffee now produced in the island has the same fine flavour that it had then. The industry will doubtless be among the first to be revived in the near future.

"Its decline was owing to several causes, among which were the competition of the East Indies and South America, a succession of 'bad years' for the crop and the increasing attractiveness of sugar-cane culture, in view of the great demand for Cuban sugar fifty and seventy-five years ago. At that period Cuba had almost a monopoly of the sugar market, and a great many planters transformed their plantations from coffee to sugar producers, in order to make more money. If the present sugar conditions should persist indefinitely, there may be a return to the old order of things on the part of many sugar planters of to-day.

"There were 1,600 coffee plantations in Cuba in 1846, whereas now there are less than 200. It is a tempting industry for the Cuban farmer. Though the coffee tree requires almost as much solicitous care as the tobacco plant, it is a pleasant crop to raise, and, if successful, is very remunerative, as the trees yield two crops a year, and thrive best in the shade, so that coffee-planters can plant their little coffee trees in among the larger trees of a fruit orchard, and thus get a crop of coffee and a crop of fruit simultaneously from one and the same field.

"The following table shows the extent of the coffee exports of Cuba during the most remunerative period of that industry:—

Year.	Arrobas.*	Year.	Arrobas.*
1809 ...	320,000	1819 ...	642,716
1815 ...	918,263	1820 ...	686,046
1816 ...	370,229	1822 ...	501,429
1817 ...	709,351	1823 ...	895,924
1818 ...	779,618	1824 ...	661,674

"The decline of the industry is strikingly apparent from the appended table, containing a record of the exports of coffee in the

\* An arroba is about 25 pounds avoirdupois.

years 1867—1886, inclusive, from the ports of Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo. As most of the Cuban coffee has always been raised in the province of Santiago, the bulk of the exports has always been shipped from those two ports:—

Year.	Pounds.	Year.	Pounds.
1867 ...	3,855,220	1877 ...	37,660
1868 ...	2,671,460	1878 ...	33,200
1869 ...	4,009,320	1879 ...	37,114
1870 ...	2,153,820	1880 ...	23,700
1871 ...	571,600	1881 ...	9,000
1872 ...	28,080	1882 ...	132,480
1873 ...	56,100	1883 ...	22,500
1874 ...	37,600	1884 ...	...
1875 ...	198,100	1885 ...	6,295
1876 ...	91,000	1886 ...	7,967

### RUBBISH SHOT HERE.

Under the heading "Food at the Ports," the *Grocer* refers to the dumping of cheap tea—that is, too cheap in the British Isles, to which the Chairman of the Central Tea Company of Ceylon called attention last week. It says:—"The tea he had in view he described as 'rubbish discarded by the American Customs as below standard, and of too low a grade for consumption, or the sweepings and refuse of China, for which no other market could be found.' There is a certain amount of danger of this particular kind of dumping, for owing partly to our system of free importing and partly to our position as carriers for the world at large, with the use of our ports for entrepôt or dépôt as happens to be required, we practically keep a dustbin for the world, for which receptacle 'Rubbish shot here' is as appropriate a signboard as would be 'Best goods taken in free.' The effect is that we are asked to take—or made to take without any asking—whatever other people see fit to reject. Now, it happens that in July last trade at the United States ports became subject to a new Law of Congress to exclude all food products and beverages (a) adulterated so as to be injurious to health, or (b) the sale of which is restricted or prohibited in the country of their origin, or (c) which have been falsely branded or labelled. The United States Agricultural Department watches the imports, and when adulteration or misrepresentation is suspected, requests the Treasury Department (as controlling the Customs) for samples of goods arriving. These samples are promptly obtained and furnished to the Agricultural Department for examination by the Bureau of Chemistry, the consignments from which they are taken being meanwhile detained at the port of entry. If delivery is urgently requested the telegraph is used, for instructions, and all the officials using the utmost despatch, there is, notwithstanding the large number of samples drawn, but little delay in the transit of goods, the average detention of consignments at New York being not more than three days, while in many cases a day suffices. So far the effect of this law has been good, foreign exporters to the States being either more scrupulous than they were or more careful to avoid a chance of rejection. In most cases the consular invoices received at the Department of Agriculture are sufficient in themselves to show that the goods to which they refer are not liable to exclusion. As time goes on and the data obtained by examinations are increased, the Department hopes to be able to admit a still larger proportion of food importations on the consular invoices or on purely superficial examinations, so that little or no inconvenience will be caused to the importers or others concerned, whilst the public are protected against the importation of such rubbish as the China tea which was rejected wholesale a year or two ago. But while this may be excellent for the United States, and may save the public there from the wiles of the too-ingenious foreign chemist in many an article besides tea, the attendant results," the *Grocer* thinks, "may not be of unmixed benefit to us in Great Britain. We can find a market for so many things that even adulterated food and rejected 'sweepings' not good enough for the States may be disposed of here in one way or another. But, obviously, the activity of examiners and rejectors elsewhere must throw additional labour and responsibility upon examiners here, either at the ports of entry or at some subsequent stage in the course of the goods through the different hands dealing with them before they are actually consumed. If we are to have unrestricted importation we might avoid much subsequent trouble by a thorough system of inspection at the ports, but even then free dumping has grave dangers." To which we can only add, very grave dangers indeed.



## CARDAMOMS AND NORTHERN EUROPE.

The *Times of Ceylon* publishes the following copy of letter from Mr. Renton to Mr. W. Sinclair:—

MY DEAR SINCLAIR,—I wrote you last from Hamburg, and have now returned from Scandinavia.

There is a good consumption of cardamoms in Sweden and Norway, as the article is largely used in the bread. You taste it in all the white bread. The imports for consumption were last year:—

Sweden	... 52,526 kilos.	= 1,156,672 lbs.*
Norway	... 11,257 „	= 247,654 „ *
Denmark	... 39,336 lbs. Danish	= 432,696 „ English.*

The total population of the three countries is only some 7¼ million inhabitants, so they do well, and would do more if the duty was not so high. In Sweden and Norway it is 1s. 1½d. per lb. a ½ kilo. Importers do not think the consumption will increase. Within the last 10 years it has grown about 10 per cent., more particularly in Sweden. The importers and retailers made a big profit on the article. It is sold somewhere about 3s. to 4s. per lb. In Norway I see the customs valuation of the article is just over 6s. per kilo., this includes duty.

All supplies are drawn from London and Hamburg, and dealers there make their profit on the article. The biggest dealers in Sweden are now buying freely, as they do not think they will go lower, and are stocking the article, as it is cheap.

I don't think there is much chance of increasing the consumption in these countries; but, if the public could obtain the article cheaper, they would probably waste more of it, if direct exports were made.

The London and Hamburg dealers give the Swedish importers three months' credit.

The Scandinavian importers are of the opinion that the only way to raise prices is to limit the output; naturally they are pretty happy, as the public so far has not shared much of the benefit of the drop in prices. The Hamburg importers, whom I also inter-

viewed, are strongly of opinion that there can be no marked increase in consumption: advertising or a propaganda would, in their opinion, be of no use. The only way to increase the price is, they say, to restrict output.

The German custom figures puzzle me a little. Duty paid to end August on

	In 1903 Kilos.	In 1902 Kilos.	In 1901 Kilos.
	46,200	45,100	28,200
	of which from		
British India	15,100	19,000	13,500
Ceylon	21,200	18,000	9,000
	36,300	37,000	22,500
where the balance of	9,900	8,100	& 5,700

kilos., respectively, came from is not explained.

Can you not do anything in England itself to increase the consumption of the article by the public in, say, cakes and pastry?—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. H. RENTON.

## THE WEAVING OF RAMIE FIBRE.

Mr. Raja Varma has written as follows to a number of Indian journals:—

Anything that tends to increase the agricultural resources of India should be cordially supported by every patriotic Indian. Agriculture is the great industry of the vast continent of India; famine is its bane.

Now the great weaving industries of India are cotton-weaving and silk-weaving. Of the raw materials used both are to a great measure Home-grown. Between these two, however, there is another substance, a raw material, lustrous as silk, stronger than linen, washable as cotton, and that is Ramie. For a long time Ramie fibre was considered to be incapable of manipulation. When at last the difficulties of decorticating and degumming had been overcome, the technical difficulties of weaving the fibre were found to be so great that ten years ago the Mills which had started Ramie weaving in England gave it up in despair and many hundreds of thousands of pounds (sterling are said to have been irretrievably lost. During my travels in the United Kingdom with the specific object of widening my knowledge of "Men and matters." I made inquiries for Ramie manufactures, and elicited the fact that only one English manufacturer persisted steadily in spite of difficulties and discouragements in weaving Ramie fibre, and has been engaged continuously in doing so for the last fifteen years. Making at first simple hard-wear materials which were exported to India and the tropics and gained the reputation of being proof against even the tender (?) care of the Oriental "dhobie," experiments were subsequently instituted by this manufacturer with the object of weaving bright dress materials, damasks, tapestries, etc. All difficulties, I am reliably informed, were finally vanquished, and to the Bunbeg Mills, 17, Southampton Row, London, belongs the credit of being the first to overcome the difficulties of Ramie weaving, and to produce materials manufactured of pure Ramie which are as brilliant as silk and of a far greater durability.

As I write there are lying beside me a great variety of the Bunbeg Mills fabrics. Here are silky, gauzy materials of delicate tender hues from which the graceful saree can be made; there damasks for sherwanees as splendid in iridescent colours as a peacock's breast, as tender in tints as an opal; hear again are heavy tapestry, curtains and rugs, and there white materials for the riding breaches of the polo-player, of everlasting wear. It is impossible to exhaust the endless variety of the Ramie-woven materials of the Bunbeg Mills, and all are, in comparison to other textiles, moderate in price. They are washable, and having tested them, I must state they are of amazing durability.

At present the supply of fibre falls far below demand in Europe, for thread-makers have discovered that a far more durable yarn can be made of Ramie than of flax, but several of these thread spinning mills, from enquiries made, have had to give up spinning Ramie owing to the impossibility of getting a sufficiency of raw material: the sail cloth weavers have had the same experience.

I make bold to assert without the shadow of a doubt that Ramie can be grown with the greatest ease in India, the conditions of soil, climate and labour are all favourable, and in view of the fact that table linen, damasks, boot and saddle thread, underwear, cords,

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VARIOUS PATTERNS IN  
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WHITE TABLE LINEN AND TEA TABLE CLOTHS WITH NAPKINS TO  
MATCH (WITH KNITTED OR HEMMED FRINGES ACCORDING  
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DESIGNS, BED AND TOILET LINEN,  
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Pattern Suit sent.

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\* These English totals should, apparently, be divided by ten.—Ed.



belting can be better made of Ramie than of flax; and now that the Bunbeg Mills have demonstrated that the most exquisite dress and decorative fabrics can be woven of the fibre, it seems to me that India has in the cultivation of Ramie, an agricultural industry of great potential possibilities, if only capitalists and agriculturists would make an earnest and sustained effort to inaugurate an undertaking so pregnant with benefits to India. Co-operation, cohesion and combination are essential to achieve this end, not forgetting the centralization of the fact that Indian-grown Ramie should oust rivals from the European market, and that Indian-grown Ramie by commercial perseverance, push, go, should be brought to the fore in the textile world.

In my next letter I will, Sir, if you will allow me, give information gathered from experts as to the cultivation of the fibre, and in the meantime let all those who are or may be interested in this new industry communicate with the Bunbeg Mills which have achieved so signal a success in weaving this once-thought impracticable fibre into such exquisite fabrics.

### THE COFFEE GROWERS' COMPANY.

The Annual General Meeting of "The United Coffee Growers' Co.," Coimbatore, was held in Coonoor on Friday, the 27th ultimo, with Sir Frederick Price, K.C.S.I., the Managing Director, in the chair. The Directors' report and the accounts were circulated to the shareholders some time before the Meeting, and were unanimously accepted and passed. The Company was formed a few years ago for the purpose of roasting, grinding, and tinning coffee for sale in India, and the Factory was placed at Coimbatore where some of the best hill-grown coffees are cured, and supplies of high-grade coffees are readily obtained. The business already built up, and which this year's report shows is steadily increasing, is evidence that there is room for such an undertaking. The trading account, which, of course, is not published, was laid before the shareholders, and was regarded by them as satisfactory, showing, as it did, that in the past year the Company's business has made considerable progress, with the encouraging feature that the area of its operations is rapidly extending throughout India and to a smaller degree outside the country. Under European management and with the services of an expert, trained in Europe, as coffee roaster, the Company has already established several brands of coffee, which are kept up to a regular standard, and for which there is a steady and growing demand in the trade, and is now engaged in introducing a brand, which by its cheapness and quality will, it is expected, meet the wants of a large section of the public to whom price is a consideration.

The Company's works are the largest and most complete in the country. They include roasting, grinding, and tin-making machinery, and are quite worth a visit by any one passing through Coimbatore. To coffee-planters in particular the aim and objects of the Company should be of special interest. The consumption of coffee in India is estimated at some 2,000 tons per annum, and recent statistics go to show that a very large proportion of this consumption is met by the importation of tinned coffees from abroad, prepared in various ways. In these days of competition, and search for near markets, the first step should be to secure the market at your door. This is being done by tea-planters, but by coffee-planters has been neglected, and they should watch with interest and approval any movement trusting to displace foreign-grown coffee by the introduction of their own product.

### TEA-PLANTING IN JAVA.

#### HOW IT COMPARES WITH CEYLON.

There are at present, says the *Englishman*, two interesting visitors to Ceylon, Mr. J. G. de Dieu Stierling, Chairman of the Preanger (West Java) Planters' Association, and Mr. E. H. Evans, also of Preanger. The latter arrived from Home by the *Prinz Heinrich*, and the former from Java by the *Coromandel*. They have come to Ceylon to learn how things are done here or, to use their own words, "to see if there is anything worth picking up here"—just as Ceylon planters occasionally visit Java and other parts with the object of learning new wrinkles. Both gentlemen are joint Managers of a Tea Company called the Barom Baud, owning six estates. The Company puts 3,300,000 lbs. of tea on the market annually, besides 450,000 piculs of sugar.

Tea is grown principally in Preanger. Unlike Ceylon, Java is not dependent solely on tea. In fact cinchona is the best paying industry at present, and naturally it is grown very largely. Consequently the Preanger P. A. of which Mr. Stierling is Chairman, does not confine itself to tea alone, but is equally concerned in looking after the interests of coffee, cinchona, and cocoa. The Association, which is numerically strong, meets once every two months at the two principal towns in West Java. The tea industry in Preanger was established more than 60 years ago, so that it is much older than it is in Ceylon. Moreover, during that period, it has not passed through any serious crisis or depression. The total annual export, which does not vary to any extent from year to year, is 35 millions. One would have thought that, like Ceylon, Java would have endeavoured to increase its output as years went on, but it has not been considered of much importance, because, as has been said before, tea is by no means the sole industry of the country. Amsterdam is the great market for Java tea, though Mr. Stierling says about as much as goes to Holland goes to London. On the old estates the old Chinese tea-plant was grown, but, as Mr. Evans told our representative, for the last 10 years nothing but the real indigenous Assam plant has been used. Java tea sells for nearly the same price as does Ceylon tea; and costs about as much to produce. Java seems to be a paradise for labour, and none of the difficulties which occur here are experienced. The population numbers 27 millions, and the home labour supply is consequently plentiful and cheap. There seems to be little interference from Government although Mr. Evans said the authorities proposed to do what they have done in Sumatra, that is, insist on contracts by which Government officials should look after the welfare of the coolies; but both the planters and the general population were opposed to this innovation. The supply of labour is fully equal to the demand.

Next as to pests, which is so important a question in Ceylon. Here again Java has the advantage over us. The only blight to speak of is the "*Helopeltis Antonii*," which the planters call the "tea-bug." It does not affect the higher estates; though some of the lower estates are affected rather seriously during a very dry season. And here it may be added that, like Ceylon, Java has its high country and its low country, with small crops and good prices in one, and poor prices but large crops in the other. To get rid of the aforesaid pest, burning and burying of the prunings is sometimes resorted to. The method employed to get rid of the insects is for the coolies to catch them one by one.

Green tea is not produced in Preanger. There is no call for it, Mr. Evans explained. It might also be added that the exploitation of foreign markets for Java tea is left principally to private enterprise; the Planters' Association does not take the lead as it does here. However, they are to be well represented at the St. Louis Exposition. There is one difference between Ceylon and Java which is worth mentioning. There is only one English Tea Company in the latter place, Messrs. John Pett & Co., of London.—*Times of Ceylon*.

### PORTO RICAN COFFEE.

Recently about two hundred of the representative coffee-growers of Porto Rico held a Meeting in San Juan to provide for a permanent organization and establish in the United States a market for Porto Rican coffee.

Mr. Frederick C. Timpson, resident Manager and President of the Porto Rico Export Company, of New York and San Juan, among other things, said:—

"Many people wonder why Porto Rican coffee is not more sought after in the States. My conclusion, after a four years' study of the question, is that it is merely necessary to satisfy the American taste and the victory will be won. Porto Rican coffee is exceptionally rich in tannin, probably more so than any other, and the flavour of this tannin, to which Americans can never become accustomed, must be removed by proper roasting. The so-called 'light' roasting now done in the States does not remove this tannin, while our native 'dark' or 'French' roast does. Coffee so roasted, without burning, will please American palates.

"Nearly all the coffee sold at retail in the United States is done up in packages at the time of purchase, and the customers judge it by its colour, as well as by its flavour after roasting. Porto Rico coffee, put up in convenient, neat, original packages, kept to grade, put out in some ingenious way and properly advertised, will be



given a fair trial and will win on its merits. The United States can consume in two months all the coffee Porto Rico can produce. The coffee of this island should be put up in sealed packages, thus preventing the substitution of cheaper grades of foreign coffee, and should be branded by legislative or other official authority, insuring it as genuine.

"Headquarters should be established in some prominent city of Porto Rico, and the Association should control its own roasting plant. The introduction and advertising should be done by a high-salaried man, a professional in his line. From the beginning the Association should be prepared to sell exclusively to consumers and through agents and sub-agents. A fair price, with reasonable margin of profit, should be exacted on each brand. No coffee should be sold green in the bean, at prices in competition with cheap foreign grades, as is now the custom.

"The St. Louis World's Fair Commission of Porto Rico has decided to send to the Exposition 200,000 or more quarter-pound packages of coffee for free distribution. These packages will be tastily prepared and will be imprinted with the arms of Porto Rico and with a copy of a letter from President Roosevelt to Governor Hunt, in which the President warmly praises some coffee sent to him by the Governor."

## THE CEYLON GREEN TEA BONUS.

### WHAT MERCHANTS SAY.

Two of our leading planters have expressed their views as to the advisability of removing the bonus from our green tea industry, says the *Times of Ceylon*. Mr. William Forsythe suggests—Socratically, it is true—that to remove the bonus will be synonymous with ringing the death-knell of that frail and immature enterprise; while, on the other hand, the Planting Member in Council—the Hon'ble Mr. E. Rosling,—contends that our green-tea market is firmly established, and bonus or no bonus, will continue.

To make the position more general, some of the leading Fort merchants who have an intimate knowledge of the green-tea market have been consulted.

Mr. Lampard, of Messrs. Crosfield, Lampard & Co., courteously gave our representative his views on the situation this morning. "It is a question of competition with Japan," he said. "It is a fallacy to say our market in Canada or America is established. It is a Japanese market. Our price is a shade lower than the commonest Japan, because labour in that country has gone up. Prices, of course, fluctuate. The lowest price Japans have been down to was the year before last, when they were something between 13½ and 14 cents for common Japans, and Ceylon is somewhere about the same price. Common Ceylons have been selling in America at about 6¾d. for Hyson No. 2; 7d. for Hyson No. 1; and about 7½d. for Young Hyson."

"And do you think, if the bonus was removed, that green-tea producers would revert to black?"—"I don't think so. They might revert to black tea for some time, and the result would be that black tea, now fetching 6½d., would fall to 4½d. instead. Then they would make green tea again."

"Is the Ceylon green-tea market fixed, do you think?"—"How can it be fixed? We have made green tea for 18 months or two years. Japan has dealt in greens for 20 or 30 years."

"But it is contended that a market has been made for Ceylon green tea, and that that market must, under any circumstances, be supplied."—"Fallacy, pure fallacy. Americans all prefer Japan tea, and it is only our low prices which have enabled us to gain the small hold on the market that we possess. If we continue this for a year or two longer, then, of course, the same sort of thing might happen with regard to Ceylon green tea as occurred with our black tea. People might get accustomed to a little stronger tea, and then you might say you have a sort of hold on the American market. But a year or two is nothing."

"And your opinion as regards the advisability of discontinuing the bonus entirely?"—"I contend that the bonus should have been gradually reduced. Instead of giving three cents of 5 million lbs. of green tea and then stopping altogether, I think it would have been wiser to have paid 2 cents on 10 million lbs., to provide for the continuity of this business for a sufficient time to enable us to get a real hold on the market, which we certainly have not at present."

### WILL DISORGANISE THE MARKET.

Another member of a Fort firm largely interested in green tea—who did not want his name disclosed—threw some interesting light on the situation. "My opinion always has been," he said, "that, if the bonus is taken away entirely at the end of, say, June, a great many of the estates will go back to black tea, and we shall find that our green tea market—such as it is—is completely disorganised. You must remember that we have to deal with people—especially in Canada—who have an established business in Ceylon green tea now, and they want certain supplies. We shall find people go back to blacks—especially the low-country estates—and then there will be a dearth of green tea. Prices for green tea will go up. Prices for black will go down, and immediately upon this they will be eager to return to green tea. All this will mean complete disorganisation.

"Those black tea growers who are averse to the continuance of the bonus seem to forget this, that the good prices they obtain for their tea is undoubtedly due to the amount of green tea which has been made. Had it not been for green tea I am certain they would never have seen the recent prices for black tea. Again, the main reason for our small hold on the American and Canadian markets is the extremely high prices which are asked for Japan and China greens compared with the lower price for Ceylon greens. My opinion is that we have not sufficiently nursed Ceylon green tea in America. We have still to support it. It has not, in short, the ability to stand on its own legs; and a further bonus is required to save it."

### A BROKER'S OPINION.

Mr. W. E. Drury, of Messrs. Forbes & Walker, was asked by our representative for his views on the question of the green-tea bonus. He remarked "We are great believers," "in the green-tea bonus, and we think it must be very carefully dealt with. If it is taken off suddenly before the required time, very much of the good already done will be lost."

As to what was the required time Mr. Drury said: "It is quite impossible to tell. Only time will show. But I have no doubt if the bonus is taken off, a lot of green tea will be converted into black, to the detriment of black. Ceylon has to compete with Japan, and that is why there is always a danger. We contend that the bonus should be gradually reduced, and withdrawn with the very greatest care."

As to the statement that green tea would find a ready sale with the bonus removed. Mr. Drury said: "If, with the bonus on, our firm find the greatest difficulty just now in making green-tea contracts for next year, with the bonus off I don't know where we should be."

He further stated that we had cut Japan out by our lower prices. If the bonus were taken off he did not consider green tea would rise to the full extent of three cents, which would be necessary to place Ceylon green tea growers on the same footing as they were with the bonus. That would absolutely depend upon how trade developed.

### A LETTER FROM MR. WALTHER.

(To the Editor, *Times of Ceylon*.)

DEAR SIR,—There is little doubt that Mr. Forsythe's questions are all answerable in the affirmative, and that he has asked them so clearly, and made them so definite and lucid, that conviction goes with the answers. There are, however, other questions connected with the bonus on green teas.

Is 3 cents bonus enough to induce the manufacture of 10,000,000 lbs. of green teas, while the average of black tea is at, say, 37-8 cents?

With a prospect of 10,000,000 lbs. of green tea in 1904, will consuming markets pay 34 cents for low-country green tea as at present manufactured?

With the black tea average at 38 cents, do the gardens which Mr. Forsythe quotes, viz.

Ellakande	at 34 cents
Farnham	at 32 "
Vincit	at 33 "

secure, including the bonus, within 2 cents of what they would realise as black teas?

The agent for one of the best low-country greens that comes into this market told me to-day that it costs him 5 cents per lb. more money to manufacture green teas than it did blacks; that, inclusive of bonus, he realises 38 cents, while his black tea is worth over 40 cents to-day. The inducement, notwithstanding the bonus, to revert to blacks, is over 7 cents per lb. in his case. This is no doubt an extreme case, but it exposes the crux of the position, viz., will any reasonable bonus induce the manufacture of green tea while



Black, Ganapalla, sells at 38; and green, Farnham, at 32 cents.

Black, Glendon, sells at 39; and green, Ellakande, at 34 cents.

Black, Kelani, sells at 38; and green, Vincit, at 33 cents.

If the demand for green teas is sound, are they likely to go up in value if only Rs.150,000 are spent as a bonus. Are they likely to fall still further if twice or thrice that sum is promised?

When the bonus was 6 cents do we remember Ceylon green teas unsaleable at 25 cents?

How far was the encouragement of green tea irrespective of the appearance of the leaf responsible for that quotation?

Will an excess of bounty at 3 cents per lb. destroy its object, and by encouraging quantity, and not quality, of leaf send the price of green teas so low, that, notwithstanding bounty, the manufacture will partially go out?

These are questions, Sir, more theoretical than Mr. Forsythe's (his are absolutely hard-pan solid facts); but I think even these are worthy of consideration, and I hope they may elicit a few positive answers and advice worth following.—I am, etc.,

COLOMBO, November 26th.

H. WALTHER.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

### INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee, held on the 24th November:—

**Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association, London.**—Letters dated 30th October and 6th November, from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, having been previously circulated, were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subjects dealt with in the letters were:—

(1) *Advertising in America.*—In his letter dated 18th September, Mr. Tye had made certain remarks with regard to the necessity for extensive advertising in America. In a subsequent letter dated 16th October he had again referred to the question, and had forwarded copies of communications from two members of the London Committee respecting it. These papers had been submitted to the Indian Tea Cess Committee for consideration. In his letter dated 6th November, Mr. Tye remarked further on the question; and he suggested that, in order to facilitate business, the Cess Committee should communicate direct with the London Association instead of, as at present, through the Calcutta Association.

The General Committee had no objection to this proposed arrangement so far as they were concerned. But they thought that copies of all correspondence might be sent to them for information. They agreed to pass on the suggestion to the Cess Executive Committee for consideration.

(2) *Proposed Manufacture of Oolong Teas.*—In his letter dated 6th November, Mr. Tye mentioned that he had requested a firm of brokers to send to Calcutta a package (10 lbs.) of a good type of Formosa Oolong tea. This was in response to a request which had been made by the General Committee.

It appeared to the Committee, on further consideration, that a larger quantity than ten pounds would be necessary. They accordingly decided to ask Mr. Tye to forward a half-chest weighing about 40 lbs.

**The Sale of Tea Waste.**—The Committee had before them a file of correspondence with regard to this matter, which had been under consideration for some time. Judging by certain of the letters on the file there appeared to be a belief among Garden Managers in Cachar and Sylhet that the waste sold locally at the factories is really bought for consumption, and not—as the buyers profess—for chemical purposes. The principal reason for this assumption was that the prices obtainable locally are higher, to the extent of about Re.1 or Rs.2 per maund, than those given by European firms in Calcutta who export the waste to caffeine manufacturers.

The Committee had formerly issued a circular to Garden Agents recommending them to instruct their Managers to send all the waste to Calcutta for sale. This recommendation did not appear to be generally acted upon; and the question of again putting it forward was now considered. But it was agreed after discussion not to approach members on the subject at present. But the Garden Managers who had brought the matter to notice were to be asked if they could procure any specific evidence showing that the waste was sold for human consumption.

**Scientific Department.**—The Committee considered a letter of 23rd November from Mr. H. H. Mann, with reference to a suggestion, which had been made to him by the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd., that, on his return journey to Calcutta, he should visit the Kanan Devan Hills. The object of the visit would be presumably to make investigations in connection with the cultivation and manufacture of tea, particularly it was understood with regard to soils. Mr. Mann asked for the instructions of the Committee upon the point.

It was decided to inform Mr. Mann, in reply, that the Committee were not disposed to regard the proposal favourably; as they were of opinion that Mr. Mann's work in Northern India was sufficiently heavy to occupy his undivided attention.

**Average Prices of Indian Tea.**—In reply to a request made by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, in a letter dated 10th November, the following average prices were to be submitted, viz.:—

Tea sold in Calcutta from 22nd May to 24th September, 1903.—Assam Valley Tea, 53,618 packages at 6s. 9p. per lb.; Surma Valley Tea, 123,118 packages at 5s. 2p. per lb.

Tea sold in London from 1st June to 25th September, 1903.—Assam Valley Tea, 99,344 packages at 9'33d. per lb.; Surma Valley Tea, 62,389 packages at 6'38d.

## MARKET REPORT.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated November 13th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	688,600	512,853	46,755
1902-1903 ...	703,461	578,710	37,948
42,890 pkgs. INDIAN 18,706 „ CEYLON ... „ JAVA	Total 61,596 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

Of the various Foreign and Colonial markets taking their tea direct from India, Russia appears to be making the chief progress; Australia, after a heavy set back last year, is again taking a little more, although not so much as two years ago, the total for all outside markets showing a fair increase from the 1st January, but less satisfactory if taken from the 1st April, especially when the increased output of Green Tea is considered.

*Direct Exports of Indian Tea (in lbs.) from Calcutta and Chittagong to places outside U. K. from 1st January to 30th September.*

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Australasia ...	4,523,900	3,364,842	4,894,614	5,439,693
{ North America ...	3,868,088	4,780,287	1,204,772	2,506,436
{ Hong Kong ...	504,076	425,947	647,346	469,723
{ Russia ...	3,568,860	2,170,418	611,274	37,002
{ China ...	722,817	279,233	84,405	4,275
{ Persia and Arabia ...	588,099	699,739	397,144	414,586
{ Bombay ...	3,693,113	2,920,793	3,093,039	1,020,515
{ Other Indian Ports ...	280,981	410,655	242,389	243,682
Turkey ...	1,627,397	1,524,020	2,121,956	1,878,113
Germany ...	384,111	400,396	442,574	514,958
Egypt ...	76,319	220,500	60,165	43,152
Straits Settlements ...	40,009	34,814	35,008	27,853
Africa ...	84,407	76,066	52,121	50,867
France ...	18,818	11,683	22,413	22,967
South America ...	4,725	2,700	1,410	Nil.
Austria ...	4,724	11,978	18,912	1,665
Denmark ...	22,000			
Holland ...	28,816			
Ceylon ...	325,462	67,665	17,378	5,781
Other Places ...	52,078			

Total Outside U. K. 20,418,800 17,401,736 13,946,920 12,681,268  
„ United Kingdom. 91,056,537 90,163,114 88,354,564 88,480,466

Total Lbs. ... 111,475,337 107,564,850 102,301,484 101,161,734

**Note.**—The tea shipped to Hong Kong is probably for North America, that to China for Russia, and that to Bombay for Persia.

The Bombay figures include teas sent from Calcutta by rail this year, and an estimate of lbs. 750,000 for last year.



## When you feel Limp and Languid,

When your head is dull and heavy, your tongue furred, your bowels costive, and you awake in the morning fagged and worn out, with no relish for breakfast and dreading your work, be sure your stomach and liver need help. Indigestion is poisoning your blood and sapping your strength. Mother Seigel's Syrup will cure you. It will purify your blood and restore vigour and tone to your system. Take it daily after meals.

# SEIGEL'S SYRUP

"I suffered for years from chronic indigestion and wind spasms," says Mrs. M. Moss, of 127, Quay Street, Ultimo, N.S.W. "After eating, I was tortured with terrible pains in the chest and beneath the shoulders. I lacked energy and was languid and weak, especially during the Summer. Four months ago I was induced to try Seigel's Syrup and when I had emptied only two bottles, all traces of indigestion had vanished."

**Will re-invigorate you.**

INDIAN.—This week's Indian sales were compressed into two days, and it may be partially on this account that there was hardly as much life in the market as a week ago, resulting in some slight irregularity in prices.

Quality from Assam, Darjeeling and Dooars is hardly up to what it was some few weeks since, while that from Cachar and Sylhet is perhaps a trifle better. Averages:—"Okayti T Co., 1/2½; "Brit. Darj. Co. Turbo," 1/2¼; "Tara T Co." 1/0¾; and "Gopaldhara," 1/0½.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 39,016 pkgs., av. 7·87d. 1902, 27,203 pkgs., av. 7·20d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 510,726 pkgs., av. 7·89d. 1902, 500,981 pkgs., av. 7·14d.

CEYLON.—The auction, although larger than last week, was again comparatively moderate, teas up to about 7d. sold well, bidding for the lowest grades being strong, but medium and better classes over 8d were not so well competed for, and occasionally made slightly easier prices. Averages:—"Carolina T Co. Goatfell," 1/4¼; "Balmoral Est. Clydesdale," 11d.; "Nuwara Eliya T Co. Concordia," 10¾d.; "St. Andrews," "S. T. & L. Brookside" and "Talawakelle Co. T.," 10½d.

Average for week 8·21d., against 7·68d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 879,536 pkgs., av. 7·51d. 1902, 1,000,137 pkgs., av. 6·74d.

JAVA.—No tea of this growth was brought to auction. 2,840 packages are catalogued for next week.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. Exchange on London three months' sight:—Calcutta 1/4½. Colombo 1/4½.

### COFFEE.

Increased firmness has been observable in this market, and the limited public sales have passed off with a livelier competition at

very full prices to an advance of 1s. per cwt., viz., 2,800 bags Columbian (partly of the new crop), low and ordinary at 26s. to 34s., good ordinary at 36s. to 40s. 6d., low middlings to good middlings, greenish, at 43s. to 59s. 6d., good and fine bright coloury at 68s. to 78s. 6d., and peaberry from 45s. to 56s. 6d.; also 1,100 bags new Granada on corresponding terms; 790 bags Guatemala, low at 28s. 6d., small to fine ordinary at 31s. to 42s. 6d., low middlings and middlings at 45s. to 50s., peaberry at 40s. to 52s. 6d.; 560 bags Mexican, ordinary and middling from 40s. to 57s., bold and peaberry at 71s. 6d. to 74s.; odd lots Ceylon Plantation at 100s. 6d. to 111s. for fair to good; 670 bags other East India at current rates; 2,290 bags Unwashed Dumont Santos, small and medium at 29s. to 35s., bold and peaberry at 36s. 6d. to 41s.; 1,230 bags Washed ditto, small at 30s. 6d. to 33s., medium at 34s. 6d. to 40s. 6d., bold at 41s. to 48s. 6d., and peaberry from 37s. 6d. to 52s. 6d., with a few medium Maragogipe at 63s. and superior bold at 101s. 6d. to 104s. per cwt. The market for Futures has not been without some speculative excitement this week, and quotations have been raised 6d. to 9d. per cwt., good Santos deliverable between now and September next having been taken at 30s. to 33s., though the extreme prices have not been maintained to the close. The deliveries of the Dutch Company's Java Coffee in Holland during October were of good extent, comprising 11,300 bags, against 7,510 bags in 1902 and 11,480 bags in 1901, thus giving a total for the past ten months of 133,600 bags, as contrasted with 98,100 bags, and 109,300 bags in the two previous years.

### TEA.

Messrs. Wm. Jas. & Hy. Thompson, in their report, November 12, say: That in order to continue the low-priced canister the distributing trade have for some time past been obliged to a certain extent to alter their methods is apparent from the figures published by the Board of Trade, which show that owing to the higher rates



ruling for common Indians and Ceylons, China Tea has been substituted for Ceylon to the extent of 3,000,000 lbs. during the ten months of this year and an excess of 5,000,000 over the amount used in 1901—the Indian figures being almost stationary. Both supply and demand for these are limited, and business is difficult to transact, while the Calcutta and Colombo markets are reported lower in rates with a less active inquiry—but with the probability of smaller supplies in the future, some recovery in values may be anticipated. The sales have comprised 42,900 packages, against 34,600 packages last year, the total auctions of this season's tea to date thus amounting to 559,000 packages, against 594,600 packages a year ago. Owing to the Lord Mayor's Show passing down Mincing Lane on Monday, the auctions were confined to two days only—Wednesday and Thursday. The sales opened briskly yesterday, common tea particularly being in demand at fully late rates, whilst good Broken Pekoes from 1s. upwards, helped by a fair number of country orders, realised satisfactory prices and were rather dearer than last sales. The only weakness noticeable was in ordinary medium leaf grades from 7d. to 9d. per lb., which occasionally showed some irregularity. Any teas of a stand-out character were well appreciated, an average of 1s. 6½d. for an invoice of British Darjeeling Company's Turbo Estate being worthy of mention. Prices at to-day's sale have hardly been maintained, the knowledge that the increase in the Indian crop will be a substantial one necessarily inducing buyers to act with caution, and the market closes a little easier in tone. For next week the offerings are comparatively small, only about 38,000 packages so far being printed. The auctions in Calcutta last Friday totalled 20,000 packages, which sold at an average of 5a. 11p. per lb. The market ruled firm, with an upward tendency for medium and better kinds, due perhaps to some slight improvement in quality. Cables have been received placing the probable export from Calcutta and Chittagong for the season at about 163,000,000 lbs.

Messrs. Lloyd, Matheson, and Carritt, in their report, November 12, say: In consequence of the Lord Mayor's Show passing through Mincing Lane the usual Monday's auctions were postponed till Wednesday. Business commenced with a stronger demand for the

commoner descriptions up to about 6½d.; fine tippy Broken Pekoes were also in request and sold at full rates. Medium Assam Pekoes occasionally marked irregularities, and when the liquors were without much point prices sometimes favoured buyers to the extent of ½d. to ¾d. per lb. The second day's auctions met with rather less inquiry, and a slightly easier tone prevailed, especially for the commoner kinds. Quality generally showed no change. The Board of Trade write us under date of 7th instant, stating, as a result of further inquiries, that the duties now being levied on tea entering Persia are 1 toman per batman on "White" Tea, and 6 krans per batman on all teas; these figures are equivalent to about 7d. per lb. and 4½d. per lb. respectively. There is evidently some confusion in reference to the tariff, as we are informed by friends largely interested in trade to the Persian Gulf that they are actually paying duty on the scale embodied in the new Treaty as issued by the Foreign Office (this is nearly double the amount), and as a result the tea trade to Persian ports has, they affirm, declined to a mere fraction of what it was last year, although, in our opinion, the high price ruling at present for common teas would be likely to also have some effect in restricting exports to those quarters. The explanation of the apparent discrepancy between the Foreign Office figures and the Board of Trade figures is that the Foreign Office give the maximum amount Persia is allowed to levy under the Treaty, while the Board of Trade give the duties which the Persian Customs say they are levying under the Persian Customs Tariff; the difference is so important and the possible effect on shipments to Persia so deterrent that we are making further inquiries in order, if possible, to elucidate the matter, and we also commend it to the attention of the Indian tea-planting industry.

#### CINCHONA.

At the auctions of cinchona held at Amsterdam on November 12 8,206 packages were offered, weighing 702,329 kilos. and containing 31,879 kilos. quinine sulphate. Of the above quantity 7,802 packages were sold at an average unit of 7'45c. per half-kilo., as against 7'45c. paid at the auction on October 8. The approximate



# ST JACOBS OIL

Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

#### CURES

**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being prescribed by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



quantities of quinine purchased by the principal buyers were as follows:—The English and American factories, 10,203 kilos.; the Brunswick factory, 6,031 kilos.; the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories, 5,588 kilos.; the Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories, 3,734 kilos.; and various buyers, 5,303 kilos. The prices paid for the manufacturing bark ranged from 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. to 77 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. per half-kilo., and for druggists' bark from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 59 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. per half-kilo.

### QUININE.

The second-hand market for German sulphate has been steady, with a small business, chiefly in December delivery, at 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and March at 1s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. To-day's market is quiet, buyers waiting result of the Amsterdam auctions. Latest: 20,000 oz. sold at 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for December.

### CARDAMOMS.

The tone was flat and prices, although irregular, showed a still easier tendency, although it must be said the quality was mostly common. Ceylon-Mysore, medium and bold dullish, sold at 1s. 8d.; bold medium pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.; small and medium dullish, 10d.; small palish, 9d. to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; peas, 8d.; small lean brown, 8d.; brown and split, 7d.; bold yellowish pale, 1s. 10d.; good medium yellowish pale, 1s. 4d.; medium ditto, 1s. to 1s. 1d. Good bold round pale fruit, slightly open, was limited at 2s. 4d., and a bid of 2s. 1d. was refused. *Splits*: Good medium pale, 10d. to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; medium pale, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; small pale, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9d.; native wild Ceylon lean pickings, 3d. Ceylon-Malabar dull lean brown, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and small unclipped ditto, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. *Seed* was steady at 1s. to 1s. 1d. per lb.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7·87d., NOVEMBER 13TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	345	6·29												
Dodebetta	59 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	36 p	†6 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 p	†6	...	...	...	...
Madanshola	45 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	6	10	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	20 p	5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 p	†5 $\frac{1}{2}$
New Hope	193 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 p	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	53	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	32	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
" "	48	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	12	6	...	...	...	...
Travancore	804	6·88												
Arnakal	209	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	66	†6 $\frac{1}{2}$	65	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	29	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
Ellangy	88 p	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	32	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
T T E Co Kolie Ka.	270 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8	81	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	48	†5 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	38 p	6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Mount	99 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	28	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	7	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	34 p	6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vembenard	138	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	98	7 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	32	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	8	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...
Wynaad	1193	6·90												
Arrapetta T Co	103	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 7	20	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	6	6	...	...	...	...
Askern	77	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	23	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	6	11	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chulika	87 p	7	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	6	...	...	...	...
Cherambadi	156 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	47	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	57 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	44 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Erramaculla	81 p	7	...	...	14	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Golesland	100 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 p	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...
Kanabye & Cher	87 p	9	19	1/1 $\frac{1}{4}$	43	7	25 p	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ 9	...	...	...	...	...	...
" "	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mootoomulla	43	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	13	7	9	6	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pootoomulla	137 p	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7	...	...	31	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	37	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	6
Walkers Achoor	146 p	7	...	...	60	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7	66 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 8	...	...	20	†6	...	...
Wynaad T Co Per...	171 p	7	...	...	61	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ c	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	20	6	...	...

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated.  $\frac{1}{2}$ c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus † represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

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# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1903.

[No. 49.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Friday, the 18th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*December 9th.—Weather—*The weather has cleared at last just in time, or there would have been no crop again next year. *Crop* commencing will be a low average one. *Crop prospects* for next year very doubtful if there will be much. *Health—Good. Labour—Short. Interesting item—*A good paddy crop.

### COFFEE IN COLOMBIA.

MANY of our readers will study with interest the instructive consular report which we reprint to-day. It is a report on the present state of the Coffee Trade in Colombia, and has been compiled by Mr. Vice-Consul SPENCER S. DICKSON. Colombian Coffee may be regarded by some as a not very formidable rival to East Indian. Others, who watch London market reports closely, and all who wish to see Indian Coffee recognised and sold generally in the great markets of the United States, will probably realise that the report under notice is one that demands attention. There are in it very interesting points. For instance, the temperature regarded in Colombia as suitable for coffee cultivation ranges from 59° to 77° Fahr. The quality of the crop, it is remarked, does not necessarily depend on the temperature of the district. It depends also on the land and the method of cultivation. Truisms these. But it is remarked further that in the hotter districts the bean is larger. A nice question is suggested, whether this is the result of climatic influences alone? For in these hotter districts shade is employed, and the coffee is pruned carefully; whereas in the colder climate it is said to require less care. At any rate, it receives it, "planters are not generally careful about pruning,

and the quality is, as a rule, sacrificed to the quantity." The very next sentence appears to contradict one inference that might appear to be suggested by the above words, as it is stated that in small and well cultivated plantations the yield per tree is about 1 lb. annually, while in large and less cared for plantations the yield is about half that quantity! This does not suggest that in the latter case quality is sacrificed to quantity; but it would be instructive to have a precise definition of the term "well cultivated." Does it apply to the use of fertilizers, or to pruning, or to both? Whatever the reply to this, one point deserves special notice: there is no standard distance between tree and tree, when planting operations are conducted; the distance depends upon the land, and a careful study of the place chosen is made before a decision is arrived at as to how close together the trees should be planted. In this respect many planters in India might take a lesson from Colombia.

It must be stated, however, that the report before us should not be too readily accepted as literally correct at all points. For example, it is remarked that Colombia Coffee will lose favour with London buyers because some of that which is being exported now is three years old. This reflects the opinion that new coffee is superior to old; but perhaps the words are intended to be read in immediate connection with the reference, that follows, to the mere scientific cultivation that is obtaining in Brazil every year. Besides this, some explanation is offered towards the close of the report. It is interesting to note further that coffee that is sun-dried in the cherry and afterwards cleaned is the lowest class. Better is the coffee that has been pulped and then cleaned by machinery. Best of all is the "parchment" coffee (*café en pergamino*). Some useful particulars of cleaning processes are given; but very little light is thrown on the important question of the cost of labour and the average wages paid. The king of shade trees in Colombia is our old friend, the "Jak." And as regards cost of production this centre would appear to be well placed for rivalry with Brazil. It fails, however, in the matter of cost of transport. To produce coffee at 14s. per cwt. and only to be able to place it in the New York market at 28s. is hard luck indeed; but possibly when the Panama Canal is completed, and when communications in Colombia between "up-country" and the coast have been improved, a great



change will be made in the latter of these figures. At any rate, the cost of production on the estate is low.

Now in former days, some six years ago, Colombia Coffee was carefully sun-dried, yet to-day the sun-dried description occupies the lowest class. Further information on this point would be very welcome. Before the revolution over-production had wrought havoc, and the want of adequate labour was felt. The war gave the final blow to the enthusiasm for coffee-planting, and intensified the acuteness of the labour problem. The remarks bearing upon the Exchange question through the medium of depreciated paper currency are not without significance; but the troubles of the coffee-planter in Colombia appear to have arisen mainly from an excess of zeal in the matter of opening up new land and an increasing deficiency of labour. It is not quite clear whether coffee can be produced on the estate at a cost of 2d. per lb. under present conditions. From want of labour, it is said, the plantations are losing half their coffee. If, after this has been allowed for, the cost can be reduced to anything like 14s. per cwt. the potentialities of Coffee in Colombia have yet to be gauged. We have referred specially to only a few points in the report, not with the object of criticising it, but in the hope of drawing attention to the report itself. There is much in it that should appeal to planters in this country, even though there is also a good deal that may be said not to go beyond giving a zest to further inquiry as to the details of coffee cultivation, curing, etc., in Colombia, and the actual position of the labour, transport and exchange problems, whose influence upon cost of production and the price at which coffee can be exported at a profit must not be underrated.

### THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

OCTOBER 1903.

**Cocoa (raw).**—Only light importations took place into the United Kingdom during October, and with fair deliveries the stock in bond sank below that in 1902.

In the first ten months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ...	lbs.	43,132,849	48,627,840	46,356,870
Home consumption ..	"	33,969,924	38,779,895	36,038,992
Exports ...	"	10,031,960	11,666,562	9,774,242
Stocks in bond ...	"	9,602,000	10,382,000	16,811,000
Value of imports ...	...	£1,211,167	£1,412,890	£1,388,666
Do. exports ...	...	293,977	326,586	301,347

**Cocoa (prepared).**—The expanded totals, previously noticed, are well maintained, and the bonded stock is rather small.

In the first ten months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ...	lbs.	8,616,796	7,129,388	6,980,324
Home consumption...	"	8,154,966	6,624,353	6,414,276
Exports ...	"	388,292	590,973	699,516
Stocks in bond ...	"	122,000	143,000	199,000
Value of imports ...	...	£854,316	£734,287	£719,955
Do. exports ...	...	45,341	63,669	75,998

**Coffee.**—Although the quantity exported in October was nearly double the amount landed, the stock of coffee on the 31st ultimo remained very excessive.

In the first ten months.		1903	1902.	1901.
Imports ...	cwts.	1,041,729	838,811	868,164
Home consumption.	"	229,421	252,782	279,669
Exports ...	"	598,201	306,378	605,832
Stocks in bond ...	"	738,000	512,000	271,000
Value of imports ...	...	£2,908,978	£2,431,376	£2,783,411
Do. exports ...	...	1,493,231	893,725	1,754,489

**Chicory.**—The movements here have been much contracted, and the stock is only half an average one.

In the first ten months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports ...	cwts.	69,970	84,275	85,442
Home consumption.	"	62,311	70,941	68,613
Exports ...	"	173	505	570
Stocks in bond ...	"	5,000	12,000	20,000
Value of imports ...	...	£31,541	£38,192	£38,774
Do. exports ...	...	181	556	592

**Tea.**—Very heavy arrivals occurred during last month, as in the previous year, and despite excellent deliveries, the bonded stock greatly accumulated, though it is still 8,734,000 lbs. lighter than it was a year ago.

In the first ten months.		1903.	1902.	1901.
Imports—China ...	lbs	17,870,247	15,582,072	14,917,519
Do. British East India ..	"	112,633,311	116,660,960	115,515,649
Do. Ceylon ...	"	81,527,532	93,047,966	90,153,846
Do. Other countries... ..	"	16,687,073	10,860,892	8,347,757
Total imports ... ..	"	228,718,163	236,151,890	228,934,771
Home consumption—China. lbs.		12,681,741	9,963,463	7,860,819
Do. do. B. E. I. ..	"	123,242,083	123,438,272	121,725,098
Do. do. Ceylon ..	"	67,018,272	72,411,440	77,709,162
Do. do. O. C. ..	"	9,531,228	7,509,606	5,858,225
Total ... ..	"	212,473,324	213,322,781	213,153,334
Exports—China ...	lbs.	9,964,631	10,383,861	9,045,433
Do. British East India ..	"	8,707,993	11,682,318	10,996,345
Do. Ceylon ...	"	13,405,993	14,724,200	14,939,323
Do. Other countries ..	"	1,039,702	1,144,909	1,046,732
Total ... ..	"	33,117,419	37,935,288	36,027,833
Stocks in bond ...	lbs.	90,120,000	98,854,000	99,627,000
Value of imports ...	...	£7,311,187	£7,119,174	£7,282,482
Of which British Indian ...	...	3,613,584	3,599,321	3,787,318
Do. Ceylon ...	...	2,555,589	2,757,586	2,782,325
Value of exports ...	...	1,428,440	1,512,060	1,393,609

### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

### COFFEE TRADE OF COLOMBIA.

Mr. Vice-Consul Spencer S. Dickson, reporting on the present state of the Coffee Trade in Colombia, says:—

Coffee can be grown in almost all parts of the country where the climate is suitable, *i.e.*, where the temperature varies from about 59 to 77 Fahr. The principal districts



where the cultivation of coffee is carried on are the departments of Cundinamarca generally, which produces the famous Bogotá coffee; in the department of Santander, the district around Ocaña, Cúcuta and Bucaramanga; and in the Tolima. The lowlands of the Tolima, on either side of the River Magdalena, form the grazing lands. East and west of these, at considerably varying distances, rise the Cordilleras, and it is in the small valleys of the Cordilleras where the coffee is grown. There are three different classes of coffee, *e.g.* :—

1. Dried in the sun while in the cherry and afterwards cleaned. This is called “café trillado,” and is the class of lowest price.
2. The cherry or pulp is washed off the bean, which is afterwards dried and cleaned by machinery. This is called “café lavado,” and obtains a good price.
3. The pulp is washed off and the bean is dried and exported without cleaning the husk off. This is called “café en pergamino,” and is the class which fetches the highest price.

As stated above, the temperature may vary between 59 and 77 Fahr. ; but the quality of the coffee does not necessarily depend on the temperature of the district. It depends also on the land and the method of cultivation. In the hotter climate, of course I speak of first-class land, the bean is larger, but with shade trees properly planted, the coffee pruned satisfactorily and the land appropriate, any quality of coffee can be produced. In the colder climate coffee requires less care and it produces a smaller bean; planters are not generally careful about pruning, and the quality is, as a rule, sacrificed for the quantity.

A tree from four to eight years old will yield, in small and well cultivated plantations, about 1 lb. annually; in large and less cared for plantations the yield is about half that amount. I am told that in the department of Santander the yearly production is as follows :—

District.			Quantity.
			Bags.
Cúcuta	...	...	100,000
Bucaramanga	...	...	120,000
Ocaña	...	...	50,000*

Of all the coffee produced annually, it is said that only about 25,000 bags remain in the country. The best coffee is almost always exported and the damaged beans, in coffee plantations, are set apart and sold locally. By damaged beans are meant the perfectly good beans, which have been torn by the machinery and otherwise damaged in handling. The bad coffee floats to the top during the process of washing. It is skimmed off and thrown on the plantations as a fertilizer.

The following are the average Colombian prices :—

		Average Price.	
		Currency.	Sterling.
		Cents.	d.
Ocaña coffee	...	7	3½
Cúcuta do.	...	8	4
Bucaramanga coffee	...	9	4½
Fusagasuga do.	...	10 +	5
La Palma do.	...	11 +	5½
Tolima do.	...	10	5

This is, however, a point better known by buyers in London. Owing to the revolution, exportation has, till lately, been impossible. Colombian coffee will, therefore, lose favour as some of that which is being exported now is three years old.

On the other hand, I am told that Brazilian coffee is gaining ground and the Brazilians are cultivating more scientifically every year.

CULTIVATION OF COFFEE.

1. **Planting.**—After cleaning the ground, the planting is done with a line, the distances agreed on and marked off with pieces of tape, or the planter takes a rod as a measure and plants every rod length along the line. The trees for planting are pulled by hand from the nurseries and sown at the beginning of the rainy season. The distance depends on the land, and a careful study of the place chosen is made before deciding how close together the coffee trees should be planted.

2. **Manuring.**—The cherry or outer skin of the coffee, with its saccharine matter, is a first-class manure and is generally used for that purpose.

3. **Shade trees.**—With regard to the question as to the best shade trees for coffee plantations, the one most used in Colombia is the Guamo of the Inga genera. There are, however, many different variations of this species, and the only one approved by coffee-planters is the one known as Guamo, “rabo de mico,” so called from the resemblance of the pulp, which contains the seed, to a monkey’s tail. This tree owes its widespread popularity to its adaptability as regards both elevation and climate.

The king of shade tree is, however, the *Artocarpus integrifolia*, native of Ceylon, and commonly known as the “Jack tree.” The reason why it is not used in the interior of Colombia is that this plant is too delicate to stand the long journey.

4. **Picking.**—Picking is done by women and children and is paid by weight. The rate of wages before the war was from 20 to 50c. paper (1½d. to 4d.) per arroba (25 lbs.). This has now risen to 1dol. 60c. Generally the pickers are given their food free. 5 to 6 lbs. of coffee weighed and received from the pickers only give 1 lb. after having been prepared and dried.

MACHINERY.

The motor with Pelton wheel has been very successful and popular for the working of coffee plantations, owing to the many falls of water existing in the mountainous regions of the country. Turbines exist in many establishments, but there is small demand for them. Plantations without water power near the site occupied by the houses or buildings need a steam motor. I have heard of no case of Pelton motors or turbines being placed at the waterfalls for the purpose of giving electrical power to the plantations.

Machinery for coffee must be easily portable on mule back. This is one of the reasons for the success of the Pelton motor. Machinery should make a mule cargo not exceeding 70 kilos. (154 lbs.) in weight.

Before the war, at Titirití, in the department of Antioquia, there was a factory of pulpers of two jets of water, which have given good results for small plantations. These machines are made of wood with some iron pieces. The copper plate which covers the sieve is imported, as they cannot be made in the country.

The usual process gone through in Colombia is as follows :—The pulper receives the fresh coffee, removes the cherry with its sugary matter, and throws the outer skin below into a small ditch of water, whence it is drained off. The berry then falls into a trough, which has three divisions. There

\* About.

† Cundinamarca.

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it remains until it has fermented a little. The bad coffee is skimmed off by filling the trough with water, on which it floats. This process is gone through in the second division of the trough, the first division being used to receive the coffee direct from the pulper. The third division is immediately over the washer and has a mouth emptying into it. The next day the coffee is washed by a few turns of the washing machine, and is then put on shallow trays in the sun for the water to run off; it is next either dried in the sun or goes up into the stove by elevator or by hand. The husking, peeling and sorting is carried out very cheaply in London by machinery, but in some plantations sorting is done by hand. One plantation I know of had a water wheel, pulper, washer, elevator, fan, and the necessary shafting and belting. The fan sucked the damp air out of the stove and the elevator was used for the purpose of hoisting the coffee to the top of the stove.

#### THE ECONOMIC QUESTION.

With the exception of the few coffee estates near the Magdalena River, the general opinion which I have been able to elicit is that it is not a paying business to grow coffee in Colombia with the price below 8c. (4d.) per lb. in New York. The cost of production on the estates cannot be reduced to less than 4c. (2d.) and, owing to the poor means of transport to the coast, it costs about 4c. per lb. to put it in New York, including seller's commission, etc.

**Credits.**—Before the war large credits were given to coffee-growers to enable them to harvest the crop. Most estate holders, through the fall in the price of coffee and carelessness in superintending the working of their plantations, fell very much behindhand in payments. At present I believe foreign houses are wisely limiting themselves to giving facilities for transporting the coffee which is already prepared for export.

#### CONCLUSION.

A review of the coffee trade shows that, about six years ago, Colombian coffee was produced in big plantations, with good machinery and was stove-dried. The coffee which was carefully sun-dried was also much sort after, for Colombian coffee had a good reputation and, the supply being limited, the price went up. This resulted in an over-planting of coffee all over the country. It was thought that this would replace the quina industry. Money was advanced and credits were given to many who were desirous of enlarging their plantations, and the coffee was very often sold before it was produced. The limited amount of labour available was not sufficiently taken into account. It is true that coffee is easy to plant and hardy, but it requires three years of care and expense before any result is obtained. Labourers were eagerly sought after, and with competing prices they rushed from one plantation to another. About the second year coffee began to be a source of anxiety to the intelligent classes. They saw that it was easy enough to plant, but quite another thing to keep up the numerous new plantations which were brought into existence until they were in a condition to yield some return. The result has been that a large number of coffee plantations have been abandoned, in whole or in part, because the available capital estimated for three years' expenses was all spent in the first year, owing to the unforeseen rise in wages caused by the rush. This was the condition of the coffee industry when the revolution broke out in October, 1899.

The war gave the final blow to the enthusiasm for coffee-planting, for it ruined even those comparatively few plantations which had survived the critical stages just referred to. During the first months of the war work continued in an intermittent way, but, as the disorder spread, the employment of male labour became impossible. I am told, and the statement whether true or not is given a wide credence, that even the employment of female labour was rendered difficult. The condition of affairs, bad as it was before the trouble began, is considerably worse now. Labour was then scarce, but from that limited amount must now be deducted the considerable number of labourers who perished through fighting and disease.

In connection with this industry, one important factor must not be forgotten, *viz.*, the unlimited issue of paper money. At first the depreciation worked favourably for coffee exporters, because prices went gradually up, their expenses were in depreciated paper and their gain in gold. But this financial chaos has ultimately resulted to everyone's disadvantage. The price of transport has, like everything else, become exorbitant and, at the same time, the price of coffee in the markets of the United States and Europe is steadily going down.

To-day the coffee plantations are, from the want of labour, losing half their coffee. Only those who have the best machinery can pretend to do a profitable business. The greater part of the produce of the last three years is still stored in the riverports, as there are no adequate means of despatching it. The coffee which has been kept on the estates themselves, in rooms which were never intended to hold three years' produce, has greatly deteriorated and may tend to lower the market price of Colombian coffee. Formerly, the cost of export was one-third of the net value in London. This has, to a large extent increased, owing to excessive charges, both of transport and of storage. There is a large amount at present waiting its turn on the river, and some considerable time will still elapse before this can be moved and the traffic once more become normal.

Statistical Tables showing the Total Export of Coffee from the different Custom-Houses of Colombia during the years 1894—98:—

#### (1) ACCORDING TO CUSTOM-HOUSES.

Custom-House.	Quantity. Kilos.	Value. Dollars.
Barranquilla ...	72,704,023	24,909,722
Cartagena ...	14,378,824	6,875,350
Buenaventura ...	5,165,896	2,187,473
Tumaco ...	570,712	230,554
Ipiates ...	2,575	443
Riohacha ...	1,000,249	326,534
Cúcuta ...	72,032,915	20,675,553
Meta ...	273,878	16,165
Total ...	166,129,072	55,221,794

#### (2) ACCORDING TO YEARS.

Year.	Quantity. Kilos.	Value. Dollars.
1894 ...	27,981,449	9,979,527
1895 ...	28,850,652	10,972,239
1896 ...	37,630,408	13,222,634
1897 ...	34,001,341	11,030,439
1898 ...	37,665,222	10,016,955
Total ...	166,129,072	55,221,794

*Note.*—For Buenaventura, eight months of 1894 are missing; and, for 1895 the value of 302,351 kilos. are missing. With regard to the Meta, in 1897 there are only data from January, February and September to December; in 1898 from April to July.

Values are in United States gold: 5 dol. = 1£.



## COFFEE NOTES.

**August Flowering of Brazil Coffee.**—"O Café," of Santos, says the following of the August flowering in the Santos district :—

"The August flowering was retarded in many localities by the drouth. Toward the end of that month slight rain fell in several districts, and the flowering was poor and unequal in consequence. In the first week of September rain was general all over the State, and came just in time to prevent serious damage to the coming crop. In many districts the flowering is very backward, in others, Cravinhos, for example, the trees are only just blossoming, and even if conditions continue favourable in September and October, there is every likelihood of the coming 1904-5 crop being a late one."

A letter in the *Brazilian Review* (September 15) dated from Santos, September 12, says :—

"The flowering, which really should have come out in August, but was retarded by the drouth, is a very good one in some districts, but from some parts the reports are less favourable. It is, of course, too early yet to say anything about the future crop."

What is regarded as a matter of considerable importance in Brazil is the emigration of Italians from that country, showing that the coffee crop of 1902-3 is more or less finished. Five steamships are said to have taken away 3,000 Italians in September.

The Legislature of Minas has authorized the Governor to raise the export duty 20 per cent. on coffees of lower grade than No. 8, New York type, and to create a new tax of 100\$000 per hectare on all new plantations. Differential duties are also to be charged on coffee shipped in jute as compared with that in home-grown cotton bags.

"O Café," of September 20, says :—"Harvesting is almost over, even in more tardy districts. The trees are now all in flower, but for three months it will be impossible to tell how it will turn out. From S. José do Rio Pardo the current crop is reported as all harvested and very disappointing."

Talleyrand's receipt for coffee : Pure as an angel, sweet as love, black as the devil, and hot as hell.

Talk about "dry roasted coffee," "plantation to cup" arguments, etc. ! says the *Spice Mill*. Here comes Thomas Barrow, coffee roaster and spice grinder at Shrewsbury, Quebec, with a brand new catch phrase. Mr. Barrow advertises : "Our coffee is absolutely free from sulphur, as it is roasted with pure maple charcoal made on our own estate." This ought to suggest a new line of thought to the average food commissioner. Has it ever occurred to any of these gentry before that the coffee as it is roasted ordinarily with anthracite coal is likely to absorb injurious, sulphurous ingredients from the coal ? This is a serious matter, and one which should be looked into with much prayerful consideration. If the only safeguard is the roasting of coffee with "pure maple charcoal," why not require that every coffee roaster should desist from longer using the poisonous anthracite or the sulphurous gas as the case may be ?

**An American Report.**—There is nothing meek or lowly or merciful or even what is least kindly in the Brazilian

coffee-growers, who lately have been protesting and supplicating the sympathy of the world in their coffee "crisis," which they brought down upon their heads by producing too much. Besides their own, they have made other coffee fields practically unprofitable, among these being those of the Indian growers, who have sought to save themselves, if possible, by sending a delegate to Brazil to spy out how the Brazilians manage to grow so much coffee, and if it is worth while at all to continue coffee-growing. Voicing, we presume, the sentiments of the Brazil growers, the *Brazilian Review* greets the delegate in these words : "The report on the proceedings of the Southern India Association of planters is interesting and significant. If our planters are in a bad way, others are still worse, and we have only to persist in order to drive them and every competitor from the field and have it all to ourselves. It is evident that matters must be very serious when British planters in India, who come of a stock not easy to beat, are inclined to give up the struggle and send out agents to determine whether it is any good to continue to struggle against the inevitable." This is cruel and significant, to use the term employed by the *Review*. He or the nation that would be saved needs no other warning. Brazil can, with ease, drive all competitors from the field ; she says she will, and we are inclined to the belief that it will happen.

Messrs. Salles, Toledo & Co., Queiros, Barros & Co., and Telles, Quirino and Nogueira by cable from Brazil estimate the next Santos crop from 4,000,000 to 5,000,000.

Messrs. John Moore & Co., Rio, cable : "Drouth has done damage to growing coffee crop, but cannot say extent."

Messrs. Padro, Chaves & Co., Santos, cable : "Prospects of next crop becoming less favourable ; drouth has done considerable damage."

Cable advices from Rio say that the *Brazilian Review* of October 27 reports that Mr. Duuring returned from the interior and says that there is very little coffee remaining in the interior.

Three prominent commissarios in Brazil have cabled Europe estimating the yield of the next Santos crop at 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 bags.

**Coffee in London.**—A dull and heavy atmosphere has been hanging around Mincing Lane markets generally this week, says the *London Commercial Record* of 20th ultimo, marking an unpleasant change from the recent and almost universal activity. Even a market like Coffee, surrounded as it is by a favourable bull position, has become quiet in all its branches. Evidently the advices from Havre have not been very encouraging lately, and the tone ruling in that Coffee centre has affected us. Statistically, as far as can be ascertained, there is no change which could bring about a reaction, we may therefore look for a renewal of the recent good markets, and it is to be hoped that such an improvement will extend in a marked degree to actual Coffee. Although much better, yet the demand for spot Coffee has not been as keen and thorough as holders would like to see ; there has been a half-hearted desire to acquire some spot lots and higher prices have been granted, but the buying has not been general. Strange to say, no interest is evinced so far in the new crops of fine East Indian Plantation sorts. Is it that we are still holding too much of them, or is it that we cannot get to reasonable terms with the Indian planters ? What-



ever the reason may be, the fact remains that with a few exceptional cases not a bag of East Indian has been sold on c.i.f. terms in our market. It seems impossible to bridge over the difference in the idea of values—about 5 per cent.—entertained by producers and consumers. With everything in their favour as far as statistical position of Coffee goes, the planters in the South of India are hardly likely to reduce their prices to an appreciable extent, they will rather, we feel sure, run the risk of the market and consign to London later. By that time probably the affairs in Brazil will have made itself felt in European markets and prices will be conceded which our consumers now scoff at. Every year there has been a struggle between planters and European dealers about the range of prices at which the new season had to be opened, and in many instances the former have had to give way to the strength of buyers, backed up by heavy stocks and enormous Brazilian crops, but it is different this year, for not only are stocks and Brazilian crops small, but the East Indian yield also promises a falling off. It is estimated that Nilgiris will produce about 60% and Coorg about 70% of last year's total, and what is also of great importance, the quality will be considerably improved. Last year, as we all know, the crop was seriously spoilt by rain—not so this season. An opportunity has evidently come to the hard-pressed planter at last, and he will not be slow in availing himself of it. Our consumers and planters, who make a speciality of these fine coffees, ought not to lose sight of this, but buy as long as they can do so at a comparatively low figure. 52s. c.i.f. was asked for a good Salem and 53s. c.i.f. for a good Nilgiri crop, which met with no response worthy of the name. When Continental exchanges are tightening again, no doubt our dealers will gather more courage, and we may hope for the opening of the season.

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**New Orleans Coffee Trading.**—Trading in coffee futures on the New Orleans Board of Trade commenced November 2 and the opening was as successful as could be anticipated, considering the fact that the venture was entirely new. One thousand bags of coffee were sold at the first call, and quotations were had on almost all the months. At the second call 750 bags were sold, making altogether 1,750 bags. More than 200 men interested in the coffee trade were present, and great interest was shown by all. The bidding was lively and the local market showed a healthy tone from the start. Seven sales were made at calls and several bids were made thereafter.

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**Nicaragua Coffee Damaged.**—The volcano of Santiago, in Nicaragua has been in eruption, and the consequent fall of ashes has damaged a considerable number of coffee plantations in the neighbourhood of Masaya and Masatope. It is said the coffee crops will be very small in other departments.

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**A Bear Note Which Pipes Weakly.**—Following is a market statement inspired by a prominent coffee house in the United States, leader as a bear for some years, and now thought to have become a bull. The tone indicates the shift:

"The increased activity in the coffee markets, both for futures and actual merchandise, indicates a more general belief in information now so freely circulated about a smaller outturn of the present Brazil crop than was thought possible some months ago. Receipts have not yet fallen off perpendicularly as predicted to coincide with the reduced estimates, but while the movement

should soon be smaller in a natural way, receipts must fall off sharply in the near future, if the total is to be 11,000,000 instead of previous figures of 13,000,000 bags. Explanations are being sought that will account for the change in figures. While it is quite likely that the crisis of over-production and low prices wrought some influence, and farmers have been turning attention to raising other products for their own uses, climatic conditions have played some part, the full effect of this not being known, or probably will not be revealed until the prospects of the now growing crop can be definitely determined."

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**Santos Coffee Market.**—The market letter in the *Brazilian Review*, from Santos, October 2, contains the following:—

"For the past fortnight our market has gone up steadily and exporters were able to do a profitable business. Commissarios were ready sellers at higher rates. The prospects for the new crop have taken a less favourable turn. The second large flowering has come out, but the continued heavy drouth here caused serious damage. The flowers were burned by the sun, and have, to a large extent, turned brown.

"As regards the present crop, it is remarkable that receipts have not fallen off as yet to a larger extent, but the next fortnight should be decisive. It is generally expected that the drop in receipts will be surprisingly sudden. The principal movement is still in primes and superiors. Good average has been dealt in this year to only a small extent. Regulars and lower grades are slack; peaberries are in strong demand and fetch fancy prices; lower grades of peaberry scarce but in good demand; Old Yellows and Washed slow.

"The S. Paulo Railway will, from October 1, reduce tariff for coffee between Santos and Jundiacy 10 per cent.

"The Journal says that we may shortly expect the visit of a certain viscomte, who claims to have formed a syndicate in Paris to buy coffee, but is classed by the police of Paris with Adolpho Coelho and similar knights of industry!

"A Evolucao, of Casa Branca (S. Paulo), says that 'there was a beautiful flowering after the rain, but that the dry weather that succeeded is seriously injuring the tender coffee beans'."

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**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The coffee market is unsettled with prices in options subject to fluctuation, but steady and advanced a fraction in actual. It is eminently a speculators' market. These naturally like an unsettled state of affairs as permitting profitable and active trading, and they are bringing it about. It is a safe prediction that they will hold sway for some time to come unless there should be a sudden change in other financial activities, making trading other than in coffee more attractive. This seems scarcely probable in the immediate future. The orders have been to sell and buy, and they have been heavy. No inconsiderable profits have been realized by those who undertook transactions when coffee looked and was cheap.

A bull point was the world's visible supply on November 1, which unexpectedly fell short of 14,000,000 pounds. The deliveries in Europe in the month of October proved unusually heavy, and this saved the extra high record. The receipts have been smaller in Brazil, according with the predictions freely sent in. Brazil is not inclined to press its coffee for sale, and consequently its market as a rule has been above parity here. At the close firm offers received included Rio No. 7 at 6c. c. and f., and Rio No. 5, same terms, at 6½c. Owing to the weaker optional markets, the spot invoice market closed a trifle easier, quotations being 5½c. for Rio No. 8, 6½c. for Rio No. 7, 7½c. for Rio No. 4, and 7½ to 7¾c. for Santos No. 4. The consuming trade feels deterred from buying on the advancing prices and so jobbing is limited.

Mild coffee is firm with more movement. The stocks of buyers having run somewhat low, owing to buyers' abstention from entering the market in recent weeks, because of the lack of attractive prices, they have been compelled to come in and have made considerable purchases at the prices asked. Good Cucuta closed 8¾. to 8½c. East India coffees are steady.

Sales during the last week were 183,000 bags.

Stocks in Havre 3,449,000 bags, of which 2,803,000 bags are Brazilian.

Total stock in United States November 1, 2,491,208 bags against 2,594,941 bags November 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States November 7, in store and afloat, 2,639,389 bags against



2,728,411 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 354,093 bags, against 232,308 bags last year.  
Brazil coffee in New York November 7, 2,014,566 bags. Stock in other coffees, November 1, 314,420; in San Francisco, 34,722 bags and in New Orleans, 4,951 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, November 1, 13,918,131 bags.

**U. S. Coffee Market Review.**—Messrs. Henry Nordlinger & Co. review the coffee market as follows: Our last report was dated October 7. The receipts at Rio and Santos during last month exceeded earlier expectations by about 200,000 bags. This increased movement to ports did not deter speculators from continuing their purchases on a big scale. They argued: "The more comes into sight now, the less will come forward later on." They claim that the present crop will not be more than 11,000,000 bags; some talk even of 10,000,000 to 10,500,000 bags, but we cannot see any reason for reducing our own estimate of 11,500,000 bags, which is the result obtained by a pure and simple mathematical calculation based on the July-September receipts, and if we include the October receipts, we would have to raise our estimate somewhat. The quantity to reach shipping ports out of this crop is however subject to the influences which the prospects for the following, or 1904-5 crop, may exercise. Should these prospects point to a much smaller crop than the one we are in, then it would have to be expected that planters will retain inland a part of what they have left from their present crop. This might have the tendency to reduce the receipts at Rio and Santos for the crop year to the extent of half a million, or even a million, bags, but the coffee would exist just the same, and would be likely to come forward in the following crop year if a high enough price can be obtained.

The prospects reported so far for the growing crop are not at all flattering. To start with, a large percentage of trees were ruined by the frost of August last year, and another very large number has been damaged to such an extent that the planters found it necessary to cut them down so as to give the roots a chance to sprout again. We do not think we err if we say that 20 to 25 per cent. of all the trees in the State of São Paulo have thus been put out of bearing for at least four or five years; therefore record crops, such as we have had of recent years, may be considered a matter of the past.

There have been some very low estimates received here with regard to the 1904-5 crop; but we consider it ridiculous to pay any attention to them, because no one can estimate a crop before the blossoming season has even been passed. We still have the November-December flowering before us, then it remains to be seen how the fruit sets and how it develops, whether sufficient rain falls, or too much rain, etc., and for this reason the next crop cannot be estimated within millions of bags until some time next April or May, when harvesting takes place, and it is found what the cherries contain.

The enormous existing stocks should be a warning post against a too rapid advance in price at the present time. This is no small barrier to be removed by a wave of the hand, like some of our speculative friends would have it, by simply arguing that these big stocks are taken care of, and we must look ahead and see what the future has in store. With regard to the immediate future, we can figure approximately on a consumption of Brazils during the next eight months of about 7,750,000 bags against which we have to expect receipts at Rio and Santos during the same period of about 5,250,000 bags.

Bogotas and Maracaibos are now proportionately the cheapest coffees in the market. They are bound to benefit by the rise in price of Brazils, and we do not hesitate to recommend purchases of them.

TEA NOTES.

**Tea Exports.**—The following figures of tea exports taken from the Calcutta Customs Daily Entries and received periodically from Chittagong are issued by the Indian Tea Association:—Quantity of tea entered for export to United Kingdom for the second half of November, 1903, Calcutta: 10,138,370 lbs.; Chittagong 2,918,346 lbs.; Quantity entered during the corresponding period last year: Calcutta,

7,269,273 lbs.; Chittagong 1,403,300 lbs.; Total from 1st April, 1903, to 30th November, 1903: Calcutta, 107,309,932 lbs.; Chittagong 21,587,551 lbs.; Total 128,897,483 lbs.; Total from 1st April, 1902, to 30th November, 1902, 117,086,836 lbs.

From the 1st to the 30th November the bonus, at the rate of half-an-anna per pound, has been paid on 455,495 lbs. of Indian green tea. The quantity on which bonus has been paid from the beginning of the season to 30th November is 1,703,732½ lbs.

The following telegram with reference to the tea crop in the various districts has been despatched by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association here to the Committee of the Association in London:—Assam—Outturn last month good; season likely to close shortly. Cachar—Outturn last month good; weather favourable. [Sylhet—Outturn last month good; weather favourable.] Dooars—Outturn last month about normal; season is practically closed. Darjeeling—Season is practically closed.

**Colombo Tea Sale.**—There was, says the *Times of Ceylon* of 2nd instant, a good demand for all kinds, and prices were firm but irregular. All broken with any appearance sold at advanced rates, while common to medium were about steady. Green teas were slightly dearer.

**Tea Stocks in London.**—On the first instant the Ceylon stock stood at 18,900,000 lbs., down 300,000 lbs. since the 1st November; and the Indian stock 56,200,000 lbs., up 6,100,000 lbs. in the month. The totals on the corresponding date in the past two years were as follow:—

		Ceylon. lbs.	India. lbs.
1st December, 1901	...	20,400,000	60,900,000
" " 1902	...	21,000,000	58,600,000

**American Tea Consumption.**—Americans are apparently becoming greater tea-drinkers, says the *Spice Mill*, for in 1903 the net imports of that article were 104,632,260 pounds, against 73,374,041 in 1902. Compared with the preceding years the imports from Japan increased more than 7,000,000 pounds, and there was an increase from China of more than 19,000,000 pounds. The gross imports of coffee in the fiscal year 1902 were 1,091,004,380 pounds, while in 1903 only 915,066,380 pounds came in. Despite the falling off in imports, which was probably due to the market having a large supply on hand, the amount transhipped and exported was 47,701,306 pounds, against 34,462,615 pounds in the previous year. It is interesting to note that the *per capita* consumption of coffee is about thirteen pounds, while that of tea is one and one-half pounds. The price of tea, however, is more than double that of coffee.—Government Official Report.

**British-grown Tea in the U. S.**—The expansion of the drinking of Indian and Ceylon teas in America has been on so large a scale, chiefly as the result of the extensive advertising done at the expense of the cess funds, and presumably satisfactory to the growers of the tea, that it is surprising, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, to learn that the British tea men are becoming weary of submitting to the tax, saying that it is about time they were absolved



from further expense on that account, and that now and hereafter it should be provided by the distributors and store-keepers here. Probably the growers and manufacturers are not aware that this is already being done in a large way, but they should not expect that on that account they need to stop. Those who are so enterprising are encouraged to take hold and to continue by noting the strong first steps, the courage and the sympathy of the primal sources, and so the movement grows by accretion. Others want to follow where they see a path so well blazed. The Indian tea men tired of advertising, and they lost proportionately as the Ceylon men continued and spent more money, so that they are glad to resubmit to a tax that they may recover what they have lost. This is eminently an age of publicity. The advertiser gets the business, mostly at the expense of the one that does not. China teas are not advertised, and in effect Japanese is not worth the mention, and the end is as inevitable as it can be unless there is a change whereby the Japanese and the Chinese alter their policies and the British men throw away a pound to save a penny. We imagine, however, that the objections have been much overstated, and that the Britishers do not contemplate seriously giving up so effective an agency for the enlargement of the use of their tea as publicity.

Anyway, the Indian and Ceylon men are going to spend much money at St. Louis exhibiting their teas and also their coffees. A sum upwards of £10,000 will be spent on the former and a considerable amount, although less, on the latter. There is to be a fine bungalow for the exhibition of the tea, which is to be so attractively done that there is sure to be a call for the tea outside of the exhibition grounds, and arrangements are going to be made to establish agencies for the sale of it. This is certainly wise. What is the use of exciting a demand for anything and then not providing a supply? The Indian coffee men are going to be as enterprising as their tea brothers. There is going to be no lack of Indian coffee to drink, or for sale, and if it is as good as the songs sing of it, there is a great treat ahead for the great central part of these United States, which will provide the main share of the visitors, and therefore chiefly benefit in those good things that the exhibition provides. We are great lovers of coffee, and ever disposed to welcome any new comer that has merit. We do not see why there should not be a market here for the celebrated kinds, but as in all things, they must be properly introduced, and what is very important, be afterwards properly managed. Exotics require very careful nursing. Probably \$75,000 will be spent in displaying the set two Indian and Ceylon products, and there will be a great amount of coming together and ideas which cannot be measured in dollars. The Porto Rico growers also plan a large campaign, which includes the giving away of 200,000 packages of their coffee. Presumably nothing but what is near to the best will be presented, and so all in all visitors may expect good treatment in the line of beverages, and, of course, they will reciprocate by taking home with them a consuming taste for the things freely offered them.

British tea is being bought up from the London market for Germany. It is sold afterward in the fatherland as Russian tea.

It is now figured that only 7,000,000 pounds of Congous teas will be imported into the United States this season.

About 12,000,000 pounds were passed through New York alone last season, and that on top of the great accumulation of the year before. About 4,000,000 pounds have been exported to England since January 1.

**Colombo Tea Shipments to the U. K.**—The following is the latest Chamber of Commerce official tea telegram:—

November shipments	...	...	6½ millions
December estimate	...	...	9½ to 10 "

The November estimate was 7 millions. The shipments for November and December last year were 6,434,305 lbs. and 9,112,975 lbs., respectively.

**London Tea Market.**—Cabling to Colombo on the 3rd instant Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton report:—Heavy supplies of Indian are depressing the market. The market for Medium-Liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak. The market for Common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is weak. The price of Fair-Liquoring Ceylon Pekoe Souchong is 6¼d. The average price of Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Account this week was—7½d. (down ½d.).

North America continues to take increasing quantities of British-grown tea, as shown by the result of the first six months' working of the year 1903, viz.: 1903, 12,029,417 pounds; 1902, 8,624,299 pounds; 1901, 8,336,017 pounds; 1900, 6,820,884 pounds.

**Calcutta Tea Sales.**—Some 20,000 packages were before the trade at the auctions on the 4th instant. Quality generally speaking was poor for the time of year especially from Dooars and Darjeeling whence there is a marked paucity of good Autumn teas. The market was again strong and active and prices all round were fully firm; the best liquoring sorts being in many cases dearer. Bombay buyers were scarcely so busy as of late and an easier tone was noticeable in some teas suitable for these demands. Green teas, with pale bright liquors, were steady, brownish liquoring sorts, however, were easier.

Another report says:—In spite of the poor quality of offerings brought forward at yesterday's auctions, the market, taken as a whole, showed no weakening. Demand for common leaf grades was rather better than last week and those descriptions may be quoted fully firm to occasionally dearer. Medium kinds showed a somewhat quieter tone and were irregular but marked no further decline. The better classes when possessing any approach to quality continued in request and sold at fair prices. It was noticeable that native buyers for the Bombay and Gulf demand did not display that keenness to secure every available parcel that has characterised their operations during the past few weeks, but although the neat leaf Pekoe kinds were not so strongly supported for those outlets as the room has become accustomed to look for, yet they sold freely throughout, only conceding 1—2 points, Green teas again met with a good reception, the few invoices of choice quality seem realising very satisfactory rates. Reuter's London market wire came through as follows:—"Market generally firm at previous rates. Mediums rather easier."

**An American Report.**—The stringency in green tea is the remarkable feature of the present season. Earlier reports were that there would be at least sufficient to go around,



and even a substantial surplus seemed in prospect. Now all on a sudden the market finds itself short, and there is the old hunt for the elusive green. It may prove that dealers with an eye on speculation have brought about what might be called a corner, but that remains to be seen, and in due time we shall know. On top of this realization comes, too, the well founded report that the Ceylon green tea makers will not next year enjoy their bonus, amounting in American money, to one and one-third cents a pound, and this circumstance it is thought will materially incline the tea makers to turn their attention to the exclusive making of black tea, in which there is much larger profit. We presume that the India green tea makers will think and act the same. It remains to be said that the British green tea has made many friends in the market here, and, altogether, has created for itself a very substantial foundation, so much so that it would seem that all lower grade China and Japan teas of the green kind must give way to it. Good quality, low price and push is now all that is necessary. In quality some improvement has been noted all along, especially in the Ceylons, which have been found superior to the Indian green tea in strength and general flavour. A restriction in the manufacture of these teas will all the more complicate the market for the future. Canada seems to have had the news before the local tea men and bought largely in anticipation.

\* \* \*

Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co. report the following table of tea exports from Japan this season to October 5, with comparisons:—

	Total. 1903-04.	Total. 1902-03.	Total. 1901-02.
N. Y., Str. or Sail & R.R. ...	7,109,438	4,058,930	6,495,473
New York <i>via</i> Suez Canal ...	4,515,460	7,523,142	4,607,013
San Francisco ...	5,055,942	2,675,903	3,068,373
Chicago and West ...	15,523,570	12,448,959	11,519,734
Canada ...	3,340,079	2,480,532	4,995,816
Europe, etc. ...	180,243	130,789	179,911
Totals ...	35,724,732	29,318,255	30,866,320

#### Comparative Arrivals and Settlements.

Total arrivals—At both ports, 313,384 pcls., against 289,304 pcls. same time last year, and 282,397 pcls. in 1901.

Total settlements—At both ports, 309,186 pcls., against 282,736 pcls. same time last year, and 275,312 pcls. in 1901. Exclusive of export transactions at Shidzuoka and other interior points.

\* \* \*

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—The tea market is firm in all teas, and a business fairly large in volume is reported. The greens are especially firm. Although produced this season in excess over that of last year, the demand for them has increased, and then the country has been completely denuded of all stocks because of the shortages in the supplies in the last few years. The market has been further tightened by the reported shortening in the production of British green teas. The great supply that was threatened early in the year is now scarcely probable, owing to the greater profit that is being found in the manufacture of British black teas, which have advanced considerably in price. However, the facts are that up to the present time bonuses have been paid in Ceylon on 9,000,000 pounds, and two months more of the bonus remain; India will produce 4,000,000 pounds, and all in all about 15,000,000 pounds may be looked for at the end of this calendar year. Canada will take two-thirds of this quantity.

Japans are included in firm teas. Opinion to this effect is not unanimous however. Consumption of the tea has shrunk, it is held, owing to the deteriorating quality of the tea and its greatly enhanced price, so that people here are taking more and more to the China green teas, Formosa and the British green teas. Besides, in Canada, the tea has met with a decidedly diminished demand; Ceylon and India greens have been found too strong as competitors.

Formosas are firm in all grades, and are improving in price. This has disappointed some houses, especially large retail houses, so that these are turning their attention to Foochows, in which in the past week they have made heavy purchases, some 7,500 packages. There is still much of this tea unsold in this market, but it is from one to two years old, and prices being equal the attraction naturally lies with the new tea. Congous hold firm with upward tendency. The tea is practically on a 9c. basis and better. The expectation is that it will shortly sell for 10c. and at 12c. in the course of two months. London is from time to time advancing its bids. The price for the British-grown teas is constantly advancing there and makes such China growths as we have here in abundance look cheap and they buy. The advancing market in Ceylon and India blacks is felt here. They are very firm and hardening constantly.

Advices from Canada report the condition of the tea market as most satisfactory, a general activity in all grades being observable, Ceylon greens apparently being the principal grades, some very large orders having been taken. China blacks are receiving a little more attention. Japans, low and medium grades are in good demand, with stocks light and prices hard.

London advices in China tea say there has been a fairly active market in low price teas, and some quantity of Foochow kinds have been sold to arrive for direct shipment to the Continent at 4½d. to 5½d., thus showing that they were very hard up for low price tea. There is now little to be bought under 5d. per pound, and, with a rising market in Indian and Ceylon growths, the trade may soon get a quotation of 5½d. for common Chinas. Fresh arrivals of China teas continue to dribble in, but they are quickly absorbed, and tea men cannot now look to America to send us any more at a cost of 5d. per pound. In Indian tea a buoyant feeling has characterized the market at the advance lately exhibited. High-grade tea is becoming increasingly scarce. Latest arrivals of fine Assams showing a marked falling off in quality to the extent of pence per pound. Assam Pekoe Souchongs have been in active request from 7d. to 8d., notably those with point in cup, but Assam Pekoes at similar prices have a comparatively disappointing sale, although they offer very fair value. In Ceylon tea there is an active demand for most grades at firmer prices. The smallness of the weekly offerings are barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the trade, and as no immediate increase is possible there is every reason to expect a continuance of present values. Many of the invoices now arriving are of excellent quality, though there is a paucity of stand-out character. One or two choice lots, however, have realized higher prices than for a considerable time past.

Rejections—	Packages.	Pounds.
Foochow ...	605	26,100
Country Green ...	15	800
Canton ...	12	400

\* \* \*

**Indian Tea.**—Indian tea occupies a stronger position now than it has for several years past, notwithstanding the efforts that have been made to get prices down to a lower level. For a time, says the *Grocer*, some of the larger operators were keeping out of the market for this very purpose, but without avail, as not many of the trade carried an excess of stock to last awhile, and they were soon compelled to come in again as free buyers. In September importers were inclined to overweight the market with supplies by auction. In one week about 50,000 packages of Indian tea were catalogued, but found the dealers less prepared to operate, it having become their policy in recent years to buy only sufficient for their immediate wants, and not to hold heavy surplus stocks as formerly. Under this pressure to realise prices dropped about ½d. per pound for the common qualities down to 5½d., upon which adverse turn holders at once restricted their offerings to about 40,000 packages per week, and came to an understanding among themselves not to place more tea on show than sufficed for the moment to meet the necessary requirements of the trade. It is nevertheless difficult to reconcile all interests in this respect, but the principle not to anticipate matters is often a sound one, especially as later reports concerning the crop are apt to modify the earliest impressions, and instead of an increased yield there may be a shorter one, or *vice versa*.

With regard to this season's crop of Indian tea, expectations are in favour of its turning out to be heavier than in 1902-03, notably so in the Assam, Sylhet, Oachar, Dooars, and Darjeeling districts,



though the increased production for the United Kingdom (from 12,000,000 lbs. to 16,000,000 lbs. more than last year) has been retarded by the shortage of labour and other difficulties in the way of an extended cultivation. Competent authorities are of opinion that the bushes will not maintain their average flushing power throughout the season, and should this prove to be the case in a material sense importers will have a strong hand, for the reason that old season's stocks of tea that put in an appearance last year will not be available this time. There is also another fact to be taken into account, viz., that the shipments of tea from Ceylon to London this year have run decidedly short, being already about 6,000,000 lbs. less than those in 1902—a deficiency which will help to counterbalance the big surplus in the Indian description. Many invoices of the latter have by now passed the hammer in public sale, and the fine and finest parcels have gone off with a lively competition at long and satisfactory prices, the more so where there was anything "tippy," with choice ripe flavour "in the cup." A healthy demand always exists for stand-out and choicest teas, and the brisk competition for these clearly proves that the consumer is not entirely carried away with a desire for common tea, in spite of the public craze for cheapness. Only a little more push on the part of retailers is needed to place desirable teas before their customers, so as sensibly to increase their sale and consumption. Growers also have their part to perform, and would do well to pay special attention to the manufacture of fine teas.

During the past weeks, however, arrivals have exhibited a falling off in quality, partly attributable to coarse plucking, and also in a measure due to the climatic conditions peculiar to the present season. The deterioration has, as usual, chiefly affected the value of the medium grades, causing them visibly to depreciate, and thus widening the gap between ordinary and the finer sorts. A good proportion of the new crop has likewise consisted of common tea of an inferior grade, and the larger quantities offered explain the decline in price above mentioned. To contribute support importers have resorted to numerous withdrawals at auction, but have afterwards frequently placed their teas privately on terms more favourable to themselves than were possible to obtain in the confusion that at times prevails in the public sale room. The scarcity of common leaf has been much felt, sweet, clean tea having lately been difficult to get under 6½d. per pound, and it is said that money has been systematically lost in order to maintain the cheap canister.

\* \* \*

**September Tea Importations in the U. S.**—According to statistics published by the Department of Commerce, tea importations into the United States during September last were 13,914,207 pounds compared with 9,608,568 pounds in September one year ago. The Chinese Empire furnished 6,315,290 pounds, and the Japan ports 6,047,615 pounds.

The imports during the first nine months of the calendar year were 64,270,228 pounds against 56,731,442 pounds in the same time in 1902, and 44,769,854 pounds in 1901.

The tea imported this year averages a cost of 17¼c. a pound; the cost of that imported in 1902, duty of 10c. off, was 13½c., and that imported in 1901 13c., duty subtracted.

\* \* \*

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* has the following in its commercial column:—"The recent drop in tea freights from Colombo to Australia is not likely to have any beneficial result so far as local importers are concerned. The Colombo market has advanced exactly in proportion to the decline in freight. This is, of course, highly advantageous to Ceylon tea-planters, as well as to the Colombo tea trade. The development mentioned in our last issue is largely the outcome of the charter of the "Hobart" for the Australian markets. Those who undertook the venture really did the Australian tea trade a valuable service, although the pioneers of cheap freight are at the present time being boycotted by shipping companies, who are demanding a 75- (sic) rupee freight, as against 15 rupees, which is the open rate for two months (sic). It is generally believed that freights will at the end of that time return to a common 35-rupee basis. The recent ruling rate of 50 rupees means about 52s. per ton to Australian importers, as against 25s. to London. It is little wonder, therefore, that the spirit of dissatisfaction and unrest has been so largely abroad among Australian tea-men for a long time past. Whether the

Colombo market will come back to meet a 35-rupee freight later on remains to be seen. Local importers, however, are of the opinion that the present shifty condition of the Colombo freight market will not materially alter laid-down cost for Ceylon tea in buyers' favour, but rather the reverse."

\* \* \*

**Consumption of Tea in Canada.**—The excess of imports over exports of tea for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, as 16,760,287 pounds, has drawn attention to a remarkable fact in the tea situation in Canada, says the *Canadian Grocer*. While the consumption of tea has by no means decreased in Canada, the importations last year were abnormally low and the exports unusually large.

For the preceding five years our importation of tea was as follows:—

For the fiscal years ending:—

				Pounds.
June 30, 1898	...	...	...	19,954,562
" 1899	...	...	...	25,055,607
" 1900	...	...	...	25,069,002
" 1901	...	...	...	23,044,314
" 1902	...	...	...	19,530,655

The fact is that for the last year the trade has been drawing on the stocks usually held. The uncertainty prevailing has led to hand-to-mouth dealing and stocks are now in most lines very light.

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**The Persian Tea Duty.**—The remarkable muddling which can be allowed to prevail in a Government Department has just been again demonstrated in a most striking way.

Quite recently, Mr. H. H. Lynch asserted that "Indian tea, which has almost a monopoly in Persia, pays an increased duty of 95 per cent."

The publication of this news, coming from such an authority as Mr. Lynch, at once stirred the big tea firms to action. In reply to their inquiries, Mr. H. S. Foster, the Consul-General for Persia, 122, Victoria Street, wrote stating, that prior to February 14th of this year, all teas paid an import duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. On that date the new Customs tariff came into force, and by it the duties were fixed as follows: White tea, per 6·54 lbs. 3s. 9d.; and all other teas per 6·54 lbs., 2s. 3d. On February 9th, however, a special commercial Convention was concluded between the United Kingdom and Persia, and this was ratified on May 27th. Under this Convention tea appeared in the schedule as follows: yellow or pale tea: per 6·54 lbs., 6s. 9d.; and other sorts, 4s. 6d.

"This you will perceive," added Mr. Foster, is an increase of 80 per cent. on the green teas, so-called, and of 100 per cent. upon all other classes. I have been unable, up to the present, to get any explanation of this strange alteration. The English Foreign Office say that the Convention tariff was a mistake, whatever that may mean, and that the commercial tariff of February 14th is correct. The Board of Trade here say that the Convention tariff is right, but that they are acting on the Commercial tariff."

Special investigations in London confirm Mr. Foster's view of the extraordinary confusion which exists. The Board of Trade is still inquiring.

At the Foreign Office it is claimed that the confusion is due to the carelessness of a clerk who copied *en bloc* the Russian tariff. This, it is true, formed the basis, and was originally the exact shape of our own treaty. But one change was made; tea was reduced by British representation from the higher (or second) figure to the lower (or earlier).

The great point, however, is, can Persia charge the higher duties? There is possibly something of a political nature behind all this mystery.

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**Green and Black Teas.**—At the Annual Meeting of Lanka Plantations Company the Chairman, Mr. George Allen, said that he noticed that some 800,000 lbs. green tea had come to the United Kingdom, and he wanted to know what had become of it. He was informed that lately there had been practically no common black tea in London, and when common tea rose in value, fine teas like theirs suffered proportionately. He hoped that producers of black tea would combine and resist the prolongation of this cess or any other. Green tea could very well afford to stand by itself without help from black-tea producers. Mr. Henry Bois, in seconding the adoption of the report, said that, though he had not seen his way to support the proposed increase of the cess, he



thought the making of green tea had done much to relieve the black-tea market. As regards the green tea which had come here, much of it was in transshipment to Canada and elsewhere. Mr. Forbes Laurie said he did not share the Chairman's views about green tea. He thought the present sound position of black-tea was in a great measure due to the amount which had been taken off the market in the form of green tea. He gave figures to show that half the dividend declared was probably due to the action of Ceylon planters in making greens, for, if it had not been for this, the price of the Company's teas would have been a half-penny lower. Speaking as a former cocoa planter, he thought the Company would do well to get rid of Yattewatte at any reasonable price and devote their entire attention to tea. Pará rubber did well in Ceylon about sea level, but he doubted its being a success at Yattewatte.

NOTES.

**Java Cinchona.** The half-monthly shipments from Java in November amounted to 225,000 Amst. lbs., against 758,000 Amst. lbs. last year.

**Fertilizers.** It is considered that crude calcium cyanide (containing 15 to 22 per cent. N.) and possibly cyanide itself (containing 65 per cent. N.) may become valuable commercial fertilizers.

**New Use for Tea Lead.** Demand for discarded tea led is now coming from a new source. Manufacturers of fine glassware are inquiring for it, seemingly using it in the making of cut-glassware. Heretofore makers of bullets have bought the lead. From 3 to 4 cents a pound is paid for it in the United States.

**The Ceylon Cacao Commission.** The final Meeting of the Cacao Commission was held in the Council Chamber at noon on the 2nd instant. The Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Lascelles, Attorney-General, presided, and the others present were:—Messrs. A. C. Kingsford, T. C. Huxley, Peter de Saram, and Eric Watson (*Secretary*).

**Bourbon Vanilla.** A Continental report states that Bourbon vanilla is in a very depressed condition. It is probable, however, that the approaching increased consumption will bring prices somewhat higher, especially as vanillin has now advanced. Tahiti vanilla is also very low in price.

**London and Amsterdam Cinchona-auctions.** The following are the dates on which the monthly cinchona-auctions will be held in London next year, and for reference we also give in brackets the dates fixed for the ten Amsterdam auctions, as per our issue of October 24 :

January	19	[28]	July	12	[28]
February	16	...	August	9	...
March	15	[ 3]	September	13	[ 1]
April	19	[ 7]	October	18	[ 6]
May	10	[19]	November	15	[10]
June	14	[23]	December	6	[15]

**Cacao in the U. S.** Advices dated Washington, October 18, say:—Figures just compiled by the Department of Commerce and Labour, through its Bureau of Statistics, show that the importation of cacao has grown from 9,000,000 pounds in 1883 to 24,000,000 pounds in 1893 and 63,000,000 pounds in 1903. The

value of importations of cacao in crude form has grown from \$1,000,000 in 1883 to \$4,000,000 in 1893 and nearly \$8,000,000 in 1903. Meantime, the importation of manufactured cacao and chocolate has fallen from 1,467,977 pounds in 1897, valued at \$239,819, to 690,824 pounds in 1903, valued at \$144,823. Both cacao and coffee have grown rapidly in favour in the United States in recent years as against tea, which showed no material increase. The coffee importations grew from 515,000,000 pounds in 1883 to 1,091,000,000 pounds in 1902 and 915,066,380 pounds in 1903; those of tea amounted to 73,000,000 pounds in 1883 and only 75,000,000 in 1902, but in 1903 were 108,000,000. Thus, the growth in the importation of cacao has been more rapid proportionately than that of coffee, and much more rapid than that of tea. Other evidence of the growth and popularity of cacao and its product, chocolate, in the United States is in the fact that the number of cacao and chocolate manufacturing establishments reported in the census of 1880 was 7; in 1890, 11, and in 1900, 24, while the capital employed increased from \$530,500 in 1880 to \$6,890,732 in 1900. The value of materials used in manufacturing grew from \$812,403 in 1880 to \$6,876,682 in 1900, and the value of the product from \$1,302,153 in 1880 to \$9,666,192 in 1900.

GENERAL ARTICLES.

PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

New Zealand and British-grown Tea.

According to a cable message from New Zealand, the tariff proposals which the Government have brought before Parliament this week provides for additional duties on foreign goods, amounting to 100 per cent. on cement and from 50 to 20 per cent. on thirty-eight other articles. It also includes a proposal to abolish the duty—2d. a lb.—on tea grown in British dominions, and to impose one of 20 per cent. on foreign teas.

The Labour Troubles of Colombian Coffee-planters.

The coffee industry in Colombia is in a bad way, and scarcity of labour is largely the cause of the trouble. Six years ago, when the price of the berry went up, over-planting resulted. The labourers demanded increased pay when they found there was competition for their services, and finally the revolution of 1899 killed off large numbers by the rifle and disease. The state of the planter is so bad that many large areas have been abandoned. Want of capital is a contributory cause. Mr. S. S. Dickson, British Vice-Consul, in a report just issued by the Foreign Office, adds: "To-day the coffee plantations are, from want of labour, losing half their coffee. Only those who have the best machinery can pretend to do a profitable business. The greater part of the produce of the last three years is still stored in the river ports, as there are no adequate means of despatching it. Formerly the cost of export was one-third of the net value in London. This has, to a large extent, increased, owing to excessive charges, both of transport and of storage."

Planting in the Federated Malay States.

Sir F. A. Swettenham, in his report on the Federated Malay States for 1902, says:—"Planting enterprise in the Federated Malay States has not hitherto proved very successful, but that has not been due to any lack of enterprise or hard work on the part of the planters, who, when one product failed, have tried another, endeavouring with dogged determination to compel a success which they thoroughly deserve and, I trust, will now obtain. The prospects of rubber are so good that, unless some unforeseen disaster happens, the future is full of promise for those who have taken up this cultivation. The area at present under rubber (principally the Pará variety) is given approximately at 16,000 acres."—*H. & O. Mail.*



## GROWTH OF COCOA DRINKING IN THE UNITED STATES.

United States consumption of cocoa has grown more rapidly than that of coffee, and much more rapidly than that of tea. In fact, the use of both cocoa and coffee has increased in the United States in recent years faster than that of tea, which shows no material increase. Following are figures of our import of each of these three articles:—

				Pounds.
Coffee imported:—				
1888	...	...	...	515,000,000
1902	...	...	...	1,091,000,000
1903	...	...	...	915,000,000
Tea imported:—				
1888	...	...	...	75,000,000
1902	...	...	...	75,000,000
1903	...	...	...	108,000,000
Cocoa imported:—				
1880	...	...	...	7,403,643
1885	...	...	...	10,300,120
1890	...	...	...	18,266,177
1895	...	...	...	29,307,048
1900	...	...	...	41,746,872
1901	...	...	...	45,924,353
1902	...	...	...	51,379,396
1903	...	...	...	63,357,294

While our import of crude cacao has increased so largely that of manufactured cocoa and chocolate has fallen from 1,467,977 pounds, valued at \$239,819, in 1897, the year in which the Dingley protective tariff began, to 690,824 pounds in 1903, valued at \$144,823. The benefit to our manufacturing and wage-earning interests is shown in the growth of our cocoa and chocolate factories, quoting Census Bureau figures, the number of factories being seven in 1880, eleven in 1890, and twenty-four in 1900:—

	1880.	1900.
Capital employed	\$530,500	\$6,890,732
Materials used	812,403	6,876,682
Value of product	1,302,153	9,666,192

Experts say that cacao planting in Nicaragua yields \$400 yearly per acre, of which \$350 is profit.

## COFFEE IN LONDON.

The terminal market has remained quiet, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of November 14, although the daily receipts have been on the light side rather than the heavy. Still, after the sharp advance of the last few weeks, it is only natural that a quiet tone should follow, especially as there is even now much uncertainty as to the prospects of the next crop. Those most nearly in touch with the planting interests are confident that climatic variations have considerably affected the trees, and that only a small crop can be looked for, but even this can be minimised by the present crop proving larger than was previously expected, and so neutralising any shortage in the following one. At the auctions the demand has been good, considering the time of year and that the offerings have not been of an attractive nature. Prices have been well maintained; bold Colombian is rather dearer, while very full rates continue to be paid for Nicaragua. It is now reported that last Tuesday's sale contained the last of the Washed Dumont for this season, and, as a result, prices having advanced and profits have been paid on several parcels out of previous auctions.

## TEA IN LONDON.

The *Produce Markets' Review* of November 14, 1903, says:—

INDIAN TEA.—At the public auctions, which comprised 42,890 packages, there was some irregularity in values for teas over 7d., which was due to the falling-off in the quality of some of the growths. Former prices, however, were supported for the lower grades, and practically the lowest quotation for clean sweet tea was 6½d., the market closing steady at this. For the finer qualities, which have been somewhat liberally offered, the most desirable lots have met with a good enquiry, and a large business has been transacted at previous rates. It appears evident, from the increasing demand for this class of tea, that the retailers find it to their advantage to bring the better teas prominently under the notice of the consumers who are prepared to pay a reasonable price, and it

is quite probable that should there be a reduction in the duty in April, the consumption of these kinds will make considerable strides. The medium grades have also been liberally offered and freely taken at about last week's rates. Where weakness in values was observable, it was mainly attributable to poorer quality. The latest advices from Calcutta report that the probable available supply for this market will be from 160,000,000 lbs. to 163,000,000 lbs., a good increase over last year, which would indicate an easier market, but it must not be overlooked that there is a shrinkage in the imports of Ceylon of about 7,000,000 lbs.

CEYLON TEAS.—This market has been rather better supplied, the quantity brought forward on Tuesday having been on a larger scale, although still moderate. There was a good demand, and Whole Leaf kinds up to about 7d. per lb. were well taken at last week's rates, but signs of weakness were apparent in the medium sorts. This was also noticeable in Broken Pekoes, from 7½d. to 9½d., which were occasionally ½d. per lb. easier, but could not be quoted generally lower. Dust continue to be very sparingly offered, and in most cases were dearer, while only a few lots of very ordinary quality sold as low as 6d. At the public sales 18,700 packages were brought forward, of which about 2,500 were withdrawn.

CONGOU TEA.—There has been a good enquiry for all the lower kinds, and prices remain firm. Business in the finer descriptions has been quiet, no transactions of any importance having been reported.

OTHER CHINA TEAS.—There was a strong demand for Moyune Gunpowders at the public sale held on Thursday, and good prices were realised. Medium teas showed a further advance, but there is little alteration to quote in the finer grades. Young Hysons and Sow Mees were of inferior character, and failed to attract much attention. The market for Fancy teas remains quiet, with only a limited demand for Capers. Formosa Oolongs below 1s. are wanted, but the finer sorts are somewhat neglected, and there is no noticeable alteration to quote.

## TEA IN JAPAN.

Mr. Ferguson, of the *Ceylon Observer* staff, has lately visited what he calls "the finest tea district of Japan," viz., the Uji plantations of Nara. Of this he writes: "Tea is supposed to have been introduced into Japan 1,200 years ago by a Buddhist Abbot, and the Uji plantations, which are said to be 800 years old—but, of course, this does not mean that there has not been replanting—have always been considered the chief and best in the country. We had seen a good many patches of tea in different directions before this, chiefly in the form of garden cultivation on the flat; but in one instance, the tea ran up a hillside for some distance. But at Uji, we had continuous fields, though none of any great extent. The bushes were of the small-leaved China variety—some looked as if recently plucked; but much had been allowed to "run" since last plucking (probably in May), so that pruning would be required, according to a planter's idea, before proper flush could be expected. However, the Japanese go about their tea gathering and preparation in their own way. From May onwards is their busy time, and there being no factories, in every peasant's house preparation is going on and the product is collected and sent to Kobe where it is refired, sorted and generally prepared for the American market. The very finest kinds of Uji tea—called in Japanese 'Jewelled Dew,'—are sold at fancy prices at 10s. to 15s. a lb., in small quantities, and, I fancy, for use by the wealthier Japanese themselves.

"The tea fields continued at intervals with us during most of this day's travelling to and beyond Nara, towards Kameyama; but very often the little holding had its patch of tea, alongside of the plot of vegetables,—turnips, tomatoes, beans, potatoes and a variety of kitchen garden products well-known to us—some covered with flowers—one a continuous show of a minute white flowers, the plant yielding a small grain-like sago,—or every now and then we come on a patch of mulberry shrubs grown on one stem with abundance of leafage to feed the silkworms so carefully attended to by the thrifty Japanese. Yet again, we find the line of tea-bushes alternating with a row of mulberry shrubs, or even vegetables. As we got into the upland districts—a few hundred feet higher—we ran up the glens in terraces, Kandyan fashion, with the tea alongside or above, and sometimes we came on patches of tea cultivated 'patana' land; but evidently manured. The primitive 'cottage' preparation of Japanese tea is said to be against the product's appearance and uniformity as presented in



America even with all the care taken at the shipping ports before packing; and a proposal is now being discussed in the Kobe press, for the establishment of exporters' factories in the tea districts, for the prompt 'firing' and preparation of tea as likely to result in a product better able to compete with that of Ceylon and India."

"There are difficulties in the way of the change, not the least being the existing factories in Kobe—although land being so dear there, the buildings and sites could be profitably realised—and the trained labour supply, the change involving a serious loss of employment to thousands of women of the 'coolie' class in Kobe. Of course, labour, after the necessary training, should be equally good and even cheaper in the interior in this country of abundant population; and sites for factories could also be readily and economically obtained. One change is fast coming even in Kobe itself, and that is the introduction of labour-saving machinery, such as we know in Ceylon; but on the Yokohama side, the merchants seem quite resolved to set up factories well-equipped with machinery in the Shidsuoka tea districts—which come second only to Uji—so as to endeavour to turn out a superior tea by preserving the natural aroma through speedy firing and refiring after the plucking and rolling. We must be prepared for changes therefore; but how far they may enable Japan tea to recover lost ground in America remains to be seen. One thing seems evident to me, and that is the great scope there should be for increased consumption of tea in Japan itself, in its populous and prosperous cities, especially as the people find what is now a luxury becoming more and more a necessity to them."

"One little incident at the Uji station we must record: arrived there, our carriage is entered by a boy-official in uniform with dainty tea-pot and cups on lacquered stand, and he pours out at once for the travellers in the first-class compartment, what was certainly the most deliciously-flavoured cup of tea we have tasted since leaving Ceylon—and seldom equalled even there. Vastly superior it was to what we have had at hotels or tea-houses, or afterwards, as a matter of course, in trains on side lines in this region where tea is made and presented to special travellers by a young official travelling with the corridor carriages. But at Uji, the young man in uniform did not leave the station,—we stayed long enough for him to give this attention and withdraw,—and it looked as if the arrangement was one based on the desire of enterprising Japanese interested in the tea industry (a 'Thirty Committee') to give the many visitors to and from Nara, and generally along the route through the tea districts, an idea of what the very best of their tea was like. If so, and if we may judge by the delicious cup tendered us at Uji—in the forenoon, be it remembered, and not when we stood specially in need of refreshment,—all we can say, the plan is a good one, for we are not likely in a hurry to forget the aroma of that tiny cup of Uji tea."

## A SOLUBLE COFFEE.

[From the *New York Herald*.]

### A REAL BOON TO SUFFERING HUMANITY.

No more poor coffee! No more grounds!! Throw away your coffee pots!!! A New York coffee merchant, by name of Cauchois, has perfected a process that reduces pure coffee to an impalpable powder, eliminates the bitterness and makes it more soluble than cocoa, develops the entire strength, necessitates less care in preparation, keeps indefinitely, can be made instantaneously in an ordinary cup or pitcher, and sells as low in price as any pure coffee. We understand this to be the acme of research in the coffee business.

It is in cases just like this that everybody interested in the business will say, "Well! why didn't I or somebody else think of so simple a thing years ago." Only the other day a man got a patent for reflecting the eye sight along a gun barrel so that a soldier could stand or lie in a trench with the top of his head six inches below his gun barrel and sight it perfectly, instead of exposing the top of his head to the enemy as heretofore; a simple thing, of course, but why didn't you or a lot of people think of it? You have often looked into a telescope downward and seen the constellation above; it is simply reflection. In this case the inventor, finding that it was possible to reduce coffee to an impalpable powder without heating or gumming it up, first reduces the coffee to a granulated form in a mill that separates the coffee from the chaff. This chaff is the part of coffee which contains most of the tannin, and when steeped alone makes a splendid gargle for a sore throat (it being so great an astringent) and when left in the

coffee makes it bitter in the drinking, so when the coffee is made in a tin pot the least bit rusted, it forms tannate of iron (which is writing ink) so to speak. Then with the addition of a little pure sugar he runs it through his patent mill, with a blast that prevents it from becoming heated, for without this cooling, the coffee, being ground so fine, would become deprived of its flavour, and without the aid of sugar the machine would gum up, instead of which the sugar aids in the grinding, and readily absorbs the oil as the coffee is crushed. Under a microscope this fact reveals itself—the sugar is saturated with it. Sugar, as we all know, is a preservative, and it is found that the sugar keeps the ground product more perfectly and for a very much longer period than coffee keeps in the roasted bean state. Fruits are preserved with sugar, and still they are pure fruits, hence the reasonableness of calling this product "pure coffee."

The product is like velvet to the touch and dark chestnut in color. Take a pinch of it, it is like a confection; you take another, and it is palatable; take a given weight of it with a similar weight of Baker's Cocoa, place them in a cup, put the same amount of boiling, bubbling water on each, give them a stir, let stand for a few minutes, draw them off, and you'll find less than half the sediment in the cup that the coffee was steeped in than that of the cocoa—more than half of it apparently soluble in an exceedingly short time. The sugar acts as a clarifier also, yet does not sweeten it to the extent of not needing sugar as usual when drinking. And even if some of the sediment should by chance get on the tongue, one would not realize it—it is so smooth, not gritty like coffee grounds.

The patent is concise, clear, and most broad, exceptionally broad, and is registered in all the principal foreign countries.

Professor Wiley at Washington, who has distinguished himself in carrying on the recent food tests on human beings, after thoroughly testing this product at his laboratory, wrote a nine-page report upon it to the Commissioner of Patents, lauding the process and recommending its being granted as applied for. He speaks of it as a product "in which the liquid and oily particles of the coffee berry are uniformly distributed throughout the absorbent mass in a way which cannot be secured by any other known process, thus allowing these particles to be rapidly set free when brought in contact with hot water and to give up almost instantly their active principles to the decoction." "This," adds the professor, "is a desideratum which has long been wished for in coffee, and which has now been attained."

The new soluble coffee is being put up for the market by "The Private Estate Man," in one-pound paste board cartons, non-sifting, and lithographed in red and blue, back and front, with this legend: "One pound, absolutely pure, Coffey's Soluble Coffee, 'Premium Brand,' F. A. Cauchois & Co., the Fulton Mills, Established 1851, New York, U. S. A., Sole Licensees to Manufacture." On the top and bottom is a spread eagle, and the words "Protected by United States Patents," and on one side the following: "This coffee is roasted by a process which preserves the flavour, and ground so all the bitter chaff is removed. With pure sugar it is then reduced to an impalpable powder; keeps perfectly in any climate until used, then permitting all the strength to be extracted easily and quickly, unlike ordinary ground coffee." The package also contains the following by way of directions: "In preparing for the table, the usual way of boiling or leeching may be employed, but, being almost soluble, this is the only coffee known that can be prepared in the following economical and simple manner: Use a heaping teaspoonful for each cup. Put in an ordinary pitcher. Pour on fresh boiling (bubbling) water. Stir it for a second. Let stand for a few minutes, and it's ready to serve." On reverse side the same is printed in German.

Enclosed in each package is a premium list and coupon for "real gold filled jewelry," the articles being guaranteed by the jewelry makers for two years, and really they appear to be of such style that you or I would not be afraid to wear them—on occasions.

One hundred cartons are packed in a case with one handsome show card lithographed in black and gold, the wooden case being lettered on its sides in bright red and blue, while on the ends copies of the premium sheet are pasted. The price at all times will be governed by the ruling market for Ariosa and Lion Coffee.

Mr. Cauchois modestly stated: "I don't want to go on record as expecting to be a competitor of the Arbuckles; they are great people and stand alone, and have my profound respect for the success they have attained, and are entitled to it, but this process



permits me to use not so large or uniform a coffee as theirs, thereby creating a saving in first cost, and, as it is not sold on bean appearance, and there are so many people that buy ground coffee, I may perhaps get some of the crumbs from their table."

I ran a spoon handle through the slot at top to open the carton as directed, took out a teaspoonful, put it in an ordinary pitcher, poured on a large cup of boiling (bubbling) water, stirred it, and then let it stand for a few minutes as directed, and poured off a perfectly clear fluid coffee, which excelled in flavour the similar priced coffees. And this coffee although just packed was made on March 5, 1903. Mr. Cauchois himself said so.

At present Mr. Cauchois is only making a "Premium Brand" grade; later on he will place three higher grades on the market. Just now he is taking no orders for less than thirty days' delivery. He is having new machines built which will be ready to run in about six weeks, and in the meantime miniature samples of the one-pound cartons, holding a fair-sized sample and with premium list enclosed, will be sent to the discerning ones on receipt of six cents in stamps.

When F. A. Cauchois, with his thirty years or more experience in the coffee business, gets so enthusiastic over a product as to back it after this fashion, there must be merit in it.

I have spoken.

SIR ORACLE, in the *Spice Mill*.

### MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S PROPOSALS AND TEA.

We printed in our last issue, says, the *H. & C. Mail*, a letter which Mr. E. Lyulph Stanley addressed to the *Times* upon the subject of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals and tea. The correspondence called forth by this letter shows not only that there is no lack of champions ready to defend the interests of tea-growers, but that the weight of argument is on their side. Mr. Stanley did his best to show that a reduction by three-quarters of the duty on our imports of Indian and Ceylon teas, which make nine-tenths of our whole import, would have no effect on the price of tea, if the duty were not also taken off the remaining tenth which comes from China and Java. All that would happen, in his view, is that the Indian planters would pocket the whole of the difference. A correspondent, who signs himself "Indian Born," points out that for a real, rigid, simple arithmetic view of political economy Mr. Stanley would be hard to beat. "Indian Born" says:—"Will he go one better and say that, if a prohibitive duty were laid on China tea, the price of Indian tea would rise to any figure the Indian planter cared to ask? But let us look into his assumptions a little more closely. He assumes firstly that all tea is the same. But, as a matter of fact, tea is a substance whose price varies from 1s. to 4s. or more a pound, according to its peculiar quality. China tea in itself has a very distinct quality from Indian tea. There is no more economic necessity for the 263,000,000 lbs. of Indian tea to be sold at the same price as the China tea than there is for our New Zealand mutton to be sold at the same price as Southdown. Again, he assumes that our imports from India could not be increased by one-tenth for several years. Let him produce a single tea-planter who would not offer to send 15 or 20 per cent. more at the next harvest if he were guaranteed a sale for it at a price a very little, if at all, above the present price (not counting the duty, of course). The fact is, Sir, that none of these good gentlemen who work out these questions by simple arithmetic have any idea of the conditions that really rule production and prices in the industrial world."

Mr. Stanley endeavours in a second letter to go one better, but it is a lame attempt. He replies, "I assumed in my letter to you, criticised by 'Indian Born,' that it would take two or three years before India and Ceylon could fill up the void now supplied by Chinese teas. 'Indian Born' implies that this extra production would be forthcoming by next harvest. He further asks me if I maintain that the exclusion of foreign tea would send up the price of Indian tea to any figure the planter chooses to ask. In my letter to you I stated that when Indian production equalled our demand, the cost to us would probably be the cost of production *plus* 1½d. duty. One object of my letter was to show that, having regard to the growth of our tea production in India and Ceylon, any preferential treatment would operate for a very short time, and that natural causes under free trade were rapidly giving India and Ceylon the command of our market. A year or two more or less

in the growth of an industry is not very important. I did not state that Indian tea fetches the same price as Chinese tea. I only pointed out that in a commodity the average price of which is about 7½d. per pound a preference of 4½d. is enormous. I find that the price of Bengal tea in 1902 is returned in the 'Annual Statement' at about 7½d. per pound, and China tea was worth about 6½d. per pound. My point is that a preference to Indian tea would only operate for a very short time, and that, while it operates, it must, by keeping up the price of tea to the consumer, deprive him of the countervailing advantage offered by Mr. Chamberlain as a compensation for his taxes on corn, meat, and dairy produce. 'Indian Born' seems to think that barely for one year would the Indian tea-planter reap any benefit. If so, where is the boon offered to India? We cannot of any tax say in the same breath that it will help our colonies and dependencies by increasing the price they will get, and yet assure our consumers that the tax will not keep up or raise the price of the commodity so taxed preferentially."

Indian Born says, in answer to this:—"Mr. Lyulph Stanley makes no attempt to maintain his original assertion that a reduction in the duty on Indian tea would make no difference to the price as long as that reduction was not extended to the one-tenth of our tea imports which we still receive from China. On the contrary, he now veers round and says that the Indian tea-planter will not derive any benefit at all from the preference, because there will be no permanent rise in price, and he concludes by saying that 'we cannot say in the same breath that a tax will help our colonies by increasing the price they will get, and yet assure our consumers that the tax will not raise the price of the commodity.' Nobody has ever dreamt of saying that the preference given to the colonies is to consist of an increase in price; the preference surely lies in an extended and more certain market. Let me suppose that Mr. Lyulph Stanley is at present in the habit of going to two tailors, A and B, and that he suddenly decides to give the furnishing of the whole of his wardrobe to A at the same price as he has hitherto paid. Will A complain that he gets no advantage out of this preference?"

#### BRITISH-GROWN v. CHINA TEA.

The correspondence about tea which the *Times* has published during the last few days, although incidental to the fiscal question, takes a wider range. "Tea-Planter" calls attention to the superiority in the manufacture and cleanliness of treatment of the article in Ceylon and India, as opposed to the manipulation of the same article in China. He expressed the view that if the duty on all teas were reduced or abolished a serious and irreparable injury will be done to British-grown teas, to the advantage of China and other inferior growths. He argued that cheapness, not quality, is what many of the blenders affect, and to put a low-priced article before the British public has more attraction to them than cultivating the taste for a pure and unadulterated article.

He goes on to say:—"There being in London no Custom inspection as in America, any rubbish under the name of tea may be imported, and not only diminish the consumption of the genuine article, but also strengthen the medical campaign which is even now going on against tea-drinking generally, and thus the position of the tea-planter with the duty removed will be worse than if the present exorbitant and unjust tax were retained. I am, however, a strong believer in Mr. Chamberlain's honesty of purpose, and in view of the position he has taken up cannot bring myself to suppose that he would favour a line of action so diametrically opposed to all his public utterances as to reduce the duty all round on tea, without giving any preference to the British-grown article, in the same way as he suggests favouring Australian wines as opposed to those produced by foreign countries. Unless this is done and a higher duty retained upon foreign-grown teas, the British planter will have strong ground for complaint that his interests have not been considered, and every reason to fear that the lowering of the duty may prove an injury rather than a blessing, both to him and to the British public, upon whom a cheap and hygienically unsound article will in all probability be forced by the blender. It is undoubtedly the duty of public bodies interested in the welfare of the tea-industry to bear this point in mind, and to direct their efforts to preventing any reduction in the present duty which shall give a loophole to the dishonest blender to foist an inferior and deleterious article upon the public. This can only be brought about by retaining a



higher tariff upon all teas imported from foreign countries, and by giving a substantial preference to the teas produced by British capital and in British colonies. This, surely, is not asking too much, in view of what British energy and capital has already done for the countries where tea is now produced, and I am quite convinced that if only the Ceylon and Indian Tea Associations will take this question up and press the point, their claims, in view of preferential tariffs being generally adopted, cannot be ignored by the Government, and it will be a lasting disgrace to these public bodies and a betrayal of the trust reposed in them by those they represent if no action in this direction is taken."

Another correspondent, "Warehouse Keeper," writes:—"Conclusive as 'Tea Planter's' letter is as to the injury that would befall the British tea-grower in the event of a total abolition of the tea duty, by not referring to the serious monetary drawback to which the Indian or Ceylon planter is subjected, as compared with his Chinese or Japanese competitor, he has refrained from using a most powerful argument in his favour. His statement that tea imported into London undergoes no Customs inspection is, however, quite erroneous, and, to reassure the consumer, should not pass without challenge. No duty can be paid on any importations of tea into London until samples of every grade forming it have been submitted to a specially trained Customs officer, who can approve or not of their fitness for consumption in this country. Should any doubt exist, he can place the tea under a temporary stop until a sample has been sent to the office of the Customs analyst, whose decision is final. Hundreds of chests are condemned annually by this authority, with the alternatives to the importer of de-naturing the tea before sale to caffeine makers, or of exporting it for consumption abroad. That the inspection it undergoes at a United States port of entry is more rigorous may well be—much of the unwholesome China tea which gains entry here would certainly never be admitted to that country; but the fears of the all too sensitive British tea-drinker that any rubbish can obtain entry here should be at once allayed."

## RUBBER.

### IN MALAYA.

Mr. W. W. Bailey writes from Klang, Selangor, to the *Times of Ceylon*:—

I write with reference to a letter headed "Great Future of Rubber in Malaya" which the *Straits Echo* states appeared in the *Ceylon Standard* of 29th ultimo re an interview with Mr. M. S. Parry, of the F. M. S. United Planters' Association, and Mr. Tunnicliffe.

I do not wish to question the great future of rubber in the Malay Peninsula or to enter into a discussion as to whether the alluvial flats of the Klang, Perak, and other rivers are better for rubber cultivation than the hill lands; for planters cannot have had their eyes shut as to how such well drained flats have proved their capabilities in coffee, tea, and cocoa; (I do not allude to some undrainable swamps or to such so close to the sea, and so low that they are affected by high tides; but I agree with the old saying about comparisons, and I cannot understand how the *Ceylon Standard's* informants had the courage to dictate the following paragraph:—

#### "KLANG AND UP-COUNTRY LAND.

"The varieties cultivated are Pará and Rambong. This latter kind, the *Ficus Elastica*, does well at the Negri Sembilan, and in the Klang land is far preferable to Pará. The Klang is the heavy, undrained deep soil by the coast, and is excellent for coffee, but not as suitable for rubber as the up-country districts, as the roots cannot get sufficient grip in the soft soil, and the sea winds frequently blow down the trees; also white ants are very troublesome there. In connection with this Mr. Parry thinks the Ceylon planters and others who invested in Mr. Wickwar's up-country estates are to be congratulated, this land being preferable to the Klang. Certain up-country planters, Mr. Tunnicliffe informed us, having been asked to float their estates as companies gave the rejoinder that when they get a good thing, why should they give it away by floating. The planters there evidently have faith in the future of the Malay States rubber industry."

If they wished to do Mr. Wickwar's Company a good turn they have had their wish gratified, for I know of no better up-country

estate than the (new) Seramban Company's, and I have not got a word to say against it: and it may prove itself to be even as what is considered by many men to be the best rubber estate in the Peninsula, namely, the Sungei Rengam estate (the Salangor Rubber Company, with 1,150 acres opened in rubber, and 3,600 acres of reserve jungle lying between river and railway for over 5 miles, and with 3 railway stations on it), which is in the Klang district, and of which Professor Troub (of the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java) said last month: "It was a magnificent sight, and I did not expect to see such a grand sheet of rubber in the Malay Peninsula." All the Klang district is not good; but there are plenty of splendid estates in Klang, which I do not intend to mention, for I feel sure that other planters will feel hurt at your (*sic*) informants' remarks, whether they happen to have good or bad estates.

I shall say nothing about my own estate in the Klang district more than that I have heard the opinions of such men as Mr. E. S. Grigson, Mr. Thos. North Christie and Mr. Norman Grieve on it, and I am prepared to take their opinions as against your informants'; though none of these men ever ran down the up-country estates: for like me very likely they are interested in both, and consider comparisons as I do. I would not answer this letter had it only appeared in a local paper: for the opinions expressed in it would do no harm here; but, as I represent owners of estates in both Klang and Kwala Lumpur, I feel it my duty to take some notice of it, and if possible to prevent such wrong expression of opinions; and I hope that both up-country and low-country rubber will continue to look as promising as it does at present.

Other men here are not likely to let such a letter as this pass, and it may possibly raise such a nest of hornets about the ears of your informants as will sting them in places that are unprotected, and do them more harm than it can possibly do to the owners of good low-country land.

Take for instance one part of the statement as follows:—

"Klang is a heavy undrained deep soil by the coast, and is excellent for coffee: but is not so suitable for rubber as the up-country districts and," etc.

All land is undrained until it has been drained; and land undrained and undrainable is neither suitable for coffee or rubber, and men who have tried to grow either on it deserve the consequences: yet one estate in the Klang district with a main drain 26 feet wide and 10 feet deep at its mouth and 45 miles of all sorts of smaller drains, gave a large profit last year and supported 600 acres of rubber, 400 acres of which is over 5 years old, besides opening a hundred acre clearing in coffee 7 x 7 and rubber 14 x 14: can this land be bad or unsuitable for Pará rubber?

Again, "deep soil by the coast": men who took up land sufficiently near the coast as to be affected by high tides and salt water should have planted cocoanuts in it: but many of the Klang estates are miles away from the coast, some 15 miles.

I now quote some paragraphs from Brazil diplomatic and consular reports:—

"Trade of Pará and the district for the year 1887" (page 26):—

"*Habit of Pará.*—The localities where rubber trees thrive best are on islands, and low ground near rivers, where the banks are periodically inundated. Ground that has no drainage is not suitable to the tree."

"*Richest zones.*—The richest zones as at present known are along the banks of all the southern tributaries of the river Amazon, and on the islands in the main stream and near Pará."

"The most prolific part is on the river Aquiry or Acrê, one of the tributaries of the river Purús."

"The northern tributaries of the Amazons do not produce much rubber. Of these the river Negro produces the most, and etc."

"The river Branco yields very little rubber, and the upper part runs through pasture lands and high ground (no doubt of a considerable elevation) which is not suitable for good rubber."

"*Rainfall.*—The rainfall during 1897 amounted to 115 inches. Rain fell during 291 days, and the maximum during one day amounted to 3 inches."

"*Height.*—It grows to a height of 60 feet."

"*Leaves.*—The leaves are trifoliate."

"*Flowers, fruits, and seeds.*—The seeds should be planted as soon as possible as they soon lose their vitality."

No doubt the high ground that the Consul writes of in the upper reaches of an enormous river like the Amazon is land of a considerable elevation, and I think Mr. Parry has mis-named the higher



land here planted with Pará as hill land. They should be called low-country hills which have an elevation of, in most cases, not more than 100 feet from sea-level, like the Seramban Company's land, and this land has proved itself to yield well, trees 12 years old having averaged 81 lbs. each.

It is no pleasure to me to have to write this letter, and I am sorry that my friend Mr. Parry should have been tempted to lend his name in the way he did to such a production as the paragraph headed "The Klang and up-country land."

Klang, Selangor, November 24th, 1903.

#### IN SOUTH AMERICA AND MEXICO.

The following are extracts from a letter received from an old Ceylon planter:—

I have just come from a long visit to the rubber forests of Bolivia and Peru on the upper tributaries of the Amazon. The rubber from these forests is exported from Mokeado on the Pacific Coast, and is called "Mokeado Rubber," just as that from the lower parts of the Amazon Valley is mis-called "Pará rubber" from the final port of shipment, Pará.

I am not yet quite clear whether the tree called *Hevea Brasilsensis* in the lower district of the Amazon is identical with the *Hevea Lutea* which I saw near the foot of the Andes.

It grows there in wonderful profusion to a great size and is very rich in milk. I measured trees over 9 ft. in circumference, and the rule is never to tap one less than 3 ft. round. There are tens of thousands of square miles of untouched forests there in which *Hevea Lutea* is one of the most prevalent trees. Hitherto roads have not been attempted to be constructed, and the imbeciles who figure as Governments have pronounced it impossible to make them. However, now English and Americans are developing the country, and find it is just as possible to make roads there as we did in Ceylon.

Unfortunately I was detained over two months in Peru after my business was done, by quarantine, so had to give up a visit to the Mexican rubber cultivation districts, were I had been commissioned to visit and report upon a property which in the prospectus was "guaranteed to give a profit of \$550 per acre per annum for 40 years!"

However, on my return to New York I got the report issued by the Agricultural Department of Washington, drawn up by a Commission specially sent to examine the whole rubber cultivation of Mexico and Central America. It is almost entirely *Castilloa* they cultivate there. The result of the report is that the investor is advised to exercise extreme caution in putting his money in rubber Companies. While here and there small ventures have proved a success, and rubber cultivation has been proved an agricultural possibility, it will be a long time before it is out of the experimental stage. It has proved very capricious as to where it will, and where it will not, grow. No large acreage has proved a success: and, worse than all, often the best-grown and most-promising trees when tapped proved deficient in milk.

I do not write to discourage rubber-growing in Ceylon, but know you are glad of any facts connected with planting enterprises.

#### MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of November 20th, 1903.]

#### COFFEE.

There have been no offers of Plantation Ceylon at auction during the past week, and the business in East India has been insignificant. There has been a fair demand for Nyassaland, which sold at firm prices. No change has occurred in the value of Central American descriptions, and Colombian is also without change, but the demand was not active. Santos brought valuations. There has not been much variation in the market for Brazil "futures," but the tone was somewhat dull at the close, although prices show some advance for the week; yesterday Santos for December delivery sold at 29s. 7½d. to 29s. 9d., March at 30s. 9d. to 31s., May at 31s. 6d. to 31s. 7½d., and July at 32s. 1½d. per cwt. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery	...	31s. Od.
New York ...	No. 7 Rio ..	"	"	5'85 cents.
Hamburg ...	Santos ...	"	"	31½ pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	"	"	38½ francs.

Auctions this week have gone off as under:—

EAST INDIA—Of 6 casks 3 barrels 484 bags offered only 26 bags *Neilgherry* sold—small 47s., peaberry 62s.

MOCHA—40 half-frazils retired unsold.

NYASSALAND—Of 293 bags catalogued 180 bags sold—small 35s. to 39s. 6d., low middling to middling 43s. 6d. to 46s. 6d., fair bold 50s. to 51s., peaberry 43s. to 52s.

COSTA RICA—89 bags half sold—small 38s., low middling greenish colory 48s., middling 57s., fair bold 64s. 6d., good bold 83s., peaberry 54s. to 70s.

LIBERIAN—111 bags bold brownish of old import sold at 31s. 6d.

ECUADOR—80 bags partly sold at 32s. for sea-damaged bulked.

GUATEMALA—Of 432 bags offered 150 bags sold—middling 50s., good bold 60s., peaberry 65s.

COBAN—61 bags sold—small 30s., low middling dull grayish 50s.

SALVADOR—Of 211 bags brought forward only 30 bags sold—fine ordinary bold foxy palish 39s. 6d.

NICARAGUA—190 bags sold, good ordinary foxy palish 37s. to 38s., common bold 48s. to 48s. 6d.

COLOMBIAN—1,624 bags practically all sold, small 26s. to 33s. 6d., fine ordinary greenish and brownish 38s. 6d. to 40s. 6d., low middling to middling 45s. 6d. to 49s. 6d., common bold 38s. 6d. to 42s., fair bold 44s. 6d. to 47s., good bold 60s., peaberry 41s. to 50s.

MEXICAN—39 bags bought in.

BRAZIL—54 bags washed Dumont Santos sold, pickings 23s. 6d. to 33s. 6d.; of 1,500 bags unwashed, on quay terms, 930 bags sold, medium greenish foxy 34s. to 34s. 6d., bold 37s. 6d. to 39s. 6d., peaberry 43s. to 43s. 6d. 500 bags Santos were bought in.

#### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1903-04.	1902-03.	1901-02.	1900-01.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio ...	2,425,000	2,146,000	3,059,000	1,417,000
Santos ...	4,571,000	4,767,000	5,972,000	4,614,000
Total ...	6,996,000	6,913,000	9,031,000	6,031,000
Crop ...	...	12,324,000	15,496,000	10,900,000

Rio Exchange 12½d., previous day 12d.

HAVRE, November 19.—Good average Santos November opened quiet at 37½f. and closed steady at 37½f., December opened at 37½f. and closed at 37½f., March opened at 38½f. and closed at 38½f., May opened at 38½f. and closed at 38½f., July opened at 39½f. and closed at 39½f., September opened at 39½f. and closed at 39½f.

HAMBURG, November, 19.—Good average Santos November opened quiet at 30½pf. and closed steady at 30½pf., December opened at 30½pf. and closed at 30½pf., March opened at 31½pf. and closed at 31½pf., May opened at 31½pf. and closed at 31½pf., July opened at 32½pf. and closed at 32½pf., September opened at 32½pf. and closed at 32½pf.

NEW YORK, November 19.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
November 19 ...	5'50	5'50	5'65	5'75	5'85
November 18 ...	5'50	5'55	5'65	5'80	5'90

Auctions to-day embraced—336 bags Nyassaland, 21 bags Jamaica, 23 half-bales Mocha, 128 bags Ecuador, 71 bags Mexican, 702 bags Columbian, 84 bags Costa Rica, 172 bags Nicaragua, 82 bags Guatemala, 14 bags Salvador, and 1,010 bags New Grenada. The sales went off with fair demand without alteration in values.

A decidedly steady tone has prevailed throughout the day for Brazil "futures," although little business has been passing the pointers for to-morrow. Santos receipts were very small, 13,000, but we want to see a decided falling-off in receipts to put new life into the market.

Closing quotations—	Sellers.	Buyers.
December ...	...	30/ 29/9
March, 1904 ...	...	31/1½ 31/
May ...	...	31/9 31/7½
July ...	...	32/4½ 32/1½
September ...	...	32/10½ 32/7½

Brazil receipts 54,000 bags, against 43,000 and 57,000 the two previous years, and exchange unchanged at 12½d. Hamburg and Havre unchanged. New York opens unchanged. Transactions include—near 29s. 10d., March 31s., May 31s. 7½d., July 32s. 3d., September 32s. 9d.



Messrs. C. J. Leech & Co. write:—"Receipts in Rio this week were again somewhat smaller, and the decrease has now been a steady one for five weeks in succession, so that 4,000,000 bags for the season appears a fair estimate. Santos receipts show a distinct decrease, and shape favourable for a verification of our estimate of 7,000,000 bags for that port, or say, 11,000,000 bags for Rio and Santos together, against 2,324,000 bags last season; but although this week's crop movement was in every way encouraging, markets have failed to respond mainly because the trade demand has continued slow. In the meantime holders at the primary ports maintain a firm attitude and obtain relatively high prices owing to extensive purchases in both Rio and Santos for United States account. Crop news has been meagre, and practically the only contribution was Mr. Karl Krische's cable on Tuesday, Santos interior stocks small, estimate current Santos crop at 7,000,000 to 7,250,000 bags. Prospects for a moderate crop (1904-1905); drought done considerable damage. Mail advices from New York continue stimulating, and strongly emphasise the opinion that the prospects of the growing crop are decidedly adverse, and that, if only partially confirmed, must result in materially higher prices hereafter. One circular to hand, discussing the damage done by the frost in August last year, expresses somewhat positively that '20 to 25 per cent. of all the trees in the State of São Paulo have been put out of bearing for at least four or five years; therefore record crops such as we have had of recent years may be considered a matter of the past.' Rio receipts this week, 90,000 bags, against 104,000 bags last year and 114,000 bags for six days only in 1901. Santos receipts 167,000 bags, against 233,000 bags last year and 236,000 bags for six days only in 1901. The market in Santos is rather easier, and we quote to-day good average 31s. 3d. c. & ft. A year ago the price was 23s. c. & ft. Fluctuations in the speculative markets have again been moderate, and London futures, after a set-back of 7½d., have recovered on the smaller receipts. Compared with last week, we note London 'futures' partially 1½d. dearer, Havre generally ¼f., and Hamburg ¼pf.

dearer. New York has declined 15 points for most positions, with November only 5 points and December 20 points lower."

LONDON.—Spot market steady, but quiet; at auction Columbian sold at irregular rates, and Guatemala sold well. Futures opened dull and 3d. lower, but recovered later, and closed at about previous prices. Sales, 20,750 bags. London Clearing-house quotations: November, 29s. 6d.; December, 29s. 9d.; March, 31s.; May, 31s. 7½d.; July, 32s. 1½d.; September, 32s. 7½d.

NEW YORK (Reuter's telegram).—Coffee opened quiet and unchanged, became bearish, under easier European cables, longer liquidating, and selling by importers as a hedge against purchases in Brazil. The market closed steady, unchanged, to 5 points down, but mainly unchanged. Spot, quiet, unchanged. Rio, 6½c. Sales, 64,000 bales.

To-day—November, 5.50; December, 5.50; January, 5.65; February, 5.70; March, 5.85; April, 5.95; May, 6.05; June, 6.10; July, 6.20; August, 6.25; September, 6.30; October, 6.35.

Previous day—November, 5.50; December, 5.55; January, 5.65; February, 5.80; March, 5.90; April, 5.95; May, 6.05; June, 6.10; July, 6.20; August, 6.25; September, 6.30; October, 6.35.

#### TEA.

INDIAN.—Public sales included 41,400 packages, against 42,800 at the date of our last circular, and 38,000 at this time in 1902.

South India was represented in the catalogues by about 3,900 packages.

A quieter tone has been apparent and prices have eased nearly ¼d. under 6½d.; above this rate the demand was more irregular, especially for leaf descriptions, but, as a rule, any appreciable decline in quotations was to a great extent due to a falling-off in quality, more particularly noticeable in Assams. Really good tea continued to sell freely, but the proportion of such was limited. The feature of the present market is the wonderful value obtainable between 6½d. and 7½d. in comparison with the grade below.

## "All Sorts and Conditions of Men"

USE

# ST. JACOBS OIL

**F**OR RHEUMATISM, Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Cramp, Pleurisy, Lumbago, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Soreness, Stiffness, Bruises, Toothache, Headache, Backache, Feetache, Pains in the Back, Pains in the Shoulders, Pains in the Limbs, and all bodily aches and pains,

**IT ACTS LIKE MAGIC.**

SAFE, SURE, and NEVER FAILING. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.

# CONQUERS PAIN





Fluctuations in a trade of large dimensions are of course, bound to occur, and, in fact, are necessary to its vitality, and confined within reasonable compass, generally prove beneficial. The possibilities of the further future is being reflected in an inquiry for tea shares to an extent which has not been experienced for a very long period.

The exports from Calcutta and Chittagong for the first fortnight of the current month mark, as compared with last year, a falling-off of nearly a million lbs., and the excess shown for the season is now only some  $6\frac{1}{2}$  millions; in view of the crop estimates recently published, it would appear that the bulk of the increase is being realised in the gatherings from October 1st onwards, but it must be remembered in comparing outturn for this period with last year, that the shortage then was altogether phenomenal.

For 38,600 packages on Estate account  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. was obtained, contrasted with  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 32,300, and 7d. for 31,800 in the two preceding seasons.

CEYLON.—Auctions comprised 15,600 packages. On the Tuesday before the quantity was rather larger, viz., 1,250 and 15,900 twelve months since.

Business in the country is reported to be quiet, so that buyers were less eager, and the sale passed with some irregularity, former rates not being always forthcoming. Common to fair grades did not, on the whole, show much change, but here and there a slightly lower quotation was made. Good medium kinds received fair attention, although values were not so generally firm as last week. Fine and finest lines which about maintained their position were less plentiful, and quality all round was not so attractive.

The average is 8d. per lb. opposed to  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. on the 12th instant, and a little over  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. a year ago.

JAVA.—Rather over 2,800 packages were submitted. In sympathy with other growths, these sorts tended against sellers, prices in some cases indicating a decline of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. since the last sale a fortnight since. An invoice from Goalpara was however well competed for, and brought 10d. per lb.

Deliveries.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, viz.:—  
From 1st to 17th November, 1903 ... 11,666,157 lbs.

" " " 1902 ... 11,160,681 "

#### CEYLON TEA IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, November 13th.—The bulk of yesterday's tea-buying was done under the hammer. Competition, however, was the reverse of active, as buyers seemed to consider the recent decline in freight rather than the rapid advances in cost, which have immediately followed in the Colombo market. Sales were mentioned privately of 100 packages of Ceylons, at prices ranging from 10d. to 11d., also 80 packages at 8d. to  $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. Other business was pending in Ceylons at about the same limits.

Messrs. H. W. Carey & Co. report having offered 670 packages Ceylon Tea at their sale room yesterday, on account of Messrs. Gibbs, Bright & Co., and Gollin & Co. Proprietary, Limited. Rather more disposition was evinced for business than at the morning sales, but still biddings generally were too much below vendors' costs to be accepted, and in the aggregate they cleared about one half only of the catalogue. Pekoes realised  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d., Broken Pekoes and Broken Orange Pekoes  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Messrs. F. H. Dyer & Co. offered a catalogue of tea yesterday at the Royal Exchange, on account of Dalgety & Co., Limited, comprising 424 packages of Indians and 194 packages of Ceylons. They cleared 300 packages of Indians at  $6\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. for Pekoe Souchongs,  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. for Pekoes, and  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. for Broken Orange Pekoes. One hundred and ten packages of Ceylons sold up to 8d. for Pekoes,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. for Broken Pekoes, to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. up to 1s.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. for fine Broken Orange Pekoes.

Messrs. Fraser Uther & Co. offered 428 packages of Ceylon teas at the City Mart, under instructions from Mr. R. T. Remington. Moderate clearances were effected at 7d. to  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. for medium Broken Pekoe.  $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $10\frac{3}{4}$ d. for fine, to  $13\frac{1}{2}$ d. for finest. Fine Pekoes sold from  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $9\frac{1}{4}$ d. They also offered 598 packages of Ceylons on account of Messrs. Fraser, Ramsay & Co., of which a portion found buyers at current rates.

MELBOURNE, November 18th.—Business in tea covers 250 chests of Ceylon up to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 150 chests of Indian up to 7d., and 75 half-chests of Panyong up to 7d.

ADELAIDE, November 18th.—Teas are moving slowly, and individual sales do not call for special mention.—*Sydney Daily Telegraph*, November 14.

#### Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated November 20th, 1903, says:—

##### QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian. Pkgs.	Ceylon. Pkgs.	Java. Pkgs.
1903-1904 ...	703,203	528,661	49,595
1902-1903 ...	742,123	594,776	38,602
41,603 pkgs. INDIAN 15,808 " CEYLON 2,840 " JAVA	Total 60,251 packages were offered in public auction this week.		

The active demand which was so pronounced a few weeks ago has been gradually slackening, and it seems evident that if prices are to be maintained, the quantities brought to auction must be on a considerably smaller scale, and remain so until the demand improves again. The possibility, if not the probability, of a reduction in the duty next Spring affords an additional reason for firmness in dealing with an article which may shortly be under a lesser burden of taxation.

The first nine months of this year show an increase in the use of Indian and Ceylon Tea in Foreign and Colonial markets.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian ...	28,665,337	28,533,005	24,329,302	18,914,844
Ceylon ...	51,582,247	48,678,769	43,694,968	36,268,160
Total lbs...	80,247,584	77,211,774	68,024,270	55,183,004
	1899.	1898.	1897.	
Indian ...	17,806,844	15,994,547	14,058,281	
Ceylon ...	28,221,746	26,914,107	20,800,934	
Total lbs...	46,028,590	42,908,654	34,859,215	

The advance is not much, but in face of a dearer market it is something to have not only maintained the great increase which took place in 1902, but also to have improved upon it.

##### Export of Indian and Ceylon tea (in lbs.) to places outside U. K. from 1st January to 30th September.

	INDIAN TEA.			
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	7,168,041	10,360,552	9,645,479	6,102,331
Transshipments from U. K. ...	3,654,231	2,065,774	877,588	1,792,370
Direct Exports from Calcutta.	17,843,065	16,106,679	13,806,235	11,020,143
Total lbs...	28,665,337	28,533,005	24,329,302	18,914,844
	CEYLON TEA.			
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K. ...	11,906,132	13,075,652	13,304,952	10,278,856
Transshipments from U. K. ...	2,382,808	2,941,765	2,226,850	2,268,379
Direct Exports from Colombo	37,293,307	32,661,352	28,163,166	23,720,925
Total lbs...	51,582,247	48,678,769	43,694,968	36,268,160

INDIAN.—Although sales were rather less than a week ago bidding lacked animation, and it was evident that supplies were beyond the immediate requirements of the trade; consequently with a weaker market a considerable quantity was withdrawn. Exports to U. K. first half November 12,080,000 lbs., against 12,960,000 lbs. same period 1902; 1st April to 15th instant 115,792,000 lbs., against 109,370,000 lbs. Averages:—"Darj. Con. T. Co. Murmah,"  $1/8\frac{1}{4}$ ; "Amal T. E. Co. Phuguri,"  $1/7\frac{1}{2}$ ; "Tara T. Co.,"  $1/1$ .

##### Revised Customs Imports of Tea from 1st June to end of August:—

	INDIA			
	(including Calcutta and Chittagong)	1903.	1902.	1901.
Madras Presidency (including Travancore)	24,783,906	25,028,861	26,633,744	
Bombay Presidency..	1,678,069	26,897,204	1,179,935	
	435,229	424,948		
CEYLON ...		29,362,554	32,091,652	
CHINA ...		9,075,455	8,294,148	
OTHER COUNTRIES ...		4,340,780	2,841,657	

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 38,630 pkgs., av.  $7/59d$ . 1902, 32,606 pkgs., av.  $7/57d$ .



New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 549,356 pkgs., av. 7.89d. 1902, 533,587 pkgs., av. 7.19d.

CEYLON.—There was less competition among buyers, and last week's prices were in consequence hardly maintained, medium teas especially showing rather easier rates. Exports to U. K. for first half of November 3,300,000 lbs., against 2,600,000 lbs. last year.

Average for week 7.96d., against 7.80d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 894,667 pkgs., av. 7.51d. 1902, 1,015,117 pkgs., av. 6.75d.

JAVA.—All the teas were of direct import and comprised invoices from seventeen estates, they were nearly all disposed of in the room with fair competition and without material change in rates. A few Green Teas were included in the catalogues.

### COCOA.

Public auctions on Tuesday offered 3,094 bags, which experienced but a poor inquiry, hardly 900 bags selling in the room. Of 335 bags Trinidad only 30 bags sold, at 73s. for fine red, and 67s. for middling. Grenada was the exception to the prevailing dullness, a good demand being experienced for this growth at full prices to, in the case of fine qualities, 1s. per cwt. advance; the 283 bags catalogued all sold at 60s. 6d. to 64s. 6d. for good to fine, 55s. to 57s. for fair, and 51s. to 54s. for common to fair common. Of 369 bags Jamaica about 270 bags were disposed of at 1s. to 2s. per cwt. decline, fair bringing 53s., and common 48s. 6d. to 49s. 18 bags fine Demerara realised 64s., and 95 bags ordinary to good Dominica 53s. to 57s. Of 463 bags Guayaquil 100 bags sold—Caraquez at 68s., Esmeralda at 62s. 6d. 5 bags Costa Rica brought 60s. 42 bags fair to good dark Honduras sold at 56s. 6d. to 60s. Of 633 bags African, only 19 bags of fine found buyers at 59s. Ceylon steady in value, but slow of sale; 505 bags offered, and 95 bags sold—fair bold and medium at 62s. 6d., fair to good small at 55s. to 60s. 6d., and collected at 49s. per cwt. Bought-in growths comprised 2 bags St. Vincent, 72 bags St. Lucia, 41 bags Venezuelan, 221 bags Puerto Cabello, and 10 bags Pará. Privately sales include good Trinidad at 70s., very fine fermented Jamaica 63s., Hatti at 42s., Guayaquil Caraquez at 63s. to 72s., and early Arriba at 74s. 6d. to 75s. per cwt.

### PEPPER.

Black.—The market has been very quiet this week. Of Singapore sales on the spot have been made at 6 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. for fair, at 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. for January-March shipment, and at same price for February-April; about 100 tons sold.

Auctions on Wednesday offered 148 bags fair Singapore, which were bought in at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

The shipments of Black Pepper for the first half of November compare as follows:—

	1903.	1902.
U. K.—Singapore ...	10 }	nil }
„ Penang ...	nil } 10	20 }
Continent ...	210	70
U. S. ...	170	390
Total tons ...	390	480

White is easier and nothing reported done for arrival. On the spot the sales include fair Singapore at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and fair Penang at 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

At public sale on the 18th instant, of 365 bags Singapore brought forward 266 bags sold, partly “without reserve”—good bold 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ d., good washed 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and fully fair 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., one cutting-in lot 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. 25 bags Penang were bought in at 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

The shipments of White Pepper for the first half of November compare as follows:—

	1903.	1902.
U. K.—Singapore ...	220 }	70 }
„ Penang ...	20 } 240	20 } 90
Continent ...	10	50
U. S. ...	20	50
Total tons ...	270	190

### GINGER.

COCHIN.—Cut sorts were forced off at a heavy depreciation on the previous somewhat nominal value, especially as regards the bolder lots; washed rough, too, was offered a shade below last week's rates without finding buyers. Catalogues embraced 85 cases 141

bags, of which 25 cases sold, partly “without reserve,” as follows—medium with some bold cut and scraped, lightly limed, 60s., small with some medium ditto 42s. 6d., good plump small cut, limed, 41s. 6d., duller and leaner ditto 40s.; washed rough medium and small was bought in at 31s. to 32s., with small ditto at 29s. per cwt.

BENGAL.—40 bags rather lean and wormy half sold at 27s. per cwt.

JAPAN.—On the spot business has been done privately at 25s. 6d. per cwt.

JAMAICA.—Of 100 barrels catalogued 41 barrels sold—common lean and dark at 38s. to 39s., but chiefly mouldy at 37s. to 38s. For 21 cases of good washed the best bid was 45s., resulting in them being bought in at 60s. per cwt.

### CINCHONA.

At auction on Tuesday 1,407 packages were brought to the hammer, the bulk of which was Calisaya and African; the quantity offered contrasted with 1,780 packages at the previous sale and 1,341 packages in November last year. A strong demand was experienced, more especially for Bark with a good percentage of Chinchonidine contents, and prices were higher, the value of the unit being 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. compared with 1 $\frac{7}{16}$ d. at the November auctions, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. this time last year, and 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per lb. in 1901.

Of 422 bales *South American* offered 300 bales sold—Bolivian cultivated yellow Calisaya quill 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per lb.

23 bales *Ceylon Chinchona* sold—Succirubra chips 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

Of 330 bales *East India Chinchona* catalogued about 200 bales sold as follows:—Officinalis, chips and shavings 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ d., ditto renewed 4d. to 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ d., branch 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., root 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Ledgeriana, chips 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ d., branch 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.

Of 190 bales *Java Chinchona* 50 bales sold—Ledgeriana, branch 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; Hybrid, branch 5d. to 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ d., root 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

442 bales *West Coast African* sold—Succirubra quill 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., broken quill and chips 4d. to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

The dates of the Sales for 1904 in London have been fixed for: January 19th, February 16th, March 15th, April 19th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 18th, November 15th, and December 6th.

The shipments of Bark from Java compare as follows:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
January ...	593,000	975,000	1,000,000	603,000
February ...	655,000	520,000	748,000	641,000
March ...	1,040,000	680,000	864,000	650,000
April ...	1,065,000	1,000,000	791,000	524,000
May ...	1,155,000	1,040,000	745,000	816,000
June ...	1,200,000	1,170,000	1,036,000	666,000
July ...	1,223,000	1,130,000	1,240,000	629,000
August ...	1,100,000	1,857,000	1,067,000	977,000
September ...	1,237,000	950,000	1,182,000	1,366,000
October ...	2,000,000	1,680,000	1,546,000	1,100,000
1st half November ...	225,000	780,000	350,000	535,000
Amsterdam lbs. ...	11,493,000	11,782,000	10,569,000	8,507,000

Imports, Deliveries and Stock of Bark in London for first 10 months:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
Imported ...	11,271	17,423	21,124
Delivered ...	12,622	19,163	20,321
Stock ...	6,748	8,558	10,424
Quinine—	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Imported ...	13,362	38,398	64,367
Delivered ...	46,718	49,333	53,409
Stock ...	192,436	211,377	220,740

Statement of the movements of “Peruvian” Bark in the United Kingdom, according to the Board of Trade Returns, for the first 10 months of this year and two previous years:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imported ...	36,264	32,607	25,895
Value ...	£100,778	£78,307	£58,549
Exported ...	13,191	19,358	22,946
Value ...	£33,640	£45,687	£61,001

	1903.	1902.
Imports Quinine and Quinine Salts (10 months), ozs.	451,918	1,036,574
Value ...	£22,171	£52,373
Exports Quinine and Quinine Salts ...	219,628	246,879
Value ...	£10,877	£10,679
Exports (British) ...	776,379	659,345
Value ...	£46,608	£42,526



## QUININE.

Sulphate of Quinine has been very quiet owing to the approach of December, when many speculative contracts matured. A small business was transacted in March at 1s. 1d. but the closing value is 1s. 0½d., with sellers of December delivery at 1s. 0¾d. 30,000 ozs. have privately changed hands. The manufacturers' quotation remains at 1s. 1d. per oz.

Quiet. There was a firmer feeling on the receipt of the news of the small bark-shipment for the half month, with December buyers at 1s. 0½d., and small sales of March at 1s. 1d. Subsequently, however, the second-hand market declined, small sales of December delivery being made on Wednesday at 1s. 0¼d. for good brands of German sulphate. At the Java tenders quinine held at Batavia on November 18th 7,656 kilos. of Ed. II. was offered, of which 117 kilos. was sold at an average of f. 19 per kilo. (about equal 7¼c. Amsterdam unit) against f. 19½ per kilo. at the previous tender. The next tender to be held at Batavia will take place on December 23.

## VANILLA.

At the auctions held on Friday, November 14, a considerable quantity, amounting to 1,410 tins of Seychelles, was offered, and, with a brisk demand, practically the whole was disposed of at

steady to higher prices. Fine long beans were in very small supply, and sold at a considerable advance. Short and medium realised full prices, and red and split were in good demand at full to rather higher rates. The following prices were paid: Fine Seychelles, 8 to 8½ inches, 17s. to 19s. 6d. per lb.; good to fine, 7½ to 8 inches, 11s. to 17s.; browner, 7½ inches, 9s. 3d.; fair to good, 7 to 7½ inches, 8s. 6d. to 11s.; ditto, 6½ to 7 inches, 5s. to 8s. 9d.; 6 to 6½ inches, 5s. 3d. to 8s.; 5 to 6 inches, 5s. to 6s. 9d.; 4 to 5 inches, 4s. 6d. to 6s.; 3 to 4 inches, 4s. to 5s. 3d.; ordinary weak, 6 to 7 inches, 4s. to 5s. 6d.; various, red and split, ordinary to fine, 3s. to 7s. 6d. per lb. The next sale will take place in January, 1904, but the date is not yet fixed.

## INDIA-RUBBER.

The market has fluctuated, and prices fell to 3s. 9¾d. for hard fine forward and 3s. 9d. for soft, but close firmer with sales of hard fine Pará forward up to 3s. 10¾d., ditto spot 3s. 11d., soft cure fine forward at 3s. 9½d.; negroheads, scrappy sales down to 3s. 3d.; Cametas, spot at 2s. 3d. Peruvian, sales of ball down to 3s. 2d., forward delivery and scrappy same price; prices for medium kinds are also rather cheaper. 500 tons Congo rubber offered in Antwerp this week sold at 10 to 12 per cent. decline on the valuations of last sales. There were no auctions here to-day.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7.59d., NOVEMBER 20TH.)

GARDEN	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, Dust, and Various.	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry	500	6.73												
Glenfruin	19 p	6½	6	6½ 7½	5	6			3	6			5½c	6½
New Hope	144 p	6½	33 p	6½ 7	22	6½	35½c	+6½	31	+6	4½c	6½	19½c	6½
Pillay Mullay	50	6½	50	6½ 7										
Prospect	104 p	7	20½c	7½ 8	77 p	6½ 7	7½c	7½						
Seaforth	133½c	7	85½c	7 7½	25½c	6½							23½c	6½
Vellingherry	50	6½			26	6½	24	6½						
Travancore	3036	6.64												
Balamore	140½c	6½			81½c	6 6½	42½c	6½	13½c	6	1½c	5½	3½c	6
Cherian Malay	55 p	5½			22	6	9	6	18	5½			6½c	6½
Corrimony	130½c	6½			51½c	6½	61½c	6½	14½c	6	1½c	5½	3½c	6
Ellangy	60	5½			20	5½	20	+6	20	5½				
Fairfield	85	7½	22	7½	42	6½	21	8½						
Glenmore	120½c	6½			80½c	6	36½c	6½			2½c	5½	2½c	5½
Isfield T Co I.	13	6½							13	6½				
Invercauld	53 p	6½	19	6½	19	6			12	5½			3½c	6
Kan D H T Co L	301 p	6½	114 p	+6½ 7½	52	+6½	72½c	+6½	42	+6			21½c	6 6½
" Madnapatty	260 p	6½	86	+6½ 7½	42	+6½	87½c	8½	30	6			15½c	6½
Merchiston	58 p	6½	28	7 7½	16	6½			8	6½			6½c	6
Penshurst	91 p	6½	48	6½ 7½	19	6½			10	6			14½c	6
Poonmudi T Co B.	156 p	6½	66 p	7½	50	6½ 6½			33	+6			7½c	6½
R T M	10 p	5½			10 p	5½								
Seaford	170½c	6½			100½c	6 6½	52½c	7	14½c	5½	2½c	5½	2½c	5½
S I T Co Kud. Kar.	144	6½	52	6½ 6½			35	+7	37	6			2½c	5½
Stagbrook	305 p	6½	110 p	7	141	+6½			28	6½	26	6½	20	+6½
S T T Co Venture...	214 p	7			101	6½ 7	63	+7½ 7½	22	6½			28½c	6½ 6½
T T E Co Bon Ami.	105	6½	50	+6½ 6½	55	6½								
" " "	72 p	6½	20	6½	20	6½	18	6½			9	6	5½c	6
" " "	24	7	11	6½ 7½	7	6½	6	7						
" Kolie Kanam	157 p	7	50	7½ 10	66	6½							41 p	6 6½
" Mount	36	6½	2	7½	9	6½	13	6½	3	6½			9	6½
" Munja Malai	34	7½					34	7½						
" Pambanar	85 p	6½	38	6½ 7½	23	6½	20	7					4½c	6
Vembenard	102	7½	79	7 8½	18	+6½			5	6				
Wallardi	41	6½	20	6½							21	6		
Woodlands	15½c	7			15½c	7								
Wynaad	409	6.56												
Chulika	111 p	6½	37½c	+7½	35	6½	27	7	12	6				
Erramaculla	94 p	6½			27	6½	62½c	7½	5	6½				
Tanga Mulla	84	6½					33	6½			41	5½	10	6
Wynaad T Co Per...	120 p	6½			60	6½ 6½	60½c	+6½ 7						

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus + represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.



# PLANTING

# OPINION.

## A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WRITTEN BY PLANTERS FOR PLANTERS.

VOL. VIII.]

MADRAS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1903.

[No. 50.]

### SEASON REPORTS.

#### TO OUR SEASON REPORTERS.

Please post your next reports to reach Madras on Wednesday, the 30th instant. Season reports should be sent direct to the Printers, Messrs. HIGGINBOTHAM & Co.

#### Munzerabad.

*December 15th.—Weather—*Wind from the East. Nights very cold down to  $48^{\circ}$  in the early mornings. Rain gone. *Works—*Gathering started, but only a little coming in,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel to  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel. *Coffee—*A fine bold sample. *Crop prospects—*very moderate; for next year the prospect is also moderate, the wood was good, but the late rains have done much damage, causing a false bud to sprout; it is yet to be seen how great the damage was. *Health—*Good. *Labour—*Short. *Interesting item—*The Deputy Commissioner lies at Sukrawar-sante, after a bad illness at the Bisle Ghaut. A moderate paddy crop, rain interfering with the harvest also.

### NOTICE.

In consequence of the Christmas Holidays there will be no issue of this paper next week.

The Editor avails himself of the present opportunity to wish all Readers

A Happy Christmas

AND

A Prosperous New Year.

### COFFEE IN COORG.

FROM the report on the Administration of Coorg in 1902-03 it appears that the acreage held under the coffee tenure in that Province was 101,160, as against 101,711 in 1901-02. The smallness of the decrease is surprising, considering the adverse conditions that the Indian Coffee industry has had to face; but there are other statements in the report that tend to show that the effect of these conditions has been very serious. It is remarked, for instance, that the extent recorded as actually cultivated with coffee fell from 65,732 acres to 59,417 acres, the decrease being due to the abandonment of cultivation in gardens held by natives chiefly in Ammatinad and the Mercara taluk. The figure for the total area held under the coffee tenure, *viz.*, 101,160 acres, includes (a) 10,887 acres of "coffee-assessed cardamom malés," (b) 1,443 acres of orange gardens, (c) 29,413 acres of abandoned coffee, and (d) 6,270 acres of immature coffee. There was thus a nett area of 53,147 acres of coffee under bearing, of which 38,143 acres are reported to be cultivated in the European method, and 15,003 acres in the native style. It is added that the native coffee is disappearing so fast that in a few years' time but little of it is likely to remain. This is not an entirely unsatisfactory feature. Writing without racial prejudice, we may assert that what is known as "native cultivation" has, for some years past, done much to lower the general reputation of Indian Coffees. There has been a tendency to let the coffee grow as it will; to harvest the crops in bad years, to leave them almost untouched in bad years. The quality of coffee thus produced has been unsatisfactory, and though there may be no reliable evidence on the point we cannot but think that abandoned estates (European and Indian) and neglected estates (mainly Indian) have favoured the spread of disease, and have thus militated against the prosperity of the coffee industry as a whole.

In Coorg the assessment leviable under the coffee tenure is ordinarily Rs.2 an acre, but since the summary settlement a higher rate (Rs.2 $\frac{1}{4}$  per acre) has been charged on excellent coffee grown on bane land, while *per contra* large areas are held free of assessment or at favourable rates in consideration of a variety of circumstances, among which the following have been enumerated as the most important:—(a) the free allowance of 10 acres granted in respect of the authorized cultivation of bane land with coffee; (b) the favourable rates



allowed during the opening up of new estates; (c) reductions on account of the deterioration of the coffee growth or its eradication for purposes of pasturage, and (d) the concessions allowed in the case of coffee-assessed cardamom malés. The extents held in 1902-03 under the various rates are shown below:—

*Rate of Assessment per Acre.*

	Free.	As.4.	As.8.	Re.1.	Rs.1½	Rs.2.	Rs.2½	Total Area.
Acreage held by Natives ...	20,513	2,022	9,373	12,908	155	19,572	4,691	69,234
Acreage held by Europeans ...	1,562	398	2,346	2,075	188	22,145	3,212	31,926
Total ...	22,075	2,420	11,179	14,983	343	41,717	7,903	101,160

As an indication of the extent to which coffee has deteriorated it may be observed that during the year under report reductions of assessment aggregating Rs.6,958 were sanctioned in respect of 6,652 acres, while the orders of the Chief Commissioner were awaited in respect to similar proposals relating to an aggregate sum of Rs.6,243 distributed over an area of 5,499 acres. The unfavourable conditions affecting the industry formed the subject of special representations by a deputation from the Coorg Planters' Association on the occasion of Sir DONALD ROBERTSON'S visit to Mercara in February 1903, the outcome of which was the decision to consider the expedience of (a) modifying the assessment rules by permitting the imposition of a grazing rate on land which, though naturally fit for coffee-growing, cannot be profitably cultivated while prices continue at the present low rate, (b) permitting the complete exemption from tax of wet lands, the entire bane attached to which is cultivated with coffee paying full assessment, and (c) refusing applications for reduction of assessment from planters whose negligent cultivation has made their estates a material factor in the spread of infection from the borer insect.

Coorg coffee enjoys such a high reputation that remarks such as the above cannot be read without anxiety. They do not encourage the hope that Indian Coffee can be made profitable in the face of the increasing rivalry of Brazil; and, though here again no reliable statistics are to be had, there is little room for doubt that the Brazilian product is ousting the low-class Indian product in some of the chief markets of this country. If estates in India had the whole of the Indian market under their control, it would be something. There is, however, reason to fear that it is losing its hold in this country, and if that be the case we can scarcely look forward very hopefully as to the progress of the superior sorts in other markets. It is particularly saddening to reflect that the great American market, the finest in the world, has hitherto been virtually closed to Indian Coffees. The exhibits at St. Louis next year, and the pushful measures that are to be undertaken in connection with these, may bring about a change for the better. It almost seems, however, as if the fate of the Indian Coffee industry might be said to depend upon this cast of the dice. Failure at St. Louis will at least show that the American market is to continue to exclude Indian supplies, whereas success should mean the opening up of a demand that may greatly enhance the value of the really fine sorts that are still produced in this coffee. That the cultivation of

these sorts depends largely upon the giving of a little encouragement to planters, or the withholding of it from them, appears to us to call for no argument. And by "encouragement" we allude to steady demand, not to remissions of assessment or other concessions made by Governments in India, for the results of the latter cannot be far-reaching enough to bring about the salvation of an industry that is hard-pressed by the competition that results from Brazilian over-supply. Pessimistic as these remarks are, we cannot but think they are justified by the present position of affairs and we would again urge all coffee-planters in India to realise that they must either open out new markets for their staple product or—go to the wall.

#### U. P. A. S. I. SECTION.

(UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY, U. P. A. S. I.)

#### COFFEE-GROWING IN COLOMBIA.

Last week we gave a report by the British Consul; we now give one by United States Consul-General Snyder, Quito:

The principal districts for the cultivation of coffee are the Department of Cundinamarca as a whole (which produces the famous Bogotá coffee), the Department of Santander, the districts around Ocaña, Cúcuta, Bucaramanga, and the Tolima. The lowlands of the Tolima, on either side of the Magdalena River, form the grazing lands, while east and west of these, at varying distances, rise the cordilleras of the Andes, in the small valleys of which the coffee is grown.

There are three classes of coffee produced in the Republic. First, that which is dried in the sun in the cherry and afterward cleaned; this is known as *café trillado* and is the lowest priced coffee. Second, that which is prepared by washing the cherry or pulp from the bean, which is then dried and cleaned by machinery. This grade is called *café lavado* and brings a good price. Third, that from which the pulp is washed and the bean exported, after being dried in the husk. This grade is known as *café en pergamino* and is the highest priced coffee.

The temperature may vary between 59 and 77 degrees F., but the quality of the coffee does not depend so much upon the temperature of the district as upon the soil and cultivation. The bean is larger in the hotter climates, but with properly planted shade trees and satisfactory pruning and suitable land any quality of coffee can be produced. In the colder climates the bean is smaller, but the plant requires less care; planters are not as careful in pruning, and quality is generally sacrificed for quantity.

A tree from 4 to 8 years old will yield, on small and well-kept plantations, about 1 pound annually, but on the large plantations the yield is usually about half that amount.

It is stated that of the annual crop but about 25,000 bags are retained for home consumption. The best grades are always exported, and the damaged beans are reserved by the planters for sale locally. By damaged beans is meant those that have been torn by the machinery in cleaning or otherwise damaged in the handling. The unmarketable beans float to the top during the process of washing and are skimmed off and used as fertilizer on the plantations.

With Brazilian coffee at 6 cents a pound, as a standard, the average prices of Colombian coffee run from 7 cents for Ocaña to 11 cents for Tolima. For some time, owing to the revolution, the exportation of coffee has been almost at a



standstill, and on this account Colombian coffee will undoubtedly lose favour, as some of the coffee now being exported is three years old.

It costs about 4 cents per pound to put the coffee in New York, including commissions, etc., and as the cost of production on the estates cannot be reduced to less than 4 cents, the general opinion here is that, with the exception of a few estates on the Magdalena River, coffee-growing in Colombia is not a paying business with the rate below 8 cents per pound in New York. The high cost of putting the coffee in New York is chiefly owing to the poor means of transport to the coast.

Coffee-growers, before the war, in order to enable them to harvest their crop, were given large credits, but most of them, through the fall in the price of coffee and carelessness in the working of their plantations, fell far behind in payments. The result is that foreign houses are limiting credits to the amount necessary to secure facilities for transporting the coffee which is prepared for export.

With a view of ascertaining the system of recruitment and management of labour in the tea gardens of the Doors, Madras and Ceylon, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, with the approval of the Government of India, proposes to depute Mr. J. C. Arbuthnot, C.I.E., to visit these places and institute local inquiries. Mr. Arbuthnot will visit the tea districts of Madras at the end of December.

#### COFFEE NOTES.

**The U. S. Coffee Market.**—The week in coffee has been somewhat unsettled, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 17th ultimo, but closed better in tone, and on Monday of this week showed advances in the speculative market. This was due to bullish reports of conditions in Brazil, where the receipts are showing a decided falling off, and if continuing, a market surely of only 11,000,000 bags as the crop of 1903-04 should follow. Further, the weather conditions for the growing crop are not reported of the best. Buying in options for investment account by financial interests has had a revival, and is a factor that has to be taken into consideration by the trade. Apparently the financial world finds coffee the only good thing for its idle funds, and is prepared to lavish its capital and manipulative power on the exchanges, American and European. France, too, is beginning to show interest; reports from there being to the effect that large concerns are preparing to give the coffee market their attention. Up to the present time Hamburg and Havre have been loth to follow New York, regarding the activity and advances in the option market as unwarranted by the statistical position of coffee. In view of the augmenting interest in the market by men of wealth, still further advances in coffee may be expected despite the present inclination to halt and even re-act. A good deal of manipulation may naturally be expected. Reactions, too, are only healthy, and even needful signs.

So far as actual coffee is concerned, in Brazil coffee a dragging market is reported. Orders are slow and small, the trade expecting a retrogression in prices or is very well supplied, and thus may be pardoned if inclined to wait in placing orders.

The Brazil markets are unchanged and firm; offers including Santos No. 3 at 7½c., c. & f., at which sales were made. Spot invoice is steady, but demand slow. Quotations

closed at 5½c. for Rio No. 8, 6½c. for Rio No. 7, 7½c. for Rio No. 4, and 7½ and 7¾c. for Santos No. 4.

Mild coffees are firm, especially for Colombian kinds, the troubles in Colombia leading to fears that movements of the coffee from that country may be arrested. Some traders have even advanced prices. For good Cucuta 7½ to 8c. is demanded. East Indian coffee steady.

Receipts at Santos last week were 162,000 bags, against 208,000; at Rio, 88,000 bags, against 98,000 bags one year ago. Total 250,000 bags.

Total stock in United States November 1, 2,491,208 bags against 2,594,941 bags November 1, 1902. Brazil stock in the United States November 14, in store and afloat, 2,668,624 bags against 2,720,752 bags at the same time last year. Other than Brazilian, 358,463 bags against 231,135 bags last year.

Brazil coffee in New York November 14, 1,920,584 bags. Stock in other coffees, November 9, 320,851; in San Francisco, 32,580 bags; and in New Orleans, 5,032 bags. Visible supply in the world of all coffees, November 1, 13,918,131 bags.

\* \* \*

Mr. C. E. Bickford's (San Francisco) coffee circular of November 6th, says:—"The demand since last issue has been very active and a large business has been done both locally and for overland shipment at somewhat higher figures, in sympathy with the advance in the New York and European markets. Spot quotations in New York have advanced ½c. on No. 7 Rio and ¾c. on No. 4 Santos during the past month and futures from 60 to 80 points and remain steady under unusually heavy buying—sales on the exchange averaging more than 100,000 bags per day for the past ten days. While the advance is attributed to the heavy buying of speculative interests, the prevailing opinion is that prices will tend higher. "The local position is good, there remaining 33,172 bags in first hands, not an over-abundant supply in second hands, and a continued active demand for overland shipment. A shortage of the more desirable shipping grades exists, and business with overland markets is naturally curtailed by the remaining holdings. The market is bare of prime to fancy washed coffees and these grades will command attention immediately following their receipt.

"To-day's first hand stock consists of 4,240 bags Costa Rica, 1,472 Nicaragua, 3,530 Salvador, 17,400 Guatemala, 670 Mexican, and 5,860 various; in all, 33,172 bags.

\* \* \*

A Santos cable to new York says:—"Flowering a failure in western part of São Paulo."

\* \* \*

Messrs. Holworthy, Ellis & Co., Santos, cabled of the growing Santos coffee crop:—"Too early to give estimate, but prospects good; damage is overestimated. The weather is favourable for growing Santos crop."

\* \* \*

The shipments of Hawaiian coffee show an increase of 720,456 pounds over the shipments of the previous period, and a falling-off of 689,615 pounds from the shipments of the year ended June 30, 1901. The shipments of coffee for the past year were worth \$110,216 more than the shipments of the year before, and \$75,037.27 less than the shipments of the year ended June 30, 1901, all of which indicates a partial recovery in this product from the depression of the year to June 30, 1902.

\* \* \*

Messrs. Karl Krische & Co. cable on Brazil coffee:—"Stocks in interior small. Estimate this season's crop at 7,000,000 to



7,250,000 bags. Prospects of a moderate crop. Drouth has done damage."

The virus of coffee speculation seems to be growing, and efforts are now being made to introduce retail coffee dealers to the fascinating art of bucking the coffee tiger, says a Philadelphia contemporary. It was ascertained during the week that certain large stock brokers are sending out literature to small retail coffee dealers in various parts of the country, soliciting speculative business in coffee options.

**Coffee in London.**—The principal item of interest this week, says the *Produce Markets' Review* of 21st ultimo, is a statement that the growing Java crop has suffered so severely during the period of flowering that it is likely to yield only about one-third of the one now current, or, stated in figures, 210,000 bags against 600,000 bags. It seems as though we were entering upon a period of very small production, for the estimates of practically all the various growing countries are on a reduced scale, with the single exception of Mexico. Should this be the case, we must look for a higher range of prices for all mild Coffees, whatever sized crop Brazil should actually turn out. At the auctions rates have in many cases been dearer, though supplies have been limited almost entirely to Colombian, some parcels of which have shown a very marked improvement in quality. In the terminal market the fluctuations have been on a small scale; after advancing 6d. the quotations have gone back, and the close is about 3d. above last week. The receipts continue rather heavier than last year, notably from Rio, and until this position is altered there is hardly likely to be any great rise.

The purity of the coffee sold in Philadelphia has been so successfully attacked by Philadelphia trade journalists that New York brands are in better request there. For about thirty cents a pound any New Yorker can obtain magnificent coffee—a drink literally fit for the gods.

News reaches us, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, that the Porto Rican coffee-growers are extending their associations for common benefit and are feeling encouraged that the United States Government will be able to effect a treaty with Spain admitting the island's coffee into that country on reciprocal arrangement, by which Spanish wines are admitted into Porto Rico free. Thus coffee exchanges with wine. The islanders hope for a return of good times by this measure. Meantime, they seem to be suffering for lack of money, and at the present moment many planters are in peril of losing their coffee plantations on account of their inability to pay their taxes, a harsh law exacting a foreclosure by the Government if taxes due are not paid within six months. Governor Hunt has promised to be lenient, and it is just possible that the planters will be able to tide over their immediate difficulties in the rise of coffee to \$10 and \$12 a bag from \$6 to \$8 last year. While it is well and natural to look to the old fatherland for assistance in a market way for their coffee, the Porto Ricans should feel that the great market is the new fatherland—us, the United States of America. So far, in the matter of demand here for Porto Rico coffee, the islanders have only wept some, and agitated a little for the impossible, such as protection for their coffee, and have done very little to put on sale their coffee, so that a world beyond question ready to give the article a trial at least, might buy it. Who has seen an advertisement telling where the coffee was to be bought? The President has said, "I only use your coffee," and the newspapers have reported the testimonial from Maine to Oregon. The Boston "Transcript" says:—"President Roosevelt has written a letter saying that he uses no other coffee on his own table. This will be used probably as an advertisement next year." Next year! Will the Spanish mind ever learn that procrastination is the thief of time? The Pittsburg "Gazette" says:—"As the President endorses it so highly, we all want a sample of it, and if it

is to be found as good as he says it is, we will want a lot more of the same." The Newport "R. I. News" remarks:—"It does not seem as if Porto Rico coffee for a moment ought to go begging for a market. It is a superior coffee, and gives universal satisfaction when tried." From the Malden, Mass., "Mail":—"A great many people would like to try it and see how good the President's judgment is as to coffee. He says he thinks it the best in the world. Perhaps he don't know; but if he does, our people should all have a chance to sample it. Malden has a number of up-to-date grocers, and here is a chance for them. It isn't every brand of coffee or anything else that can get a puff from the President of the United States." Following is from the New Castle, Ind., "Courier":—"There is no better coffee in the world outside of Arabia than that grown in our island." The Philadelphia "Record" says:—"It is very good of the President to use Porto Rican coffee—which is very good coffee by the way—and we hope the islanders will get all the markets in this country and Europe that they need." These are only a few of the expressed sentiments. They indicate a widespread desire to give Porto Rican coffee a trial. We wonder the coffee trade has not, of its own accord, tried the sincerity of the public. It seems as if there were money in it, and the temptation should prove superior to the prejudice that the coffee is hard to sell because of the dark roast it exacts. Some grocers not troubled much by a severe conscience, are selling, we are told, Brazil coffees as Porto Rican. Perhaps they wouldn't, if they could meet with the genuine article. Whatever be the plight of the Porto Ricans, they cannot, with justice, complain that at least we have not been willing to meet them half way in the purchase of their coffee, buying all we can get hold of.

Imports of mild coffee at New York during November to the 12th instant are 40,028 bags, of which 13,000 bags are Savanilla and 9,000 bags Maracaibo. Exports to that date were 6,749 bags.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Baltimore Coffee Exchange was held on November 10, and the Executive Committee for the next year was elected. Owing to the enlarged business of the Exchange, the Executive Committee was instructed to formulate plans to get quicker quotations from other coffee exchanges.

The Revision Committee of the New York Coffee Exchange has voted to make no changes in the grading of coffee sold on the Exchange. In response to a petition signed by Exchange members, the Board of Managers has amended the by-laws, abolishing the Revision Committee and fixing permanently the difference between grades at 50 points. The changes will be voted on by the members November 23.

Circles on the New York Coffee Exchange have it that Adolph Lewishon, J. A. Stillman, and H. H. Rogers, the so-called "metal interests," are the leaders in the bull clique, Lehman Bros. operating for them. Another report has it that the Lewishons have sold several hundred thousand bags of coffee to leading bulls. But the Lewishons deny all reports that their interests in coffee are not intact.

One of the objects of the use of glaze on roasted coffee is that the substance helps to settle the beverage when it is drawn.

Genuine Mocha coffee has a small, round symmetrical bean of a rich olive-green tint, and almost translucent if new crop but a bright yellowish hue if old.

According to Rio estimates, some 30,000 bags of 132 pounds each are wasted every year in Rio, in simply giving samples of coffee. New York importers generally allow 1 pound per bag for sampling.

Messrs. F. Metz & Co., Havre, October 29, say:—

"The advance starting in New York, is very unpleasant for the great majority of the European arbitrage people; with the heavy premiums existing in New York it has been for years a well paying business to sell in New York against Coffee in store, against importations from Brazil or purely as arbitrage. In declining or unchanged markets such trades brought good profits to the seller in New York, but this has ceased to be the case since New York has become leader of the advance; we estimate the amount sold in New York for Havre account alone at nearly 400,000 bags, and in



a further advance the margin question may become a very awkward factor."

Messrs. J. S. Bache & Co., New York, say:—

"Coffee is being bulled energetically on the proposition that the low prices have discouraged production; that the trees have been hurt by last Autumn's frost in some instances; that in other instances they have been injured by the drouth this Summer, and that the planter has been neglectful of his crop because it did not pay him to raise coffee. Consequently it is claimed production will show a falling-off from recent averages, beginning with the crop growing, and that the Brazilian will make no effort to increase his outturn while prices remain so low."

Messrs. Willett & Gray, of New York, say:—

"The coffee trade in this country, as well as in Europe, is looking with mistrust upon the advance in coffee, and the experiences of the past six or seven years fully justify the apprehension that the present crop is really larger than a number of firms in Brazil represent it to be. On the basis of the receipts for the past three years, the current crop in Rio and Santos promises to be 12 million bags. Whatever the final outcome proves to be, it is well enough for the trade to take the benefit of the doubt, and should it be that the current crop is marketed as rapidly as that of 1899-1900, as is generally considered as probable, then five-eighths will have been received in the first four months, leaving the other three-eighths to be received during the remaining eight months of the crop year, and which would be more than likely to create a favourable impression upon values."

Messrs. Lehman Bros., of New York, say:—

"A halting disposition on the part of buyers has from time to time forced sellers to accept slight recessions, and thus, at times, values have made a moderate loss. There is still apparent a marked degree of confidence by holders on this side. Europe, however, ostensibly will not follow and does not share in the optimistic view of either the trade or speculation of this country, so that in this case we also find somewhat of a clog in prices and which, as it seems to us now, while still at a relatively low level, must in a large measure, be governed by what may transpire hereafter, particularly in regard to the coming crop, which, though some time ago was generally accepted as somewhat more favoured by the elements, has in the last few days been referred to in another cable as once more suffering by the continued drouth. At best it does not seem to us that the outlook favours large expectations concerning the coming yield."

## TEA NOTES.

**The U. S. Tea Market.**—Business in tea is normal at firm rates, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* of 17th ultimo. The market continues in a healthy condition, and is showing an inclination to increase in the volume of trading. No large orders are reported, but there have been not a few of fair-sized proportions, this applying to both line and invoice business. Congous are especially favoured by a good outlook. The market in London is continually improving for the tea, becoming more and more barren for this grade of goods at the price and must shortly enter the market here with renewed interest. By the Spring our own market must become quite barren of Congous, for the imports have been very light on this side. The situation of the tea may thus be grasped at a glance. The tea is now at 9½c. and should rise to 11c. for such as is not very poor quality. In the East more active conditions are reported for Foochows with larger trading. All greens are firm held and also Formosa. Japans are likewise firm but quiet so far as the New York market is concerned. It is beginning to be thought here that many of the customers of the local market have been captured by Western and Northern firms, and thus it happens that such Japan tea as is here is little movable. To all accounts the rest of the country has taken the tea in large quantities. Canada reports firm prices for it. India and Ceylons

are firm in response to the improved conditions ruling in England and the demand here continues good. The same applies to the British green teas.

Mr. A. R. Robertson writes:—Since advising last month on the tea situation, a very decided improvement has taken place in demand; buyers are examining everything offered very carefully, and buying much more freely.

Formosa teas have received a very fair share of attention, and prices are firmer; some buying of large blocks have been reported, so that it is more than likely that line prices will advance all round, and more especially on finer grades. Foochows are quiet on spot market, but advices from East intimate some activity at fair prices. Congous are selling well and fetching higher prices. There is nothing to be had under nine cents for Government standard lines. Ping-sueys show considerably more activity, and slightly better prices are being paid. Moyunes are quiet.

In Japans the market is unusually dull, and the only inquiry is "tea for price"; holders are firm, the season being practically over, and such leaf as is left out there is not good enough to pass inspection. Indias and Ceylons are offering freely, but at prices much higher than this market will pay. Foreign markets are asking figures equivalent to London valuations, which it is impossible to obtain at the moment. It may be that buyers here will have to raise their ideas or go without the tea; but most of them are pretty sanguine here that if they hold out, just a little longer, they will stock up for less money. Conditions abroad do not now warrant such a decision, but sometimes the unexpected happens.

India and Ceylon greens are slightly easier in price, with no great activity showing itself. It will be unfortunate if so many of these teas are made, that the United States has to be used as a "dumping ground." It will later be a serious proposition for the "growers" and yet, a healthy quiet, steady demand could have been fostered and a regular market made, had they not driven too hastily.

\* \* \*

**London Tea Market.**—Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's report, dated the 11th instant, says that buyers are operating very cautiously and the market for Medium-Liquoring and for Common and Broken Pekoes is weak. The average price of Assam and Indian tea sold on garden account this week is 8½d. and 7¾d., respectively.

\* \* \*

**American Imports of Tea.**—The imports of tea for the first nine months of 1903 show, says the *American Grocer*, a good increase over the same period in 1902 and a heavy gain over 1901. The following table shows the net imports for the nine months ending September 30:—

	Pounds.
Total imports ...	64,270,228
Total exports ...	4,299,508
Net imports, 1903 ...	59,970,720
Net imports, 1902 ...	56,012,171
Increase ..	3,958,549

Of the imports this year 29,607,439 pounds, or 46.1 per cent., came from Japan; 23,714,344 pounds, or 37.5 per cent., from China; the United Kingdom, British North America, and the East Indies supplied 10,549,106 pounds, or 16.4 per cent.

\* \* \*

American advices state:—There is a quiet market for British-grown teas. India and Ceylon greens favour the



buyers. Messrs. A. R. Robertson & Co. say: "It will be unfortunate if so many of those teas are manufactured that the United States have to be used as a 'dumping ground'; otherwise a healthy trade might be established."

At the recent Annual Meeting of the American Asiatic Association, Secretary Foord said: "The National Tea Association, which was formally organized last March, must be welcomed as a valuable aid to the promotion of commerce with Asia, and as an exponent of principles and purposes with which this association has declared itself to be in complete accord. The co-operation of the National Tea Association may be counted on in giving such assistance as the members of this Association can extend toward promoting the success of the exhibits of China and Japan at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition." Mr. Foord is also Secretary of the Tea Association, and we presume his remarks may be regarded as semi-official expression of the intentions of that body. It is a wise plan to arouse the interest of the Chinese and Japanese tea-growers in the exposition. Up to the present time we have not heard of any enterprise on their own account in this direction. The Ceylon and India growers will spend thousands of dollars at St. Louis, and they will be rewarded proportionately, we are sure, and it looks at the expense of the inert and indifferent Asiatics. These have made large profits in recent years, for the merchants have been in their favour. It may be that they regard the past years as permanent, but there can be no question as to the ultimate disposition of a sleepy competitor fought by a live one. A competition equal in real strenuousness need not be feared, we think, in its effects. It would tend to that larger consumption of tea in the United States, which is the just mead of the commodity, and in such healthy conditions everybody should flourish. Otherwise the American market will become the exclusive prize of the Indian and Ceylon men, the China and Japan teas finding favour only as something more or less rare, consumption falling to some such similar neglect as now prevails in the United Kingdom. By rousing the Asiatics to pay some attention to the portents of troublesome weather ahead, the National Tea Association will be doing them at least a charity, at the same time saving the possibility of variety for our own market.

Tea importations at Chicago during October last, reported by the Custom House, amounted to 3,275,809 pounds, valued at \$564,885.

TEAS EXAMINED AT CHICAGO FOR CHICAGO.				
Kind.		Pkgs.	Wt., lbs.	
Japans	...	18,787	1,397,700	
Greens	...	11,310	509,881	
Oologs	...	2,557	101,897	
Congous	...	1,552	64,668	
Indias	...	3,180	198,192	
		37,386	2,272,328	

TEAS EXAMINED AT CHICAGO FOR OTHER PORTS.				
Kind.		Pkgs.	Wt., lbs.	
Japans	...	8,111	421,897	
Greens	...	8,123	263,028	
Oologs	...	27	1,090	
Congous	...	30	11,025	
Indias	...	1,638	50,590	
		17,929	737,630	

Cup Yields of Teas.—It is well known, remarks the *Merchants' Review*, that India and Ceylon teas are superior to China and Japan leaf as regards their comparative liquor-

yielding qualities, but it is not so well known that many of the higher grade China and Japan teas are so much superior in the same respect to the lower and cheaper grades that they are actually cheaper to use. Some extravagant claims are made for some of the high-grade teas, as, for instance, that certain 60-cent tea will furnish twice as much liquor as ordinary 35-cent tea. The best way to test this assertion is to give the good and cheap teas in stock the liquor test. Teas are bound to vary, according to kind, style of curing and age, and the grocer can only determine the relative cup-yielding qualities of his teas by committing samples to the watery depths of the testing cups.

Total settlements of Formosa tea at Tamsui to October 13 were 465,000 half-chests. Advices are that "low" grade is in full supply but of undesirable character; "good" is scarce and a few "good to superior" and "superior" were left, but of mixed yellow leaf and so not very attractive. It was at that time thought that the crop cannot be kept inside 500,000 half chests and will exceed that quantity. Tait & Co., Amoy, say, if all low rubbish offered is taken by buyers.

The *Kokumin* has published in a series of editorials a succinct account of Japan's economic progress during the last decade. Notwithstanding the fact that our trade was subjected to various adverse influences on the Foreign markets, its progress has been on the whole not so bad as might have been expected, the increase in fact amounting to 15.1 per cent. as follows:—

		Yield.	Comparative.
		Kwan.	Rate.
1891	...	7,054,493	1,000
1901	...	8,120,390	1,151
— <i>Japan Times</i> .			

The Brick Tea Trade of Siberia.—Mr. Inamasu, the representative at Vladivostock of the Japanese tea guilds, reports on the brick tea market in Eastern Siberia. He says that, of all the districts in that part of the Russian dominion, Stretensk, situated as it is at a point of vantage on the Shilka, is the foremost place where brick tea finds its way, Chita, Vladivostock, Khabarovsk, and Blagovestchensk coming next, though at considerable distance. The condition of the brick tea market at Stretensk is simply amazing. Heaps upon heaps of the commodity may be seen piled up on the pier, and the town is crowded with godowns built solely for its storage. This prosperous business is due, according to our informant, to the fact that the Russian authorities have exerted themselves for generations to develop Stretensk as a centre of the Siberian colonies—with the result that hundreds of villages have sprung up around it. The annual amount of brick tea, both green and black, dealt with in the locality, is stated to be something like 500,000 boxes, each containing 572 pieces. The wholesale price ranges between 25 and 29 roubles per box. Transactions in Japanese products have been opened there comparatively recently, so that they have not yet gained much ground. There is, however, concludes Mr. Inamasu, ample room for our goods to make headway in Stretensk and elsewhere.—*Japan Times*, November 19th.

The Royal Statistical Society and Tea.—The Royal Statistical Society held their first ordinary Meeting of the session last week, under the presidency of Major Patrick George Craigie, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. In his address the President said that he had already shown that since 1830 the British Empire had grown from 4 per cent. to 24 per cent. of the surface of the earth. In the "thirties" the population outside the British Isles was 100,000,000; the figure for 1900 was three and a-half times that number. No less striking was the increase in the supply of food, the consumption of meat being thirteen times as great now as it was about seventy years ago. The increased supply came largely from abroad. Major Craigie pointed out that tea had also become more and more popular. The quantity sold per head in the year 1852 was 2 lbs., by 1859 it had increased to 2.67 lbs., in 1885 to 5 lbs., and now the country took 6 lbs. per head. As much as 98 per cent. came from China fifty years ago, but now practically all came from India and Ceylon. More food and better food was obtainable in the



United Kingdom to-day than at any earlier date. *Apropos* Major Craigie's lecture, which referred to food generally, the *Daily Telegraph* has discussed the question whether we overeat and drink too much. In connection with this subject our contemporary consulted an eminent London physician, and incidentally referred to tea. As medical men are not, as a rule, enthusiastic in their praise of tea-drinking, we may take it that this physician's remarks are not wholly unfavourable, and we must be thankful accordingly. Questioned as to the enormous increase in tea-drinking, which the figures produced by Major Craigie disclosed, he said, "Over-tea-drinking is undoubtedly the cause of numerous evils. Many forms of indigestion, as well as certain nerve derangements, are directly attributable to the abuse of tea. Not only is tea injurious on account of the tannin and theine it contains, but the practice of partaking of a heavy meal and drinking with it several cups of tea is very pernicious, because bulk of fluid taken seriously interferes with the process of digestion. To drink two or three cups of tea with one's lunch is a fruitful source of dyspepsia. Another way in which tea does harm is that on account of its stimulating action it stops the craving for food, and prevents more suitable nourishment being taken. Many women engaged in teaching live largely on tea and bread and butter, to the exclusion of meat, and consequently become nervous and anæmic and suffer from general breakdown. Stop their tea-drinking, put them on an ordinary diet, and they speedily get better. Still, I do not look upon the fact that we consume more tea than formerly as wholly bad. I believe that in many cases tea has replaced alcohol as a beverage. The number of men who now take cold tea to their work instead of beer is very large, and in so far as tea-drinking has replaced the excessive consumption of beer I must say I think it has been beneficial."—*H. & C. Mail.*

In China tea is generally prepared in the cup and drunk without milk or sugar.

Tea-blending is useful in order to give to a sample a number of desirable qualities, as for example, flavour, strength, body, colour, richness. If at the same time the cost of the sample is not much increased, the profit to the dealer will be immediately apparent. In making a successful blend of tea the most powerful ingredient should also be the highest grade in the blend, as the other teas will thus be elevated to the level of the highest grade leaf. When the most costly tea in the blend is a delicate one and the lower grades are coarse or powerful, the high-grade leaf will be brought down to their level.

### NOTES.

#### German Quinine.

During the eight months ending August the exports of quinine preparations, etc., from Germany were as follows:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.
Kilos ... ..	136,900	134,400	110,600

#### Italian Emigration to Brazil.

Italian statistics state emigration to Brazil in 1902 to have been 23,951 persons. During the first quarter of 1903 the number was 2,816 as compared with 13,952 in 1902, a very serious falling off. This decrease has an important bearing on the cost of coffee-growing in Brazil, tending to show that labouring on the plantations is not profitable. It tends further to enhance the cost of such labour.

#### Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale.

*Aperçu du contenu du n° 29 (mis en vente à Paris le 30 novembre 1903):*  
71 contributions inédites de MM. Neuville, Couturier, P. des Grottes, Hamel Smith, Berthelot du Chesnay, Guérin, Low, Main, d'Hérelle, Rivière, Hecht frères & Cie. Les utilisations industrielles du manioc.—La fumure du cacaoyer (av. fig.)—Destruction des rats dans les champs de cannes.—L'élevage des bœufs sous l'ombre des cocotiers.—La vérité sur la gutta de fruits du Nicaragua.

—L'extraction mécanique de l'huile de palme.—Le caféier nain du Guatemala.—Articles et notes sur le Castilloa, l'arachide, le bananier, la ramie, l'irrigation, etc.—Chroniques commerciales du caoutchouc et des fibres.—11 analyses bibliographiques. (Italie, Antilles, Samoa, Indes néerlandaises, Péninsule malaise.—Caoutchouc, Gutta-percha, Tabac, Citrus, Cotton.—Machines pour produits tropicaux.—Cultures potagères.—Elevage.—Bassecour.)

#### Cardamoms at St. Louis.

The Honorary Secretary of the Travancore Cardamom Hills Planters' Association writes to the *Times of Ceylon*:—Mr. Sinclair, in writing on 1st November that South Indian planters had refused to combine with the Ceylon Cardamom Committee, was not quite accurate as regards this the principal cardamom district of South India. Under certain conditions we are willing to combine with Ceylon, and any proposals made to us will be carefully considered. I may mention that, apart from the money voted by the United Planters' Association of South India, a fund is being raised for the purpose of pushing the sale of our cardamoms at the St. Louis Exhibition; the cardamom planters of Travancore and the Annamalais are giving four annas per acre, the Travancore Government have been asked for Rs.1,000, and an effort is being made to induce native ryots to subscribe a small amount.

#### World's Production of Rubber.

The figures in the following table were published in *Industrie et Commerce de Caoutchouc* of November 6, 1903, and relate to the world's production of rubber:—

	Quantity Produced.	
	1900.	1902.
	Tons.	Tons.
Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia ... ..	25,000	30,000
Other States of South America ... ..	3,500	1,000
Central America and Mexico ... ..	2,500	2,000
Straits Settlements and dependencies ... ..	...	1,000
East and West Africa and the Congo country ... ..	24,000	20,000
Java, Borneo, etc. ... ..	1,000	...
Madagascar and Mauritius ... ..	1,000	...
India, Burma, and Ceylon ... ..	500	...
Total ... ..	57,500	54,000

#### Peruvian Products.

According to a British Consular report on the trade of Peru during 1902, there are now twenty-one small factories for the production of crude cocaine in that country. During 1900 164,864 oz. was produced, and in 1901 the output increased to 376,320 oz. The figures for 1902 do not appear to be available. Of coca-leaves 754 tons was exported from Peru last year, against 601 tons in 1901 and 557 tons in 1900. From Salaverry 30,856 oz. of crude cocaine was exported, valued at £5,002, of which 8,812 oz. was shipped to the United Kingdom last year, and the remainder to Germany and France. Coca-leaves representing 61,096 lbs. (£1,371) were shipped from Salaverry during 1902, of which 7,840 lbs. went to Germany, and the remainder to the United States. Among the exports of Bolivian produce from Mollendo were 5,540 cwt. of cinchona (£14,540), 25 cwt. of coca-leaves (£51), and 25 cwt. of rhatany (£127). Included among the



Peruvian produce exported from Mollendo were 96,560 cwt. (£34,300), borate of lime, 170 cwt. cinchona (£453, 13,940 cwt. coca-leaves (£28,300), 320 cwt. rhatany, and 1,232 lbs. (£14,330) crude cocaine. The bulk of the exports of coca-leaves from Mollendo is now sent to New York, whereas in former years Hamburg was the chief market.

## GENERAL ARTICLES.

### PRODUCE AND PLANTING.

#### The Russian Boycott of Indian Tea.

A letter appeared in Wednesday's *Times* from Sir Roper Lethbridge, who is very indignant with the wicked free-fooders and their suggestion that the recent increase of the Russian duties on Indian tea is the result of the Indian Government's action in imposing countervailing duties on bounty-fed Russian beet sugar. Sir Roper states that the reason for the Russian tea duties is well known in Calcutta, and the tea plantations of the Caucasus, which are now being developed, have a striking similarity to Ceylon and Indian teas in flavour, and it is with the object of fostering the new industry that a heavy duty has been imposed on the imported article. Sir Roper says:—"Why should the Czar admit Indian and Ceylon teas of precisely the same quality and flavour at a duty that would enable them to crush this most lucrative industry? The free importers would freely do it, in the sacred name of Free Trade; but the Czar is neither a fool nor a fanatic." It is common knowledge to all interested in tea-growing that the Russian authorities wish to protect their much-talked-of tea industry in the Caucasus, and that this was a reason for imposing heavier duties on British-grown tea imported into Russia. But it is quite likely that a double shot was intended, and that in addition to wishing to foster the infant tea industry of the Caucasus the Russian authorities may have also intended to show their resentment at the Indian countervailing duties on Russian bounty-fed sugar.

#### The Supplies of Tea at Auction.

The quantities of tea offered at public auction continue on such a large scale that it is not surprising to find the demand slackening. In their last circular Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton sounded a note of warning on this subject. They stated "that if prices are to be maintained the quantities brought to auction must be on a considerably smaller scale. The possibility, if not the probability, of a reduction in the duty next Spring, it is further remarked, affords an additional reason for firmness in dealing with an article which may shortly be less burdened by taxation than at present." Few will be found to dispute this statement, but in practice each grower and importer seems to rely on his neighbour to act upon it instead of following the advice himself. It is a difficult problem. Tea-growers, many of whom have to consider shareholders clamouring for dividends, are beset with anxieties as to the best course to adopt, and as the plan for regulating supplies seem ineffective, the old policy of everyone for himself is naturally resorted to, with the result that supplies come merrily to market and prices are not maintained.

#### Mr. Seddon's Preferential Scheme.

A telegram from Wellington gives some particulars of the new tariff arrangements provided for by Mr. Seddon's preferential trade bill, which passed through the New Zealand House of Representatives last week. The duty on tea grown in the British dominion is removed. The Bill passed the Upper House and comes into force at once. In addition to increasing the duties on foreign goods the Bill provides for reciprocity with foreign countries making concessions in favour of New Zealand products. Slight modifications in the Bill will have to be made to meet existing contracts. It is understood that the increased duties will amount to between £70,000 and £80,000, against which the remission of the tea duty will, it is estimated, involve a loss to the revenue of £40,000. The only opposition offered to the measure in Parliament was on the ground that the Government was rushing through important proposals in the dying hours of the session.

#### The Board of Customs Report and Tea.

The annual return for year ending December 31, 1902, of samples of tea analysed in the Custom Department under Section 30 of the

Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, shows that the total number of samples analysed during the year was 1,399, as follows:—760 samples black tea, congous, etc.; 311 black tea, dust; 23 black tea, siftings; 27 green tea, faced; 93 green tea, unfaced; 185 green tea, capers; total 1,399. Of this total, 1,252 samples were considered satisfactory, and the importations represented by them were accordingly delivered on the certificate of the analyst. The remaining 147 samples, representing 1,522 packages, were of doubtful character, and they were reported to the Board for their decision. The Board decided that the whole of these 1,522 packages should not be admitted for home consumption or for use as ship's stores, but should be restricted to exportation, or for the manufacture of caffeine.

#### A Tea Missionary.

Mr. A. Suter, of the Montreal branch of Crossfield, Lampard, Clark & Co., the London, England, and Colombo tea house, has returned from his two weeks' tour through New York State, Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. "Mr. Suter's trip was made," says the *Canadian Grocer*, "with a view of opening branches and agencies for his house in the special interest of Ceylon and Indian teas, and though the popular taste has not taken hold of our southern and western cousins as in Canada, he was pleased to learn that owing to the stimulating advertising that had been done during the past number of years the trade was beginning to look with distinct favour upon these teas, and it was only a question of a few years when the excellent merits of British-grown teas would meet with favour. Many of the leading jobbers in Bay City, Detroit, Cleveland, Columbus, Buffalo, and Pittsburg were considering the advisability of taking hold of Ceylon and Indian teas, and there is little doubt but that the St. Louis Purchase Exhibition next year, where large bungalows are being erected by the Ceylon Government and Tea Association for the purpose of introducing these teas to the American public, will have a marked effect. The introduction of Ceylon green teas since the Chicago Fair will make the work of diverting the taste of tea-drinkers easier, as Americans are, if drinkers of tea at all, more friendly to China and Japan greens than to blacks. Mr. Suter reports his reception as very favourable and most encouraging."

#### A Lament about Coffee.

The *Boston Herald* is almost sad as it thinks of the good old days of coffee-drinking in Great Britain. It says: "Would you think it, coffee is not popular, as a beverage, in Great Britain. Fancy that the coffee merchants complain of a steady decrease in its import, and then pity the poor benighted little Englishers who neglect the invigorating cup! It is difficult to say why the steady decrease in the importation of the berry has come to pass. What does England drink, tea? Probably Sir Tommy can account for the falling off to his own satisfaction. But when it is recalled the coffee tavern was one of old London's favourite resorts, and the 'coffee palace' became an institution about 1876, it must astonish the merchants to find public taste is changing. It does not seem as though tea or gin could be such rivals of that stimulating drink, but some counter influence is at work, if the imports during the last thirty years are evidence. Most likely somebody is scared about his liver."—*H. & C. Mail*.

### PEPPER AND NUTMEG CULTIVATION.

In the market for spices at the present time, interest largely centers in pepper and nutmegs. In this connection it may be noticed that there is a large increase in the consumption of both these spices in America, and that the tendency is toward higher prices and a scarcity of supply to meet the demand.

Through the courtesy of A. Adelsdorfer, of M. J. Brandenstein & Co., this city, we are enabled to present the accompanying views from photographs of pepper and nutmeg plantations secured by Mr. Adelsdorfer on the occasion of his last trip to the East Indies. They are interesting at this time, when so much attention is being directed toward markets for pepper and nutmegs.

One picture shows a pepper plantation near Singapore. Singapore is perhaps the greatest emporium for this spice in the East, the largest proportion being shipped thence to Great Britain. Pepper is obtained from the dry unripe fruit of the *piper nigrum*, a climbing plant of the simplest culture, being multiplied with facility by cuttings or suckers. The ripe fruit, when deprived of its outer fleshy covering by washing, forms the white pepper of commerce.



The pepper vine rises about two feet in the first year of its growth, and attains to nearly six feet in the second, at which time, if vigorous and healthy, the petals begin to form into a corolla or blossom. All suckers and side shoots are carefully removed, and the vines are thinned and pruned if they become bushy at the top. The vine will climb, if permitted, to the elevation of twenty feet, but bears best when kept down to the height of ten or twelve feet. It produces two crops in a year. The fruit grows abundantly from all the branches, and in small clusters of from twenty to fifty grains; when ripe it is of a bright red colour. After being gathered it is spread on mats in the sun and dried, when it becomes black and shriveled. The grains are separated from the stalks by hand-rubbing.

A pepper plantation never survives its thirtieth year unless in extremely rich soil, and then it is unproductive; nor will the young vine thrive on an old, worn out pepper land, a peculiarity which is noticeable in the coffee tree. The chief crop lasts from August to February. Four pounds of dry produce for ten of green is considered a fair estimate, and great care is required in the management of the vine, and especially in training and tying it on the props. The pepper plant is subject to injury by the attacks of a small insect. Green pepper dries in two or three days, and if it is intended that it shall be black it is pulled before it is quite ripe. Pepper, unlike many articles of far eastern produce, is an article that will keep for a very long time without discoverable deterioration if not handled much. The United States *pro rata* of population as compared with other countries in Europe consumes more spices of pepper, nutmegs, and mace especially, than any of them, and as to pepper large quantities of it are used in curing meats on an extensive scale in meat-packing establishments, and on the farms in our Western States in addition to household consumption.

The photograph, from which was made the picture of the nutmeg plantation, was taken on the Banda Islands. The nutmeg, as most people in the trade are well aware, is the kernel of the seed of *myristica fragrans*, a dioecious evergreen tree found wild in the Banda Islands and a few of the neighbouring islands extending as far as New Guinea. Nutmegs and mace are almost exclusively obtained from the Banda Islands, although the cultivation has been attempted with varying success in Singapore, Penang, Bengal, Reunion, Brazil, French Guiana, and the West Indies. The trees yield fruit in eight years after sowing the seed, and reach their prime in twenty-five years, and bear for sixty years longer. Almost the whole surface of the Banda Islands is planted with nutmeg trees. The light volcanic soil, shade, and excessive moisture of these islands, where it rains more or less during the whole year, seem exactly to suit the requirements of the nutmeg tree. In Bencoolen the tree bears all the year round, but the chief harvest takes place in the later months of the year, and the smaller one in April, May, and June. In the Banda Islands, the fruits are gathered in small, neatly-made oval baskets at the end of a bamboo, which prevents bruising, the baskets being opened for half their length on one side, and furnished with two small prongs projecting from the top, by which the fruit stalk is broken, the fruit falling into the basket. The ripe fruit is about two inches in diameter, of a rounded pear-shape, and when mature splits into halves, exposing a crimson arillus surrounding a single seed. When the fruit is collected, the pericarp is first removed, then the arillus is carefully stripped off and dried, in which state it forms the mace of commerce. The seed consists of a thin, hard testa or shell enclosing a kernel, which, when dried, is the nutmeg. To prepare the nutmeg for use, the seed enclosing the kernel is dried at a gentle heat in a drying house over a small fire for about two months, the seeds being turned every second or third day. When thoroughly dry, the shells are broken with a wooden mallet or flat board and the nutmegs picked out and sorted, the small, inferior ones being reserved for the expression of the fixed oil which they contain, and which forms the so-called oil of mace. The dried nutmegs are then rubbed over with dry sifted lime. The process of liming, which originated at the time when the Dutch held a monopoly of the trade, was commenced with a view of preventing the germination of the seeds, which were formerly immersed for three months in milk of lime for this purpose, and a preference is still manifested in some countries for nutmegs so prepared.

There is a remarkable difference between the Banda trees and those of the Straits. This has to do with their respective heights. The tree of the Straits is a mere shrub compared with that of the Banda Islands, where fifty to sixty feet is no uncommon size. The

male tree is much shorter lived than the fruit-bearing one. The Banda fruit hangs upon longer and more slender stalks than the Straits, the skin is more free from all blemish, more thin relatively to the fruit and of more uniform proportion. The Banda manner of breaking the fruit when dried is also superior to that followed in the Straits. This is done by spreading them on a sort of drum-head and striking them with flat pieces of board. Several are cracked at each stroke, and re-supplied as fast by a man standing alongside. One man in this way will break more nuts without injury than half-a-dozen men after the Straits' fashion. It is computed that each female tree when at full maturity, under careful culture, will yield ten pounds of nutmegs and about one pound of mace annually. Nutmegs are divided into two varieties, royal and the green. The former is of a larger size and has its mace longer than the nut, which, in the latter, is not entirely enveloped by the leafy net-work. Good nutmegs are distinguished by being large, round and heavy, finely marbled, and of a light, gray colour.

## RHEA IN NORTH BORNEO.

(THE SUAN LAMBA ESTATE.)

F. M. J. S. writes to the *British North Borneo Herald*:—In an interesting article on abacá, the Philippine Staple Industry, specially written for the *Hongkong Telegraph* the following extracts which are devoted to an account of the cultivation of Rhea as experimented in B. N. Borneo show that this country has not yet been given a fair trial in the development of an industry which, in view of the deterioration in the quality of Manila Hemp that has been characteristic of the market during the last few years, gives rise to the suggestion that Borneo could be brought to the front with a little capital investment as a successful rival of the Philippines.

It is evident that decorticating by machinery, with its enormous saving of hands, must be of the greatest advantage in a sparsely populated country, like Borneo, where the labour has to be imported at considerable expense. One of the greatest obstacles to the prosperity of the tobacco estates has always been the high death rate among the coolies, of whom a large tobacco estate employs many hundreds; some having more than a thousand men in pay. A hemp plantation will by no means run into such figures, and besides the coolies would be spread over a great surface, making the sanitation much easier.

If, therefore, a part of the crop would pass through the machinery, the number of coolies could be greatly reduced, even if the contention of the manufacturers, that a 14-H.P. plant (costing about £900 f.o.b. Liverpool) requiring 25 coolies, would produce about 3,000 lbs. of cleaned fibre, *baled for export* had to be considerably discounted. The quantity named after our previous estimate, would represent a single man's work for sixteen months.

That machinery, effective in any way, will be constructed in the near future, does not admit of any doubt. Too great interests are at stake and the antediluvian way of decorticating may be soon enough a thing of the past. Many years will elapse before over-production sets in reducing the high prices now paid and the product of the hemp industry, for a considerable time, will be unusually high. A stuff, which requires at least two to three years for growing cannot be produced in any quantity at once and the first in the market will benefit most.

Unfortunately the proprietor of Suanlamba, Mr. P. D., of Glasgow, did not engage the services of a practical man in due time. After procuring, at great cost, several thousand young plants from the Philippines, the estate was opened out with a success which would have startled the experts from this country.

In two years, *i.e.*, in a year less time than the Filipinos require for that work, perfectly developed clusters of stems more than four yards long had been obtained and this result was greatly to the credit of the Superintendent, a well known scientific man of high standing. The botanist's part of the business being finished, a practical Estate Manager ought to have been procured at any cost, to work out a good system of roads and the necessary drains, and to build permanent houses and sheds. The man of science perhaps knew too little of these requirements. Besides, being overstrained—at least entirely absorbed by his official work—he had no time to occupy himself especially with the superintendence of the estate.

The latter was worked by Managers recruited from the casual unemployed, who, as a rule, had as little practical knowledge of



estate work as the doctor and far less idea of managing working men. They seem never to have come to an appreciation of the requirements of the case, nor of the number of coolies necessary for the pulling of the fibre. Special funds for the latter were never demanded from the proprietor; invalids dismissed from the hospital, or jail-birds had a few weeks of leisure on the estate, enjoying a regular daily pay for their esteemed presence, and a happy *modus vivendi* without care or trouble set in, which brought the estate no further progress, but most effectually dealt with the funds sent from Europe. The original wooden buildings in the course of a few years decayed through neglect and the Managers shifted their residence to Sandakan, 26 miles by water from the estate. This happy Arcadian life came to a sudden close. The proprietor, who had long expected a good return from the laid out capital and rather unwillingly allowed the continuous drain on his purse, sent out a real planter to report about his property and, if possible, to put it on a reasonable footing. The report was not very encouraging, but the man immediately saw the extraordinary possibilities of the case and demanded £2,500 for coolies, roads and drains, new houses, extension work and the upkeep of all this for about 1½ years, after which time he pretended to be able to make the concern pay a very handsome return. The irate proprietor read the report of this new man and soon saw him—elsewhere. The estate was closed and ever since the waving leaves of a solitary banana bush in the rear of Sandakan bay are reflected by the dark, over-shadowed waters of a deserted river. Years of work and many thousands of capital have been spent up to the present without result, and one of the most justified expectations of B. N. Borneo as a colony has been frustrated or, at least, delayed for many years.

And yet the capital employed in this plantation is not completely lost. A thorough clearing, removing of the over-ripe stems as well as the too exuberant growth of young shoots, rebuilding of houses and roads, and a staff of coolies alone is required to put the estate at once again in working order. And this will scarcely, if at all, cost more than it would have cost at the closing of the estate. This is one feature of abacá planting, which raises its chances high above that of the tobacco; the latter plant dies out in the year it is planted, while tea and coffee degenerate and are choked by herbs and wild growth of all kinds in a short time, causing an almost entire loss of the capital invested, after operations have been stopped.

The man whose report was so fateful for Suanlamba estate, a Sumatra tobacco planter, who had privately studied the development of ramie for some time, put all consideration of this certainly valuable plant off and started, in his land of adoption, a propaganda for his new ideal, abacá. Like many another prophet his word counted for little in his own country. He studied carefully everything contained about abacá in a dozen books relating to travels in the Philippines and wrote a pamphlet on the subject of his hobby in three languages—Dutch, German and English (only the latter is as yet not printed), and at last obtained from the proprietor of Sthe uanlamba plantation the lease of this concern.

#### DUTCH GOVERNMENT PLANTATION OF GUTTA-PERCHA AT TJEPETIR.

Mr. R. N. Bland writes in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and Federated Malay States*, October 1:—In the *Bulletin* for July the Government Gutta plantations at Tjepetir are referred to (page 227).

By the courtesy of Herr Spakler, the Consul-General for the Netherlands in Singapore and Dr. Tromp de Haas of Buitenzorg, I have recently been afforded an opportunity of visiting this plantation. I am also indebted to Herr A. F. de Neve who was good enough to go round with me.

The area reserved for this plantation is about 6,000 acres situated in the hill country near the Salak and Gede volcanoes. The elevation is over 2,000 feet above the sea. It is about an hour's drive from Tjepadak, a station on the main line some two hours from Batavia.

The soil is excellent—a rich volcanic loam in which anything would grow. The surface is undulating—in some places the slopes are steep.

Roughly about 1,000 acres have so far been planted. The oldest trees are some 17 years old, and these appear to be over 30 feet in height. The planted area is now being increased at the rate of

some 500 or 600 acres a year. Seed is obtained, I understand, from the Government plantations at Poer Wokarta and grown in nurseries. There were 90,000 plants in the nurseries at the time of my visit. These young plants are handed over to natives when 8 or 9 months old, and planted by them in fields of hill padi or Indian corn, 20 feet apart.

These people contract with Government to clear the land and to plant and maintain the *Dichopsis oblongifolium* plants for 3 years at 8 guilders a bauw (2 acres). They get what they can off the land by their padi crops as well.

After 3 years the plantations pass into the charge of Government.

About 1 cooly, I think, is employed for every 8 acres.

The trees in all stages look extremely healthy. They are not grown under shade at all,—some were pointed out to me as having suffered from the effects of shade, which has now all been removed.

The chief enemy of the young trees is a moth, *Rhodeneura mytaca*, the caterpillars of which destroy the young shoots at the extremities of branches.

Great care is taken to prevent the planting out of hybrid plants. Seed is brought from known and isolated trees, and any plant showing signs of hybridization is removed from the nurseries before it is 2 months old. One cooly was in charge of the nurseries of 90,000 plants.

Some of the older trees have been experimentally tapped, but I am told that the results of tapping are not satisfactory, and the wounds heal very slowly.

More is hoped for from the process of extracting gutta from the leaves.

Only *Dichopsis oblongifolium* is planted.

#### PARÁ RUBBER IN SELANGOR.

Mr. S. Arden writes in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and Federated Malay States* for October, 1903:—

In a report on *Hevea brasiliensis* published some months ago, the question of extracting the latex, and the effect of wounding on the flow of latex was gone into, and I now intend to give the results of some further experiments made with the object of verifying the results which appeared in that report.

The aim of the planter is to produce the maximum of latex with as little injury to the tree as possible and at least possible expense. It has previously been pointed out that this tree is fortunately, very hardy and appears to be little effected by the wounding necessary to obtain the latex, so that if ordinary care is exercised little or no injury results; but a point which I think has not yet received the attention it calls for when deciding what style of incision should be practised, is that of the necessity of economising the available tapping surface. Previous experiments have shown conclusively that the first 3 feet of the trunk from the base, contains the largest amount of latex, while if the tapping be extended beyond 6 feet from the base, the quality of the latex decreases as well as the quantity, being much poorer in the percentage of caoutchouc and containing a larger proportion of resin, and the rubber is therefore not so elastic. It will be seen, then, how very essential it is to economise this somewhat limited tapping area, for no matter how skilfully the wounding is accomplished the result will be a rough and broken surface which will be found difficult to work, while the disconnected tissue will undoubtedly interrupt the flow of latex if tapping operations are repeated before cicatrization is complete.

The necessity of taking advantage of what is termed "wound effect" was shown in the report previously referred to, and I recommend that the wounds should be re-opened by taking off a thin slice from the cut surface for a number of occasions say 8—12 times although it has not been possible to lay down any definite number owing to the different behaviour of trees in responding to this wound effect. I notice however, that in some experiments conducted by Mr. Ridley at the Singapore Botanical Gardens that better results were obtained by making a new incision a few inches away from the old one, than by renewing the old incision as described above; and these results are opposed to those hitherto obtained by me I have been induced to repeat my experiments in this direction.

In the following experiment 10 trees were tapped with V-shaped incisions. On one side of the tree a V-incision was made at 6 feet



from the base, another at 3 feet from the base and another close to the base of the trunk. The two lines forming the V were 6 feet long in each case and the incisions were renewed on four alternate days. On the opposite side of the same tree a similar incision was made at 6 feet from the ground, another at 5 feet 6 inches and so on every 6 inches until the base of the tree was reached, there being 12 incisions in all. Three of these incisions were made each day, the base being reached on the fourth day. The results are given in Table 21 and show very clearly the advantage of renewing the old incision although the difference would probably not have been so great had only one incision been made on each side of the tree, as no doubt the flow from one wound interfered to some extent with the flow from the others close by. The reason for opening three incisions each day was so that the exposed surface would equal that of the incisions on the opposite side of the tree at the same time and therefore avoid any chance of the results being influenced by climatical conditions.

### A CASTILLOA BORER.

Mr. H. N. Ridley writes in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and Federated Malay States*:—Among some young trees of *Castilloa elastica*, about 15 feet tall, in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, was one in which the top died and dried completely up. On breaking this dead portion up it was found to contain grubs and an adult beetle, belonging to the family of Longicornia which includes some of the most destructive borers in timber. The beetle, appears to be *Epepseotes luscus*, of wide distribution in the Eastern Archipelago. The grubs are, when full grown about an inch and a-half long, legless, white, and with a hard dorny brown head, quite similar to the larvae of other longicorns. It burrows in the wood of the *Castilloa* near the pith cavity, going vertically up or down the stem, but I found traces of its work also in the central pith of the younger part of the tree. The perfect beetle is three quarters of an inch long and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide across the back. The antennae,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, and slender. The lowest joint globular, and sunk in a raised socket. The next joint dilated upwards, rather thick. The remaining nine joints are more slender, and all but the terminal one thickened at the tip. They are black with fine greyish fur. The head is broad and short, mottled grey, with patches of yellow fur round the eyes and on the cheeks and neck. The eyes are large semi-circular surrounding the base of the antennae, black, with fiery red glint. The thorax is rounded and margined rather short, grey with a central vertical bar of yellow fur and a row of spots of yellow fur on each side. There is a short blunt process on each side. The elytra are oblong about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch long, blunt and slightly excavate at the tips, brown mottled with yellow, and punctate all over: on each shoulder is a round black velvety spot. The scutellum is semi-ovate, yellow. The under side of the body is covered with very fine fawn coloured down. The legs are rather long and grey.

The beetle appears to fly by night as many of these longicornia do. I have taken it at rest in the day time on the leaves of the *Castilloa*, and in the morning have found it on the roads and walls. It is evidently a common insect here and does not confine its attacks to *Castilloa* but at present I have not traced it to any other tree.

One tree which had been attacked was saved by passing a wire down the hole made by the beetle grub, and pouring Jeye's fluid down it. This brought all the grubs out, and the tree recovered.

### RUBBER-TREE PLANTING IN THE EAST.

United States Consul-General Hughes, Coburg, Germany, writes:—

The recent report of Mr. Stanley Arden, of Selangor, is of real value on account of the information it contains about rubber cultivation the Far East. It records the assured success of the *Pará* rubber-tree in the Malay Peninsula, thus extending the field available for the production of the world's best grade of rubber.

While the initial planting of *hevea* in India proved a complete failure, better results were obtained from the beginnings made in Ceylon and the Malay States, where the seedlings rapidly developed into vigorous trees. But, as Mr. Arden says, very little interest was taken in rubber by planters, presumably on account of the

high prices then ruling for coffee, which afforded an earlier return than was possible in the case of rubber. With a decline in the price of coffee, planters began to look for other sources of profit. During the season 1896-97 the planting of rubber was taken up seriously. Since then its cultivation has received great attention, and there are at the present time, in the Malay Peninsula alone, at least 12,000 acres planted with *hevea*, representing about 1,500,000 trees, presumably the whole being the progeny of the trees originally introduced by the Government of India (in 1876).

The opinion has prevailed, and quite naturally, that any rubber species would require, for its successful cultivation, the conditions of soil, climate, etc., peculiar to its native habitat. The conditions found on the margins of the Brazilian waterways clearly do not exist in the Malay States, but this fact has not interfered with the satisfactory growth there of *hevea*.

### LARGE AMERICAN CHICORY CROP.

TWO MICHIGAN PLANTS BEGIN TARDY OPERATIONS.

BAY CITY, MICH., *October 19*.—Both plants of the National Chicory Company in this city began operations this week, the west side plant on Monday, and the east side plant Wednesday. The roots are coming in as freely as could be expected in view of the weather, and the quality is extraordinary. Three car loads of the manufactured product have been shipped to the East this week.

The factories started later this season than usual, the delay being caused by the bad weather preventing the farmers from getting the roots out of the ground.

"A good many farmers are now getting the roots out," said C. C. Whitney yesterday: "we have instructed them to do so if possible, as they will not rot as easily as in the ground. Last year, it was so wet that many of the roots did not mature and many which did were frozen in the ground before they could be gotten out. I think that this year all the crop will be harvested."

Eugene Beitter, the New York representative of the National Company, has been in the city a week. He left last night for Chicago. Mr. Beitter is the manager of the Flushing, N. Y., plant of Henri Franck Sons & Co., the biggest concern of the kind in the world and which company holds half the stock in the local company. This concern takes the first thousand tons of the local product this year. The company owns and operates a score of factories in Europe and has a reputation for its goods all over the world. Mr. Beitter was much pleased with local conditions. Chicory is scarce and high this year, the crop in Germany and Belgium being short on account of wet weather, the rains interfering with their growth. The local crop is larger than last year, although the acreage is much less. About 1,180 acres were grown this year, while last year there was over 2,000 acres. The price is the same as last year, farmers being paid \$7 a ton. Many farmers are of the opinion that their chicory crop pays better than sugar beets. While the tonnage is not as large to the acre they get a good price and the roots do not exhaust the soil as do sugar beets.

The cutting and drying season usually lasts about 100 days, but the roasting plant on the west side runs all Winter and well along into the following Summer.

If the season this year is favourable, it is expected that the east side plant will be entirely remodelled and a new kiln built which will be 75 feet high.—*Spice Mill*.

### THE PLANTERS' LABOUR LAW IN TRAVANCORE.

At a Meeting of the Travancore Council on the 5th instant, Mr. Raja Ram Row delivered the following speech on the Planters' Labour Bill:—At one of the former Meetings of this Council, I obtained permission to introduce a Bill for amending the present law relating to criminal breaches of contract, but I did not follow up that permission by the actual introduction of such a Bill, because I thought, as I explained to the Council on the 28th February last, that I could embody in it several provisions of the Planters' Labour Law which was about being passed by the Madras Legislative Council. Since then, that Labour Law has been passed as Act I. of 1903, and I have carefully looked into it. But, for reasons which I shall explain in another connection later on this afternoon, I find the two subjects have to be treated separately.



My present object is, therefore, to ask the Council's permission to introduce a Bill to regulate the relations between the planters and their coolies on the estates. After the varied discussions which have taken place in the Madras Legislative Council discussions which must be fresh in the memories of most people, there is very little that I shall have to say by way of explanation about the necessity for such a law. Whatever necessity there is in the Madras Presidency for such a law, that necessity there is in Travancore also, for we have five large planting districts, namely, Ashambo, Ponnudi, Shencotta, Peermade and Kanan Devan Hills, comprising nearly 120 estates, the area of all of which must be nearly a lac of acres. These estates which are all on the Hills are owned by 54 proprietors, of whom some are single individuals and others corporate bodies and several thousands of labourers from the low country are employed for work there every day. The relations between the employers of labour and the employed have, however, been very indefinite, and there have been complaints from both sides that the existing legal enactments are not sufficiently far-reaching to protect both the large capital employed in the planting enterprise and the interests of labourers who work under the planters. After the passing of Act I. of 1903 in the Madras Presidency, an influential Planters' Association in Travancore has applied to the Government for the enactment of a similar law, and I, therefore, apply to you now for permission to introduce, on a subsequent day, a Bill on the lines of that Act.

Permission was granted accordingly.

In addition to the above Bill, a Breach of Contract Amendment Bill has been introduced. The same gentleman remarked in regard to this:—"I may assure the Council at the outset that I do not mean to ask them to consider the principle of the Bill to-day, but I shall only ask that the Bill which has already been printed and published and copies of which have been furnished to the members may be simply introduced into the Council.

I have already mentioned that I have thought it well to treat this as a separate measure unconnected with the Planters' Labour Law, and shall briefly explain my reasons for thinking so. Whereas the Bill will deal, as the present law itself does, with every class of criminal breach of contract committed in any part of the State by artificers and workmen generally, the Planters' Labour Law will regulate the supply and treatment of labour on plantations, that is, on certain areas only in the country which will be specified and proclaimed by notifications as being brought under its operations. The two enactments will thus be distinct in their main characteristics, and, when passed into law, will have to find separate places in the statute book."

## THE STANMORE ANAMALAY CO., LTD.

### MEETING AT HATTON.

The following are the Minutes of the Meeting of the Shareholders of the Stanmore Anamalay Co., Ltd., held at the Hatton House. There were present Messrs. R. Maclure (*in the Chair*), C. E. Welldon, and F. Liesching.

Mr. Maclure stated that he had visited the Company's property and was pleased with its condition, and that the growth of all the products had been very satisfactory since his previous visit about fourteen months before. The coffee looked well and had a nice crop on it. With the 50 acres planted in 1902 the acreage in tea was now 162 acres. Mr. Bannatine was himself taking charge of the Company's property that month, and it was proposed to begin making the Company's teas in Monica factory, from the 1st February, 1904. With these few remarks he begged to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Welldon seconded, and the motion was carried.

### REPORT.

The Directors have to submit their report and accounts for the year ending June 30th, 1903. The Company was incorporated on the 14th day of October, 1902, and the property taken over as from the 1st July, 1902. The following was the acreage of the Company's estate on the 1st July, 1900:—

Tea planted 1900, 112 acres, planted throughout with Java Ledger succirubra cinchona, 20 feet x 17 feet.

Coffee planted 1900: 100 acres with succirubra cinchona 20 feet x 17 feet, and 65 acres of which only about 30 acres are planted with cinchona.

Cinchona, 1901, 50 acres, hybrids and ledgers (Java).

Rubbers, 1901, 4 acres Para rubber

Cardamoms: 1900, 80 acres; about 18 acres Ceylon variety; 1901, 55 acres; 1902, 46 acres.

Total cultivated 512; Reserve Forest 1886 = Total acreage 2,398.

The buildings thereon are: (1) a permanent bungalow partially furnished; (2) three sets of permanent lines; (3) stables and a writer's house, both permanent. An arrangement has been come to whereby the Company's tea is to be made at the Monica factory until the Company's own factory is built. As will be seen from the accounts for the year July 1st, 1902, to June 30th, 1903, annexed, nearly all the expenditure for the year has been incurred on capital account, viz., in the roading, draining, weeding, and upkeep of clearings; in the opening and planting of tea, cardamoms, and coffee, and in addition to the buildings. The original issue of shares amounted to Rs.217,900, and 140 shares of the further issue made during the year have been subscribed for. The scheme of finance to bring 450 acres of tea into bearing and build a suitable factory for the Company will be put before the shareholders at the General Meeting.

In terms of the Articles of Association all the Directors now retire, and are eligible for re-election. It is proposed to change the office of the Company to Hatton as it is more conveniently situated for transaction of the Company's business, and to appoint Mr. F. Liesching, who now resides at Hatton, Secretary of the Company.

Mr. F. M. Simpson has audited the Company's accounts for the year. It will be necessary to appoint an auditor for the season 1903-04.

### NEW ISSUE OF SHARES.

The financial arrangements necessary to bring 850 acres of tea into bearing were then discussed, and Mr. Maclure stated that it was proposed by the Directors to increase the present tea acreage of 162 acres to 850 acres, and, in order to do this, 1,325 new shares (ordinary or preferential of Rs.100 each) would have to be issued, payable in five calls spread over five years. By the carrying out of the arrangement it was calculated that by the 1st January, 1908, the shareholders might expect a return of 12 per cent. on their whole capital from tea alone, the returns from rubber, cinchona, coffee, and cardamoms not being taken into account. Mr. Maclure then proposed that 1,310 further shares of Rs.100 each be issued as from 1st March, 1904, in five calls, payment to be spread over the next four years.

Mr. Welldon seconded.—Carried.

### DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED.

The retiring Directors, with the exception of Mr. Backhouse, who found he was unable to attend the Meetings, were re-elected.

It was resolved:—"That the office of the Company be removed to Hatton, and that Mr. Liesching be appointed Secretary."

Mr. F. M. Simpson was appointed auditor for the year 1903-04.

Messrs. Julius & Creasy and Mr. F. M. Simpson were thanked for their services during the past year, and the Meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

## COFFEE IN DISTANT LANDS.

**Queensland.**—The production of Coffee in Queensland is, says the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* of November 1903, only 45 per cent. of the consumption within the State, but notwithstanding this fact the area planted does not increase at the rate it should do.

From February, 1895, to 1901 the plantations steadily in size, the figures being:—

Acres.			Acres.		
1895	...	60	1899	...	495
1896	...	138	1900	...	537
1897	...	311	1901	...	547
1898	...	432	1902	...	396

The decrease in 1902 may be set down to the extraordinary season all crops have recently had to encounter, and it is hoped that the better conditions now prevailing will result in an area being cultivated considerably in excess



of that of 1901. There was no encouragement in the former year to plant fresh areas.

The divisions of the State contributed to the coffee crop in the following areas :—

	Bearing Acres.	Not Bearing Acres
Southern ...	54	9
Central ...	3	16
North ...	257	57

In 1901 the Herberton district obtained the highest yield—2,200 lbs. of parchment coffee from 1 acre.

The average yield per acre and the total yield from the productive area since 1896 are :—

	Average lbs.	Total lbs.		Average lbs.	Total lbs.
1896 ...	373	9,707	1900 ...	361	102,134
1897 ...	453	81,614	1901 ...	352	130,293
1898 ...	284	56,552	1902 ...	361	113,301
1899 ...	470	104,981			

The records for 1895 are not given as in the table showing the area under coffee-trees, because the returns for that year did not discriminate between bearing and non-bearing trees.

The production for 1901 and for 1902 amounted to 130,293 lbs. and 113,301 lbs., respectively, a decrease for the latter year of 16,992 lbs.

The imports of raw and roasted coffee for the past five years have been :—

	Lbs	Valued at		Lbs.	Valued at
1898 ...	178,681	£7,302	1901 ...	167,908	£6,153
1899 ...	217,602	8,259	1902 ...	164,044	5,884
1900 ...	153,647	6,323			

In his report the Instructor in Coffee Culture says :—

As my position as a responsible officer of the department, entirely resident in the tropical portion of the State, necessitates a somewhat wide range of work covering several branches of agriculture, and does not permit of my confining myself, as was at first anticipated, to work in connection with coffee culture, I am including in this report short references to such other duties as can be grouped under distinct headings. Indeed, during the past year no inconsiderable portion of my time has been occupied with such matters of importance themselves in tropical agriculture, but which cannot be included under the one heading of "coffee culture."

The scope of the Department is steadily increasing in the North, and the necessity for due consideration to agricultural matters is becoming increasingly evident—matters that often require special treatment, owing to the great climatic differences between the Northern and the other districts of the State.

**Coffee Culture.**—The season for coffee this year has been somewhat trying, owing largely to the extreme meteorological variation experienced during the first half of the season, when the conditions of drought, already severely felt during the previous season, continued and increased in severity until the close of the calendar year, and also the latter half of the season, when heavy rains amounted to almost an equal extreme, showing a fall within six months or so almost equal to the average for the past ten years.

The excessively dry time in the earlier part of the season referred to had the effect in several instances of making the coffee droop, and in a few cases of burning off blossom—a thing previously unknown. The effect throughout the country has been to make the crop considerably later than usual. The subsequent heavy wet season has induced a heavy flushing or growth of leaf and wood, but altogether, while somewhat trying, but little harm has been done.

Fair to good crops have been obtained generally, as was anticipated, especially on estates that have received attention in weeding, and prospects are for a really heavy crop in the coming season.

The dry season also had the effect of retarding the growth of trees, which in the case of badly-planted estates has resulted in good rather than harm, the condition of the trees, after the enforced rest, being remarkably fine.

The sample of berry, which last season was small owing to the continued shortage of rainfall, is, this year, very much larger, and will undoubtedly obtain better prices in consequence, especially when better attention is given to curing.

No frosts were experienced this season, and estates that were affected last year have recovered, the trees being almost as large and bearing even more heavily than before they were unfortunately frost-bitten. The continued drought, especially after the damage by frost, has resulted, as anticipated in last year's report, in the dropping out of several small growers and the abandonment of their small areas, in which places the coffee-trees, though by no means killed out, are now almost past recovery from neglect and weeds.

I am pleased to note in many directions adoption of improved methods, and greater attention to culture and field work as well as curing, and in some cases the satisfactory overcoming of little difficulties in the direction of labour for picking and other matters showed resourcefulness and self-reliance on the part of some of the pioneers of the industry.

The matter of reducing the cost of production to the lowest possible point by attention to details both in field and store work is not yet receiving the attention from growers that I should like to see. As growers begin to appreciate the importance of this matter and exercise due economy in time and labour, there is not a doubt they will find, not only that it makes often all the difference in amount of profits, but settles most of the vexed questions assailing the planter.

The greater number of inquiries for advice and information this season, have, however, been in the direction of curing and disposing of crops.

The smaller growers have complained of a difficulty in obtaining a ready market, owing to the reduced demand by the smaller local produce merchants to whom they had hitherto been able to dispose of their small lots, the merchants explaining that the abolition of the duty on tea has so widened the difference of price between the beverages as to show an appreciable reduction in the consumption of coffee. The reimposition of the duty on tea being impracticable, a bonus on the coffee produced in the Commonwealth, as petitioned for by the Coffee Growers' Association, even if considerably less than the amount stated by them, would undoubtedly largely meet the case. Nor need it be feared that such assistance would not benefit the growers—but be taken advantage of by speculators—in other words, the produce merchants—who now buy direct from the producer, if the growers will go to the open markets of the Commonwealth, as in Sydney and Melbourne.

The total amount of such assistance would be but trifling, and, in any case, is not to be compared to the advantage to the Commonwealth of fostering, encouraging, and, in fact, establishing so advantageous an industry.

The obvious remedy for the present low prices offered within the State for the raw product, apart from co-operation and organisation, were it practicable, is in the further treatment of the coffee by hulling and grading as pointed out in last year's report and in my report submitted after visiting the Southern States for this especial purpose. This curing can be done by each individual grower with hand-power machines of cheap cost.

Acting on my advice, several growers have so cured their crops this season, and despatched them to Sydney for sale by auction by brokers; the coffee being dealt with in the same manner as tea, with very gratifying results. The cost of sending the crops to Sydney amounts to no more than in shipping to Brisbane, and the freight and charges amounted to less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. The prices obtained were not the highest possible by any means but were good, and taking into consideration the fact of the small size of the sample, largely due to the drought, and the fact of this being in most cases the first consignment, the prices were gratifying and the sales prompt. According as care is taken in curing, i.e., thorough drying after pulping, hulling, and grading, packing in double bags, not more than 70 lbs. in a bag, branding and marking (for neatness in packing is just as important a point in coffee as in any other line of produce) the quality is recognised as being uniform and reliable, and the brand becomes known, so well the confidence of the buyers be obtained and the prompt and ready sale of each grower's crop, be the quantity large or small, be assured and prompt.

With an industry capable of extension to twenty times its present size before any grave consideration need be given to exportation, no fear need be entertained regarding the advisability of the cultivation of coffee in the Commonwealth on account of the apparent surplus in the world's supply of low-grade coffee as would seem to be entertained in some quarters.



With attention to what may seem small items of field and store work, adoption of practical and approved methods, all of which lead to reduction in cost of production, which cannot be too much emphasised, and due attention to curing, etc., the prospect for coffee-growers in Queensland are very distinctly favourable.

The tour through the coffee-growing centres of the Southern part of the State, usually undertaken during the earlier part of each season, was this year abandoned through the necessity of retrenchment, and therefore the districts of Rockhampton, Yeppoon, Byfield, Tungamul, Percy Island, Marlborough, Pialba, Mount Buderin, and Maroochie River were not visited. It is proposed to visit these places this season, however. The touring for instruction and demonstration has therefore been confined to the North—between Mackay and Cooktown; the only places not being visited this season being the Bloomfield River and Geraldton. In all, seventeen tours were undertaken, aggregating 117 days.

The amount of correspondence, including applications for information, advice, and visits, etc., has been about the same as last season. One article entitled "Staking" has been published in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* for August, 1902. It is to be regretted that the general work in the North, especially while single-handed in the office, does not admit of more time being devoted to the writing of such articles for the *Journal*.

## TEA IN EUROPE.

### THE BALKAN STATES.

As might be supposed, the tea trade of the principal Balkan countries is not a very important one. The conditions vary somewhat in the several States, but relatively to population, Roumania takes most tea, and Servia least. It is difficult to say whether the trade on the whole is progressive or rather stationary, the figures available showing considerable fluctuations in different years. The quantities of tea imported for home consumption in the three principal Balkan States during the last available five years are as follows:—

		1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Servia,	kilos.	... 2,216	4,092	17,943	22,429	...
Bulgaria	"	... 72,893	37,530	36,048	52,897	...
Roumania	"	... 280,911	198,269	...	166,239	191,878

On the basis of these official figures, the average annual tea consumption of the three States combined would appear to be about 610,000 lbs., which, taking the joint population as nearly 12 millions, would give approximately 0.8 oz. per head. This compares with an average annual consumption of coffee nearly 14 times as great, *viz.*, about 8,300,000 lbs. or over 11 oz. per head.

The principal sources of tea supply are, in the order named, Germany, Great Britain, and Russia. Holland is also a contributor. Taking the largest tea consumer, Roumania, we find that Germany has far outstripped her competitors, whilst imports from Great Britain are at best stationary.

Roumania.		Tea Imports for Home Consumption.				
From		1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Germany,	kilos.	... 178,122	116,968	Not available	82,863	92,862
Great Britain,	"	... 49,414	41,062		53,946	39,572
Russia	"	... 9,413	15,741		9,559	7,344
Holland	"	... 1,662	1,919		7,232	30,526

In Bulgaria, the decline in imports from Great Britain has been still more marked, *viz.*, from 82,356 kilos. in 1898 to 7,270 kilos. in 1901. The corresponding figures for Germany are 37,727 and 36,021 kilos, and those for Russia 8,896 and 4,977 kilos.

None of the statistics available show any direct imports of tea from India or China. From information locally obtained, however, it would seem that there is a tendency to draw more supplies from Constantinople, where Indian tea is the principal stock; and it is believed that an Agent at Stamboul holding a good selection of suitable British-grown teas would be in a good position to compete successfully for a share of the Balkan trade.

At present, business is done principally with Hamburg, London, and Odessa, and the bulk of the wholesale trade is controlled by German or Russian houses. In retail, little or no Indian or Ceylon tea could be discovered on sale—at least under their own names: the demand among consumers runs chiefly upon Russian kinds. The packet trade is thus almost wholly in the hands of Moscow and Odessa firms, retail prices ruling generally high—say from 4s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. a lb.

In Bulgaria, the great similarity of the language to Russian is a point much in favour of the Muscovite packet trade. Thus at Sofia, for instance, no tea was to be seen that did not purport to be of Russian origin, though from figures given above, most of the tea used in Bulgaria must come from Hamburg and London, the labels on packets were usually in the Russian language, and the weights were frequently fractions of the Russian pound (409 grammes) and not the newly-introduced kilogramme.

The Customs duties proper levied on tea are not excessive, but are much increased by various 'Excise' and other local dues. The total burden imposed works out as about 6d. per lb. in Servia, 7d. in Roumania, and nearly 1s. in Bulgaria. The various tariffs may be stated thus:—

### DUTIES ON TEA.

*Servia.*—Frs. 125 per 100 kilos., plus "Obtr" tax and 7½ per cent. *ad valorem*.

*Bulgaria.*—14 per cent. *ad valorem* plus "Excise" 1 franc and "Octroi" or town dues, ranging up to a further 1 franc per kilo.

*Roumania.*—Frs. 50 per 100 kilos., less tare 20 per cent.

"Excise" and "Octroi" Frs. 150 per 100 kilos., less tare 40 per cent.

The duties on coffee are in all cases lighter than those on tea, ranging from about 2d. per lb. in Roumania to over 6d. in Bulgaria.

On the whole, the outlook for the tea-trade in the Balkans would seem to be rather uncertain. There are some signs of progress being made, but only at a slow rate. The prospects for British-grown tea in particular are not very encouraging. There is practically no Indian and Ceylon tea being imported direct over sea, while the imports hitherto drawn from Great Britain appear to be declining rather than otherwise, and the trade tending to pass into German hands. There are many difficulties to contend with in these countries. The absence of large centres of population; the scarcity of capital, involving, as it does, a wide-spread system of credit-trading; the complexity of local trade customs; and lastly the numerous and little-known languages—all these seem likely to remain difficult barriers to the British trader. Under these conditions, any "frontal attack" by British-grown tea would hardly be a hopeful enterprise; but, as already indicated, it is possible that well-directed efforts from Constantinople might do a little to turn the position.

### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Considered as a field for tea, the Austrian Empire is at first sight a somewhat disappointing country. The third State in Europe both as to area and population, its *per capita* tea consumption ranks only with that of Bulgaria, and is less than half that of Germany. The reason for this apparent small per head consumption is probably to be found in the fact that, among the numerous heterogeneous peoples that go to make up the Austrian Empire, there are large sections of population—almost whole provinces—that drink practically no tea. Its use to any serious extent is confined chiefly to the larger towns and to the so-called Cis-Luthan provinces of Austria proper. Even in Hungary, with its wide area and comparatively healthy population of some 19 millions, the quantity of tea consumed, outside of Budapest itself, is relatively very small. In several of the remoter and poorer provinces the conditions are still less favourable—Bosnia and Herzegovina for instance. Thus, almost everywhere, if we except the two great capitals of Vienna and Budapest (and possibly also the province of Galicia which is more Russian in its habits) we find tea-drinking practically confined to the upper and richer classes; and by them tea is taken rather as a fashion, and for the most part only in Winter.

Coming to figures, it is, therefore, not surprising to find that the total imports of tea into Austria during the last 3 years, 1900 to 1902, do not average more than 1,038,000 kilos., or 2,283,000 lbs. annually. Upon a population estimated to number over 47 millions, this gives an annual per head consumption of approximately 22 grammes or 0.78 oz. per annum.

Low as this rate still is, it nevertheless marks an increasing use of tea; for in 1886, for instance, the ratio per head was not much over 11 grammes, which had grown to about 20 grammes by 1898. Taking the total weight of tea imported, this was in 1886 no more than 444,100 kilos., but had risen by 1898 to 922,300 kilos., and by 1902 had further advanced to 1,024,300 kilos. or about 2,253,400 lbs.

The total weight of coffee imported in 1902 was some 44 times greater than that of tea, *viz.*, 45,102,900 kilos., which is not far from 1 kilo., or about 2.11 lbs. per head of population.



The following table shows the progress made in both tea and coffee during the last 5 years:—

		Quantities (in kilos.) of tea and coffee imported into Austria for home consumption.				
		1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Tea.	kilos. ...	922,300	930,900	1,065,200	1,024,800	1,024,300
Coffee	,, ...	43,613,400	40,884,800	42,418,000	44,931,400	45,162,900

From this table it is seen that, while tea and coffee are about maintaining their relative proportions both are increasing a little.

The salient feature of the Tea imports is the complete predominance of China kinds, which constitute over 90 per cent. of the trade. The bulk of this tea comes direct to Austria from Chinese ports; and direct importations from India and Ceylon, still very small, are similarly tending to grow, though at present amounting to barely 5 per cent. of the whole.

Imports *direct* from Ceylon are not specified in the tables prior to 1900, and are still very insignificant in volume, as shown below:—

Tea imports into Austria *direct* from "Countries of Origin."

		China.			India.	Ceylon.
		Kilos.				
1898	...	...	...	...	24,600	...
1899	...	...	...	...	33,500	...
1900	...	...	...	...	40,100	1,200
1901	...	...	...	...	50,500	2,300
1902	...	...	...	...	36,400	3,300

It is at least satisfactory to observe that the rate of increase of British-grown imports is more rapid than that of their overshadowing competitor. And there also remains, of course, a proportion of British-grown tea (not easy to distinguish accurately) included in the supplies drawn from other countries, especially those from Great Britain and Germany; but it may be doubted whether the total import of Indian and Ceylon teas forms 10 per cent. of Austria's tea trade.

Outsid; the direct imports from Eastern countries of origin, Austria buys not inconsiderable quantities of tea from Russia, Great Britain, and Germany. The imports from each of these countries is shown in the subjoined table, which also includes all other tea imported *except* that from the Eastern tea-growing countries already given:—

Annual Tea Imports into Austria from:—

		1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Russia,	kilos. ...	30,700	27,200	47,500	33,900	35,400
Great Britain	,, ...	23,200	21,300	21,200	25,300	28,100
Germany	,, ...	12,200	14,700	19,200	19,000	19,200
Other countries	,, ...	10,400	8,700	11,500	10,000	10,700
(Excl. China, India and Ceylon.)						

The Customs duties levied in Austria are payable in gold, not currency, and discriminate between imports over "Sea" and "Overland," favouring the former, *i.e.*, the direct trade, by 10 or more per cent. The rates are as follows:—

Tea.	By Sea	90 gulden (gold) per 100 kilos.	} Say 10d. to 11d. per lb.
	Land	100 " " "	
Coffee.	By Sea	37 " " "	} Say 4d. to 5d. per lb.
	Land	40 " " "	
	Roasted	50 " " "	
Cocoa.	By Sea	20 " " "	} Say 2d. to 2½d. per lb.
	Land	24 " " "	

It will be seen that both Coffee and Cocoa are much more highly taxed than tea, specially Cocoa, the consumption of which is increasing considerably. The present relative consumption in Austria of these three beverages may be thus shown in English weights:—

Tea,	per head	...	0.78 oz. per annum.
Cocoa	,,	...	1.25 "
Coffee	,,	...	33.45 "

Having thus glanced at the statistical position, there remain some other conditions to be noticed. We have already seen how limited, outside the great cities, is the general use of tea; yet one of the complaints, at least in Vienna, was that the trade is in too many hands. There appear to be no wholesale houses in Austria dealing solely in tea, the retailing of which is usually an adjunct to some other business—such as a China and Japan warehouse or a wine and spirit trade. Almost everywhere one may see "Tea and Rum" advertised together, and merchants aver that it is mainly by help of the latter that they are enabled to carry on their tea business. This is mostly on a small scale. Many trade customs

and conditions prevalent in Austria, especially the pernicious "depôt system" involving long credits and the overkeeping of tea stocks by retailers, constitute factors unfavourable to any rapid expansion. Among the leading firms connected with tea, it was generally spoken of as a "bad article," and little encouragement could be found for the idea of introducing British-grown teas to the Austrian consumer. But the latter's interests are hardly identical with those of the purveyor at the high prices, which still rule the retail trade. The bulk of this is done at from 4/- to 7/- a lb., while 10/- or more is frequently paid by the well-to-do classes. At Budapest, prices range even higher, one sample of a fairly fine China tea being purchased at the principal tea-dealers at a price equivalent to 18/- a lb. Very small quantities, however, can be sold at such fancy prices. As to quality, the tea on sale in Austria is for the most part poor—at least to English nations. A few fine Chinese or Russian varieties are met with at extravagant prices, but, in general, local demand has to be content with China Souchongs and mixings of the ordinary type, blended occasionally with a little Indian leaf. Pure Indian tea was nowhere observed on sale, but in Vienna, Ceylon and even Japanese varieties were sometimes seen.

On the whole it is difficult to feel sanguine as to the outlook for tea in Austria-Hungary. Coffee, cocoa, local beers and light wines are articles of widespread popularity; while for tea there is little demand. Of such small market as does exist, China already holds the monopoly, and this at prices practically prohibitive to rapid expansion.

The introduction of good British-grown teas, at reasonable rates direct to the consumer is doubtless much to be desired, and should prove beneficial both immediately to the consuming public and ultimately to the Indian and Ceylon tea-growers. But it is not easy to suggest a practical method of carrying out this idea, unless at a disproportionate expenditure of time and money. And here naturally arises the question whether there are not in Europe to-day other fields for tea development, more promising of result than any to be found at present within the Austro-Hungarian Empire?—*Capital*.

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

### WYNAAD.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club on December 2nd, 1903. PRESENT:—Messrs. Abbott, Armstrong, Atzenwiler, Behr, Capt. Carslake, Day, Mackinlay; J. R. Malcolm, Nicolls, S. Powell Jnr., Richelmann, Taylor, Trollope, Waddington; and B. Malcolm, *Honorary Secretary*.

Mr. J. R. Malcolm *in the Chair*.

1. Proceedings of last Meeting—Taken as read.
2. **The late Mr. E. C. Mitchell.**—The Honorary Secretary read the copy of his letter to Mrs. Mitchell which was approved.
3. **Roads.**—Read letter to the Executive Engineer, P. W. D., Calicut, drawing his attention to the distance for which metal was being spread, on the Chundale-Lakadi road, ahead of the rolling. Read reply from Executive Engineer stating orders had been issued to the effect that metal was not to be spread for an unreasonable distance ahead of the rolling.—Recorded with satisfaction.

**Tea Cess.**—Read letters to Indian Tea Association, Collector of Customs, Madras, and several Coast Firms *re* the marking of weights on Tea chests. Read letter from Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Co. enclosing copy of proceedings Board of Revenue, dated October 21, 1903, stating that "The Assistant Commissioner will now be instructed to accept either the nett weight marked upon the chests, or the invoices received from the Factories, whichever may be most convenient to the individual exporters."—Recorded with satisfaction.

**Government Entomologist.**—Read letter from Mr. Maxwell Lefroy offering to send the Association copies of his pamphlets on insect pests. Read letter thanking Mr. Maxwell Lefroy and accepting his offer.—Recorded.

**Labour Law.**—Read letters to Collector of Malabar and U. P. A. S. I. enclosing copies of the recommendations of the Committee *re* the matter of "Rules and Regulations" under Act I. of 1903. Read letter from Collector of Malabar stating that his final report had not gone in to Government yet.—Recorded.



**Rules.**—*Resolved*, that the matter of "Rules" of the Association be brought up at the next Annual General Meeting.

**Madras Industrial Exhibition.**—The Committee appointed to collect Exhibits reported that they had been unsuccessful in collecting any and tendered their resignation. A vote of thanks was passed to the Committee for the trouble they had taken.

**U. P. A. S. I.**—(a) *Coffee Assessment.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the U. P. A. S. I. re the proposal to ask Government to remit the assessment on Coffee cultivation, asking what steps had been taken in the matter.

(b) *Pushing of Tea Sales at St. Louis Exposition.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to wire to the I. T. A. asking if 1,000 lbs. of tea would be accepted as a contribution from this district for the pushing and backing up of sale of tea in America, if delivered in Calcutta by 15th January next.

(c) Read sundry U. P. A. S. I. circulars.

(Signed) J. R. MALCOLM,  
Chairman.

( „ ) BERNARD MALCOLM,  
Honorary Secretary.

## INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

### COMMITTEE MEETING.

The following is from an abstract of the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 8th December. There were present: Messrs. H. C. Begg (*Chairman*), T. McMorran (*Vice-Chairman*), R. H. A. Gresson, G. Kingsley, G. A. Ormiston, R. R. Toynbee, and T. Traill.

Mr. Lockhart Smith and Mr. W. Warrington wrote regretting their inability to attend.

**Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association, London.**—Letters dated 13th and 20th November, from Mr. Ernest Tye, Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final consideration after previous circulation. The principal subject dealt with in the letters was—

*The Louisiana Purchase Exhibition.*—With the letter dated 20th November, Mr. Tye forwarded a copy of a preliminary report by Mr. R. Blechynden, the Association's Commissioner at St. Louis. In this report Mr. Blechynden defined the present position, and detailed the steps he was taking to provide an adequate representation. A site for the Indian pavilion had, he said, been secured in a favourable part of the Exhibition grounds; and the work of erection was being proceeded with. He was endeavouring to make satisfactory arrangements for the sale of tea and coffee in the cup, and for the distribution of samples. He was also arranging for the interior of the building to be decorated with Indian art-ware, ..... pictures, photographs, etc. It was his opinion that tea in the cup should be served by Indian servants, but he did not desire to advance definite proposals in that connection at present. He also dealt with several other points of detail.

The Committee noted Mr. Blechynden's report with much interest. In writing to the London Association certain of the points raised in it were to be referred to; and the views previously expressed on this side were to be re-affirmed.

The Committee also had before them a telegram, dated 3rd December, from the Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, asking if 1,000 lbs. of tea from that district would be accepted as a contribution towards pushing the sale of South India teas at the Exhibition. The Committee discussed this offer but they were not prepared to guarantee that the tea would be distributed as Southern India tea; for they did not think that it was desirable, in giving away or selling tea, to differentiate between the produce of the various districts. But samples sent for exhibition purposes only, would of course be labelled with the name of the garden and the district in which it was situated.

A reply in these terms was to be sent to the Wynaad Planters' Association:—

**Persian Import Tariff.**—In the proceedings of the Meeting held on the 10th November, 1903, reference was made to a recent enhancement in the Persian import duties on tea. This enhancement was, it was understood, additional to that provided for in the new Persian Tariff, which came into operation on the 14th

February, 1903, and was mentioned in the Committee's proceedings, dated 20th March, 1903. From a statement made in a London daily newspaper it appeared that on the 9th February a special commercial Convention was concluded between the United Kingdom and Persia. This Convention was ratified on the 27th May. In the schedule attached to it the duties on tea were stated to be: yellow or pale tea 6s. 9d. per 6·54 lbs.; other sorts 4s. 6d. per 6·54 lbs. In the new Tariff the duties were to have been: white tea 3s. 9d. per 6·54 lbs.; all other teas 2s. 3d. per 6·54 lbs. Consequently the Convention entailed an increase of nearly 100 per cent. for black teas and about 80 per cent. for green teas. This great enhancement was, it was alleged, due to a clerical error in the British Foreign Office; and no satisfactory explanation was forthcoming as to what the rates were really to be.

On the 17th November the Committee had drawn the attention of the Government of India to the matter, but had received no reply so far. They now decided to ask the London Association to make enquiries with a view to the elucidation of the difficulty.

**Act XIII. of 1859.**—The Committee considered a letter, dated 6th December, from Mr. Jas. Peter, of Mertinga Tea Estate, Sylhet with reference to certain cases in which labourers had absconded before completing their Act XIII. contracts. The cases had been dismissed by the Sub-Divisional Officer, whose decision had been upheld by the Sessions Judge. Mr. Peter now asked that the Association should bear the cost of an appeal to the High Court.

Before coming to any conclusion on the point the Committee decided to telegraph to Mr. Peter asking him to furnish immediately the full records of the cases. On receiving these the nature of any further action which might be possible would be considered.

**The Calcutta Port Commissioners' Tea Warehouse.**—The Committee considered a letter, dated 26th November, from Messrs. J. Thomas & Co. with reference to the working of the Port Commissioners' Tea Warehouse. The trade in general had been put, Messrs. Thomas & Co. said, to considerable inconvenience, owing to the delay on the part of the Warehouse authorities in preparing teas for sampling. As a result samples were late in reaching buyers, and brokers did not have sufficient time to inspect their teas properly. Moreover, in order to get the samples out in reasonable time, brokers were often compelled to draw them from a small proportion instead of from an entire break. This made it an extremely difficult matter to present a fair sample to the trade at this time of the season, when teas have not a uniform appearance and character. Messrs. Thomas & Co. had endeavoured to facilitate matters by closing their catalogues a day earlier than usual, in order to give the Warehouse authorities more time to get the teas ready. But no improvement had resulted; and, in their opinion, the staff employed was insufficient for the work. They suggested that the Association should press for an increase in the staff, and for the provision of additional hydraulic lifts.

The question was one which had been watched by the Committee for some time past; and they now decided to address the Port Commissioners respecting it. They agreed with Messrs. Thomas & Co. in thinking that the staff was inadequate; and they decided to suggest that it be increased, and that additional hydraulic lifts be provided.

**Scientific Department.**—A letter, dated 27th November, from Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., concerning the contributions of certain of their gardens to the fund raised in this connection by the Surma Valley Branch, was to be referred to that Branch for consideration.

## PROPHETS OF EVIL.

In every age there has been an abundance of prophets, and the things they have foretold have generally been of a disastrous character. Yet still this old world of ours wags on more or less merrily, and supports a larger number of people in a greater degree of comfort than at any former period.

Now here is a prophet of evil who discourses of that sleeping sickness which first appeared on the west coast of this continent, and is spreading in all directions—a dreadful malady, truly, one which to the present has defeated the world's science—speculating as to the probability of it being the appointed means for the extinction of mankind.



Seeing that this new and mysterious disease has so far attacked only Negroes, and has killed only a few hundreds of that race, whereas smallpox has killed hundreds of thousands of every race, it is difficult to appreciate this gloomy prophet's opinion. Perhaps the prophet suffers from indigestion; in which case he would do better to cure himself, by taking a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup, than disseminating his gloomy ideas. Indigestion not only prevents food from nourishing us; it converts it into poison which contaminates the whole system, depressing the mind, constipating the bowels, impoverishing the blood, and punishing the unfortunate patient with severe pain at the chest after eating, headache, drowsiness, and other symptoms which complete his misery.

Among the many people who know these facts from experience is Mr. H. Henegan, of Crawford Street, Port Elizabeth, who, in writing to Messrs A. J. White (Colonial), Ltd., corner of Princes and Diesel Streets, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony (proprietors in South Africa of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup), says: "It is now two years since I first used Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and I rejoice to tell you (as I have told my friends ever since) of the good it has done for me. I can never forget the pain and distress I suffered, and my wretched condition when a friend persuaded me to try your Syrup. I had consulted several doctors and taken their medicines without obtaining any relief from the pains in my chest and back. Often I was compelled to neglect my work, being weak and quite without energy. To my friend's earnestness in recommending Seigel's Syrup I owe my present good health. I am now a strong, healthy man; but I always keep a supply of the Syrup at hand, and, whenever I need any medicine, never fail to resort to it."

These favourable opinions, based upon actual benefits received, expressed by Mr. Henegan on 8th July, 1903, closely resembles numerous other testimonials which constantly reach Messrs. A. J. White from various parts of the country. Mr. Henegan's complaint was chronic indigestion, a very prevalent malady, in itself sufficient to destroy all joy in life, but which, when neglected, leads to all sorts of dangerous complications. Mother Seigel's Syrup is its only sure cure. It is a perfectly natural remedy, made from fruits, roots, and herbs, containing no noxious drugs whatever. The essential qualities of the plants are extracted by a scientific process known only to the proprietors, and the result is a specific which, for thirty-five years, has been acknowledged as an unrivalled remedy for indigestion and all bilious diseases by the people of the sixteen principal countries of the world.

Mr. W. Sly, of 12, Darlow Buildings, Parliament Street, Port Elizabeth, in a letter dated 8th August, 1903, expresses himself in terms similar to those of Mr. Henegan. "I had a severe attack of indigestion while staying at Port Said, in Egypt," writes Mr. Sly, "and tried numerous so-called remedies without deriving the least benefit from any of them. But when I came to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup it was different. The very first dose did me good, and shortly after the indigestion left me."

Prophets of evil are never welcome. Prophets of gladness are sometimes mistaken. Proved facts, such as we have been reading of, are independent of all prophecy.

## MARKET REPORT.

[Per Mail advices of November 27th, 1903.]

### COFFEE.

The *London Commercial Record* says:—Auctions were held only on one day this week, Tuesday, when but limited supplies were offered. With a fair demand no alteration in value can be quoted for any description. In the market for Brazil "futures" there have been occasional fluctuations, but the general tendency has been to firmness, owing to smaller receipts, and the latest sales show a little advance upon last prices; yesterday Santos for December delivery sold at 30s. to 30s. 1½d., March at 31s. to 31s. 3d., May at 31s. 9d. to 31s. 10½d., July at 32s. 4½d., and September at 32s. 10½d. to 33s. per cwt. We quote:—

London ...	Santos ...	March delivery	... 31s. 3d.
New York...	No. 7 Rio ..	" "	... 5'95 cents.
Hamburg...	Santos ...	" "	... 31½ pf.
Havre ...	Santos ...	" "	... 38½ francs.

The particulars of the auctions are as under:—

EAST INDIA—203 bags partly sold as follows: *Neilgherry*, good bold hard grayish 65s.

SOUTH SEA ISLAND—72 bags sold, pickings 24s. 6d., middling brownish colory 48s. 6d., good bold 65s., peaberry 56s. 6d.

COSTA RICA—Of 254 bags catalogued 150 bags sold, fair bold 63s. to 66s.

PERUVIAN—91 bags mostly sold, smalls 37s., fine ordinary greenish foxy 40s., middling blue 44s., peaberry 46s.

VENEZUELAN—45 bags sold, smalls 38s., middling 46s. 6d., good bold 70s. 6d., peaberry 63s.

COLOMBIAN—1,394 bags practically all sold, smalls 25s. 6d. to 34s., fine ordinary to low middling 38s. to 43s. 6d., middling bright brownish 46s. to 46s. 6d., common to fair bold 42s. to 47s. 6d., good bold 54s., peaberry 38s. to 49s.

BRAZIL—Of 1,750 bags Unwashed Dumont Santos on quay terms offered 1,125 bags sold, smalls 29s. 6d. to 32s., medium 34s. 6d. to 35s., bold 38s. 6d., peaberry 39s. 6d. to 40s.

#### Receipts in Rio and Santos.

	1903-04.	1902-03.	1901-02.	1900-01.
Since July 1—	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags.
Rio ...	2,512,000	2,243,000	3,177,000	1,456,000
Santos ...	4,694,000	4,937,000	6,209,000	4,784,000
Total ...	7,206,000	7,180,000	9,386,000	6,240,000
Crop ...	...	12,324,000	15,496,000	10,900,000

Rio Exchange 12½d., previous day 12d.

HAVRE, November 26.—Good average Santos November opened quiet at 38f. and closed steady at 38f., December opened at 38f. and closed at 38f., March opened at 38½f. and closed at 38½f., May opened at 39½f. and closed at 39½f., July opened at 39½f. and closed at 39½f., September opened at 40½f. and closed at 40½f.

HAMBURG, November 26.—Good average Santos November opened steady at 30½pf. and closed steady at 30½pf., December opened at 30½pf. and closed at 30½pf., March opened at 31½pf. and closed at 31½pf., May opened at 32pf. and closed at 32pf., July opened at 32½pf. and closed at 32½pf., September opened at 33pf. and closed at 33pf.

NEW YORK, November 26.—Closing prices of No. 7 Rio were as follow:—

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
November 25 ...	5'55	5'60	5'75	5'85	5'95
November 24 ...	5'55	5'55	5'65	5'85	5'90

Catalogues to-day embraced—161 bags Nyassaland, 146 half-bales Mocha, 141 bags Colombian, 79 bags Nicaragua, 168 bags Mexican, 19 bags Guatemala, 69 bags Costa Rica, and 104 bags New Granada. These small public sales went off quietly with prices much the same as on Tuesday.

Brazil "futures" opened steady, but became very active about mid-day, when it was known that the 51,000 bags tendered had been taken up, and a very large business has been passing. Transactions include: December at 30s. 1½d., March 31s. 3d. to 31s. 6d., May 31s. 10½d. to 32s. 3d., July 32s. 6½d. to 32s. 7½d., September 32s. to 33s. 3d.

### TEA.

INDIAN—A slight diminution was noticeable in the offerings which totalled 38,400 packages, contrasted with 41,400 in the week before, and 45,700 for the corresponding period a year ago.

There has been a moderate demand at easier rates, differences in quality as before being mainly accountable for any marked shrinkage in quotations. Tea "for price" up to 6½d. per lb. has been the firmest market, ordinary to medium continuing to be relatively very cheap. The value obtainable in medium compared with common grades is anomalous, and calls for serious attention. Efforts have already been made by many large distributors to induce the public to drink a better tea than is afforded by the low-priced blends of inferior quality now dispensed, but to attain the desired result, further and more concerted action amongst those responsible for educating the public taste is necessary. Both in India and Ceylon the manufacture of Green Tea, together with other causes, such as the increasing consumption in countries outside Great Britain, etc., will probably tend to decrease the amount of common Black available for this market, so that no relief is discernable for those who continue to supply the very cheap mixtures.



**SOUTH INDIAN**—3,100 packages were included in the catalogues, and meeting with a good general enquiry, sold comparatively freely.

The quantity that has passed through the auction room is now some 2 million lbs. more than last year, and taking into consideration the greater weight dealt with privately, both garden and Calcutta-bought, it may be concluded that a full proportion of the increase in the crop that has arrived has been disposed of.

It is announced that the duty on British-grown tea in New Zealand has been removed.

For 35,200 packages on estate account  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. was obtained, opposed to  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 36,400 and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 38,300 in the two foregoing seasons.

Including what is advertised for Monday next, 30th instant, the following quantity has been catalogued during the month:—

1903.	1902.	1901.
Packages	Packages	Packages
196,900 (5 weeks)	151,900 (4 weeks)	184,100 (4 weeks)

making 686,000 packages of this year's crop passed through the Mincing Lane Sale Rooms against 668,000 and 655,000 in the same time of 1902 and 1901 respectively.

**CEYLON**.—Nearly 18,900 packages were submitted *versus* 15,600 on the 17th instant and 17,000 in 1902.

The easier feeling in the Indian market was reflected, though to a more modified extent. Competition was fairly sustained for the lower grades, with here and there a fractional decline on former prices. Medium to fine sorts ruled irregularly, but finest and choice lines met a strong demand, Caledonia, B.O.P., and Brookside, B.O.P., bringing 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1s. 10d. per lb. respectively, while some good averages were chronicled, notably Brookside 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., Henfold 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Wanarajah 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and Caledonia 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The average is  $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. On the 19th instant it was 8d., and  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. twelve months since.

Printed during the month:—

1903.	1902.	1901.
65,100 packages	63,000 packages	65,900 packages
(Avge. 8d. per lb.)	(Avge. $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.)	(Avge. $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.)

Quality has mostly shown a falling-off from the level attained in many of the earlier arrivals of high-grown tea, and quotations have suffered accordingly. It looks as if we had seen the best of the crop for the time being, especially as advices from the Island point to unfavourable weather for growth and manufacture having been recently experienced in most districts. On the whole it may be said that the early Autumn gatherings, although affording a few choice invoices, have speaking generally failed to reach the usual standard of excellence.

We learn that it has been decided that the three cents bonus on green tea shall be continued during 1904 until 5,000,000 lbs have been passed, which quantity, it is calculated, will be made by June 30, after which date it is thought that no bonus will be paid. The supply of common black tea is therefore, unlikely to be augmented for some time to come.

**JAVA**.—Rather over 1,700 packages passed the hammer; fine grade went steadily, but for others some weakness was displayed.

The following are auction totals for November:—

1903.	1902.	1901.
7,200 pkgs.	4,500 pkgs.	4,400 pkgs.
(Avge. 7d. per lb.)	(Avge. 6d. per lb.)	(Avge. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.)

making since 1st January 92,600 packages, an increase of 12,100 packages on the corresponding period last year.

**Deliveries**.—Clearances of all tea (on which duty has been paid) from the London warehouses, as per official returns are, *viz.*:—

From 1st to 24th November, 1903	16,263,356 lbs.
Do. do. 1902	16,172,654 "

During the week the following have been printed for sale by public auction:—

	Sold.	Withdrawn.	Total offered.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
India	28,968	9,409	38,377
Ceylon	15,937	2,923	18,860
Java	1,611	108	1,719
Totals	46,516	12,440	58,956

Also 35 packages from second hands.

*Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton's Indian, Ceylon, and Java Tea Report, dated November 27th, 1903, says:—*

QUANTITY BROUGHT TO AUCTION IN LONDON FROM 1ST JUNE TO DATE.

	Indian.	Ceylon.	Java.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.
1903-1904	768,190	547,571	314
1902-1903	788,321	612,9	

37,987 pkgs. INDIAN } Total 58,616 packages were offered in public auction  
18,910 " CEYLON } this week.  
1,719 " JAVA }

The feature in the week's auction has been the depression in medium teas, which, at the present time, are showing exceptionally good value, and are nearly as cheap as they have ever been. There is a want of life in the market, due to the general depression of demand in the country—probably attributable to the depression of Christmas.

North America is taking an increasing quantity of tea, doubtless owing to the large quantity of Green Tea which has been manufactured.

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Indian	5,236,640	7,057,253	4,389,878	3,108,973
Ceylon	15,215,860	10,653,620	7,992,877	6,595,164
Total lbs...	20,452,500	17,710,873	12,382,755	9,704,137

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Indian	3,948,766	3,483,670	3,909,248
Ceylon	5,684,276	6,252,801	4,555,501
Total lbs...	9,633,042	9,736,471	8,464,749

**GREEN TEA**.—From the time the bonus was first given for the manufacture of Ceylon Green Tea in October, 1898, to the end of December, 1902, it was paid upon 6,149,862 lbs., while from the 1st January to the 30th September this year, it was paid upon 8,395,814 lbs. The Thirty Committee have voted a sum sufficient to pay a bonus of 3 cents per pound, that is about  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., on 5,000,000 pounds to commence on the first January, 1904.

The bonus on Indian Tea has been paid as follows:—1901, 30,000 lbs.; 1902, 720,000 lbs.; and to the end of September, 1903, 959,606 lbs.; making a total from its commencement to the 30th September this year of 1,709,606 lbs.

*Indian and Ceylon Tea taken in United States and Canada from 1st January to 30th September.*

	INDIAN TEA.			
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K.	1,447,877	2,576,822	2,195,489	1,275,734
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K.	2,027,291	1,757,974	557,173	566,241
Direct exports <i>via</i> China	470,188	363,169	573,410	418,793
Direct exports from Calcutta.	1,291,284	2,359,288	1,063,806	848,205
Total lbs...	5,236,640	7,057,253	4,389,878	3,108,973

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Re-exports from U. K.	1,546,936	1,462,286	1,324,539
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K.	210,556	855,307	2,304,420
Direct exports <i>via</i> China	472,093	385,811	280,289
Direct exports from Calcutta	1,719,181	780,266	nil.
Total lbs...	3,948,766	3,483,670	3,909,248

	CEYLON TEA.			
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.
Re-exports from U. K.	4,291,635	4,247,552	3,721,508	2,408,820
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K.	2,162,943	2,788,597	1,903,462	427,439
Direct exports <i>via</i> China	902,123	238,122	abt. 500,000	abt. 700,000
Direct exports from Colombo.	7,859,159	3,379,349	1,867,907	3,058,905
Total lbs...	15,215,860	10,653,620	7,992,877	6,595,164

	1899.	1898.	1897.
Re-exports from U. K.	2,434,180	2,653,755	2,581,965
Transshipments <i>via</i> U. K.	469,169	1,141,238	1,504,068
Direct exports <i>via</i> China	935,946	852,173	469,468
Direct exports from Colombo	1,844,981	1,605,635	nil.
Total lbs...	5,684,276	6,252,801	4,555,501



**INDIAN.**—The sale passed with a generally weaker tendency, teas between 7d. and 9d. shewing a distinct fall in price. averages:—"Okayti T. Co." and "Turzum," 1/5½.

Week's av. of New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1903, 235 pkgs., av. 7.64d. 1902, 36,998 pkgs., av. 7.49d.

New Season's Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st June to date 1903, 21,228 pkgs., av. 7.26d. 1902, 570,585 pkgs., av. 7.19d.

Market was irregular, nearly everything shewing slightly easier rates, specially teas over 7d. Quality is not as good as it was a few weeks since.

Average for week 7.75d., against 8.11d. in 1902.

Ceylon Tea sold on Garden Acct. 1st January to date, 912,899 v. 7.52d. 1902, 1,030,330 pkgs., av. 6.77d.

Old with a slightly weaker tone in sympathy with other

### COCOA.

quiet market prevails, and in the absence of public transactions are of limited extent. The few sales reported for last include mixed to good red Trinidad at 64s. to 69s., unclayed Carupano at 64s. 6d., fine Puerto Cabello at 130s., and fair ditto at 79s. per cwt.

### PEPPER.

**BLACK**—The market remains in the same quiet condition as reported in our last. On the spot sales of fair Singapore have been made at 6½d., and January-March shipment at 6¾d. down to 6⅝d., being cheaper; about 100 tons sold.

At public sale on the 25th instant 100 bags fair greyish Aleppy retired at 6¼d., also 140 bags sifted Saigon—weighing 5 lbs. 12 oz. per gallon—at 6½d. (6⅝d. per lb. bid).

**WHITE**—is cheaper. 20 tons Singapore, December-February shipment, have changed hands at 9¾d. On the spot sales of fair Singapore at 10d., fair Penang at 9¾d. per lb.

At auction on Wednesday, of 517 bags Singapore offered 28 bags good sold at 10¼d.; 10½d. refused for good bright ALP, the buying in price of which was 10¾d. per lb.

To-day, Pepper quiet. Singapore January-March shipment 6¾d. sellers.

### CINCHONA.

In auction 12 serons of good Loxa quill sold at 10¼d. per lb.

### QUININE.

A rather firmer feeling has been evident this week with small sales of December at 1s. 0¼d. to 1s. 0¾d., March at 1s. 0½d. per oz., and May at 1s. 0¼d. If the month's shipments of cinchona should prove small, a further improvement may be looked for.

### CARDAMOMS.

There was a very small supply and prices showed a slight improvement. Ceylon Mysore, good bold smooth picked were limited at 2s. 9d., and bold medium pale at 1s. 9d. Good medium pale sold at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.; fair medium pale, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.; small brownish, 10d.; good bold, slightly dullish and open, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 3d.; good medium slightly open, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.; small open, 11½d.; brown and split, 8d. to 9½d.; lean brown Malabar, 8d. to 9d., subject. Seed, 1s. per lb.

### GINGER.

**COCHIN**—was extremely dull at auction, the offerings at which summed to 73 cases 955 bags, the whole of which passed the hammer unsold—medium and small cut and scraped, limed, at 47s., washed rough at 28s. A pile of fair washed rough offered down to 25s. per cwt. evoked no response. Privately 1,000 bags of medium and small washed rough have been forced off at 26s. per cwt., being considerably below the figure at which business had been done lately in this grade; at the reduced price there are further sellers.

### INDIA-RUBBER.

The market continues to fluctuate considerably. Sales have been made of hard fine spot up to 4s. 0½d., forward 4s., but since prices have declined a penny and we close firmer with buyers of hard fine forward 3s. 11d. and spot at 3s. 11½d. Soft cure fine sales up to 3s. 11d., and since offered cheaper. Negroheads—Scrappy sales of spot and near 3s. 4d. to 3s. 4½d.; Cametas at 2s. 4d. to 2s. 3½d. forward delivery. Peruvian sales of ball forward delivery at 3s. 2½d., and near at 3s. 3½d.; slab scarce and enquired for.

# ST JACOBS OIL



Was in the olden times largely used by the monks of St. Germain for the same complaints as it is used to-day. It was found most effectual then for Gout, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Soreness, and general bodily aches and pains. It was the custom then among these good monks to carry the oil about with them, as here described, for the relief of pain among the poor and needy, and although in those days St. Jacob's Oil was put up in rather a crude state, it was found the most useful of all remedies to conquer pain. To-day, by the aid of pharmacy and science, St. Jacobs Oil is far more efficacious than in the old days. To-day St. Jacobs Oil is a highly condensed, scientific, pharmaceutical preparation. It has the largest sale of any medicine in the world.

### CURES

**RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, GOUT,  
SPRAINS, SORENESS, SCIATICA,  
LUMBAGO, HEADACHE, BACKACHE,**

And all Aches and Pains usually treated by outward application.

**IT HAS NO EQUAL ON EARTH AS A PAIN  
RELIEVER.**

*It acts like magic. It is peculiar to itself, different from any other remedy. Price 1/1½ & 2/6.*

Mr. H. F. MARLOW, 82, Coldbath Buildings, London, E.C., writes:—"I unfortunately dislocated my knee joint about three years ago, and after attending St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and being pre-cured by several private doctors, I was still in great pain. One day a friend of mine who had used St. Jacobs Oil advised me to try it, and I am glad to say that after suffering terribly for over eighteen months, on the first application of St. Jacobs Oil the pain disappeared, and I have not had any return of it since."

# CONQUERS PAIN.



At auction to-day small supplies were brought forward, and a fair part sold at firm prices.

Pará and Peruvian—12 packages offered and 2 sold—mixed ball at 3s. 2d.; 1 bag virgin at 3s. 5d.

Mollendo—18 packages sold—fine 3s. 10d., mixed entrefine 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.; negrohead 3s. 2d.

Mattogrosso 4 packages, Mangabeira 25 casks, and Columbian 34 packages retired.

Central American, etc.—76 packages offered, and 49 sold—fair to good scrap 3s. 0½d., Carthage slab and sheet, mixed dirty and loaded 3s. 1d.

MADAGASCAR—80 packages offered and 57 sold—fair Majun 2s. 6d., mixed ditto, part very dirty 2s. 1d. to 2s. 4½d., dirty da coated 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. West Coast Niggers, part fair, part earl 2s., ditto more earthy 1s. 7d.

MOZAMBIQUE—111 bags offered and 87 sold, fine clean stickl sausage 3s. 6½d., sandy ditto 2s. 1½d., Beira ball, part rather soft 4½d., Lamu ball 3s. 1½d. to 3s. 1¾d., mixed reddish ball 3s. 2½d.

NYASSA—56 bags sold, good clean reddish ball 3s. 6¾d.

ASSAM—14 packages offered and 2 sold, fair red but mixed little heated and soft 3s.

(AVERAGE FOR ALL INDIA 7'64d., NOVEMBER 27TH.)

GARDEN.	Total.	Average.	Broken Org. Pek. or Flowery Pekoe.		Pekoe and Unassorted.		Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong.		Broken and Souchong.		Fannings, and Vars	
	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.	Quantity	Price.
Neilgherry ...	385	6.77												
Halashana ...	80½c	6½	24½c	7¼ 7¾	30½c	6½			26½c	6½				
Kodanaad ...	103 p	7½	34½c	10½ 10¾	59 p	6½ 7	10½c	7¼						
Prospect ...	202 p	6½	40½c	7¼ 7¾	126	+6½ 6½	36½c	+6½ 7½						
Travancore ...	2267	6.83												
Arnakal ...	296 p	7½	155	7 9½	20	6½	31½c	7½			56	6½ 7	34½c	7
Carady Goody ...	97 p	6½	30	6½	23	+6	34	7					10½c	6
Glenmary ...	125	6½	50	6½ 6½			25	7	30	6			20	6½
Merchiston ...	47 p	6½	16	6½ 7½	12	6½			6	6	9	6	4½c	6½
Kan D H T Co G ...	5½c	6½											5½c	6½
" Kalaar ...	186 p	7	63 p	6½ 7	47	6½	38	8	26	6½			12 p	6 6
" Kanniamallay ...	126 p	6½	79 p	7 7¼	22	6½			22	6½			3	5½
" Munaar ...	232 p	7½	69 p	7½ 9	59	7	54	8½	40	6½			10	6½
" Nullatanni ...	248 p	6½	117 p	6½	68	6½	39½c	7½	24	6½				
" ...	93 p	6½	85½c	6½									7	5½
" Peria Vurrai ...	174 p	7½	69 p	7½ 8½	29	7	42½c	9½	20	7			14½c	6½
Poonmudi T Co B... ..	119 p	6½	49 p	7 7½	38	6½			26	6			6½c	6½
" Braemore ...	102 p	6½	47 p	6½ 7	31	6½			23	5½	1	5½		
" Poonmudi ...	131 p	6½	56 p	6½ 7½	44	6½			25	+5½			6½c	6
S I T Co Kud. Kar..	96	6½	37	6½			25	+6½	34	+5½				
" T T Co Venture...	131 p	7			48	7	52	6½ 7½	21	6½			10½c	6
" White Hills ...	60	6½			31	6½	25	7					4	5½
" Wynaad ...	499	6.61												
" Cherambadi ...	89 p	6½	37½c	8	24	6½	28	6½						
" Totoomulla ...	80	6½			12	6½	46	6½ 7½			22	+5½		
" Wanga Mulla ...	45	6½	24	6½	21	6								
Walkers Achoor ...	135 p	6½			70	6½ 6½	65½c	7 7½						
Wynaad T Co Per...	150 p	6½			59	6½ 6½	60½c	+6½ 7½			31	+5½		

In these tables all packages are chests unless otherwise stated. ½c stands for half-chests; p for packages; prices marked thus + represent the highest offer in the room. In calculating these averages two half-chests or four boxes are taken as equal in weight to one chest.

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